

# Community Renewable Energy Agency Board Meeting Minutes

The Community Renewable Energy Agency Board met in a regular public meeting on **Monday, March 4, 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*

Jeff Silvestrini, *Millcreek*

Christopher Thomas, *Salt Lake City*

#### ***Electronic***

Randy Aton, *Springdale*

Elissa Martin, *Grand County*

Pamela Gibson, *Castle Valley*

Chris Cawley, *Alta*

Luke Cartin, *Park City*

Patrick Schaeffer, *Kearns Metro Township*

David Brems, *Emigration Canyon Township*

Emily Paskett, *Salt Lake County*

Lorenzo Long, *Ogden*

Alexi Lamm, *Moab*

Samantha DeSeelhorst, *Cottonwood Heights*

Joe Frazier, *Oakley*

Kyla Topham, *Springdale*

Holly Smith, *Holladay*

Kaitlin Myers, *Moab*

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

**Electronic Attendees:** Bob Davis, *Division of Public Utilities*; Doug Wheelwright, *Division of Public Utilities*; Sara Montoya, *Salt Lake City staff*; Eliza Cowie, *O2 Utah*; Carmen Valdez, *HEAL Utah*; Joan Entwistle, *Park City resident*; Megan Nick, *Summit County staff*; Sam Owen, *Salt Lake City staff*

Minutes by Alex Wendt, Millcreek Deputy Recorder.

**REGULAR MEETING – 1:00 p.m.**

**TIME COMMENCED: 1:03 p.m.**

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

### **1.1 Purpose and Overview of Meeting**

Chair Dugan called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

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

## **2. Business Matters**

### **2.1 Approval of February 5, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes**

**Board Member Silvestrini made the motion to approve the February 5, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. Board Member Quinn 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)**

There is no new revenue, but bills were paid, per Board Member Silvestrini.

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

Board Member Cawley gave the update from the Communication Committee. On February 23<sup>rd</sup> the Communication Committee discussed extending the Penna Powers contract. Communication channels' performance trends are steady, but absolute numbers are still low. The current contract with Penna Powers ends on June 30, 2024. Due to uncertainty in the program application and approval timeline the Committee is proposing an extension of the contract until June 30, 2025. Penna will cease involvement in social media and newsletters during periods in between program milestones to preserve budget to provide communications during key periods. Penna Powers will continue involvement in committee meetings and press releases in the meantime.

Board Member DeSeelhorst gave the update from the Low-Income Plan Committee and gave an overview of the Low-Income Plan Committee background. All the low-income plans are completed and on file for inclusion with the Program Application. Work continues with finalizing an outreach poster with Penna Powers. The Low-Income Plan Committee is also working on drafting an information email template.

Board Member Thomas gave the report from the Program Design Committee. The Program Design Committee met twice in February. They met with representatives from the Utah Office of Consumer Services (OCS) and the Division of Public Utilities (DPU) regarding solicitation rules. Members of the Committee also met with Energy Strategies regarding solicitation scoring. Additionally, they met with Rocky Mountain Power to develop administrative cost estimates. Board Member Thomas reviewed the resource solicitation process. OCS and DPU reviewed proposed solicitation rules and have no major concerns. The solicitation rules are near final. The Program Design Committee is still working on the solicitation documents. They hope to distribute a draft of the solicitation documents to Board Members in Mid-March and bring a resolution to the Board on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Program Design Committee has asked Rocky Mountain Power to file the solicitation rules and documents with the Utah Public Service Commission by the end of April. The Board will not want to spend a lot of time screening projects that have little chance of success by 2030. The Committee is working on strong scoring criteria to help the Agency Board with the solicitation process.

