



# Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING** **DRAFT MINUTES**

**March 14, 2023 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

Community Advisory Committee Chair Dennis Leonardi called the hybrid in-person and teleconference meeting to order on the above date at 6:03 p.m. at the Jefferson Community Center auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA. The agenda for this meeting was posted on March 10, 2023.

### Members present:

Norman Bell

Colin Fiske

Larry Goldberg (arrived 6:14 p.m.)

Roger Hess

Christopher Honar

Richard Johnson

Luna Latimer

Ethan Lawton

Dennis Leonardi, Chair

Kit Mann

Emily Morris (participated remotely with  
just cause, a medical issue)

Jeff Trirogoff

Jerome Qiriazzi

Kris Mobley, Board Liaison (non-voting)

Members absent: Elizabeth Burks, Catherine Gurin

### Staff present:

Aisha Cissna, Regulatory & Legislative Policy Manager

Richard Engel, Power Resources Director

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

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

No member of the public commented. Chair Leonardi closed the non-agenda public comment period.

### **Consent Calendar**

**4.1.** Approve January 10, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.

**4.2.** Accept Local Major Projects Staff Notification List – None as of agenda publication.

Member Fiske requested item 4.2 be removed from the Consent Calendar. No member of the public requested item removal. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

**Motion Qiriazzi, Second Bell: Approve January 10, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.**

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

**5. Items Removed from Consent Calendar – Local Major Projects Staff Notification**

Member Fiske noted that the McKinleyville Town Center and the Arcata Gateway projects will be going through the CEQA process soon, and that Eureka Housing Element implementation requests for proposals for city property development will be issued this summer. Staff will request project update presentations by the different jurisdictions at upcoming meetings. Member Qiriazzi requested, per Board-recommended process, that staff evaluate the projects in relation to RePower strategic plan goals, determine how those projects are relevant to RCEA goals and how RCEA should proceed and report back to the CAC at the next meeting.

**6. Q4 CAPE Status Update**

Executive Director Marshall reported on agency progress toward RePower strategic plan goals in the four areas of Regional Planning, Low-Carbon Transportation, Energy Generation Procurement and Customer Programs. Customer energy use management programs, run by RCEA's largest staff team, were described in detail. The airport microgrid's performance through the recent earthquake and winter storm outages was highlighted, and national press coverage described. Staff reported on upcoming efforts to gather community input on RCEA's energy procurement, the Yurok Tribe's RCEA membership and upcoming plans for Yurok Tribe CAC participation.

Committee members requested annual greenhouse gas output information in RePower updates; a "Procurement 101" presentation; sharing of microgrid press coverage for broader circulation; inclusion of transportation demand management in RCEA's energy audits for businesses, residences and agencies; and consideration of broader microgrid deployment at critical facilities. Staff requested the committee's help in informing smaller public agencies of RCEA's energy management services. The CAC ad hoc Critical Facilities and Off-Grid Cannabis Greenhouse Gas Impacts subcommittees will be discussing potential microgrid deployment. RCEA regulatory advocacy and discussions with PG&E for grid modernization in Southern and northeast Humboldt were described.

Member of the public Ken Miller submitted written comments supporting distributed rooftop solar and battery storage as a viable complement to large power plants, informing the CAC about a French law requiring solar panels on parking lots over a specific size, and encouraging RCEA participation in the May Microgrid Knowledge conference. No other comments were received. Chair Leonardi closed the public comment period.

**7. Net Energy Metering Successor Tariff Update**

Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager Cissna reviewed the history of CPUC net energy metering tariffs and recent net billing tariff changes to address equity issues and

incentivize battery storage. RCEA joined other Community Choice Aggregators to advocate on this issue and determine how to implement the new tariffs. The CCAs are waiting for more information about how the investor-owned utilities will calculate export compensation before determining next steps.

The members clarified net billing tariff rules and expressed concern that the new tariff structure disincentivizes solar system installation. Staff will ask the RCEA Board whether RCEA's NEM compensation rates should be changed and will report back to the committee. There were no responses from the public to Chair Leonardi's invitation to comment.

#### **8. CAC Chair/Vice-Chair Selection**

The Committee members commended the current Chair and Vice-Chair for their capable service. No member of the public commented on this item.

**Motion Bell, Second Lawton: Reappoint Dennis Leonardi and Catherine Gurin as Community Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for terms beginning April 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2024.**

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

#### **9. Member and Board Liaison Reports**

Director Mobley will share CAC member concerns with the Board at the next meeting.

Member Mann reported on his meetings with the new Blue Lake City Councilmember now serving as an RCEA Board Director. Member Mann encouraged CAC members to help the new Board directors by sharing information about RCEA's work.

Member Goldberg reported to the Board Liaison about the \$2.5 million County renewable energy grant program that off-grid cannabis growers may not be able to access before going out of business. Member Goldberg expressed a desire for the CAC ad hoc Off-Grid Cannabis GHG Impact Subcommittee to collaborate with the Schatz Energy Research Center and Cal Poly Humboldt to seek funding to monitor the County-funded renewable energy systems to help manage the program and quantify fossil fuel savings, if any. Member Trirogoff stated that fleetwide solar system monitoring equipment is available that could potentially monitor cannabis grant recipients' power generation.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Lori Taketa  
Clerk of the Board