



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

May 10, 2022 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting was posted on May 6, 2022. Community Advisory Committee Chair Dennis Leonardi called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., stating that the meeting was being conducted by teleconference pursuant to revised Brown Act provisions signed into law on September 16. Chair Leonardi stated that the posted agenda outlined instructions for public participation in this meeting.

Members present:

Norman Bell

Elizabeth Burks

Colin Fiske

Larry Goldberg

Catherine Gurin, Vice Chair

Roger Hess

Christopher Honar

Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison (non-voting)

Richard Johnson

Ethan Lawton

Dennis Leonardi, Chair

Kit Mann

Emily Morris

Jerome Qiriazzi (arrived 6:06 p.m.)

Jeff Trirogoff

Members absent: Luna Latimer

Staff and others present:

Aisha Cissna, Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager

Michael Richardson, Humboldt County Supervising Planner

Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager

Lori Taketa, Clerk of the Board

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

Two new Committee members introduced themselves. Emily Morris is a planner for Plan West Partners, a Cal Poly Humboldt graduate and lives in Arcata. Jeff Trirogoff is a solar and electrical contractor; a PV instructor, installer and system inspector; and an energy manager for an affordable housing developer.

Minutes Approval

No member of the public or committee commented on the draft minutes. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

Motion Goldberg, Second Gurin: Approve minutes of March 8, 2022, CAC meeting.

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

Non-Agenda Item Public Comment

There was no comment from the public on non-agenda items. Chair Leonardi closed the

public comment period.

Community Advisory Committee Charter Administrative Revisions

Deputy Executive Director Verbeck described minor proposed changes to the Community Advisory Committee Charter including revision of term expiration dates, removal of gendered pronouns, and aligning minute production timelines with current practice.

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

Motion Qiriazzi, Second Johnson: Approve revised Community Advisory Committee Charter.

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

Countywide Climate Action Plan Outreach Subcommittee Report

Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager Aisha Cissna described the ad hoc CAC Climate Action Plan Outreach Subcommittee activities. The subcommittee will review draft CAP public comments and use them in RCEA outreach activities. The subcommittee will refine outreach strategies in the coming months.

County Senior Planner Michael Richardson presented the public review draft of the regional Countywide Climate Action Plan (CAP) that is being circulated to the different municipality and County governing bodies for comment before the draft plan's Environmental Impact Report is developed. The city councils and County Board of Supervisors are currently setting CAP goals and selecting actions, a one- to 1.5-year process, after which the jurisdiction governing bodies will adopt the Countywide CAP. Staff will then be hired to seek plan implementation funding. The collective implementation of draft CAP measures will barely get Humboldt County to the 40% below 1990 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission level target set by SB 32. It is not clear how Humboldt County will get to the 2045 statewide carbon neutrality goal. Mr. Richardson reviewed proposed strategies for regional GHG reduction. The County Board of Supervisors and different city councils, elected officials will be discussing what targets they believe are achievable and which specific measures they are willing to take to meet those targets. Public comment and participation in the discussion is encouraged.

The Committee discussed:

- Measures not included in the CAP, such as forest and wetland carbon sequestration and the need for baseline data to calculate sequestration potential.
- Whether to include point source emissions in the 1990 baseline. Not including these emissions in the baseline would help meet the 2045 zero emission target.
- The importance of including community services and tribal organizations in GHG emission reduction coordination.
- Forest and agricultural landowners' interest in selling carbon sequestration offsets for emissions in other areas, and how this sequestration cannot count toward local GHG reduction.
- The need to focus on CAP measures that are fully in local jurisdictions' control such as building-related emissions and vehicle miles traveled reduction.
- The need to identify an agency to spearhead telecommuting policies and

incentives. How the current CAP telecommuting measure has minimal impact but experience gained through the COVID pandemic may modify this.

- The need to tie RCEA's electricity production decarbonization efforts to the regional Climate Action Plan.
- How the CAC's Climate Action Plan Outreach Subcommittee may be able to help develop a public engagement strategy for the Environmental Impact Review process in the next 1.5 years.
- Whether the CAC's CAP Outreach Subcommittee can stay in regular communication with the County Board of Supervisors' and city council-appointed CAP Committee after the regional plan is adopted.
- How to ensure that representatives from different industry groups such as the Humboldt Dairymen's Association are reviewing and commenting on the draft CAP.
- The need to engage a broader range of people in thinking about how to reduce emissions.

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

Member Reports

Committee members supported in-person, virtual and hybrid meeting options. The RCEA Board will discuss future meeting plans at its May meeting.

Members requested: touring the Scotia biomass cogeneration plant; posting the Community Advisory Committee Charter on RCEA's website; asking Access Humboldt to record and post RCEA Board meeting recordings online; Schatz Energy Research Center presentations on offshore wind transmission feasibility, California Biomass Residue Emissions Characterization (C-BREC) modeling by Jerome Qiriazzi or Kevin Fingerman, and biomass lifecycle analysis; and a discussion of Sandrini solar project issues and whether RCEA's energy goals will be affected. Deputy Executive Director Verbeck explained that RCEA is working with developer EDP Renewables to renegotiate the Sandrini solar contract and address project delays. An RCEA response letter was submitted to the North Coast Journal for publication.

Member Burks asked Committee members to ride bicycles as much as possible as May is Bike Month. Member Fisk informed the Committee about a Cal Poly Humboldt graduate student's presentation on renewable energy transformation in Orleans.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Clerk of the Board