



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

July 12, 2022 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting was posted on July 8, 2022. Community Advisory Committee Chair Dennis Leonardi called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 (arrived 6:11 p.m.)

Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison (non-voting)

Richard Johnson

Dennis Leonardi, Chair

Kit Mann (left at 6:57 p.m.)

Emily Morris

Jerome Qiriazzi

Jeff Trirogoff

Members absent: Christopher Honar, Luna Latimer, Ethan Lawton

Staff present:

Lori Biondini, Business Planning and Finance Director

Aisha Cissna, Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager

Sam Smith, Demand-Side Management Program Specialist

Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Patricia Terry, Demand-Side Management Senior Manager

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

Public Agency Solar Program (PASP) and California Schools Healthy Air and Plumbing Efficiency Program (CalSHAPE) Report

Demand-Side Management Senior Manager Terry reported on RCEA's work through the CalSHAPE program, which is funded through the PG&E Local Government Partnership Program to upgrade non-compliant plumbing fixtures and improve classroom ventilation. These measures proved important during the COVID pandemic and wildfire seasons.

Demand-Side Management Program Specialist Smith reported on the PASP program, which was originally funded by RCEA's Community Choice Energy Program revenues and is now funded through the PG&E Local Government Partnership program. Since the program's launch in 2018, RCEA staff helped 24 agencies assess their energy efficiency and electricity needs, determine appropriate solar and energy storage projects, seek and apply for funding, and contract for these public works projects. RCEA has helped agencies obtain \$4.5 million in funding so far. A total of 780 kW of electrical generation capacity has been installed on town and city halls, police and fire departments and water

treatment facilities.

The members discussed upcoming HVAC system electrification funding and the relatively short wait time for agencies to participate in the PASP program. CAC members praised RCEA for funding these programs and staff for their work on these projects.

Chair Leonardi invited public comment. No member of the public offered comments.

Minutes Approval

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

Motion Qiriazzi, Second Goldberg: Approve minutes of May 10, 2022, CAC meeting.

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

Non-Agenda Item Public Comment

Member of the public and physician Wendy Ring requested an RCEA plan to phase out biomass from its power procurement portfolio, a change to the agency's guiding principles to put public health and the climate ahead of local energy generation, and to not extend the current biomass power purchase agreement unless these new criteria are met.

The committee members discussed concerns with biomass combustion and asked that the CAC's Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee work with the Executive Director to craft proposals to take to the Board. Members asked that Dr. Ring be invited to the subcommittee meeting to participate in the discussion.

Member of the public Martha Walden supported Dr. Ring's statement and expressed satisfaction with the committee's requested actions. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

Offshore Wind Update

Business Planning and Finance Director Biondini reported that the environmental assessment of the offshore wind lease process showed no significant impacts and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is proceeding with the Humboldt Wind Energy Area auction process. The fall auction will trigger several years of planning, research and many opportunities for comment.

Assembly Bill 525 outreach workshops are being held to develop an offshore wind strategic plan which includes economic benefits for seaports, workforce investments, and permitting roadmap development. RCEA is engaging in outreach to tribal entities through Lost Coast Wind, the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association and CORE Hub. Staff is supporting the Harbor Commission's pursuit of CEC port infrastructure development funding. Staff is meeting with the Board Offshore Wind Subcommittee and Redwood Offshore Wind, the public-private partnership development consortium that will bid in the lease auction.

The group discussed terms the sale notice sets for the auction, the need for more public input direction, how RCEA will notify the community of comment opportunities in a timely manner, and how RCEA will work with whichever developers win Humboldt lease blocks.

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

RCEA Legislative Platform Update

Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager Cissna reported on the Board-adopted Legislative Platform, which allows RCEA to more efficiently engage in state and federal policy advocacy to deliver on RePower Humboldt strategic plan goals and maintain agency programs. Staff determines what regulatory engagement is consistent with the agency's mission and policy platform. The Board Chair and Vice Chair determine whether legislative advocacy is consistent with the agency legislative platform. The Board receives quarterly legislative and regulatory engagement summaries and reviews the platform each year. The CAC will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislative platform before the Board gives final approval.

CAC members noted the absence of climate crisis policy positions and suggested taking positions on transitioning off fossil fuels and accelerating carbon emission reduction. Members requested local policy advocacy guidelines.

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

Deputy Executive Director's Report

The RCEA Board postponed in-person meetings with a hybrid option due to an increase in COVID-19 transmission. The Board will reconsider in-person meetings at the Jefferson Community Center when COVID case numbers trend downward. Deputy Executive Director Verbeck and CAC members thanked staff, especially Community Strategies Manager Stephenson, and CAC members Trirogoff and Mann, for their help with a very successful airport microgrid grand opening.

Member Reports

Member Qiriazzi reported that Humboldt Transit Authority was awarded \$38.7 million state grant for hydrogen buses, fueling infrastructure, and an Old Town Eureka transit center. Mendocino and Humboldt County governments are considering merging pre-proposals for Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaboratives Grants to build regional climate effort communication capacity.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Clerk of the Board