

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report - Item 5

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: CAC April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: June 24, 2021

Recommendation

Receive, review and approve the attached May 27, 2021 meeting minutes.



**MINUTES OF THE VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Chair Christine Shewmaker opened the Community Advisory Committee of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance in a meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2021 beginning at 5:01 p.m. via videoconference 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: Christine Shewmaker (Chair), Cynthia Rodriguez (Vice Chair), Mark Aulman, Chris Casey, Yvonne Hunter, Marsha Baird, Gerry Braun, Lorenzo Kristov, David Springer, Jennifer Rindahl, Peter Meyer (arrived at 5:06 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: Peter Meyer (departed at approximately 6:43 p.m.), Mark Aulman (departed at approximately 7:10 p.m.)

Approval of Agenda Mark Aulman made a motion to approve the May 27, 2021 meeting Agenda, seconded by Yvonne Hunter. Motion passed.

Public Comment / Introductions Chair Shewmaker opened the floor for general public comments and on Consent Agenda items.

Peter Meyer arrived at 5:06 p.m.

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 Task Group: Ms. Hunter reported that they had a Task Group meeting last week. CalCCA’s SB 612 passed the Senate Floor and will go to the Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee as well as SB 99. AB 843 also passed the Assembly Floor and will head to the Senate.

Outreach Task Group: Mr. Aulman informed those present that the Group met this past Monday and discussed and commented on the pending changes to website “refresh”; discussed opt outs and how well “directing” customers who wish to opt out



online to speak directly with Customer Service, has worked out well. The Group also discussed how to recognize those Customers who have opted up to UltraGreen.

Programs Task Group: Marsha Baird stated that there is nothing to report since the Programs Plan is on the regular portion of the agenda.

Rates Task Group: Lorenzo Kristov reported that the Group met at the end of April and discussed the draft request for offers for a consultant. Staff are fine tuning then Task Group will discuss draft and timing.

Carbon Neutral Task Group: Cynthia Rodriguez reported that the Task Group has been meeting every other week. The Group is waiting for the results of the request for proposals for 100% Carbon Free Portfolio Study, said proposals were due May 21st. They have been discussing load forecast and doing a customer survey around VCE's carbon neutral goals. However, first there is a need for a public facing document to offer customers to review, such as a summary of VCE's Strategic Plan, then they would like to seek input on customers' priorities.

5/13/2021 Special Board meeting summary: Interim General Manager Mitch Sears informed those present that the Board received a budget update, along with power procurement strategies and COVID impacts on power use and purchase of power by VCE.

Staff Report: Mr. Sears briefed the CAC Members on the following topics: status of SB612; CalCCA's modeling group; highlights of the CC Power JPA Board meeting; highlights of VCE's attendance at the Yolo County Planning Commission (YCPC) meeting where a Gibson Solar local project was considered; YCPC has invited VCE back to the Commission to provide an overview of local renewable resources and VCE's local resource goals; the Governor's proposed budget including \$2 billion rate utility relief; and the status of Western Community Energy (CCA) which declared Chapter 9 bankruptcy. Mr. Sears provided a brief status on the CAC Member recruitment process. He informed those present that the VCE Board subcommittee postponed the reappointment/appointment to the Board's July meeting; as a result, extending the application due date.

Consent Items

Yvonne Hunter made a motion to approve the May 27, 2021 Consent Agenda items, seconded by Mark Aulman. Motion passed. The following items were:

5. approved April 22, 2021 meeting Minutes; and,
6. received customer enrollment update as of May 19, 2021.

Item 7: Consider policy strategies to plan for incorporation of long-term renewable

Mr. Sears introduced this item. VCE Staff Gordon Samuel presented a summary of the staff report. The CAC asked questions and had a detailed discussion covering load data/Covid impact, budget forecast including assumptions and the effects of long term contracts, perception of customers on fiscal decisions, and power content strategies presented by Staff, including but was not limited to:



contracts into VCE's power portfolio and to address FY2021/2022 PCIA and RA cost impacts. (Action)

- various budget uncertainties from weather, timing and amount of production from PPAs and any money refunds to cover non-paying accounts due to the COVID pandemic, etc.;
- concern about the message to the community and our value proposition. Clean energy and climate change were and are integral to our purpose and founding;
- the need to interact with and lobby PUC and other bodies relating to the PCIA and the overall value that CCAs bring to clean energy and climate; and,
- the need for contingency planning.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Peter Meyer departed at approximately at 6:43 p.m.

