



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

633 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: (707) 269-1700

Toll-Free (800) 931-7323

Fax: (707) 269-1777

E-mail: info@redwoodenergy.org

Web: www.redwoodenergy.org

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

January 11, 2022 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting was posted on January 10, 2022. Community Advisory Committee Chair Larry Goldberg called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., stating that the meeting was being conducted by teleconference pursuant to revised Brown Act provisions signed into law on September 16. Chair Goldberg stated that the posted agenda outlined instructions for public participation in this meeting.

Members present:

Norman Bell

Elizabeth Burks

Colin Fiske

Larry Goldberg, Chair

Catherine Gurin

Pamela Halstead (left 7:39 p.m.)

Roger Hess (arrived 6:03 p.m.)

Richard Johnson

Ethan Lawton

Dennis Leonardi, Vice Chair

Kit Mann

Jerome Qiriazzi (arrived 6:10 p.m.)

Members absent:

Christopher Honar

Luna Latimer

Staff and others present:

Jana Ganion, Blue Lake Rancheria

Amy Jester, Humboldt Area Foundation

Aisha Cissna, Reg. and Leg. Policy Mgr.

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

Nancy Stephenson, Comm. Strategies
Mgr.

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Summer Sanderson, Customer Svc.
Coord.

Minutes Approval

Motion Johnson, Second Bell: Approve minutes of November 9, 2022, CAC meeting.

The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes: Bell, Fiske, Goldberg, Gurin, Halstead, Hess, Johnson, Lawton, Leonardi. Noes: None. Abstain: Burks, Mann. Absent: Honar, Latimer.

Non-Agenda Item Public Comment

Member of the public Martha Walden asked how long the region will rely on biomass, how burning biomass fits into the RePower strategic plan's power mix goal of 100% local, net-zero-carbon-emission renewable sources by 2030 given the Humboldt Sawmill Company contract extension to 2031, and about RCEA's biomass exit plan. Ms. Walden requested continued discussion on biomass reliance. Chair Goldberg stated that the committee will

continue to review and research biomass.

As there was no more public comment Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Humboldt Area Foundation – Redwood Region Climate & Community Resilience (CORE) Hub

Amy Jester and Jana Ganion introduced the Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers Community Foundation's Redwood Region Climate and Community Resilience (CORE) Hub project and explained why it was formed. The CORE Hub is a way to coordinate regional collaboration and provide information to support knowledgeable decision making, without competing with or duplicating existing efforts. The CORE Hub focuses on clean, renewable energy and collaboration in the community. Climate change has caused increased ocean temperatures, extreme weather and sea level rise which puts Humboldt County in jeopardy. Ms. Ganion pointed out that Humboldt County has the highest rate of sea level rise on the California coast along with increased seismic activity. The region also relies on a single 10-inch natural gas supply line, and a tenuous connection to the greater electrical grid, one transmission line with one redundant line. These reasons motivate the CORE Hub to support informed decision-making for projects benefitting the environment and community.

Ms. Ganion discussed how the CORE Hub will reach its goal of Humboldt County becoming the first proven carbon-sequestering rural area in the U.S. by 2030. Offshore wind is a major avenue toward this goal. It will provide benefits including local power reliability, reduced dependence on fossil fuels, and alignment with other regional developments such as eco/tech tourism.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for the CORE Hub's aspirations for the region. Ms. Ganion stated the initiative's funding sources to date have been from in-kind resources from the Humboldt Area Foundation Wild Rivers Community Foundation and the Blue Lake Rancheria for staff time, and from philanthropic donations. The Committee asked for future presentations from the CORE Hub.

Chair Goldberg invited public comment. No member of the public made comment.

Community Advisory Committee 2022 Goals, 2021 Annual Report

Executive Director Marshall presented the 2022 CAC goals drafted at the November meeting. The proposed goals were brought to the Board in December. The Board expressed concerns about the CAC commenting on proposed projects, citing RCEA staff's limited bandwidth to assist in that process. The CAC ad hoc Annual Report Subcommittee modified the goal to state that the CAC will monitor and advocate for implementation of RePower Humboldt Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy goals. Board Chair Woo and Vice Chair Avis offered to meet with the CAC ad hoc Major Projects Subcommittee to discuss the modified goal and their reservations.

No member of the public responded to Chair Goldberg's invitation to comment. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Motion Qiriazhi, Second Mann: Approve 2022 CAC work goals contingent upon a meeting of the ad hoc Major Projects Subcommittee and Board Chair Woo and Vice Chair Avis to clarify goals.

The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes: Bell, Burks, Fiske, Goldberg, Gurin,

Halstead, Hess, Johnson, Lawton, Leonardi, Mann, Qiriazzi. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Honar, Latimer

North McKay Ranch Project

Executive Director Marshall reported that the ad hoc Major Projects Subcommittee met and compiled comments regarding the North McKay Ranch Project prior to the RCEA December Board meeting, the RCEA Board approved the comments which staff submitted.

No member of the public responded to Chair Goldberg's invitation to comment. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Net Energy Metering Update

Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager Aisha Cissna reported that the CPUC will vote on a NEM Successor Tariff proposed decision on January 27. If there are no changes to the current proposed decision the current NEM 2.0 tariff will sunset on May 27, 2022. Solar customers currently on the NEM 2.0 tariff will still receive the same solar service for 15 years past their interconnection date. The key takeaway from the presentation was that people who want to keep the NEM 2.0 tariff should install solar as soon as possible. The CPUC is collecting public comment until the voting date of January 27 and may push the voting date back due to controversy surrounding the proposed decision. Executive Director Marshall shared ways RCEA NEM customers may be affected by the proposed decision and described the complexity of the proposed decision.

No member of the public responded to Chair Goldberg's invitation to comment. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Member Reports

Member Burks shared that HCAOG's Board will consider adopting the Regional Transportation Plan on January 20, and that the Plan retains the safe and sustainable transportation targets presented at a previous CAC meeting.

Member Fiske pointed out that the January 11 Board of Supervisor's agenda included acceptance of a state grant for a woody feedstock aggregation pilot program in light of Martha Walden's biomass comment earlier in the meeting and stated the need to watch the environmental impacts of this plan closely, and to monitor the RePower plan's goal of not entering into long-term biomass contracts.

Chair Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Summer Sanderson
Community Strategies Customer Service Coordinator