

Community Renewable Energy Agency Board Meeting Minutes

The Community Renewable Energy Agency Board met in a regular public meeting on **Monday, August 1, 2022**, at Millcreek City Hall, located at 3330 S. 1300 E., Millcreek, UT 84106 and participated electronically via GoToMeeting.

PRESENT:

Board Members

In person

Dan Dugan, Chair, *Salt Lake City*
Glenn Wright, *Summit County*
Drew Quinn, *Holladay*
Emily Quinton, *Summit County*
Christopher Thomas, *Salt Lake City*
Jeff Silvestrini, *Millcreek*

Electronic

Randy Aton, *Springdale*
Holly Smith, *Holladay*
Elissa Martin, *Grand County*
Sarah Stock, *Grand County*
Pamela Gibson, *Castle Valley*
Chris Cawley, *Alta*
Luke Cartin, *Park City*
Ann Granato, *Salt Lake County*
Michael Shea, *Salt Lake County*
Kalen Jones, *Moab*
Jeremy Rubell, *Park City*

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

Electronic Attendees: Monica O'Malley, *Salt Lake City Staff*; Janene Eller-Smith, *Ogden City staff*; Jeremy Shinoda, *Ogden resident*; Sara Montoya, *Salt Lake City Staff*; Sam Owen, *Salt Lake City Staff*; Bob Davis, *Division of Public Utilities*; Eliza Cowie, *O2 Utah*, Carmen Valdez, *HEAL Utah*

Minutes by Alex Wendt, Millcreek Deputy Recorder.

REGULAR MEETING – 1:00 p.m.

TIME COMMENCED: 1:02 p.m.

- 1. Welcome, Introduction, and Preliminary Matters**
 - 1.1 Purpose and Overview of Meeting**
 - 1.2 Current Participation Percentages included in Board Packet**

Chair Dugan said there are 18 participating communities.

1.3 Reminder that September Board Meeting will be held on Second Monday of the Month (September 12, 2022)

1.4 Annual Meeting Schedule to be re-established at September Board Meeting

Chair Dugan said that his recommendation is to keep the same schedule but the whole board will discuss this and vote on this in September.

2. Business Matters

2.1 Approval of June 29, 2022, Special Communication Committee Meeting Minutes, and July 11, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

Board Member Quinn moved to approve the June 29, 2022, Special Communication Committee Meeting Minutes, and the July 11, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. Board Member Rubell seconded. Chair Dugan called for the vote. All Board Members voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Board Member Silvestrini said that the Board has issued invoices to the jurisdictions and invoices have started to arrive. The only expenses are to the law firm contracted by the Board. Total expenses are \$73,000. Total budget is around \$700,000. Total amount collected so far is around \$537,683. This amount will be used to create the anchor payments. Board Member Silvestrini asked that any community that would like to be an anchor community to let Secretary Quinton know. The date for payments has passed. Secretary Quinton will be sending letters to communities that still need to pay.

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

Board Member Cawley presented the Communication Committee update. They spoke about hiring a communications consultant. The Communication Committee also met and discussed creating a short pitch for Energy Program. Committee Members brainstormed what services a communications consultant might be able to provide the agency. Public awareness and promoting accurate information about the program become more important as the Board approaches important milestones. Developing content, tailoring to key audiences, and strategic planning is time-consuming and benefits from experience. Consultants could help refine communications strategies, create a content calendar and other things. Next steps include more discussions about a consultant. They are preparing for working with the program design and low-income plan committee. They will improve collaboration with participating communities.

Board Member Christopher Thomas gave the update from the Low-Income Plan Committee. The most recent meeting of the Low-Income Plan Committee reviewed modeling summaries from Energy Strategies that model different approaches to low-income engagement, they worked with Energy Strategies on the potential impact of various engagement strategies. The modeled impacts will help the Low-Income Plan Committee to confidently prepare recommendations on engagement strategies for the Board to contemplate. They reviewed the updated draft of the low-income plan template