Board Member Thomas gave an update on energy bills that impact the Agency. SB214 removes the requirement for local governments to adopt a resolution supporting net-100% renewable energy by December 2019. This could open the door to additional communities joining the Program. Board Member Silvestrini said South Jordan may want to join. Chair Dugan said that the bill's sponsor gave short answers on why ran the bill. Board Member Brems asked if additional communities join, how does that affect the amount of renewable energy the Agency is trying to procure. Board Member Thomas said that they wish to support projects that are about 200 megawatts. If other communities joined it would change the energy load. This bill passed the Senate and House. HB 241 replaces "renewable energy resource" with "clean energy resource". The Program's enabling legislation is now the "Community Clean Energy Act". This makes nuclear power, coal with carbon capture, and pumped hydro newly eligible for the Program. This bill passed the House and Senate. Board Member Thomas said that these new resources are not requirements, but they are new options that the Agency could consider. Board Member Aton said he believes coal with carbon capture is not clean. It may capture CO<sub>2</sub>, however, there are sight specific problems with that technology. It does not deal with sulfur or nitrous oxide emissions. Nuclear energy does not create air pollution, but radioactive spent fuel is problematic. Board Member Silvestrini said he agrees with Board Member Aton and added that he did not think the Agency would have to select these resources, but they are on the table now. Millcreek signed on for supplying renewable energy, not the other sources. Board Member Gibson asked what would limit the Board from moving away from renewable energy to clean energy. Chair Dugan said he was not sure, and the Board would need to speak to legal counsel. Board Member Thomas said the bill encourages other energy forms, but the resolutions of the Agency communities are still in place.

HB 374 creates a new energy prioritization scheme; affordable and clean energy are number 4 and number 7 on the list. It does not appear to invalidate the Program. This bill passed the House and Senate. This bill will need to be interpreted by the Utah Public Service Commission. Board Member DeSeelhorst said that the argument could be made that the Program does consider affordability. Senate Bill 224 makes it easier for Rocky Mountain Power to continue operating Utah coal and gas plants, even if their continued operation is not cost-effective for customers. It allows Rocky Mountain Power to establish a Utah fire fund paid for by customers if approved by the Commission, adding up to \$3.70 per month to the average residential bill and increasing all other customer bills up to 4.95%. The fund may not be used for payments related to fires or property damage in other states. This bill passed the Senate and House. These bills could impact the Agency. The Program Design Committee will work on solidifying legal interpretation, and potentially updating the Utility Agreement.

Board Member Thomas reviewed the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. Priority Climate Action Plans were due to the EPA by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Resolution 24-03 is for this Board to say yes, they support Salt Lake City developing an application to ask for funds to help support the Utah Renewable Communities Program. Salt Lake City is trying to interpret the EPA's guidance and rules to determine whether the grant application should be a coalition application or an individual application. Coalition applications require a letter of commitment from all coalition partners saying they intend to sign a

memorandum of agreement by July 1, 2024, with respect to a potential grant award. Board Member Silvestrini asked if there is a match requirement. Mr. Thomas said there is no match requirement. Individual applications do not require letters of commitment, but letters of support from project partners are still helpful in demonstrating the strong commitment to achieving the goals of the project. Once Salt Lake City decides which kind of letter is needed, Mr. Thomas will work with Secretary Quinton to distribute drafts to all 18 communities. Chair Dugan said this is vital funding.

**2.4 Public Comment**

There were no comments.

**2.5 Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 24-03, Resolution of the Board Supporting Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application**

Chair Dugan asked what member of a municipality signs the letter. Mr. Thomas said he is working on this.

**Board Member Quinn moved to approve Resolution 24-03, Resolution of the Board Supporting Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application; Board Member Silvestrini seconded the motion. Chair Dugan asked for the vote. All Board Members voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.**

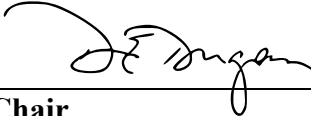
**2.6 Board Member Comments**

Board member Silvestrini gave an update to the Board saying he has been working with Mayor Mendenhall to have a meeting with Rocky Mountain Power to ask them to expedite the Program Application.


**2.7 Closed Session (If needed)**

**3. Adjournment**

**Board Member Silvestrini made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:23 p.m. Board Member Quinn seconded the motion. Chair Dugan called for the vote. All Board Members voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVED:  Date April 2 2024  
Dan Dugan, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Emily Quinton, Secretary