

CITY OF OREM
NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
August 1, 2019

Place: Development Services Conference Room

At 5:00 p.m.: Mr. Hawkins called the meeting to order

Those present: Sarah Bateman, Heidi Clark and Darren Hawkins, Natural Resources Stewardship Committee members; Jenna Albers, Long Range Planner; Sam Lentz, City Council member and Cheryl Vargas, Minutes Secretary

Those excused: Paul Dunn and Quinn Mecham, Natural Resources Stewardship Committee (NRSC) members

Ms. Albers said that the September meeting would be canceled due to a conflict with the City offices being closed. Ms. Albers also asked Committee members to include her on all emails.

1. Introduce new NRSC member: Heidi Clark

2. Update on Community Renewable Energy Act ([click here for recording](#))

Jeff Bousson introduced himself. He is the Climate Program Manager for Utah Clean Energy. He came to provide information on the Community Renewable Energy Act (CREA).

What is the CREA: Summit County, Salt Lake City and Park City worked with Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) to pass this historic legislation which authorizes communities served by RMP to pursue net 100% renewable energy by 2030. If you look at all the electricity consumed in a community, households, businesses, any electricity consumer, this would create and build enough new renewable energy generation to meet those net annual demands on an annual basis. It does not mean that there will always be 100% clean renewable energy for 100 percent kilowatt hours generated. It authorizes for enough renewable energy to be built to offset the electricity consumption. This does not allow for cost shifting to other communities that do not wish to participate. The financial costs as well as the benefits will be only available to the communities that wish to participate in the program.

Eligible renewable energy sources are solar, wind, geothermal, hydro-electric power and energy demand management in order to reduce the load required to produce electricity.

The three essential participants are the community, Rocky Mountain Power and the Utah Public Service Commission. Summit County, Salt Lake City, Cottonwood Heights, Park City and Moab are the communities that have or will be adopting a resolution by the end of the year. Rocky Mountain Power will be managing the process for developing the renewable energy and demand site resources and has an option to own any of the resources developed as a result. The Utah Public Service Commission is responsible for developing the rules for the creation and administration of the program.

The mechanics of the CREA break down into six basic steps:

Step 1: Local Community Adopts a Resolution

No later than 12/31/19

- A resolution is required to have the goal of achieving net 100% renewable electricity by 2030. If passed, this resolution binds the community to nothing, it just states an interest.

Step 2: In 2020 or Beyond

Agreement with Community and Rocky Mountain Power

- All eligible communities will begin negotiating an agreement with RMP (communities are not bound by participating in these negotiations). This will begin the process of looking at the proposed rates charged and unpaid program costs. Communities will sign a standard agreement with RMP addressing the key costs detailing the actual requirements for potentially participating in the program. Participating communities need to pay for third party regulatory services and fees incurred by the State.

Step 3: Program Regulatory Filing

Potential Scope of Resolution

- Total population of Utah communities expected to participate, the amount of renewables that need to be created and the proposal in terms of how these rates will be structured. Every local community that participates will need to submit a tailored plan to indicate they will communicate with low income communities regarding what this program is about.

Step 4: Project Rates and Terms

At a minimum, the projected rates and terms are revealed

- This is where the communities choose what type of renewable resources they want. Communities can come together to advance large scale energy efficiency projects. The legal requirement of this program is that costs and financial benefits are isolated. Mr. Lentz asked if it has to be isolated to a specific community or can we partner with another community. Mr. Bousson said he believes the communities will be working together.

Step 5: Adopt a local ordinance within 90 days after the Utah Public Service Commission issues an order approving the CREP (program).

- At this point the decision goes to the local officials and an ordinance is adopted. Or if an ordinance is not adopted, this is where the process ends.

Step 6: Customer opt-out Noticing

- Allows for customers to have a choice of fossil fuels or renewable energy. If communities decide to move forward, customers can still opt out. They will have 60 days to opt out, and they would be informed of the standard rate versus the new rate. They will be subject to termination fees if they choose to opt out after 60 days. Mr. Lentz said the opt out customers would pay the same as non-renewable energy communities.

