

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC February 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

DATE: March 24, 2022

Recommendation

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



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

Interim Chair Yvonne Hunter opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022 beginning at 5:02 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: Yvonne Hunter (Interim Chair), Marsha Baird (Interim Vice Chair), David Springer, Christine Shewmaker, Cynthia Rodriguez, Yvonne Hunter, Marsha Baird, Gerry Braun, Mark Aulman, Lorenzo Kristov (arrived at 5:11 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Rindahl

**Welcome and
Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Interim Vice Chair Marsha Baird to approve the February 24, 2022 meeting agenda, seconded by David Springer. Motion passed with Jennifer Rindahl and Lorenzo Kristov absent.

**Public Comment /
Introductions**

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

(Lorenzo Kristov arrived at 5:11 p.m.)

**Brief task Group and
VCE staff Reports**

Task Group Reports

Outreach Task Group: Mark Aulman informed those present that the group discussed a number of items, including programs, web landing pages, and improving the customer experience. VCE Staff Rebeca Boyles presented information about VCE to the Woodland Sustainability Advisory Committee where she also talked about cities opting up to UltraGreen (100 % renewable energy). Ms. Hunter mentioned that the Capay Valley Almond Festival was coming up this weekend and invited CAC members to assist at VCE's booth.

Programs Task Group: Marsha Baird informed those present that the electric vehicle information on the website has been updated. The group has been working on fine tuning an initial draft of an Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate program which will be provided for CAC review and input and the next meeting. Lastly, the group has been working on the AgFIT (Agricultural Flexible Irrigation Technology) Pilot program.



Leg/Reg Task Group: Ms. Hunter informed those present that the letter of support for Assembly Bill (AB) 833 (Dodd) has been posted to the VCE website. Meetings are continuing to occur.

Staff Report: Interim General Manager Mitch Sears reported on two Board meetings: January 27th and February 10th. He informed those present that the Board adopted the recommended Legislative Platform; supported AB 833 with a letter of support; received the Outreach and Marketing 2021 year-end report by VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles; received an update on Time of Use (TOU); received Carbon Neutral by 2030 report; approved participating in the California Community (CC) Power long duration storage project: Tumbleweed; approved rates for 2022; approved line of credit with Yolo County; and, received annual report on the Strategic Plan.

He informed those present that Staff are tracking AB 1944 (Lee): remote meetings for public bodies. Staff are tracking closely the Resource Adequacy (RA) proceeding where the structure of RA is being rethought. He attended the Aquamarine Solar Project ribbon cutting ceremony down in Kings County. Ms. Boyles continues to work on the AgFIT Pilot program. This program has a target start date of May 1st. There is interest in dynamic pricing and load shifting components of the AgFIT pilot program. VCE Staff briefed Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry staff on this program and in a separate meeting, briefed the consultant to the Assembly Utility and Energy Committee. There is interest in solutions as the state goes into the summer to reduce grid pressure and integrate intermittent renewable resources onto the grid. Staff is reaching out to staff legislators and agencies to assess who else would like a briefing on this pilot program.

Consent Items

Christine Shewmaker requested that item 8, the long range calendar, be pulled to the end of the Regular agenda. Item 8 was moved to the end of the Regular agenda as item 15. There were no written or verbal comments as identified above.

Marsha Baird made a motion to approve Consent agenda items 5, 6 and 7 with minor corrections to the January 20, 2022 meeting Minutes, seconded by Christine Shewmaker. Motion passed with Mark Aulman abstaining and Jennifer Rindahl absent. The following items were:

5. approved January 20, 2022 meeting Minutes with minor corrections;
6. received customer enrollment update as of February 16, 2022; and,
7. received SACOG Grant – Electrify Yolo Project update.

Item 9: Review and consider recommendation on revised draft Collections Policy. (Discussion/Action)

VCE Staff Edward Burnham summarized the updates and revisions to the draft Collections Policy. Questions, topics and suggestions were discussed: PG&E's collections policy and at what point is a customer sent to collections; the need for clarity of the process; the number of contacts with the customer before sending them to collections; who is contacting the customer, PG&E and/or VCE; and, what



information is available to VCE on when and how many times a customer is contacted by PG&E. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Marsha Baird made a motion to approve the collections policy with the addition of a flow chart of the process and verbiage reflecting multiple contacts will be made with the customer prior to sending them to collections, seconded by Mark Aulman.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Baird, Shewmaker, Rodriquez, Braun, Springer, Kristov, Hunter, Aulman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rindahl

