**Community Renewable Energy Association**

**CREA Annual Meeting**

**Minutes of the Executive Committee**

**Date:** 11.17.20

**Time:** 1pm - 3pm

**Location:** Video Conference via Zoom

**Executive Board Members Present:** Executive Chair Les Perkins (Farmers Irrigations Dist./Hood River Co. Commissioner), Executive Vice chair Ormand Hilderbrand (Patu Wind), Don Coats, Judge Joe Dabulskis (Sherman Co.), Judge Elizabeth Farrar (Gilliam Co.), Commissioner Don Russell (Morrow Co.), Mayor Steve Uffelman (City of Prineville),

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Brian Skeahan, Legal Counsel Rob Bovett, Incoming Executive Director Mike McArthur

**Presenters Present:** David Brown (Obsidian Renewables), Michael Gomez (Oregon Department of Revenue/ODOR), Guillermo “Bill” Rodriguez (ODOR), Jed Jorgensen (Farmers Conservation Alliance), Kristin Sheeran

**Others Present:** Mallorie Roberts (Association of Oregon Counties/AOC), Joanne Hendrix (AOC), Doug Frasier (Horsepower Consulting for City of Prineville), Paul Matich (ODOR). Nicholas Harris (ODOR), Eric Shmidt (consultant for Mike McArthur), Commissioner Donna Beverage (Union Co.), Steve Shaffer (Port of Arlington), Phil Change (Incoming Commissioner for Deschutes Co.), Tyler Janzen (AOC), Director Gina Nikkel (AOC), Lauren Smith (AOC), Judge Pete Runnels (Harney Co.), Commissioner Pat Shannon (Gilliam Co.), Commissioner Mike Oates (Hood River Co.) Commissioner Sherrie Wilkins (Sherman Co.), Jim (no last name or picture), Michelle Binker, Larry Christensen, Ron Jacobs, Kelly Wright, Andrew Benjamin (NLine Energy)

**Recording Minutes:** Sonja Carey

**Documents**

Agenda for CREA Annual Meeting, November 17, 2020

Draft Minutes of October 9, 2020

Draft Minutes of October 16, 2020

Sample Solar Appraisal: Oregon Dept. of Revenue

CA Preview: Dept. of Revenue

2020 Wind & Solar Presentation

High Level Draft Summary CREA Strategic Discussion Ideas

**Call to Order**

Executive Board Chair, Les Perkins called the meeting to order and presided over events of the meeting. Introductions were made around the room. Chair Perkins called for any items not on the agenda to be included. No items were presented.

**Business Meeting**

Chair Perkins resided over the business meeting portion of the meeting.

**Minutes of Exec Committee Meeting of October 9, 2020**

**Motion:** Approve Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2020.

Made by: Commissioner Don Russell

Seconded: Vice Chair Ormand Hilderbrand

**Moved:** Unanimously

**Financials statements for month of October**

**Motion:** Approve financials for month of October

Made by: Vice Chair Ormand Hilderbrand

Seconded: Mayor Steve Uffelman

**Moved:** Unanimously

**Executive Committee Elections**

Chair Perkins presented a slate of CREA Executive Committee members with 2 year terms of their positions ending. The slate showed Judge Elizabeth Farrar, Judge Joe Dabulskis, Don Coats and CREA Vice Chair Ormand Hilderbrand.

Chair Perkins opened the floor for any additional nominations not presented on the slate. No additional nominations were suggested.

**Motion:** Retain the slate of CREA Executive Committee members to include Judge Elizabeth Farrar, Don Coats, Ormand Hilderbrand, Judge Joe Dabulskis.

Made by: Mayor Steve Uffelman

Seconded: Commissioner Don Russell

**Moved:** Unanimously

**New Executive Director Mike McArthur**

Chair Perkins announced Mike McArthur to be selected as CREA’s new Executive Director. He will start full-time work in this position in December of 2020, as Executive Director Brian Skeahan retires from this position. Mike McArthur and Brian Skeahan also spoke briefly about this transition. Chair Perkins expressed great appreciation for Director Skeahan’s long-time work for CREA.

**Central Assessment**

Guillermo Rodriguez, an appraiser for Oregon Department of Revenue (ODOR) , gave a slide presentation on Central Assessment and opportunities for renewable energy developers and counties in Oregon.

Michael Gomez, of ODOR presented a spreadsheet model of a typical appraisal for a solar project, as an example of Central Assessment.

**Future Opportunities and Challenges for Renewable Energy Development**

David Brown of Obsidian Renewables gave a presentation on the opportunities and challenges for renewable energy projects in Oregon, in the near and distant future, with a focus on issues of consumer demand for renewable energy, legislation towards sustainable energy, hurdles of government agencies and the need for transmission.

Jed Jergensen, Director of Energy Solutions for Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) gave a presentation, focusing on more localized issues, such as irrigation modernization, community benefits and local grid resiliency.

Kristin Sheeran, Energy and Climate Advisor to the Oregon Governor gave a presentation on past and future legislation, including the RPS, as well as the state government’s goals to reduce emissions, decarbonize and how this affects renewable energy development.

**CREA High Level Strategic Plan**

Executive Director Skeahan and incoming Executive Director McArthur gave a presentation on the Strategic Plan for CREA.

**Q & A**

Throughout the meeting, attendees were invited to enter any questions into the Zoom chat option. Chair Perkins took any available time to read these questions and call on appropriate presenters to offer answers. Emails of the presenters were also entered into the chat, provided for anyone who would like to contact them with further questions.

**Legislative Agenda**

Rob Bovett offered an update on the legislative agenda for 2021, to outline the projected timeline and possible atmosphere of the legislative session. Mallorie Roberts and Lauren Smith of AOC, introduced themselves as AOC is contracted to help CREA proceed with support of any bills or issues it deems important to community based renewable energy. Executive Director Mike McArthur also reported that CREA may use AOC to engage in OPUC or administrative rule issues.

**Adjourn**

Chair Perkins adjourned the meeting at 3pm.