**Community Renewable Energy Association**

**Minutes of the Executive Board**

**Date:** May 11, 2018

**Time:** 10:00 pm - 1:30 pm

**Location:** Sustainable Agriculture & Energy (SAGE) Center

101 Olson Rd., Boardman, OR 97818

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

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

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

**Members Present:** David Brown (Obsidian Renewables), Jim Doherty (Morrow Co.), Joe Debulski (Morrow Co.), Steve Uffleman

**Others Present:** Doug Frazier

**Others Present by phone:** Alan Hickenbottom (Latitude 45), Doris Penwell, Greg Adams (Richardson Adams, PLLC)

**Recording Secretary**: Sonja Carey

**Handouts**

Executive Board Agenda for May 11, 2018

Executive Board Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2018

Financial Report for April 2018

Director’s Report for May 2018

Draft Budget for fiscal year: July 2018 - July 2019

Draft: Legal Expense Estimate for Upcoming Fiscal Year (July 2018 - July 2019) provided by

Richardson Adams, PLLC

**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 opportunity for those present to add any items not on the agenda. Informal agenda add and ensuing discussion re: Opportunity Zones (OZ) recently designated throughout Oregon by Governor Brown. Opportunity Zones are part of the passing of H.R.1: Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

**Business Meeting**

**Motion:**

Approve Minutes of March 9, 2018

Made by: Judge Steve Shaffer

Seconded: Vice Chair Ormand Hilderbrand

**Status:** Unanimously moved

**Motion:**

Accept financial reports for March as presented

Made by: Vice Chair Ormand Hilderbrand

Seconded: Judge Steve Shaffer

**Status:** Unanimously moved

**Motion:**

Appoint Steve Uffleman to fill out the Executive Board position formerly held by Steve Forrester.

Made by: Don Russell

Seconded: Vice Chair Ormand Hilderbrand

**Status:** Unanimously moved

**Legal Counsel**

Discussion took place re: obtaining general legal counsel for CREA. It was agreed that counsel “on retainer” will be adequate.

**Budget Discussion**

Director Skeahan led a discussion re: CREA’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year (July 2018 - July 2019). A draft budget was presented to the Executive Board and all attendees. A revised draft will be presented at Executive Board meeting of June 8, 2018 for Executive Board approval.

**OPUC Update**

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

UM 1854: CREA is currently involved in a tentative settlement negotiations with PGE re: contract terms.

UM 1802: Docket Review

Order issued: PAC can’t use computer model to calculate non-standard rates for QFs.

UM 1934: PGE RFP

CREA filed comments

UM 1940: (15 yrs fixed prices under PURPA from signed contract date v. online date).

CREA NIPPC, REC filed complaint. OPUC grants favorable outcome.

PGE file appeal to OR Court of Appeals.

OPUC Rulemaking from SB 1547 re: 8% mandate in the RPS

CREA and REC have filed comment.

SB 978: process to determine a process for considering a future model of regulated utility business, including utility regulation in response to industry changes. CREA continues to monitor, possible involvement on a committee dedicated to this topic.

**EFSC Workgroup**

Doris Penwell gave an update on the recent workgroup formed to explore the current options for renewable energy project developers to either use siting through the Energy Facility Siting Council or through processes of individual counties. Penwell reported her attendance at the workgroup’s first meeting, involving counties and developers.

Two sub-workgroups have formed. One will address solar siting with issues of high value farmland, the other will address EFSC threshold.

Discussion took place re: need for a model of county ordinances that could help counties prepare.

**Legislative Report**

Doris Penwell led a discussion on the upcoming 2018 Legislative Session to include topics of land use: rangeland, EFSC: permitting process and counties need for understanding, solar farms and high value farmland, EFSC: siting and endangered species, Cap and Invest bill.

Bills for the 2018 Legislative Session will need to be filed in September of 2018.

**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 has not yet started.

**Lewis and Clark Intern Study**

Director Skeahan presented the possibility of allowing Melissa Powers, Director of the Green Energy Institute and Professor of Law at Lewis and Clark College take on a fellowship to help CREA by articulating the value of Renewable Energy projects of large scale and small scale. The target audience will be legislators. The study will work with the Evergreen Study currently in progress. Professor Powers will be looking for data from local governments.

**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.

A meeting will be held on May 15, 2018. Anticipated attendance includes representative from the UK and Canadian Consulate offices in Seattle, representative from WA Governor’s office, WA Department of Ecology and Commerce, local officials from Klickitat County and any other interested governmental bodies. Invitation to the meeting extends to Oregon governmental bodies and others interested in the financial benefits and impacts of the project.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.