**Community Renewable Energy Association**

**Minutes of the Executive Board**

**Date:**

August 14, 2020

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12:33 pm

**Location:** Crook County Courthouse

320 NE Court Street, Prineville, Or

Zoom

**Executive Board Members Present:** Executive Committee Chair Les Perkins; Doug Frasier, alternate for Steve Uffelman.

Present via Zoom: Executive Committee Vice-chair Ormand Hilderbrand; Elizabeth Farrar; Don Coats; Don Russell

**Executive Board Members unable to attend:** Treasurer Steve Uffelman

**Staff Present:** Brian Skeahan;

By Zoom: Pat Bozanich; Rob Bovett, Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)

**Others Present**:

Pete Runnels, Harney County Judge; Brent Beverly, Harney Electric Coop; Jake Stephens, NewSun Energy

By Zoom: Amy Berg Pickett, SunStone Energy; Madeline Roberts, AOC; Lauren Swift, AOC; Sheri Helt, State Representive, Bend, Oregon

**Recording Secretary:** Pat Bozanich

**Handouts**

(All materials were disseminated via email)

Executive Committee Agenda for August 14, 2020

Draft Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2020

April, May, June and July 2020 Financial Documents

Director’s Report of August 2020

**1. Call to Order**

Executive Committee Chair Perkins called the meeting to order to 10:00 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 June 2020 meeting minutes

Approve April, May, June and July financial documents

Made by : Elizabeth Farrar

Seconded by Don Russell

Unanimously approved.

**4. Credit Card update**

Brian Skeahan stated credit card was in process.

5. PUPRA Update – Brian Skeahan

In response to FERC ruling IOUS are starting to challenge PURPA. CREA and others have requested rehearing.

**6. 2021 Legislative Concepts**

**\* Jake Stephens’ Proposal**

Jake has been working on a bill to increase the RPS and expand opportunities for Counties and developers to develop renewables in Oregon. He has been building relationships in rural Oregon, especially in areas where renewables can or do significantly add to the local economy. He has identified potential sponsors in both the Oregon Senate and House.

The proposed bill has four parts:

1. Rewrite the RPS (including legacy hydro) to steepen the curve, reaching 90% by 2040 and 100% by 2060.

2. Identify and implement capacity solutions, to increase flexibility and provide a consistent supply of electrical power; retain existing gas plants to allow this flexibility.

3. Ratebase Purchase Power Agreements. This will encourage IOUs to support the development of non-IOU, renewable-energy power sources.

4. Reform PURPA. Update PURPA to reflect the increased RPS and other items contained in the bill.

**Discussion and CREA Ex Com member response:**

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

2. Nice tie-in to Oregon Grown Energy campaign.

3. Committee members support the concepts in the bill and want the proposal to go through the AOC process.

**Other Legislation:**

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

May be included with Jake’s bill.

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

Needs rewrite to update, set aside for now.

• **Small-scale Hydro**

Les Perkins stated there will be a bill that he will ask CREA to support coming soon.

**7. Pump Storage Project** - Brian Skeahan

Application was submitted to FERC. Their response sited some deficiencies and requested additional information. FERC also sent a schedule for two-year expedited licensing process, but as of yet has not approved its use.

**8. Future of CEA –** Brian Skeahan

Brian announced he will be leaving the organization in December. He outlined several scenarios that CREA could consider for making the most of this transition. He will have more detailed information for the September meeting where these (potentially five) options will be discussed. The options include: replacing Brian with a new executive director,; somewhat disbanding the organization; or considering affiliating with other organizations that have a similar mission. He stated that he will ask the Executive Committee to short list preferred option(s) at the September meeting, and based on that direction will begin to work toward implementing the specifics of the alternative(s) shortlisted by the Executive Committee.

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

August will be a ZOOM meeting Looking ahead we need to decide if we want a virtual annual meeting in November In conjunction with AOC.

**10. Adjourn**