

# Community Renewable Energy Agency Board Meeting Minutes

The Community Renewable Energy Agency Board met in a regular public meeting on **Monday, February 5, 2024**, at Millcreek City Hall, located at 1330 E. Chambers Avenue, Millcreek, UT 84106 and participated electronically via GoToMeeting.

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## **PRESENT:**

### **Board Members**

#### ***In person***

Dan Dugan, Chair, Salt Lake City  
Drew Quinn, *Holladay*  
Emily Quinton, *Summit County*  
Christopher Thomas, *Salt Lake City*

#### ***Electronic***

Emily Paskett, *Salt Lake County*  
Jeremy Rubell, *Park City*  
Joe Frazier, *Oakley*  
Luke Cartin, *Park City*  
Pamela Gibson, *Castle Valley*  
Kyla Topham, *Springdale*  
Randy Aton, *Springdale*  
Roger Armstrong, *Summit County*  
Suzanne Harrison, *Salt Lake County*  
Chris Cawley, *Alta*  
David Brems, *Emigration Canyon Township*  
Elissa Martin, *Grand County*  
Kaitlin Myers, *Moab*  
Alexi Lamm, *Moab*  
Samantha DeSeelhorst, *Cottonwood Heights*  
Holly Smith, *Holladay*

**In Person Attendees:** Kurt Hansen, *Millcreek*; Alex Wendt, *Millcreek*, Rita Lund, *Millcreek*

**Electronic Attendees:** Bob Davis, *Division of Public Utilities*; Brenda Salter, *Division of Public Utilities*; Doug Wheelwright, *Division of Public Utilities*; Jeanne Evenden, *Ogden Resident*; Sara Montoya, *Salt Lake City staff*; Samantha Pensari, *O2 Utah*; Sam Owen, *Salt Lake City staff*; Monica O'Malley, *Salt Lake City Staff*; Lorenzo Long, *Ogden staff*; Kate Skilbred; Joan Entwistle, *Park City Resident*; Carmen Valdez, *HEAL Utah*

Minutes by Alex Wendt, Millcreek Deputy Recorder.

**REGULAR MEETING – 1:00 p.m.**

**TIME COMMENCED: 1:04 p.m.**

**1. Welcome, Introduction, and Preliminary Matters**

**1.1 Purpose and Overview of Meeting**

Chair Dan Dugan called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**1.2 Current Participation Percentages included in Board Packet**

**2. Business Matters**

**2.1 Approval of January 8, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes**

**Board Member Quinn made the motion to approve the January 8, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. Board Member Armstrong seconded. Chair Dugan asked for the vote. All Board Members voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.**

**2.2 Treasurer Report (Year-to-Date Contributions and Expenses)**

Board Member Quinton gave the report. The new invoices paid have been sent to legal and communications consultants. The amount allocated to legal and technical consultants has been updated.

**2.3 Reports From Committees (Program Design, Low-Income Plan, Communications)**

Board Member Cawley gave the update from the Communications Committee. The committee met on January 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed scope of work adjustments, reviewed engagement and collaboration with O<sub>2</sub> Utah and HEAL Utah. The Committee has ongoing collaboration with Penna Powers on social media and newsletter content drafting. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>. Social media posting frequency is bi-weekly and performance trends are good but absolute numbers are still low. Board Member Cawley presented Penna Powers content performance metrics. There were fewer posts in January and therefore less activity. Posts performed well and views are trending up. 53% of the communications consultant budget is expended. Penna Powers will off-load aspects of social media programming to committee members and reduce involvement in the newsletter. They will also be moving \$5,000 from the newsletter budget to social media. The social media budget is 65% complete. Penna Powers is under contract for six more months.

Board Member DeSeelhorst gave the Low-Income Plan Committee update. Board Member DeSeelhorst gave an update on outreach reminder emails. These were sent by Samantha, on behalf of the Low-Income Plan Committee to Board Members in each community. The email is a reminder about the outreach they have committed to in the low-income plans. The low-income plan for each community is attached to these emails.

