

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: VCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst
SUBJECT: CAC April 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes
DATE: May 28, 2020

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached April 23, 2020 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair Hunter opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a special meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2020 beginning at 5:05 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to the Provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, which suspends certain provisions of the Brown Act and the Orders of the Public Health Officers with jurisdiction over Yolo County, to shelter in place and to provide for physical distancing.

Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Yvonne Hunter (Chair), Marsha Baird (Vice Chair), Gerry Braun, Christine Shewmaker, Mark Aulman, Christine Casey David Springer (arrived 5:24 p.m.), and Lorenzo Kristov (arrived at 5:34 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent:

Item 2: Approval of Agenda Mark Aulman made a motion to approve the April 23, 2020 meeting Agenda, seconded by Chris Casey, motion passed with David Springer and Lorenzo Kristov absent.

Item 3: Public Comment / Introductions There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 4: Brief task Group and VCE staff Reports **Task Group Reports**

Outreach Task Group: Mr. Aulman reported that the Task Group reviewed several materials: draft Net Energy Metering (NEM) Donation Program and FERA/CARE Press Release.

Programs Task Group: Marsha Baird reported that the Task Group is meeting every other week with Staff discussing various program options and reviewing the 5-year plan. The Task Group also reviewed the programs budget and looked at the education/supplemental rebate programs for low income.

Strategic Task Group: Gerry Braun reported that the 2020 charge was prepared and the Task Group is ready to assist in the strategic planning process once it moves forward.

Rates Task Group: Mr. Braun informed those present that CAC member Lorenzo Kristov will be the chair of this Task Group and that Mr. Kristov prepared the proposed 2020 charge.



Leg/Reg Task Group: Chair Hunter reported that the Task Group is meeting every other week with VCE's lobbyist and Staff. She noted that copies of the most recent VCE legislative letters have been posted to the website and thanked Staff for posting them.

4/9/2020 Board meeting summary: VCE Interim General Manager Mitch Sears reported that the Board approved the local request for offers (RFO) for renewable solicitation which was distributed and made public on Monday, April 20, 2020. VCE is already receiving responses. Mr. Sears reported that Staff reviewed with the Board VCE's response to the Covid-19 crisis and reviewed with them the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 operating budget.

Staff Reports: Mr. Sears reported that he attended a CalCCA call this morning on Covid-19 issues. He reported that at East Bay's recent meeting, they accepted large hydro attributes but not the nuclear attributes from PG&E. He reported that the East Bay Board approved a different approach to their clean power portfolio in which they are not procuring large hydro next year; however, for the remainder of 2020, they will be aggressive in their renewable portfolio. Christine Shewmaker asked staff if the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has approved PG&E's attribute offer letter. Mr. Sears reported that they have not yet, but it is anticipated to be addressed at their early May meeting.

Mr. Braun reported that the City of Davis Council has decided to approve a large solar project within the City's limits, this project has become a controversial issue.

Items 5 – 6: Consent Items

Mr. Aulman made a motion to approve the consent items, seconded by Marsha Baird. Motion passed with Chris Casey abstaining and Lorenzo Kristov absent. The following items were approved/received:

1. February 2, 2020 meeting Minutes; and,
2. customer enrollment update as of April 15, 2020.

There was no public comment on these items.

Item 7: Policy Strategies – Potential Options to address possible future fiscal impacts related to regulatory and market volatility (Discussion)

Mr. Sears reviewed the background on several potential policy strategies that may help offset anticipated reduced net income in future budget cycles and help bridge the gap until lower cost long-term renewable energy contracts come on-line in late 2021/2022. The purpose of this item is for staff to receive feedback from the Committee to help inform analysis and Board recommendations in line with adopting the operating budget at the Board's June meeting. Mr. Sears reviewed: preliminary operating budget information for fiscal year 2020-2021; key assumptions/factors for 2021; and, potential policy strategies including rate changes, power resource planning adjustments, and other potential mitigation strategies. Mr. Sears reviewed potential policy strategies chart showing the potential policies, potential savings, ease of implementation, timing and other notes/considerations of each policy if adopted.