and discussed a timeline for preparing a recommendation for the Board to contemplate. The next meeting of the low-income plan committee is on August 8, 2022. HB 411 requires that a proposed plan established by the participating communities addressing low-income programs and assistance be included in the Program application to the Public Service Commission. The Low-Income Plan Committee was formed to assist with this requirement by creating a template. The template has been designed to include programmatic strategies, outreach strategies and elective strategies. Today Mr. Thomsas said he would focus on programmatic strategies. Programmatic strategies are those low-income engagement methods that will universally apply to all communities participating in the Community Renewable Energy Program. The Low-Income Plan Committee has contemplated four potential programmatic strategies. The four programmatic strategies contemplated are, an automatic opt-out, a termination fee waiver, an enhanced bill credit, or an online donation function. Strategy number 1 is the automatic opt-out. Residential customers who are either enrolled in a low-income assistance program or 60 days behind on electricity payments during the 60 days prior to Program Implementation you will not be automatically enrolled in the Program. Instead of receiving two opt-out notices they will receive two opt-in notices with guidance of how to electively opt-in free of charge. Strategy 2 is a termination fee waiver. For residential customers who are enrolled in schedule 3 "low-income lifeline program- residential service, the termination fee for opting out of the Program at any point will be waived. Strategy 3 is an enhanced monthly bill credit. For participating residential customers an additional bill credit will be applied. Customers enrolled on this schedule will receive an existing monthly bill credit of up to \$13.95 a month. An enhanced monthly bill credit would be funded through a bill rider paid for by participating residential Program Customers who are not enrolled on schedule 3. Option 4 is an online donation function. Rocky Mountain Power facilitates an existing donation function through paper billing two times a year. Adding a donation function to their bill online pay portal could allow customers to donate. Board Member Silvestrini asked how the current donation program is funded. Mr. Thomas said that the donation program is funded by regular customers with a very small fee on their normal electric bill. This is also how the enhanced monthly bill credit could work.

The Low-Income Plan Committee is working to prepare a final recommendation for the Board on which strategies should be included in the program. Once the Board votes on which the programmatic strategies should be pursued, they will be listed in the programmatic section of the template for participating communities. Secretary Quinion added that all the strategies have been reviewed with the Office of Consumer Services and Rocky Mountain Power. Board Member Michael Shea said the block grant program might be a potential source of income for the low-income program or the Program as a whole. Board Member Thomas said that may be a good option for the Low-Income Plan Committee to investigate. Board Member Aton asked about the enhanced bill credit. Anyone currently in schedule 3 gets an automatic \$13.95 off their bill a month, and then asked how the extra credit would work. Board Member Thomas explained that for the average customer who is on monthly assistance and if they want to be part of the energy program, they will get two bill credits and on average they should get no extra charge. Board Member Quinn asked what the benefit is to have a household in the Program that is not contributing to the Program? Board Member Thomas explained that the purpose of the Program is to match energy usage in 30 years with renewable energy consumption. It is a way of saying to low-income customers that "we want you too, and we are willing to

provide a pathway.” Someone may not always be on schedule 3 assistance. Or sometimes people will not be on schedule 3 and will move to income assistance for their energy. Household circumstances change, and they may still want to be part of the Program. This provides a way for them to be involved.

Board Member Christopher Thomas gave the presentation for the Program Design Committee. The Committee met twice in July. They held three meetings with Rocky Mountain Power. They discussed a hypothetical Utah solar and Wyoming wind resource and how their costs and benefits might be valued. They also discussed a “still draft” residential rate impact calculator. This is far from ready. Invoice for the May 2022 attorney fees and energy expert expensed needed to be revised and have been. The Program Design Committee will meet with Rocky Mountain power on August 19th to discuss programmatic approaches to low-income plan assistance and assumed customer participation rates. They will meet with RMP again on August 31st to continue a previous discussion about how to provide a financial backstop for acquired program resources. Expect a more detailed Program Design update in the September 12th meeting.

2.4 Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 22-07, Changing the Phase 2 Definition to Begin on July 31, 2022, to Align with Phase 2 Initial Payment Deadline.

Board Member Thomas explained that the way participation percentages needs to change. There is a mismatch in the governance agreement. Phase 2 payments are due on July 31st, 2022, according to the governance agreement. In a different part of the governance agreement phase 2 begins on the program submittal date. This resolution fixes the date difference.

Board Member Wright moved to approve Resolution 22-07, Changing the Phase 2 Definition to Begin on July 31, 2022, to Align with the Phase 2 Initial Payment Deadline. Board Member Silvestrini seconded the motion. Chair Dugan called for the vote. All Board Members voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

2.5 Board Member Comments

3. Adjournment

Board Member Silvestrini moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:53 p.m. Board Member Quinn seconded. Chair Dugan called for the vote. All Board Members voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED: _____

Dan Dugan, Chair

Date

12 Sep 2022

ATTEST:

Emily Quinton, Secretary