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June 11, 2021

Executive Directors Report

Agenda - This month's meeting includes three presentations and conversations:

- > **John Huffman** - Former Director USDA Rural Development and State Representative D-59
- > **Bridget Callahan** - Sustainable NW - electric tractor program
- > **Kurt Miller** - NW River Partners - Snake River Dam removal impact

The consent agenda includes:

> **Minutes of 5/14**

> **Finance Report for 5/21** Our membership invoicing has yielded 87% of budget. All budgeted SIP payments have been received. Overall revenue is above 95% (A reimbursement from NewSun per UM 2108 cost share agreement of \$12K came in after this report was printed). This will offset some of the expenses incurred with Richardson-Adams for OPUC work. Total expenses are at 79.2% under the 92% benchmark.

> **Letter of Engagement with Friend and Reagan for 20-21 Audit at a cost of \$5,100**

> **Letter of Support for HB 3221A** - Oregon Renewables option Program

Requested Action: Approve Agenda Including Consent Agenda

LC Law student Intern - Devon Guyer joined the CREA team June 1. She is quickly becoming familiar with CREA issues including OPUC proceedings, state legislation and PURPA. She has also participated in several Zoom calls. We plan to update the 2018 LC Green Energy Institute Study.

OPUC - Greg Adams and I reviewed our current list of issues with the PUC or courts. We continue to try to collaborate and join forces with NewSun, OSSIEA, REC, NIPPC and others when feasible.

> **AR 631** - QF Standard Contracts - Staff has conducted workshops and a set timeline for submitting to the OPUC by sometime this fall. Possible Joint action with NIPPC.

> **FERC Order 872** - Declarations from Les, David Brown and NewSun were filed in Federal 9th Circuit Court case challenging the order defining separate projects. Filings can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1v304wd0g3lpd9w/AADQ6djV--UuI7sW6XcFjUDqa?dl=0>

> **UM 2108** - PacificCorp queue reform proposal. NewSun is appealing. We agreed to support with a capped cost share. We have reached the cap and NewSun is funding additional work.

> **UM 2038** - Investigation into treatment of QFs in Utility IRP Process. CREA has now intervened.

> **UM 1728** - : Contesting PGE's proposal which reduces the renewable and non-renewable avoided cost rates offered to solar QFs without adequate justification.

UM 2011 - Investigation into capacity contributions of renewables for IOU portfolio.

> **AR 641** - PGE Avoided Cost determination. CREA is involved in support of NewSun and others.

Legislation -

HB 2021A - Continues to reside at Ways and Means. Some negotiations continue about consultation with tribes and about labor standards. We are not privy to any current negotiations. Rep. G Smith has indicated he will support the bill. It doesn't appear that republicans will walk out at this time.

HB 3221A- We have emailed correspondence from the IOUs to the governor and from The Water Congress. Very disappointing (but not surprising) that IOUs come in late to create doubt about a bill that has been thoroughly vetted. Status: in doubt.

SB 333-4 - Hydrogen Study bill has passed and signed by governor. Senate Bill 333 and the bill is now headed to Governor Brown for signature. The Renewable Hydrogen Alliance's (RHA) request bill directs the State Department of Energy to study benefits of, and barriers to renewable hydrogen

HB 3375A- Offshore wind study bill has passed both houses. Tuesday, the Oregon House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass Senate Bill 333 and the bill is now headed to Governor Brown for signature.

HB 2109 - County land use process modification. Signed by Governor

HB 2475A - Authorizes Public Utility Commission to consider differential energy burden and other inequities of affordability in rates. Authorizes public utilities to enter into agreements to provide financial assistance for organizations to represent in regulatory proceedings before commission interests of low-income residential customers and residential customers that are members of environmental justice communities. Provides that total aggregate financial assistance available to all such organizations may not exceed \$500,000 annually.

HB 2488 - Requires that statewide land use planning goal relating to citizen involvement address participation and engagement for disadvantaged groups. Requires Land Conservation and Development Commission to amend goal by June 30, 2023, consistent with requirement. Establishes timelines for local governments to implement amended goal. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to commission for goal amendment and implementation.

SB 589 -- Requires State Department of Energy to prepare report identifying benefits, opportunities and challenges posed by development or expansion of regional transmission organization in this state. Requires department to follow certain procedures in preparing report. Requires department to provide report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to energy no later than December 31, 2021.

CREA Proposed Budget 2021-2022

The proposed budget is similar to the '20'21 budget with some exceptions (please see separate e-mail including budget). We increased revenue for memberships \$3,000 with the belief that increased marketing and contacts will add members. The SIP contributions remain the same. We have increased OPUC legal to reflect the contribution from NewSun Community Benefits Foundation of \$50K (see message from Jake Stephens). We are requesting funding to produce a video like *The Other Side of the Hill* to tell the story of the history of CREA. The budget includes funding for a stipend for our LC intern for research and other work in support of CREA. Our contracts with AOC and MCEDD continue unchanged. We expect to return to more in person meetings and to have some other travel expenses.

Requested Action: Adopt proposed Budget