**Community Renewable Energy Association**

**Minutes of the Executive Board**

**Date:** January 10, 2020

**Time:** 11:30 am – 1:40 pm

**Location:** Columbia Gorge Community College

**Executive Board Members Present:** Executive Committee Chair Don Russell, Vice-Chair Ormand Hilderbrand, Steve Uffelman, Les Perkins, Don Coats, Joe Dabulskis, Elizabeth Farrar

**Executive Board Members unable to attend:**

**Staff Present:** Brian Skeahan, Pat Bozanich

**Others Present:** Doug Frasier, Prineville alternate; Terry McAdam, guest of Ormand HIlderbrand, Tom McCoy alternate for Joe Dabulskis; Alan Hickenbottom

**Recording Secretary:** Pat Bozanich

**Handouts**

(All materials were disseminated via email)

Executive Committee Agenda for January 10, 2020

Draft Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2019

Financial documents for December – not available

Director’s Report of January 2019

**1. Call to Order**

Executive Committee Chair Don Russell called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the room.

**2. Open Agenda**

Executive Committee Chair Russell gave the opportunity for those present to add any items not on the agenda.

MCEDD office is moving and Amanda Hoey, the Executive Director, is leaving for another position and MCEDD is conducting a search for her replacement. Siri Olsen, the accountant, is on vacation so we have no December financial reports to approve today.

**3. Election of Officers for 2020** – Don Russell

Russell requested nominations for Executive Committee officers:

**Motion**: Nominate Les Perkins as Chair

Made by Steve Uffelman

Seconded by Elizabeth Farrar

**Motion:** Nominate Ormand Hilderbrand as Vice-Chair

Made by Don Coats

Seconded by Don Russell

**Motion**: Nominate Steve Uffelman as Treasurer

Made by Ormand Hilderbrand

Seconded by Don Russell

**Motion:** Elect slate of officers as proposed.

Made by Don Coats

Seconded by Don Russell

Unanimously approved.

**4. Business Meeting** –

**Motion:** Approve December 13, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

Made by Steve Uffelman

Seconded by Elizabeth Farrar

December 2019 financial reports will be available for our February meeting

**5. Strategic Planning Session planning** – Brian Skeahan

Brian presented a PowerPoint that gave an overview of where renewable energy development is now and is heading. It placed CREA’s activities in context and asked where we wanted to go from here.

Discussion highlights follow:

**Date of Nest Meeting:** Monday, February 10, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 pm, AOC offices in Salem

**Outreach:**

Douglas, Jackson, Josephine and Multnomah Counties will also be subject to the PGE Power Shut-off Policy that affects Hood River and part of Wasco County – they should be encouraged be at our meeting.

Most effective outreach is for CREA government members to individually invite other elected officials to attend the meeting and become active in CREA. This outreach to include counties and cities.

We need to develop an ‘elevator speech’ to sell CREA; the focus will be slightly different for each county. The focus will be on resilience, *Oregon-grown Energy* to diversify county economies and increase local tax bases.

Brian – We need to include storage options when we talk about resilience.

Alan Hickenbottom - Focus of renewables development is shifting toward resilience and the need to generate energy, from non-fossil fuels, within your own community. These energy needs will increase as the number of data centers and EV charging stations continues to grow.

Portland has $50-60 million in funds for PURPA renewables projects. Focus is on job training and economic development.

Don Russell – Cited HB 2329 as an example of the type of policy advocacy that he supports CREA being engaged in. The bill allows counties to be the permitting agency for mid- sized energy projects. Having counties in this role allows projects to be approved in less time than under EFSC permitting.

**Elements of Elevator Speech**

1. Need a policy environment that supports development of renewables projects.

2. CREA is an effective partner in creating this environment via advocacy and networking opportunities, for example helping to pass HB 2329 which gives county governments the ability to streamline the development of smaller renewables projects.

3. CREA is unique because it brings local governments and energy developers, together to create new economic development opportunities.

4. CREA provides technical assistance for jurisdictions interested in renewables development.

**Next Steps**

**1.** Ex. Committee members answer questions posed in today’s PowerPoint and send them to Brian ASAP.

**2.**  Need to rewrite CREA Mission Statement to include resiliency as a goal; continue to focus on the need for free market decision-making and PURPA for solar projects.

Alan Hickenbottom suggested this change: *CREA advocates for effective and comprehensive energy policy to benefit Oregon cities and counties through increased tax bases, expanded economic development and improved community resilience.*

**3.** Write Elevator speech – Ormand will provide a first draft.

**4.** Call other counties to recruit for February strategy meeting.

5. Research what happens when SIPs roll-off tax rolls. CREA should be at the table for this discussion.

**6. Repowering** – Brian Skeahan

Repowering is increasing the output of older projects through the installation of new equipment; this can be as simple as installing new, more efficient blades. Repowering raises questions regarding potential SIP applicability and/or subsequent valuation for tax purposes.

The Oregon Department of Revenue Central Assessment Department conducts assessments on these projects. How the DOR makes this determination is not well understood or transparent to local officials. The Executive Committee is interested in having DOR come to a future meeting to discuss issues and concerns.

**7. Adjourn**