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**Executive Director Report**

**2/11/22**

**Mike McArthur**

CREA financials are tracking on budget for expenses at one month past half a year. When the additional income for reimbursements is considered our legal expenses are within budget.. Membership invoices and letter have gone out this month to current members. There will be other slightly different letters for past members and potential new members. We may have a new developer member: TCEnergy and Dalton Advocacy has agreed to become a sponsor.

**Recommend: Accept financial statement for January 2022**

**CREA Principles and Process:** Tess asked me to develop a policy for CREA to help guide staff in evaluating legislation (see principles document). The process is to look first to the principles for guidance. Next to consult with the Executive Direc tor. If still unsure consult with Executive Committee Chair. If still in doubt poll the Executive Committee. I still unclear schedule for a formal CREA meeting. **Action: Review and adopt CREA principles and process**

**Projects, Tribal Consultation and Environmental Justice -** When I asked county members to come prepared to review renewable energy projects in their respec- tive counties I neglected to recognize Commissioner John Hillock of Wallowa. Commissioner Hillock is an electrical contractor and his business includes installing solar power. We hope to hear from him at this meeting. I have not been successful reaching Don Sampson, Executive Director, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian

Reservation Board of Trustees. So I have asked our intern Devon Guyer to post pone her presentation on Environmental Justice.

**HB 4059 and the “ Labor Fix”:** Stakeholders including RNW, OSSIA and Blue Green Alliance and Representative Pam Marsh, D-Ashland, have come to consensus around the -3 amendments. Tess Milio has also been tracking closely. And our re quest to change “large scale” to “covered project” continues in that amendment. A concern raised in testimony was that established apprenticeship programs aren’t available in many of the counties where projects are being built. So the “good faith effort” provision could come into play there.

**PGE RFP -UM 2166 - All Source Request for Proposals -** NewSun advocated for CREA and OSSIA to join NewSuns petition to intervene and seek standing in this proceeding. Angela and I spoke with Ellen Grover (after signing engagement letter) who then consulted with NewSuns legal team. Ellen determined that it would be very unlikely for CREA and OSSIA would be granted standing. Angela explored join ing RNW in an amicus which might save up to $20,000 in legal fees. RNW declined to participate. At issue here is whether PGE’s RFP should include in-state projects which was called out in the policy statement in HB 2021. However there does not appear to be any legal provision for in-state project to meet the requirements of decarbonization of the electric grid. Angela and I decided we should conserve our resources for more promising legal actions.

**UM 2025 - Workshop 2/9 -** The purpose of this workshop is to review the Oregon Public Utility Commission!s (OPUC) HB 2021 implementation strategy, refine and prioritize key issues for near-term Commission guidance relating to Clean Energy Plans, and receive input on the Clean Energy Plan investigation process and schedule.

**UM 2111 - Interconnection Docket: “***Staff agrees with the Interconnection Trade Association that investigating the modernization of interconnection policies and practices is a priority for achieving the state*!*s goals for just and equitable transi tion to a decarbonized electricity sector.1 While the Commission*!*s General Inter connection Investigation, Docket No. UM 2111, has previously not advanced due to resource constraints, Staff is preparing to relaunch the docket in the first quar-*

*ter of 2022 (See Staf*!*s discussion of the Docket No. DR 57 at the November 30, 2021 Public meeting and the Staff memo in Docket No. UM 2099 included in the December 28, 2021 Public Meeting agenda.) As part of the relaunch Staff will fol low the plan laid out when the docket was opened. The steps included were as fol lows:*

1. Open the investigation at the June 30, 2020, Public Meeting;

2. Thereafter Staff will release an integrated plan to address the range of intercon nection issues

across a combination of existing dockets and additional activities in the general interconnection

investigation;

3. Following the circulation of the draft issues list and plan, Staff will hold a work shop to receive

feedback on the scope of issues list and plan;

4. Staff will then recommend, at a Public Meeting, that the Commission adopt a scope of issues

and a plan to address the issues in the general interconnection investigation. “

**Community Renewable Energy Grant Program:** The draft rules for this $50 M pro gram have been filed with the Secretary of State (see materials). Grant ap plications are scheduled to be received staring March 1. There is a % set aside for rural communities and Portland isn’t eligible. The focus is on developing resiliency by providing key facilities with back up power (like solar and storage at a school facility). See example of Howard Elementary School in Eugene. Alan Hickenbottom has expressed interest in developing one or more of these projects in CREA terri tory.

**Hydrogen Hub -** We were invited by David Brown and Obsidian Renewables to join the steering committee assembled to help guide the project. Our role may be to help convene partners, like ports and counties, in Oregon who might be partici pating in the project. The steering committee includes a diverse group of subject matter experts such as Ken Dragoon and representatives of Seimans and Plug Power who design and build electrolyzers plus government affairs representatives from K & L Gates and Thorn Run.

**Crook Co. v. LUBA -** LUBA has granted NewSuns motion in part and ordered sup plemental briefing to address the Court of Appeals opinion. Unsurprisingly, LUBA denied the motion to remand, given ODFW’s objection. But, otherwise, LUBA re-

jected ODFW’s arguments that the Court of Appeals opinion is essentially irrele vant.

*“All briefs are limited to addressing the effect of the court's observations in ODFW II on petitioner's second and fifth subassignments of error in ODFW I, and the Board will not consider any arguments that address matters beyond the second and fifth subassignments of error.”*

**Next Meeting: March 11, 2022**