

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC March 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 28, 2022

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached March 24, 2022 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair David Springer opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2022 beginning at 5:01 p.m. via videoconference pursuant to the Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361). The Board of Directors found that the local health official recommended measures to promote social distancing and authorized the continuation of remote meetings for the foreseeable future.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: David Springer (Chair), Marsha Baird (Vice Chair), Christine Shewmaker, Gerry Braun (departed at approximately 7:04 p.m.), Mark Aulman, Lorenzo Kristov, Jennifer Rindahl, Cynthia Rodriguez (arrived at approximately 6:19 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: Yvonne Hunter

Welcome and Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Jennifer Rindahl to approve the March 24, 2022 meeting agenda, seconded by Christine Shewmaker. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment / Introductions

There were no written or verbal public comments on items not on the agenda and on Consent Agenda items.

Brief task Group and VCE staff Reports

Task Group Reports

Leg/Reg: Christine Shewmaker informed those present that there is a lot going on in the legislature with numerous bills associated with climate change. Four (4) bills have gone to the Board without first going to the CAC for discussion and a recommendation. Ms. Shewmaker thought that one solution was to put information on the CAC's consent agenda about the bills being considered for potential action/position. Lorenzo Kristov noted that Item 9 on the consent agenda needs clarification because it asks for the CAC's feedback. Executive Officer Mitch Sears clarified that Staff are not seeking feedback, a mistake in the Staff Report, and that this item is on the consent for the information purposes. Mr. Kristov requested that should the status of a bill change, such as action or a position taken, from the time the staff report is prepared and the day of the CAC's meeting, that Staff provide an update during the regular portion of the agenda.

Outreach: Mark Aulman informed those present that the task group has been busy providing input on adding new items (OhmConnect, Heat Pump Rebate Program, Time of Use) to the VCE website. The Yolo County Climate Action Commission at their meeting last month endorsed the shift of all non-solar Yolo County buildings to



UltraGreen. Yolo County Staff are reviewing the recommendation and the Commission hopes the item will go to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in April for approval. Mr. Aulman noted that the City of Woodland is also considering opting up their accounts to UltraGreen. He invited CAC members to join the Outreach Task Group and to volunteer at a few upcoming events: California Honey Festival, Celebrate Davis and soon Farmers Markets. If interested to please contact VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles.

Programs: Marsha Baird informed those present that VCE Staff have been busy preparing the Electric Vehicle Rebate program which is planned for the CAC's April meeting seeking a recommendation to the Board to adopt. The task group is looking at outreach to contractors for the heat pump webinars that Staff are setting up. The OhmConnect program campaign will begin April, with a demonstration on the program scheduled for the upcoming Board meeting. AgFIT (Agricultural Flexible Irrigation Technology) dynamic pricing pilot program continues to progress with a May 1st launch date.

Energy Resilience: VCE Staff Gordon Samuel opened up offer for others to join this task group. Gerry Braun informed those present that the task group is looking at a specific project in VCE's service territory. He recommends that Staff and CAC think about bringing in other member jurisdictions or school representatives to join in early into the conversation.

March 10, 2022 Board meeting update: Mr. Sears informed those present that the Board approved the AgFIT Polaris contract, Collections Policy, loan agreement with River City Bank, Time of Use (TOU) Bill Protection and Customer Heat Pump Pilot Program; and, took positions on several legislative bills.

Staff Report: Mr. Sears informed those present there is no update on legislation regarding entities holding remote meetings; therefore, VCE will continue to hold remote Board and CAC meetings. He and Ms. Boyles visited farms in Capay Valley to introduce the AgFIT program to different growers.

Consent Items

Ms. Baird informed those presented she is working with Staff on having a quarterly customer enrollment update rather than a monthly update. There were no objections by the CAC members for a quarterly update. Ms. Shewmaker asked that Item 8 – approval of Energy Resilience Task Group tasks be moved to the Regular agenda because she has a task she would like to add to the Charge. Mr. Kristov asked that Staff provide an update on the position taken by the Board on Senate Bill 881 (Min) (Item 9D) during the Regular agenda. There were no written or verbal comments as indicated above.



Lorenzo Kristov made a motion to approve the Consent agenda items with Items 8 and Item 9D moved to the Regular agenda, seconded by Mark Aulman. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Baird, Shewmaker, Braun, Kristov, Aulman, Rindahl, Springer

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hunter, Rodriguez

ABSTAIN: None

The following items were:

5. approved February 24, 2022 meeting Minutes;
6. received customer enrollment update as of March 16, 2022;
7. received 2022 long-range calendar; and
9. received Staff Summary on legislative bills:
 - a. AB 2696 (E. Garcia)
 - b. SB 1174 (Hertzberg)
 - c. AB 2937 (Calderon)

Chair Springer moved Item 8 to the beginning of the Regular agenda and moved the Staff update on Item 9d – SB 881 (Min) to the end of the Regular agenda.