Marsha Baird made a motion that “the CAC, *after a sobering discussion* [emphasis added], reluctantly recommends *due to fiscal prudence* [emphasis added], that the Board follow the recommendation of Staff to continue the near-term policy of lower renewable energy credit (REC) and carbon free content purchases in 2022 with the following addition: for the 2022 year the initial RPS target is a minimum of 20% and quarterly updates are given to both the Board and CAC on the status of long-term contracts, RPS progress and budget numbers with the intent of increasing this target up to 42% if at all feasible.

Additionally, the CAC recommends that when taking this item back to the Board, Staff should provide the Board with financials from 2018/19 and FY2019/20 as well as budget estimates for FY2022/23 and FY2023/24 to provide a fuller picture of the financial health of the organization.

Lastly, the CAC would like to wait on a recommendation for the target RPS for the 2021-24 average and requests that Staff bring this item back to the CAC when the item needs to be determined.”

This motion was seconded by Yvonne Hunter with the following additions in the first sentence of the motion: “after a sobering discussion” and “due to fiscal prudence”. Ms. Baird agreed to the additions to her motion. Said additions are included in the above motion with emphasis (italicized) for clarification. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Shewmaker, Rodriguez, Hunter, Baird, Braun, Aulman, Kristov,
Springer, Casey, Rindahl

NOES: None

ABSENT: Meyer

ABSTAIN: None

Mark Aulman departed at approximately 7:10 p.m.



**Item 8: Consider
Draft 3-Year
Programs Plan
(Action)**

VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles and Tessa Tobar reviewed the draft Programs Plan and preliminary Program Design/Implementation form. CAC members provided feedback, asked numerous questions and discussed programs evaluation, approval and implementation processes. A few CAC Members offered to assist Staff in pursuing grant opportunities and resources to assist VCE with programs implementation.

There were no written or verbal public comments.

Marsha Baird made a motion that the CAC recommend that the Board adopt VCE's 3-Year Programs Plan, including the process by which programs are selected by VCE for implementation. The motion was seconded by David Springer. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Shewmaker, Rodriguez, Hunter, Baird, Braun, Kristov,
Springer, Casey, Rindahl

NOES: None

ABSENT: Meyer, Aulman

ABSTAIN: None

Lastly, the CAC requested that prior to implementing programs, especially those involving cash expenditures, that Staff bring these programs back to the CAC and the Board.

**Item 9: Update on
Net Energy Metering
(NEM) 3.0
(Information)**

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled to the next CAC meeting. Lorenzo Kristov asked Staff about allocation language that he thought had been removed from AB 1139. VCE Staff Rebecca Boyles will confirm whether the allocations were struck from the bill. Mr. Kristov also informed Staff that at a recent meeting he attended, a few attendees were complaining about VCE NEM charges on their PG&E bill. Mr. Kristov is to provide information about the customers to Ms. Boyles so that she can look into it. Ms. Boyles encouraged Mr. Kristov to have the customer(s) speak with VCE's Customer Service.

**Item 10: Long Range
Calendar**

There were no written or verbal public comments.

**Advisory Committee
Member and
Announcements**

Chair Shewmaker thanked Christine Casey and Peter Meyer for their volunteer service on the CAC.

Lorenzo Kristov informed those present that SB 99 passed the full senate on Monday. This bill would create program funding assistance for community resiliency planning. It is now moving forward in the legislative process.

Yvonne Hunter informed those present that she has been working with Staff and Green Ideals, VCE's marketing consultant, by taking photos. Ms. Hunter has received



topic assignments and is looking for photovoltaic arrays in the agriculture setting. She asked that if the Members had photo suggestions, to please let her know.

Chair Shewmaker informed those present that the City of Sacramento will be considering passing an all-electric ordinance, similar to the all-electric ordinances passed by numerous other California agencies.

Mr. Sears informed those present that Wanda Perez of SMUD is attending tonight's meeting. Ms. Perez is our Project Manager, replacing Jennifer Archuleta who is now in the wholesale energy sector at SMUD.

**Adjournment to
Next Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 5 p.m. via videoconference.

Alisa M. Lembke
Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst