**Community Renewable Energy Association**

**Minutes of the Executive Board**

**Date:** June 8, 2018

**Time:** 10:15 pm - 1:50 pm

**Location:** Columbia Gorge Community College: Boardroom

400 E Scenic Dr., The Dalles, OR 97058: Boardroom

**Executive Board Members Present:** Executive Board Chair Don Coats, Executive Board Vice Chair Ormand Hilderbrand, Don Russell, Steve Uffelman, Judge Gary Thompson

**Executive Board Members unable to attend:** Les Perkins, Judge Steve Shaffer

**Staff Present:** Director Brian Skeahan, Sonja Carey

**Members Present:** Joe Dabulskis (Sherman Co.), Alan Hickenbottom (Latitude 45)

**Others Present:** Doug Frazier (HorsePower Consulting), Bill Buld, Rick Williams (Portland State University)

**Others Present by phone:** Greg Adams (Richardson Adams, PLLC)

**Recording Secretary**: Sonja Carey

**Handouts**

Executive Board Agenda for June 8, 2018

Executive Board Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2018

Financial Report for May 2018

Director’s Report for June 2018

Draft Budget for fiscal year: July 2018 - July 2019

**Call to Order**

Executive Board Chair Don Coats called the meeting to order and presided over events of the meeting.

**Open Agenda**

Chair Coats gave the opportunity for those present to add any items not on the agenda. Chair Coats expressed interest in discussing the retirement of Renewable Northwest’s Executive Director Rachel Shimshak.

**Business Meeting**

Discussion: Amend minutes to show correct spelling of Joe Dabulskis’ name, along with his designation as a commissioner of Sherman County.

**Motion:**

Approve Minutes of May 13, 2018, once amended

Made by: Vice Chair Ormand Hilderbrand

Seconded: Steve Uffelman

**Status:** Unanimously moved

**Motion:**

Accept financials for month of May as presented

Made by: Vice Chair Ormand Hilderbrand

Seconded: Don Russell

**Status:** Unanimously moved

**Budget Discussion**

Director Skeahan presented the draft budget for CREA’s coming fiscal year: July 2018 - July 2019, explaining line items and any changes from the current fiscal year’s budget.

**OPUC Update**

Greg Adams of Richardson Adams, PLLC called in with an update on recent and current happenings at the OPUC to include:

Annual rate update for PGE, ID Power, PAC

Oregon Public Utilities Commission (OPUC) Commissioner changes:

Megan Decker appointed as Chair, replacing Lisa Hardie

Letha Tawney appointed as commissioner

OPUC interested in revamping their administrative rules regarding PURPA. OPUC staff sent out a proposed rule on PURPA. Schedule for comments has been extended. Rulemaking will go forward. CREA will monitor/engage.

FERC: re-opening PURPA rules: pre-rulemaking investigation

FERC has discretion to implement rules on PURPA

CREA will pay attention

SB 978: process to determine a process for considering a future model of regulated utility business, including utility regulation in response to industry changes. Director Skeahan and Alan Hickenbottom led an update

**Legislative Report**

Director Skeahan gave an update, led discussion on the upcoming 2018 Legislative Session. Topics included:

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Rick Williams, Senior Fellow in the Center for Public Services at Portland State University introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his work as related to energy policy, resilience and development of disaster resilient community microgrids. Redland, OR is currently working to become a template that can be used by community colleges within Oregon and other communities.

**Budget Approval**

Draft budget for fiscal year of July 2018 - July 2019 was brought again to the table for a motion.

**Motion:**

Approve the Budget for fiscal year of July 2018 - July 2019

Made by: Vice Chair Omand Hilderbrand

Seconded: Don Russell

**Status:** Moved unanimously

**Solar Land Use / EFSC**

Director Skeahan led a discussion on issues of solar development and land use planning.

**Legal Counsel**

Discussion took place re: obtaining general legal counsel for CREA.

No motions made.

**Solar Land Use / EFSC**

Director Skeahan led a discussion on issues of solar development and land use planning.

(Add anything about Morrow Co. and ODOE...or just keep it simple? No copy of letters presented)

**Evergreen Study**

Director Skeahan gave an update on the Evergreen Study which compares costs and benefits of in-state vs. out-of-state renewable energy development for State of Oregon. The study is in progress and is scheduled to be completed prior to the 2018 Legislative Session.

**Lewis and Clark Intern Study**

Director Skeahan gave an update on the Lewis & Clark intern study of articulating the value of Renewable Energy projects of large scale and small scale. The study is in progress.

All CREA membership counties will receive a letter from Lewis & Clark, requesting data from counties for the study.

**Goldendale Energy Storage Project (formerly JD Pool Project) Update**

Director Skeahan gave an update on the Goldendale Energy Storage Project.

Washington State approved just over $1 million in support of the project, during 2018 Legislative Session.

Discussion took place re: a recent tour and presentation of the Goldendale Energy Storage Project, which took place on May 15, 2018. Upcoming licensing studies are expected. Marketing efforts are currently underway.

**Renewable Northwest**

Director Skeahan reported on the recent farewell event of Renewable Northwest which paid tribute to Executive Director Rachel Shimshak. No candidates for Renewable Northwest Executive Director have been presented to the public or RNW membership base, as of yet.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.