



# 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)

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## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**September 13, 2022 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

The agenda for this meeting was posted on September 9, 2022. Community Advisory Committee Chair Dennis Leonardi called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., stating that the meeting was being conducted by teleconference pursuant to revised Brown Act provisions signed into law on September 16, 2021. Chair Leonardi stated that the posted agenda outlined instructions for public participation in this meeting.

#### **Members present:**

Elizabeth Burks

Colin Fiske

Larry Goldberg

Catherine Gurin, Vice Chair

Roger Hess

Richard Johnson

Sarah Schaefer, Board Liaison

Luna Latimer

Ethan Lawton

Dennis Leonardi, Chair

Kit Mann

Jerome Qiriazzi

Jeff Trirogoff

**Members absent:** Norman Bell, Christopher Honar, Emily Morris

#### **Staff present:**

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

#### **Guests:**

Aoife McGovern, Assistant Project Manager, Offshore Wind - Mainstream Renewable Power

Michael Olsen - Vice President, Policy & Government Affairs - Aker Offshore Wind

Raquel Pichardo, Communications - Aker Offshore Wind

Torbjorn Prestegard, Chief Technology Officer, Redwood Coast Offshore Wind Development - Aker Offshore Wind

#### **Minutes Approval**

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

**Motion Goldberg, Second Johnson: Approve minutes of July 12, 2022, CAC meeting.**

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

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

No member of the public submitted comment or requested to speak. Chair Leonardi closed the non-agenda public comment period.

## **Offshore Wind Project**

The Committee heard a presentation by representatives from Aker Offshore Wind and Mainstream Renewable Power, RCEA's offshore wind project company partners. EDPR/Ocean Winds, a former project partner, was purchased by Aker Offshore Wind, which then merged with a sister company called Mainstream Renewable Power. Mainstream Renewable Power and Aker Offshore Wind's experience, renewable energy development projects and holdings around the world were described, as were the quality of Humboldt's offshore wind resources and the potential to develop Humboldt's port into a regional offshore wind hub. The main challenges for Humboldt offshore wind development are port upgrades, electricity transmission out of the area, and the supply chain. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is proposing a multi-factor auction, which would allow it to score bidders higher for supply chain and workforce development and community benefit agreements, among other factors, instead of awarding the leases to the highest bidders. Mainstream Renewable's preference is to do as much fabrication and assembly as possible locally. The project's extensive supply chain needs will require equipment and port facilities where components manufactured elsewhere can be brought for staging, final assembly and transport offshore from the port of Humboldt. Energy transmission lines to major grid lines need to be improved to accommodate full development of the lease auction areas.

Committee members inquired about how Mainstream Renewables will finance the project and different ways the community could have a say in the project. Development costs make public ownership of a large share unlikely, and public agency ownership of a for-profit venture is also complicated. RCEA will be a power offtaker of the energy captured offshore and the CAC and its Offshore Wind Subcommittee are encouraged to provide input on ways the community's concerns and interests can be addressed. The floating platform technology is derived from oil and gas platforms that are currently in use and specific designs will be chosen based on specific ocean and harbor conditions. Restrictions on ocean use around the platforms cannot be determined until studies are completed. Survey and review activities during the five-year site assessment period were described, including surveys to determine possible wildlife impacts.

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

## **RePower Strategic Plan Update**

Executive Director Marshall reviewed RCEA's RePower Strategic Plan goals and the agency's progress toward each of them in the past few months. Offshore wind project activity was also described. RCEA is working with local consultants "Lost Coast Wind" to increase engagement with local tribes. The agency awarded the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association a small grant which helped them establish a nonprofit California Fishermen's Resilience Association to coordinate Northern California port association offshore wind development negotiations. Humboldt and Morro Bay offshore wind development and transmission infrastructure improvement were described in the greater context of state renewable energy and decarbonization goals. Development will take place in stages, with additional wind energy areas, including ones off Del Norte County and Cape Mendocino, needed before costly infrastructure development can be justified.

The members inquired about different potential electrical transmission routes, which CAISO is considering. Depending on facility construction and where floating turbine units are assembled, windmill construction and deployment could take as little as two years. Member Qiriazzi requested a visual graph showing progress toward RCEA strategic plan 2030 targets. Staff will quantify progress toward these goals at the beginning of each year.

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

### **Local Major Projects**

Executive Director Marshall clarified the process that Board members requested CAC use to comment on local major development projects. CAC members did not name any new local development projects on which to engage to promote RePower goals.

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

### **Biomass Discussion**

Due to a lack of time, the committee members decided to postpone discussion of this topic until the November CAC meeting.

### **Member Reports**

Member Goldberg presented information on a Humboldt County grant program to reduce off-grid cannabis cultivators' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fossil fuel use and transition to renewable energy systems. Mr. Goldberg shared data he gathered from 15 off-grid growing operations showing an average of 252 gallons of fuel used and 4,800 lbs. of GHG emissions per grower each month. Member Goldberg stated the need for a Cal Poly Humboldt or Schatz Energy Research Center study to quantify the real impact of Humboldt County's cannabis industry, CAC discussion on the topic and formation of an ad hoc subcommittee to determine whether RCEA could provide rebates and incentives to the cannabis industry to transition from fossil fuel generator use. The committee supported placing this topic on a future agenda. RCEA staff may have access to existing County-level information.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Lori Taketa  
Clerk of the Board