



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

February 13, 2024 - 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 6:01 p.m. at the Jefferson Community Center auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA. The agenda for this meeting was posted on February 9, 2024.

Members present:

Norman Bell
Deborah Dukes
Colin Fiske
Larry Goldberg
Richard Johnson
Luna Latimer

Ethan Lawton
Dennis Leonardi, Chair
Kit Mann (arrived 6:13 p.m.)
Emily Morris (remote participation)
Jerome Qiriazzi
Jeff Trirogoff

Members absent: Elizabeth Burks, Christopher Honar

Board Liaison present: Kris Mobley (non-voting)

Staff present:

Jamie Boone, Account Services Specialist
Stephen Kullmann, Demand-Side Management Director
Sarah Lorenzini, Account Services Associate
Sally Regli, Account Services Manager
Lori Taketa, Board Clerk
Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

Chair Leonardi introduced new CAC member Deborah Dukes, RCEA intern Sarah Lorenzini, Account Services Specialist Jamie Boone and prospective CAC members Auriah Milanes and Pliny McCovey.

Consent Calendar

3.1. Approve November 14, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.

Member Bell asked staff to clarify the description of Dr. Wendy Ring's citizen science air quality monitoring comment. Chair Leonardi closed the comment period.

Motion Goldberg, Second Qiriazzi: Approve November 14, 2023, CAC meeting minutes.

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

5. CAC Annual Report and Work Goals

Deputy Executive Director Verbeck reported. The Annual Report Subcommittee reviewed the annual report and the committee gave initial input on continuing the previous year's work goals at the November CAC meeting. Demand-Side Management Director Kullmann will ask the Programs Outreach Subcommittee for input on solar + battery storage incentives to help counteract the Net Billing Tariff's dampening effects on solar energy adoption. Staff will ask the Critical Facilities Subcommittee to help develop a transparent method to prioritize critical facilities for resilience funding after work for a grant to install solar and battery storage at remote fire stations subsidies. No member of the public commented on this agenda item.

Motion Latimer, Second Lawton: Adopt Community Advisory Committee annual report and CAC 2024-25 work goals for presentation to the RCEA Board of Directors for approval on February 22, 2024.

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

6. Rate Increase Messaging Input

Account Services Manager Regli presented information about the current electricity rate increases and public messaging on the RCEA website. Members offered feedback on how to make the information more understandable and useful by simplifying the language, highlighting RCEA's benefits to the community, differentiating RCEA from PG&E, and featuring ways people can control their electricity bills prominently. Members requested links to information for business, agriculture and solar customers.

Member of the public and contractor Auriah Milanes pointed to shortcomings of RCEA's rates being tied to rates set by a for-profit, investor-owned utility, and suggested the rate increase webpage include a pie chart on the generation rate increase causes. Chair Leonardi closed the comment period.

7. Policy Platform Input

Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager Faith Carlson described the purpose of the Policy Platform and the process to develop it. She reviewed this year's proposed changes.

Members expressed:

- Appreciation for including transmission and distribution access advocacy in the platform,
- A request for platform language advocating for policies that further RePower strategic plan goals, even when RCEA has no operational control over those policy areas, and

- An observation that purchasing power from Humboldt Sawmill Company goes against RePower strategic plan goals.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

8. Deputy Executive Director's Report

Deputy Executive Director Verbeck reported on committee member reappointments and the Board's formation of a CAC at-large nomination subcommittee to recommend appointees at their March meeting. CAC Chair and Vice Chair appointments will be made at the May CAC meeting due to delays in filling the many expiring and new seats.

The March CAC meeting will be dedicated to a discussion of RCEA's power purchase agreement with Humboldt Sawmill Company. As requested, the CAC will have the opportunity following the presentations and discussion to make recommendations to the RCEA Board of Directors.

9. Member and Board Liaison Reports

Director Mobley expressed appreciation for CAC members' passionate engagement and knowledge and will communicate to the Board the committee members' requests to appoint a Rio Dell CAC member.

Member Latimer requested SWELL program messaging to share with the public in response to queries she has received. Vice Chair Qiriazzi stated he was leaving the CAC after eight years of service and expressed appreciation to the group for the work they do. Member Lawton expressed support for internships at RCEA, thanked outgoing CAC members for their work and requested certificates of appreciation for exiting members.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Clerk of the Board