**Community Renewable Energy Association**

**Minutes of the Executive Board**

**Date:**

June 19 2020

**Time:** 10:15 am – 1:17 am

**Location:** Veterans Memorial Hall

Condon, Oregon

**Executive Board Members Present:** Executive Committee Chair Les Perkins; Treasurer Steve Uffelman; Joe Dabulskis; Elizabeth Farrar; Don Coats; Don Russell; Doug Frasier, alternate for Steve Uffelman.

Present by phone: Executive Committee Vice-chair Ormand Hilderbrand

**Executive Board Members unable to attend:**

**Staff Present:** Brian Skeahan; Pat Bozanich; Rob Bovett, Association of Oregon Counties

**Others Present**: David Brown, Obsidian Renewables

**Recording Secretary:** Pat Bozanich

**Handouts**

(All materials were disseminated via email)

Executive Committee Agenda for June 19, 2020

Draft Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2020

2020/21 draft budget

Director’s Report of June 2020

**1. Call to Order**

Executive Committee Chair Perkins called the meeting to order to 10:15 am Introductions were made.

**2.** **Open Agenda**

Chair Perkins gave the opportunity for those present to add any items not on the agenda.

**3. Business Meeting**

**Motion:** Approve May 2020 meeting minutes as amended:

Made by Don Russell

Seconded by Joe Dabulskis

Unanimously approved.

Financial documents for April, May and June will be available as soon as MCEDD can get software updated

**4. Approve 2020/21 Budget**

Brian Skeahan presented the proposed 2020/21 FY budget.

**Motion:** Approve 2020/21 CREA budget as presented

Made by: Don Russell

Seconded by: Elizabeth Farrar

The Board discussed whether CREA should get a credit card so that purchases could be directly charged to the organization and not to employees or board members and then require reimbursement through MCEDD. This will much simplify paying for items like our domain names, website and other communications purchases. The decision was to get the card. Brian will look in to MCEDD’s credit t card policy and report back.

**5. SiP Status Update**

Brian presented update of CREA SIP chart. All agreed it is correct.

**6. 2021 Legislative Concepts**

**\* Discussions with AOC**

Rob Bovett, discussed personnel changes occurring at AOC and how they might impact CREA. He also discussed what he expects this year’s Oregon legislative season to look. He anticipated three sessions: one to deal with COVID-19 issues and police accountability, a second to rebalance the budget and a third to deal with other issues.

**\* Jake Stephen’s Big Idea**

Gradually increase RPS from 50% (including legacy hydro) to 90%. Allow 10% gas for peak need and reliability; last increment to get to 1010% RPS gets very expensive, allowing some gas reduces this problem.

Don’t close existing gas plants; these can be used for back-up and emergencies.

Jake wants to add more resiliency, community to the goal and would like more alignment with IOUs.

Batteries should also be added as well as pump-storage.

Nice tie-in to Oregon Grown Energy campaign. Oregon is behind California, Washington and Idaho.

High-level discussion about payments to growers to retire water rights in certain areas and create incentives to develop renewables on the land instead.

**\* PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Property Taxes) amendment** **NEEDS HELP!!**

Developers currently pay a flat fee of $7,000 a year. The flat fee provides financial assurance to both county and developer’s budgets. The $7,000 was based on wind, but solar developers believe that number has become too high based on the declining cost of solar. There is interest in an amendment to reduce the number as well as to include batteries.

Sponsors would like endorsement from CREA, AOC, NIPPC, and Renewable NW.

Directors agree by consensus that if AOC steps in CREA will support.

**\* Goal 13 and Land-use**

Goal 13 is an energy goal that focuses on energy efficiency. It was created pre-renewables. Since there is currently no overarching policy it would be good to focus it on land use related to renewable energy projects.

We could have AOC do the main work along with a push from CREA. ENW has historically expressed interest in this issue.

**7. OPUC Response to Governor’s Executive Order –** Brian reported that the PUC responded to the Governors EO on climate after some public input which CREA participated in. He reports that it is not clear how much will come out of this that benefits CREA members.

**8. Hydrogen Project – David Brown**

David Brown, Obsidian Renewables talked about changing opportunities for generating an transporting hydrogen fuels. Hydrogen can be produced from renewable electricity then transported via existing natural gas pipelines. The negative is that there is loss each time the fuel is converted. The solution is to only use electricity that is excess. Hydrogen can then be used to store the energy until it is needed.

It is difficult to get permission to build new natural gas pipelines, but existing lines are only partially utilized.

Committee members were very interested in this strategy.

**9. Pump Storage Project – Brian Skeahan**

Project is moving forward.

**10. Arlington Solar Project** – Brian Sheahan

Project appears to be on hold.

**11. Next meeting dates and locations**– Brian Skeahan

July 10. It will be a ZOOM meeting

**12. Adjourn**