Several questions were asked about increasing VCE's generation rates; the revenue generated from the increase; and, the potential opt out rate of customers due to an increase if that is what is decided. Other potential policy strategies were discussed: power resource planning adjustment, power charge indifference adjustment (PCIA) costs, rate setting authority and classes within each rate to assist customers, long term renewable power contracts, price and cost of renewable offerings, resource adequacy, the effects on load demand and cost of natural resources due to Covid-19, potential effects to the power content label, and, economic impact to agencies 6 to 12 months out.

Mr. Sears reminded the CAC that VCE has an advantage working with SMUD, who are facing the same issues. VCE is benefiting from their analysis and resources. Mr. Sears will take the CAC's feedback and fold it into a set of recommendations for the CAC's review at their next meeting.

There was no public comment on this item.

Item 8: Overview of Proposed NEM-Credit Donation Program (Informational)

VCE Staff Jim Parks provided an overview and the development of the proposed Net Energy Metering (NEM) credit donation program, of which the Outreach and Programs Task Groups have reviewed and provided input on the draft. It is unknown at this time what the administrative costs of this program are.

CAC members encouraged that this program support VCE's mission and goals.

There was no public comment on this item.

Item 9: Update and discussion about VCE responses to COVID-19 and potential impacts on VCE load projections. (Informational)

Mr. Sears reviewed a variety of actions and responses that VCE has taken due to the Covid-19 crisis. It was suggested that VCE staff reach out to the local chambers of commerce to let businesses know that FERA/CARE programs are available to those who lost their jobs. Mr. Sears reminded those present that these two programs are based on income moving forward, not on past income. Lastly, VCE has been working with local agencies to identify critical facilities; Staff have been working remotely from home; and, have been meeting virtually two times a day.

Mr. Sears reported that CCAs are supporting their communities with donations, deferrals of collections and offering direct customer support programs. Mr. Parks informed those present that it is unknown at this time how many VCE customers are behind payments; however, SMUD is estimating 8% of its customers.

There was no public comment on this item.

Item 10: Update on VCE Strategic Planning process (Informational)

Mr. Sears informed those present that a strategic plan worksheet had been sent out to the Board and to the CAC members seeking their input by May 4th. The process is on hiatus due to the Covid-19 crisis. The Board would like an in-person meeting to start discussing the strategic planning process. There was no public comment on this item.



Item 11: Review and approve Task Group draft charges for 2020

There was no public comment on this item. Christine Shewmaker made a motion to approve the Task Group 2020 charges as submitted, seconded by Mark Aulman. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 12: Long Term Calendar

Ms. Shewmaker asked when VCE would need “interest” letters from those members whose CAC appointment expires in June 2020. Board Clerk Alisa Lembke responded with prior to the next CAC meeting as the Board will be reappointing/appointing members at their June Board meeting.

Advisory Committee Member and Announcements

Chair Hunter informed those present that Gerry Braun, Lorenzo Kristov, and Richard McCann were being given the 2020 environmental recognition award by the City of Davis.

Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that two (2) bills he has been working on will be postponed to the 2021 season due to the need to reduce the number of bills the legislature is trying to get through. He and his colleagues intend on working on the bills during this time.

Mr. Kristov also informed those present that he will be sending the Board Clerk webinar information on “Distribution Utility to DSO: What’s the Path Forward?” which he would like to distribute to the CAC members.

Gerry Braun informed those present that the Davis City Council took action on a lease option agreement with BrightNight to develop a solar project on a parcel next to the City’s wastewater treatment plant. VCE is not in the position to weigh in on this – it is up to the individual agencies; however, this issue is being monitored.

Mr. Sears informed those present that the Power Shutoff Public Service (PSPS) season is kicking off with PG&E. PG&E will be conducting a public forum on agriculture TOU rates, which VCE will be participating in. He informed those present that some of our Yolo agriculture customers are contacting staff and Board member asking what the TOU is. Mr. Sears informed those present that interviews are taking place to fill the Director of Marketing and Customer Care position since Jim Parks will be retiring soon.

Adjournment to Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m. to the next regular scheduled CAC meeting of Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. currently scheduled at the City of Woodland Council Chambers, located at 300 1st Street, Woodland; however, this meeting may be held via teleconference.

Alisa Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst