



# Redwood Coast Energy Authority

633 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: (707) 269-1700

Toll-Free (800) 931-7323

Fax: (707) 269-1777

E-mail: [info@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:info@redwoodenergy.org)

Web: [www.redwoodenergy.org](http://www.redwoodenergy.org)

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**March 8, 2022 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

The agenda for this meeting was posted on March 4, 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

Pam Halstead

Roger Hess

Richard Johnson

Luna Latimer

Ethan Lawton

Dennis Leonardi, Vice Chair

Kit Mann (left at 7 p.m.)

Jerome Qiriazzi

#### **Members absent:**

Christopher Honar

#### **Staff and others present:**

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison

Nancy Stephenson, Comm. Strategies Mgr.

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Summer Sanderson, Customer Svc. Coord.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Member Mann requested that the final sentence of the member reports, a humorous comment, be removed from the minutes.

#### **Motion Mann, Second Johnson: Approve minutes of January 11, 2022, CAC meeting as amended.**

**The motion passed in a roll call vote. Ayes: Bell, Burks Fiske, Goldberg, Gurin, Halstead, Hess, Johnson, Latimer, Lawton, Leonardi, Mann, Qiriazzi.**

**Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Honar.**

#### **Non-Agenda Item Public Comment**

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

#### **CAC Chair, Vice Chair Selection**

Executive Director Marshall presented the staff report and stated that Chair Goldberg has reached the two-term limit for both Chair and Vice Chair offices. Chair Goldberg

nominated Vice Chair Leonardi to become Chair. Member Qiriazzi nominated Member Gurin as Vice Chair. Vice Chair Leonardi and Member Gurin expressed willingness to serve in those roles.

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

**Motion Mann, Second Burks: Appoint Dennis Leonardi to serve as CAC Chair and Catherine Gurin to serve as Vice Chair from April 12, 2022, to April 11, 2023.**

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

#### **Q4 CAPE Status Update**

Executive Director Marshall updated the Committee on RePower Strategic Plan progress.

In regional planning and coordination, the Redwood Region Climate and Community Resilience Hub (CORE Hub) launched in September. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Humboldt Wind Energy Area lease auction is on track to be conducted in fall 2022. RCEA is continuing to work with the County and cities on the regional climate action plan.

In low-carbon transportation, the Arcata Community Center charging stations began operations and charging stations at the airport are being developed. RCEA is continuing to process electric vehicle and electric vehicle charging equipment rebates. The transportation team began work on the Medium- and Heavy Duty Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure planning grant.

In integrated demand side management, a \$161,000 grant was awarded to RCEA to expand and enhance the building-electrification heat pump rebate program that launched in early 2021. The Demand Side Management team is the final stages of developing the expanded customer rebate catalog for 2022. RCEA's demand side management team applied for \$96 million to fund a state-wide Rural Regional Energy Network over five years to provide energy efficiency programs, financing, and workforce development to rural, hard-to-reach regions. RCEA would serve as the implementing agency for the RuralREN.

In energy generation and utility services, the airport microgrid construction is complete, commercial operations began in December, and the final commissioning and islanding capability testing are being conducted. RCEA consultant Michael Furniss completed his work on investigating small hydropower potential and alternative uses for forest biomass. The five MW Tierra Buena Battery Storage project is under construction in Sutter County for RCEA and Valley Clean Energy.

It was clarified that Del Norte and Trinity Counties were not included in the RuralREN application because those counties are not served by Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

Members asked for copies of RCEA contractor Michael Furniss's hydropower and biomass work, which are available on RCEA's website, and suggested tracking progress toward quantitative strategic plan targets, possibly in conjunction with the countywide climate action plan work. It was suggested that the CORE Hub identify

needs and pursue funding for wave energy in Humboldt County.

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

### **Plan 2022 CAC Work, Solicit Work Group Volunteers**

Executive Marshall proposed formation of between one and three ad hoc subcommittees to complete the CAC's 2022 work goals. The Customer Programs Outreach Ad Hoc Subcommittee would focus outreach on Project Administrator programs and provide input on Rural Regional Energy Network programs, should funding for the RuralREN be approved. This subcommittee will sunset in the fourth quarter of 2023. The Offshore Wind Outreach Ad Hoc Subcommittee would advise outreach around the BOEM offshore wind lease auction process and will sunset in the first quarter of 2023. The Climate Action Plan Outreach Ad Hoc Subcommittee would focus on implementation of outreach for Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan. The subcommittee will sunset upon Climate Action Plan adoption by the county. The following members joined the Ad Hoc Subcommittees:

**Customer Programs Outreach Ad Hoc Subcommittee: Members Fiske, Hess, Latimer, Leonardi, and Mann.**

**Offshore Wind Outreach Ad Hoc Subcommittee: Members Burks, Goldberg, Leonardi, and Mann.**

**Climate Action Plan Outreach Ad Hoc Subcommittee: Members Burks, Goldberg, Gurin, Johnson, Lawton, and Qiriazhi.**

Members Hess, Latimer and Qiriazhi initiated an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Critical Facilities and At-risk Communities. RCEA staff will create a scope of work, assign a staff liaison, and establish a sunset date for this subcommittee.

Recent Committee appointee Jeffrey Trirogoff stated that he would like to volunteer for the Customer Programs Outreach, Offshore Wind Outreach, and Critical Facilities Subcommittees once his term starts on April 12, 2022.

### **Net Energy Metering Successor Tariff Update**

Executive Director Marshall reported that the Net Energy Metering Successor Tariff discussed at the January 2022 CAC meeting has been postponed until further notice.

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 the Humboldt County Association of Governments adopted the Regional Transportation Plan, which overlaps with RCEA's work. HCAOG staff will be in contact with RCEA staff.

Chair Goldberg requested that the vulnerability and resilience of the regional energy network to cyberattacks be a future agenda topic.

Member Bell thanked Chair Goldberg for his role as CAC Chair and expressed a desire to look at projects that aggressively address the climate emergency with local resources.

Member Fiske shared concerns that Nordic Aqua Farms was not aware that the 2030 RePower Humboldt goal was for local renewable energy. Member Fiske thought it was important to share because it reflects on RCEA's communication of its goals and the need for coordination with other community entities.

Executive Director Marshall thanked Member Halstead for her service on the CAC and thanked Chair Goldberg for his time as Chair and Vice Chair to the Committee.

New Board Liaison Sarah Schaefer introduced herself and thanked the CAC for their work.

Chair Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Summer Sanderson  
Community Strategies Customer Service Coordinator

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