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CREA Monthly Report - 6/10/22

Mike McArthur - Executive Director

Finance - Revenue from memberships are 20% above budget projections thanks to several new organizations that joined CREA. Reimbursement payments are lower than projected but the expenses to be reimbursed (Crook Co. v. ODFW and AR 2108, the NewSun appeal). Overall revenue is near 98%. Total expenses are at just under 90% even with increased PUC intervention costs.

Affiliation Agreement with Renewable Hydrogen Alliance - We propose to have an exchange of memberships with RHA (see Memorandum of Affiliation). *"The purpose of the agreement is to recognize opportunities for mutual support"*. No dues fees are require. We have a similar arrangement with OSSIA.

Action: Approve Consent agenda

2022-23 Proposed Budget - Revenue includes increased SIP payments from Sherman Co. as a result of Golden Hills coming on line. Also reflected is \$60,000 from NewSun Foundation for OPUC and Education. All contracts in place remain the same (AOC, MCEDD, CREA staff). OPUC Intervention was increased to \$90,000 as there are number of crucial dockets we need to see through (avoided costs, interconnection, standard contracts). The proposed Beginning Balance has increased about \$45,000.

Action: Adopt: Proposed Budget

Oregon Solar and Storage Industry Association - I was invited to join the board of OSSIA and serve on the policy committee. After discussing with Les and Ormand we agreed with the caveat that we won't be favoring solar over any other renewable resource.

Sustainable Northwest - I have also been asked to serve on the policy committee for Sustainable Northwest who "develops and advocates for public policies that advance our issues and the communities we serve." Which along with other program goals is to "work towards an equitable transition to a clean, low-carbon economy, affording communities greater economic stability, independence, and resilience".

Peterson Power Systems - Peterson is the authorized Caterpillar dealer in Northern California, Oregon and Southwest Washington. Caterpillar in November will launch a demonstration project using hydrogen fuel cell technology for back up power at Microsoft Data Center. Greg Lamberg will be presenting on Caterpillar's work with hydrogen engines. Greg is the manager of Utility Business Development for Peterson. He is also a certified California Wine Appellation Specialist and a certified sea kayaker and canoeist.

Clean Energy Plan - HB 2021 (ORS 469A.415) **UM 2225** *Requires retail electricity providers to develop clean energy plans and electricity service suppliers report information for meeting clean energy targets.* Representatives from PGE will share with us their process for developing these CEPs and how they relate to the Integrated Resource Plans.

(We hope to have a similar presentation from PacifiCorp next month.)

Renewable Workforce Work Group - Brooke Brownlee of PGE is organizing a workgroup to develop plans for enhancing the workforce for renewable energy projects. I have agreed to participate. Brooke will talk to us about the vision.

Renewable Hydrogen Alliance - *Michelle Detwiler, Executive Director* will provide an overview of green hydrogen development:

THE BEGINNING

Ken Dragoon's Flink Energy Consulting was hired by NW Natural in the summer of 2018 to write a [report on power-to-gas](#). Flink had written an earlier article on [thermal energy storage](#) that contained a reference to the process of creating fuels from renewable electricity that caught the eye of NW Natural's Bill Edmonds. Bill and Ken had been colleagues at PacifiCorp and Bill initiated a correspondence that led to a contract for Flink to provide NW Natural with a description of the technology that converts water and electricity (electrolyzers) into climate-neutral fuels.

In researching the report, Ken found that significant deployments in Europe had dropped the cost of electrolyzers precipitously in just a few years. This was not just news to NW Natural and Flink, but appeared to be largely unknown among utilities, renewable developers, regulators, and environmental advocates in North America. As a result, Dragoon committed himself to promoting the industry in North America.

After speaking with several renewable and environmental advocacy organizations, it became clear that an advocacy organization was needed to promote using surplus renewable electricity to create climate-neutral fuels. Aided by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and supported by NW Natural and Puget Sound Energy along with advisors David White, Gerry Snow, Kris Nelson and Michelle Detwiler, the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance formed in June 2018.

[CLICK TO READ INTERVIEW WITH FORMER RHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEN DRAGOON](#)

OPUC - On the advice of counsel (Greg Adams) CREA has intervened in UM 1730 which is the Idaho Power avoided cost rate case. Greg and Pete are concerned about the methodology proposed by IP and implications for other avoided cost filings.

UM 2032 *"CREA concurs with and supports NewSun's proposal to stipulate to admit those final exhibits and waive cross examination and hearing in this case."*

Next Meeting; Looking forward to visiting Prineville on July 8.