



# Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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

**May 9, 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 p.m. at the Jefferson Community Center auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA. The agenda for this meeting was posted on May 5, 2023.

### **Members present:**

Norman Bell	Richard Johnson
Elizabeth Burks	Luna Latimer
Colin Fiske	Ethan Lawton
Larry Goldberg	Dennis Leonardi, Chair
Catherine Gurin, Vice Chair	Jeff Trirogoff
Christopher Honar	Jerome Qiriazzi

Kris Mobley, Board Liaison (non-voting)

**Members absent:** Roger Hess, Kit Mann, Emily Morris

### **Staff present:**

Richard Engel, Power Resources Director  
Matthew Marshall, Executive Director (online)  
Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager (online)  
Lori Taketa, Board Clerk (online)  
Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

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

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

### **Consent Calendar**

**3.1. Approve March 14, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.**

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

**Motion Goldberg, Second Qiriazzi: Approve March 14, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.**

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

## 5. Major Project Review

Executive Director Marshall described the Arcata Gateway and McKinleyville Town Center projects, stating that it was appropriate for RCEA to offer support in areas where the development plans overlapped with RCEA's goals.

- Committee members supported forming an ad hoc subcommittee to:
  - Identify at a high level areas of RCEA strategic plan relevance in:
    - McKinleyville Town Center,
    - Arcata Gateway Project,
    - Eureka housing development on City-owned land, and
    - County-wide accessory dwelling unit plans.
  - Determine after initial high-level review, the scope of the ad hoc subcommittee's plan reviews.
- After areas of relevance are identified, staff will reach out to the jurisdictions to discuss potential RCEA assistance and advocacy.
- Subcommittee sunsets when the County and Arcata finalize and adopt the Arcata Gateway Project and McKinleyville Town Center plans.
- The subcommittee will meet before the July 11 CAC meeting and provide progress reports to the CAC until the subcommittee sunsets.
- Members Burks, Fiske, Honar and Johnson volunteered to serve on this ad hoc subcommittee.
- Absent CAC members will have the opportunity to join the subcommittee if they so desire, provided the subcommittee membership stays below a CAC quorum.
- A suggestion was made to ask jurisdictions to institutionalize early communication and engagement with RCEA on development projects.

### **Motion Burks, Second Qiriazzi: Form an Ad Hoc Local Major Project Subcommittee.**

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

## 6. Humboldt's Electric Future Community Engagement Planning

Power Resources Director Engel described the [Humboldt's Electric Future project](#) to solicit community input on priorities to consider while striving to achieve the Board's 100% renewable and carbon-free energy by 2025, and 100% local renewable energy by 2030 goals. Staff hopes the project will help residents understand and participate in the biennial Integrated Resource Plan process. Community input will be gathered and presented to the Community Advisory Committee, and then to the Board, in July. Director Engel reviewed RCEA's power procurement requirements and challenges in maintaining the Community Choice Energy program in an extremely volatile energy market with ambitious state and Board goals to address the climate emergency.

The committee members discussed:

- Concerns regarding the Humboldt Sawmill Company long-term biomass power procurement contract and its particulate impact on neighbors and climate change carbon impacts.
- The creation of RCEA's Biomass Technical Advisory Group to review HSC's annual report on the power plant and alternative biomass uses. The BTAG is a means to engage with

HSC from a broad spectrum of community concerns.

- How the RCEA Board of Directors, not the County Board of Supervisors, received community input and approved the HSC long-term biomass energy procurement contract.
- How confusion could be avoided by referring to “carbon free energy” more specifically as “large hydropower.”
- How a visual element could help communicate the difficulty of procuring local energy economically in sufficient scale.
- Staff’s consideration of RCEA setting electricity rates based on operation costs rather than on a percent discount from PG&E’s rates.
- How the RCEA strategic plan is updated every 10 years, and the Humboldt’s Electric Future public engagement process is intended to gauge changing community priorities and adjust procurement strategies in the interim years.
- The merits and drawbacks of holding the June 5 in-person workshop as a Brown Act meeting or a non-quorum public workshop.

~~A motion to exclude carbon-emitting Humboldt County energy sources from RCEA’s renewable energy portfolio by 2030 was unsuccessful because CAC procurement recommendations to the Board were not listed as an agenda topic.~~ Member Bell moved to exclude carbon-emitting Humboldt County energy sources from RCEA’s renewable energy portfolio by 2030. The motion did not receive a second because staff advised that no action could be taken on this non-agendized topic.\* Staff advised that the item could be placed on a future meeting agenda for discussion.

No member of the public commented and Chair Leonardi closed the comment period.

**Motion Honar, Second Burks: Form an ad hoc Humboldt’s Electric Future subcommittee to sunset upon acceptance by the RCEA Board of Directors of a community input report, with volunteers Bell, Goldberg, Honar, Johnson, Latimer, Mann and Trirogoff; and delegate community workshop participation to the ad hoc Humboldt’s Electric Future subcommittee.**

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

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

Member Qiriazzi reminded the Climate Action Plan subcommittee of its May 13 meeting. Member Lawton thanked staff for keeping the committee abreast of agency work. Member Trirogoff asked how RCEA could prevent energy dollar exports when investing in local renewable energy projects. A request was made for a Bond Subcommittee update. Chair Leonardi reported on the Turlock Irrigation District’s deployment of solar arrays on California aqueducts. There was no public comment on this item.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Lori Taketa, Clerk of the Board

\* Draft minutes were revised by unanimous vote at the July 11, 2023, Community Advisory Committee meeting.