Ms. Bateman asked if low income residents getting help with energy bills, are eligible to participate and if so, how does that work with the subsidies. Who is paying for that subsidized renewable energy. After the opt out period, will new-to-the-community customers have a choice to opt out or are they obligated to follow community. Mr. Bousson said this is a current discussion point and still being decided. Ms. Bateman asked if after 2030, will communities have a second chance to opt in. Mr. Bousson said no, there is no round two.

Mr. Hawkins asked if this applies to businesses too. Mr. Bousson said yes, any customer of RMP can opt in.

Mr. Bousson wanted to be clear in regards to what municipalities will be bound to. Enacting a resolution – municipality is not bound. Where the municipality could potentially be bound is signing the agreement between the municipality and RMP which may impose certain obligations that could restrict the community's ability to leave the program without penalty. This is dependent on the agreement between the community and RMP (Step 2). A community is bound after the Utah Public Service Commission approves the program and the community enacts an ordinance ratifying the Commission approved program (Step 5).

Mr. Bousson said regarding transitioning fossil fuels from one state to another, costs associated with coal are expected to go up. Mr. Hawkins asked what the definition of net 100 percent renewable energy is. Mr. Bousson said it is the amount of electricity consumed by a community on a yearly basis that is off set by the amount of new renewable energy power.

Ms. Albers asked for this presentation information so she can create an Orem Forum survey so the community can have a voice. Mr. Lentz asked if Mr. Bousson had a one-page recap of how this affects us as residents. Mr. Bousson said he is concerned that communicating this complicated Act to lay persons will be difficult and he does not know what the impact will be. Ms. Albers asked if there is a time line on when these issues will be firmed up. Mr. Bousson said no, there are too many variables. Mr. Hawkins said the survey could be brief since there is not a lot of information. He would welcome the opportunity to look at the survey before it is posted. Ms. Albers said she thought it would be an open-ended survey. Ms. Bateman will write up a social media post. Mr. Hawkins said he is amazed and impressed the Utah state legislature came up with this. Ms. Bateman said looking at the politics of it, this was co-sponsored by two republicans and passed by four of the six legislators that represent Orem.

3. Update on solar permitting discussion – Sam Lentz ([click here for recording](#))

Mr. Lentz proposed the solar issues to the City Council, and it did not pass.

4. Update on anti-idling ordinance ([click here for recording](#))

After discussing this with Steve Earl, Deputy City Attorney; Ryan Clark, Development Services Director and Jason Bench, Planning Division Manager, Ms. Albers wrote up a draft ordinance based off of the Salt Lake, Holladay and Park City ordinances. At this time, they do not feel that it needs to be a fine structure, but more of an educational structure with warnings. She is still deciding on how to structure signs. The ordinance may follow Park City with sign templates that can be ordered from their web site. She handed out copies of the draft ordinance for review and comments.

5. Discussion on idea about meeting with State legislators from our area ([click here for recording](#))

Ms. Bateman asked if the Committee would like her to pursue this by reaching out to the six State legislators. They could introduce the NRSC, what is being done and have a conversation about the issues the NRSC is interested in. It would be an opportunity to get their feed-back on broader issues and the conversations they are having on Capitol Hill.

6. Potential quarterly public events ([click here for recording](#))

Ms. Bateman said the NRSC could sponsor fun, outdoor activities such as a walk around the park or star gazing in the canyon. These would be fun, recreational activities that can be advertised to the community and provide an opportunity to talk about some issues. Another idea would be to coordinate with the Orem Bicycle Coalition and organize a family bike ride with a small treat. She asked the Committee to think about this and ways to engage with the residents.

The next NRSC meeting will be October 3, 2019.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Hawkins moved to approve the April 11, 2019 minutes. Ms. Bateman seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Sarah Bateman, Heidi Clark and Darren Hawkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Mr. Hawkins moved to adjourn. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Sarah Bateman, Heidi Clark and Darren Hawkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned: 6:10 p.m.

Darren Hawkins, Chair

Approved: October 3, 2019