

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report – Item 4

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk / Administrative Analyst
SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2020 Board Meeting
DATE: December 10, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Receive, review and approve the attached November 12, 2020 Board meeting Minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance duly noticed their regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., to be held via Zoom teleconference. Chairperson Don Saylor established that there was a quorum present and began the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Don Saylor, Dan Carson, Tom Stallard (departed at 4:45 p.m.), Gary Sandy, Wade Cowan, Lucas Frerichs, Jesse Loren (departed meeting at 4:06 p.m. for Item 15a and returned into the meeting at 4:25 p.m.)

Members Absent: Angel Barajas

Approval of Agenda Chair Saylor informed the Board that Item 15 – approval of Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) will be addressed separately as Item 15a – Putah Creek Solar Farms PPA and Item 15b – Gibson Renewables due to a conflict a Board Member has with Item 15a.

Motion made by Director Carson to approve the November 12, 2020 agenda as amended, seconded by Director Loren. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Chairperson Saylor opened the floor for public comment.

There are no written or verbal comments.

Approval of Consent Agenda / Resolution 2020-030 and Resolution 2020-031 There were no written or verbal public comments.

Motion made by Director Carson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Director Stallard. Motion passed with Director Barajas absent. The following items were approved, ratified, and/or received:

4. October 10, 2020 Board meeting Minutes;
5. 2020 Long Range Calendar;
6. Financial Updated – September 30, 2020 (unaudited) financial statement;
7. November 5, 2020 Regulatory update provided by Keyes & Fox
8. November 3, 2020 Customer Enrollment Update;
9. Community Advisory Committee October 22, 2020 meeting summary;
10. Amendment One (1) to the Automate Mailing Services agreement extending the contract through June 30, 2022 and increase the not to exceed amount by \$40,000 as Resolution 2020-030;
11. Amendment One (1) to Green Ideals agreement to extend the contract one (1) year as Resolution 2020-031;



12. accept and attest to the accuracy of VCE's 2019 Power Content Label for Standard Green and UltraGreen products for 2019;
13. VCE's 3-year Strategic Plan; and,
14. VCE's Environmental Justice Statement.

Item 15a.: Approve Power Purchase Agreement - Putah Creek Solar Farms / Resolution 2020-032

Chair Saylor reminded those present that Item 15 will be addressed by the Board as two items: 15a and 15b, due to Director Loren having to abstain from Item 15a – Putah Creek Solar Farms PPA. Director Loren explained that she lives too close to the site area and recused herself from this item. Director Loren signed off the teleconference meeting at 4:06 p.m. and will be contacted to rejoin the meeting once Item 15a has been completed.

VCE Staff Gordon Samuel reviewed the Putah Creek Solar Farms Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and informed those present that several representatives from Putah Creek Solar Farms were present and available to answer any questions. Mr. Samuel opened up the floor for questions from the Board. It was asked that Mr. Samuel explain for the record the process that Staff used to review each proposed project. Mr. Samuel explained that all the projects were reviewed against the same advertised primary qualitative criteria. One project did not pass the criteria because the project was outside the December 31, 2023 commercial operation date (COD) and the timeline would not work for them. Mr. Samuel was asked to explain a little bit more about the site location of this project. Mr. Samuel informed those present that the site location for this project is off of Highway 128 and Road 87D outside Winters.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Director Frerichs made a motion to approve a Power Purchase Agreement between VCE and Putah Creek Solar Farms for 3 MW AC solar photovoltaic facility co-located with a 3-MW/12 MWh (4-hour) battery energy storage system, seconded by Director Stallard. Motion passed as Resolution 2020-032 by the following vote:

AYES: Saylor, Carson, Stallard, Sandy, Frerichs, Cowan

NOES: None

ABSENT: Barajas

ABSTAIN: Loren

Item 15b: Approve Power Purchase Agreement - Gibson Renewables / Resolution 2020-033

Director Loren rejoined the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

VCE Staff Gordon Samuel reviewed the Gibson Renewables Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). There were no questions from the Board.

There were no written or verbal public comments.