ABSTAIN: None

Item 10: Review and consider recommendation on Time of Use (TOU) Bill Protection program. (Discussion/Action)

VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles summarized four (4) approach options of a bill protection program for customers transitioning from flat, tiered rates to time of use (TOU) rates. The CAC discussed cost differences between options 3 and 4, what other CCA's are offering in bill protection, how a credit amount was determined in option 3, length of participation by customer in the program, messaging to the customer, and which option would result in a more positive customer service experience. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Lorenzo Kristov made a motion that the CAC recommended to the Board of Directors to adopt Bill Protection Option 3, in which customers can call and request bill protection if they choose to remain on the Time of Use (TOU) rate for a full 12 months, seconded by David Springer. Yvonne Hunter asked that the motion include staff outreach Yvonne asked that in addition to the motion, that the recommendation to the Board include staff outreach efforts outreach efforts, such as using VCE's website, newsletter, and social media to inform customers that the bill protection program is available. The motion was amended to include these customer outreach efforts. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Baird, Rodriquez, Braun, Springer, Kristov, Hunter, Aulman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rindahl

ABSTAIN: Shewmaker

Item 11: Receive and consider recommendation on Customer program concept (Heat Pump Pilot Program). (Discussion/Action)

VCE Staff Sierra Huffman summarized the proposed customer Heat Pump Pilot Program concept. The CAC discussed how the heat pumps work, the goals of the program, engagement of contractors, resources for customers, changing the focus of the program to encourage replacement of old or failing/failed systems, contractor engagement in rebate programs, the need to stay competitive within the market, and VCE's outreach efforts on the rebates and program to customers. There were no written or verbal public comments.



Christine Shewmaker made a motion to recommend to the Board to approve Phase 1 of Valley Clean Energy's Heat Pump Pilot Program and change the primary focus of the program to encourage replacements of failing, failed, or outdated heating/ air conditioner systems with Dual Fuel Heat Pumps or all Electric Heat Pumps, seconded by Marsha Baird. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Baird, Shewmaker, Rodriquez, Braun, Springer, Kristov, Hunter, Aulman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rindahl

ABSTAIN: None

Item 12: Discuss formation of Energy Resiliency Task Group and charge for 2022. (Discussion/Action)

The CAC reviewed the draft Energy Resilience Task Group charge and discussed: the need to narrow and define the scope and tasks, community versus customer focused task group, behind the meter and/or in front of the meter, timeline and Strategic Plan goals. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Marsha Baird made a motion to create an Energy Resilience Task Group with the concept and preliminary charge agreed upon; Lorenzo Kristov and Gerry Braun as members; and, the task group members are to develop with Staff a work plan/tasks for presentment to the CAC at their March meeting, seconded by Mark Aulman.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Baird, Shewmaker, Rodriquez, Braun, Springer, Kristov, Hunter, Aulman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rindahl

ABSTAIN: None

Item 13: Power Procurement / Renewable Portfolio Standard Update. (Information)

Staff provided an update on power procurement status, 2021 target and current power estimates, reviewed 2022 target, on the Aquamarine project, output from Indian Valley hydro, and reviewed the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) outlook. The CAC discussed the effects of the drought on load, forecasting, portfolio management, and status of other projects. There were no written or verbal public comments.

Item 14: Elections of Chair and Vice Chair. (Discussion/Action)

Interim Chair Yvonne Hunter announce that David Springer has agreed to be the Chair and Marsha Baird has agreed to be Vice Chair rather than Interim Vice Chair. Yvonne Hunter made a motion to nominate David Springer as Chair and Marsha Baird as Vice Chair, seconded by Gerry Braun. There were no written or verbal public comments. Motion passed with Jennifer Rindahl absent and David Springer and Marsha Baird not voting.

Item 15: Receive 2022 Long Range Calendar

Christine Shewmaker asked Staff about proposed topic "Carbon Neutral by 2030", if this was related to the Carbon Neutral by 2030 study. Mr. Gordon informed those present that the scope of this topic would include, but not limited to, procurement



options different from VCE’s current policy, behind the meter, and in front of the meter. This topic would be more fine-tuned moving forward. There were no written or verbal public comments. Christine Shewmaker made a motion to receive the 2022 Long Range calendar, seconded by Gerry Braun. Motion passed with Jennifer Rindahl absent.

**Advisory Committee
Member and
Announcements**

Yvonne Hunter informed those present that she will not be attending the March 23th CAC meeting. No other announcements were provided.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 5 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst