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## **Executive Director Report**

**Mike McArthur**

**October 14, 2022**

**Legislator Tour** - We have received good feedback from the legislator tour. It was well attended and there was a good combination of information plus networking. So thanks to Tess Milio, Les, Ormand, Sonja and all who contributed. We were asked by several legislators at the reception versions of “so what is that you want”? Or “What’s the ask”? So while we demonstrated the value and efficacy of small scale projects like Pa’tu and Farmers Micro Hydro and explained the obstacles faced by small scale projects we did not have specific legislation to propose. We tried to explain that we were working on concepts that could help improve opportunities for small scale renewables and that we wanted to work with legislators to develop bills that would accomplish our goals.

**Legislative Priorities** - At our meeting meeting today we hope to hear from some of our fellow renewables advocacy organizations about their legislative proposals. CREA has at least 5 “placeholder bills” thanks to Senator Dembrow, Reps. Greg Smith and Brock-Smith. Rep Helm is also working on a PURPA standard contract fix bill. We hope to have a discussion about where CREA wants to focus our efforts in the 2023 legislative session.

### **Business Meeting - Action: Approve Consent Agenda**

> Minutes and financials

> **Contract with Milio Capitol Consulting** - We have negotiated terms with Tess Milio for lobby services independent of AOC and Dalton Consulting. There will be an approximately \$7,000 increase in Legislative Services line item but we believe the value Tess brings justifies the expense and with savings from legal services it is within current budget. I have quotes from several other lobby firms and find that this arrangement is the best value for CREA.

**Action: Authorize Executive Director to execute contract with Milio Capitol Consulting through 6/30 2023.**

> CREA contract with Frontier Advocates expires 10/31/22.

**Action: Approve extension of contract to 10/31/23**

> Contract with Sonja Carey for administrative services renewal.

**Action: Approve renewal of contract with Sonja Carey**

> CREA budget provides for reimbursement of expenses for contractors for travel, meals and lodging. Staff proposes a policy addressing those expenses (borrowed from MCEDD) and form for record.

**Action: Approve Reimbursement Policy and form**

**Legislative Proposals:** We have been working with partner organizations on legislative concepts. I have served as an advisor for Sustainable Northwest Policy Committee. They have put forward three legislative concepts. All are in line with CREA principles.

> Increase avoided cost threshold from 3 MW to 10 MW for solar

> Renewable Hydrogen Statewide Strategy Study

> Require OPUC study on benefits of resiliency and microgrids

**Action: Support SNW Legislative Concepts**

**Offshore Wind:** we have been working with proponents of off shore wind from the Oregon south coast, Shannon Souza and POET/OCEAN. We have common interests around hydrogen, PURPA and transmission. Offshore wind has significant potential to help achieve renewable energy goals.

LC1906 Omnibus offshore wind bill

LC1736 Collaboration with Pacific States & Northwest for Energy Strategy Planning & Implementation

LC1803 - Renewable Hydrogen Planning Funding

LC 1363 – related to public safety Require IOUs to accept 3<sup>rd</sup> party engineering studies for interconnection & network upgrades.

**Action: Consider support of OSW legislative concepts**

## **Renewable Hydrogen Alliance -**

- > Establish Grant fund to transition away from diesel back up power
- > Establish state hydrogen goals

(Michelle Detwiler not available but will follow up with LCs)

## **Renewable Northwest Priorities:**

- > Siting table proposal
- > State energy strategy concept

(Diane Brandt not available today but will follow up with us as these develop)

**CREA proposals:** In 2019 CREA was party to two legislative proposals, HB 2855 and HB 2857. In reviewing those bills it appears that the issues raised are not resolved and should be considered again.

HB 2855 (2019) - PUC reform

HB 2857 (2019) - Replace “capacity” with “generation” in ORS 469A.210

## **OPUC/FERC -**

- > **AR 631** Rulemaking to Address Procedures, Terms, and Conditions Associated with Qualifying Facility Standard Contracts. Workshop 10/18
- > **UM 2111** - Investigation Into Interconnection Process and Policies. We are engaged in prolonged workshops around these processes.
- > **FERC Interconnection: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR):**  
CREA and NewSun filed comments 10/13.

**Next Meeting - Annual Conference 11/15 - Graduate Hotel, Eugene**