Director Cowan made a motion to approve a Power Purchase Agreement between VCE and Gibson Renewables for 20 MW solar photovoltaic facility combined with a 6.5-MW/26 MWh (4-hour) battery energy storage system, seconded by Director Frerichs. Motion passed as Resolution 2020-033 by the following vote:

AYES: Saylor, Carson, Stallard, Sandy, Frerichs, Cowan, Loren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Barajas

ABSTAIN: None

Item 16: Receive update on short and long-range COVID impacted financial forecast, load, revenue, and power costs. (Informational)

VCE Staff George Vaughn presented a modified and updated set of forecasts due to COVID, specifically addressing two topics related to the fiscal outlook for VCE: (1) updated electricity demand forecast for COVID/recessionary period and beyond (calendar year 2020 to 2022); and (2) updated high-level look at the profitability and cash outlooks for fiscal years ending June 30, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Questions were asked about 1) whether or not expenditures are coming in as expected and 2) when the Board should take fiscal action to achieve our 2022 and 2023 budget goals.

Director Stallard departed the meeting at 4:45 p.m. There were no verbal or written public comments.

Item 17: Allocation of Fiscal Year 2020 Net Margin between cash reserves, dividends, and local program reserves / Resolution 2020-034

Mr. Vaughn provided various options to the Board on determining how to allocate audited net margin for Fiscal Year 2020, taking into account the Dividend Program parameters as well as available and forecast cash reserves. Chair Saylor asked if the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed Staff's information and recommendation and Mr. Vaughn stated that the CAC reviewed and asked lots of questions. There were no verbal or written public comments.

Director Loren made a motion to approve staff's recommended allocation of fiscal year ending 2020 (FY2020) net margin between cash reserves, dividends, and local program reserve (LPR) as follows:

- \$138,000 to the Local Programs Reserve (LPR)
- \$0 to dividends, given the current cash reserve forecast
- The balance (\$6,180,000) to cash reserves to help stabilize customer rates over the next two fiscal years.

Motion was seconded by Director Carson. Motion passed as Resolution 2020-034 by the following vote:

AYES: Saylor, Carson, Sandy, Frerichs, Cowan, Loren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Barajas, Stallard

ABSTAIN: None



Item 18: Receive update on City of Winters enrollment and outreach. (Informational)

VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles reviewed outreach and communication efforts of enrolling Winters customers into VCE. Enrollment will begin in January 2021 with outreach already started at the beginning of November.

Director Loren commented that she is pleased to see the roll out information and street pole banners. She has seen comments and questions on social media, which have been difficult to respond to. Director Cowan commented that he likes the outreach roll out information and banners. Both Director Loren and Cowan wanted to know what they could do to assist in getting the word out about VCE and enrollment. Director Carson suggested to refer people to the VCE website. Director Frerichs also suggested an op ed or editorial in the local Winters newspaper. Director Loren responded saying that an op ed is in the works.

Public verbal comment was provided by Yvonne Hunter, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), who encouraged others, such as Winters CAC members, to answer questions and disseminate correct information through social media. She found that this worked well in getting the information out to the public when VCE initially launched in 2018.

There were no written public comments.

Board Member and Staff Announcements

Mr. Sears reminded those present that this time last year, CalCCA held their annual meeting in Redondo Beach. Due to COVID, this year's meeting had been cancelled. Today, CalCCA held a virtual "mini" conference mostly attended by CCA staff. CalCCA recognized Dawn Weisz, CEO of Marin Clean Energy (MCE) for her historical work promoting CCAs. Mr. Sears reported that CalCCA issued a press release on the overall CCA movement with 23 active CCAs and over 11 million customers. He informed those present that the CAISO Director was in attendance and shared his perspective and interest in CCAs, resource adequacy, procurement and reliability and how CCAs interact at the state level. Mr. Sears also commented that VCE has reached a milestone with the Board approving local power purchase agreements at today's meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Chairperson Saylor adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m. with the next Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 4 p.m. via teleconference.

Alisa M. Lembke
VCEA Board Secretary