Board member Thomas gave the Program Design Committee update. Proposed program solicitation rules have been revised and sent to PacifiCorp on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Proposed resource contracting provisions were drafted and sent on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Committee met three times in January. Legal Counsel continued to work on program solicitation rules and on solicitation documents. The Committee requested Rocky Mountain Power estimate program administration costs to help with program rate design and reserves estimations.

Solicitation rules are almost complete. The main solicitation narrative document has been drafted but requires more work. Rocky Mountain Power suggested contracting provisions that would be required for power purchase agreements and the Program Design Committee is reviewing. They will try to have a complete draft by mid to late February to distribute to Millcreek's attorney and all other community attorneys for review. They hope to request a vote by the Board on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Board Member Thomas gave an update on energy-related bills at the Utah State Legislature. HB 241 eliminates the term "renewable energy" from most of state code and replaces it with "clean energy". It preserves the term "renewable energy" in reference to the resolutions the communities adopted in 2019 under the Community Renewable Energy Act. This bill will likely require updating the program's administrative rules and amending the Utility Agreement. The bill makes additional resources eligible for the program under a new term, clean energy resource. The new sources of energy include pumped storage hydropower, carbon capture and sequestration, and energy derived from nuclear fuel. HB 374 State Energy Policy Amendments creates a new prioritization list for Utah energy resources. The bill deprioritizes affordable and clean energy. It does not mention water consumption. Dispatchable resources are defined as natural gas, coal, oil, and hydroelectric with no mention of batteries. It subjects the Public Service Commission and governmental entities to consider this prioritization list. One more bill that does not yet have a number or text is called Community Renewable Energy Amendments. It will target the statute that created the Agency.

Salt Lake City submitted a non-binding option letter of intent to the EPA on January 31<sup>st</sup> for a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation grant to support the URC program. They indicated a \$45 million request. This would help cover participant support costs to cover the net cost to the URC program for the output of two Utah solar farms online by 2027. It would also cover the cost to create four energy navigator positions for three years to provide education and outreach in communities in areas identified by the grant as disadvantaged. The grant request can be revised before the application is submitted on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The application must include an estimate of how much emissions will be reduced over time. It is estimated that 1.2 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> could be reduced by December 2030 and 5.2 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> by December 2050. For coalition applications, every municipality submits a letter of intent to sign a memorandum of agreement connected with the grant. Mr. Thomas asked that all 18 member communities sign a letter of intent and return it by March 12<sup>th</sup>. The EPA requires that coalition partners enter a Memorandum of Agreement related to a prospective grant by July 1, 2024.

The Utah Division of Air Quality released its draft Priority Climate Action Plan for the Beehive Emissions Reduction Plan and asked for comments. The URC program is listed as a measure in the draft, but more information has been requested.

#### **2.4 Informational Item: Board Resource – Public Service Commission Process**

Board Member Quinton said the Board Packet includes a resource on the Public Service Commission process. This resource is based on a presentation the Agency outside legal counsel, Phil Russell, provided to the board in February 2023.

**2.5 Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

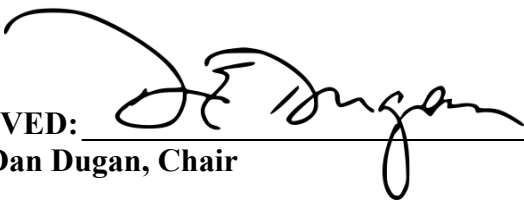
**2.6 Board Member Comments**

There were no board comments.

**2.7 Closed Session (If needed): The Board may convene in a closed session to discuss items as provided by Utah Code Ann. 52-4-205**

**3. Adjournment**

**Board Member Quinn made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 p.m. Board Member DeSeelhorst seconded. Chair Dugan called for the vote. All Board Members voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVED:  Date **3-7-24**  
Dan Dugan, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Emily Quinton, Secretary