Item 8-10 – Energy Resilience Task Group Charge Tasks

Ms. Shewmaker made a motion to add a task of holding a public forum on microgrids and their utility to the draft Energy Resilience Task Group (ETRG) Charge. Mr. Kristov is in favor of this task and requests that Staff manage the logistics of setting up the public forum. Mr. Kristov suggested an amendment to the motion to specify the subject of the public forum to “Community Energy Resilience”. Ms. Shewmaker agreed to the amendment to her motion. Ms. Shewmaker made an amended motion to add the task of holding a public forum on Community Energy Resilience and for Staff to handle the logistics, seconded by Lorenzo Kristov.

After a brief discussion, the CAC asked that the Outreach Task Group to assist with engagement of the community in the public forum; and, involvement of the Programs Task Group when considering the Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) as a potential program because it effects resiliency.

Staff supports the public forum and asks that the scope and outline of the public forum be reviewed by the CAC at a future meeting to provide comments. There were no written or verbal public comments.

The Board Clerk took the vote on the motion: Ms. Shewmaker made a motion to add the task of holding a public forum on Community Energy Resilience and for Staff to handle the logistics, seconded by Lorenzo Kristov. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Baird, Shewmaker, Braun, Kristov, Aulman, Rindahl, Springer

NOES: None



ABSENT: Hunter, Rodriguez

ABSTAIN: None

Item 11: Receive presentation on California Community Power Joint Powers Authority long duration energy storage project: Goal Line (Information)

Mr. Samuel summarized the California Community Power (CC Power) Joint Powers Authority long duration energy storage project “Goal Line” by reviewing slides. Staff are seeking a recommendation to the Board for VCE to participate in this CC Power project. There were no written or verbal public comments.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Shewmaker made a motion to recommend to the Board that VCE participate in the CC Power Goal Line Project, seconded by Mark Aulman. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Baird, Shewmaker, Braun, Kristov, Aulman, Rindahl, Springer

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hunter, Rodriguez

ABSTAIN: None

Item 12: Receive overview of VCE Forecasting (Information / Discussion)

Mr. Samuel provided an overview on the forecasting process and information that is used in forecasting models and budget, including market price benchmarks, power and administrative costs, revenues, and financial model. Staff are seeking feedback from the CAC on information they would like to receive for future discussions on forecasting.

The CAC asked questions and discussed: other forecasting models used and what do they model; forward curve; the ability to adjust the forecast due to weather, drought, costs; collaboration efforts among the CCA’s; factors, such as weather/climate, load, administrative and power costs, and Resource Adequacy (RA) used in the forecasting models; and, procurement. CAC Members provided input on what information would be useful in the upcoming forecasting CAC agenda information items. Mr. Sears commented that VCE’s load forecasting has been within 5% of estimations. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 13: Receive presentation on VCE’s rates update. (Information)

Staff reintroduced the thinking, analysis and conclusions that resulted from the discussion VCE had in the Fall 2021 on expanding the customer rate structure. VCE Staff Edward Burnham reviewed the proposed cost-based rate structure that was discussed: three (3) customer rate options, customer distribution, and portfolio/price pertaining to renewable and GHG content, and draft rate discussion schedule.

(Cynthia Rodriguez arrived at approximately 6:19 p.m.)

CAC Members asked questions and discussed: renewable power content and portfolio, CARE/FERA default rate and portfolio content, Time of Use (TOU), customer rate options, differentiation between PG&E and VCE, messaging to customers, and local project investment. There were no written or verbal public comments.



Item 14: Review and discuss Customer program concept (Electric Vehicle Rebates Program). (Information /Discussion)

VCE Staff Sierra Huffman summarized the Electric Vehicle Rebates Program summarized the Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebates program which is focused on available rebates and tax credits for the consumer with the pilot program designed to stack and demystify the electric vehicle purchase process. CAC Members discussed: funding for the rebates, community need and program goals, anticipated participation rate and incentives, and bi-directional charging. The CAC provided feedback and suggestions to Staff. Staff will present Phase 1 of the EV Rebates Program to the CAC at their April meeting seeking a recommendation to the Board for their May meeting. There were no written or verbal public comments.

(Gerry Braun departed at approximately 7:04 p.m.)

Item ~~9D~~ 15: Status on Senate Bill 881 (Min)

Mr. Sears informed those present that Senate Bill (SB) 881 (Min) would require load serving entities to procure sufficient energy to achieve a diverse, balanced and reliable statewide portfolio specified electricity sector greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Currently, load serving entities file an integrated resource plan (IRP) and updates with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to ensure that load serving entities accomplish specified objectives. He informed those present that this bill is problematic and CalCCA is currently in discussion with the author on amending the bill. A few days ago, the sponsor rejected the suggested amendments and negotiations ended. The hearing on the bill is scheduled for next Monday. Due to timing, this bill went from “watch” status to VCE needing to take a position on the bill. Staff went through the expedited process to submit a Letter of Opposition unless Amended, which was submitted on March 23, 2022.

The CAC asked Staff to provide a verbal update on a legislative bill if things change between the time the staff report is prepared and the CAC meeting.

Advisory Committee Member and Announcements

Mr. Kristov thanked Staff for their work and the CAC for good discussions on the agenda items.

Adjournment to Next Meeting

Chair Springer announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 5 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst