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May 12, 2021

Executive Directors Report

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

- > **Congressman Cliff Bentz** CD-2 - We hope to learn more about the proposed infrastructure bill especially as it pertains to transmission improvements and other renewable energy impacts.
- > **Jordan Soloman** - CEO of Ecostrat <https://ecostrat.com/?sfw=pass1620848707> has a proposal to create a number of Bioenergy Development Zones and would like our support for a possible designation in this region.
- > **Shannon Souza** - Executive Director of Oregon Coast Energy Alliance Network will provide an update on off-shore wind development. A bill to study Off-Shore Wind feasibility in Oregon is moving in the legislature.
- > **Jed Jorgenson** - Farmers Conservation Alliance on HB 3221A The Oregon Renewables Options program. We are writing a letter of support for the bill which is in Ways and Means.

We will try to get through our business meeting in the first half hour.

Action - Approve Agenda

The consent agenda includes:

> **Minutes of 4/9**

> **Financial Statement** - Our membership invoicing has yielded 76% of budget. Gilliam County has payment of budgeted SIP amount. We expect the check soon. We have paid over \$42,000 for legal services with Richardson/Adams with about \$10,000 left in the budget including "Other Legal Services". Total expenses are at 75.4% under the 83% benchmark.

> **Letter of support for Nate Stice** as USDA Rural Development, State Director

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

Action - Approve Consent Agenda

LC Law student Intern - I hope to have a recommendation for the board by meeting time.

Possible Action - Approve intern Position

OPUC - Greg Adams and I reviewed our current list of issues with the PUC or courts:

- > **AR 622** - Community Renewables Rulemaking - The 8% issue and definition of “aggregate electrical capacity”. Submitted to OPUC in February 2019. No decision or change of status.
- > **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
- > **UM 2000** - PURPA Policy review - Interconnection workgroup held and remaining issues was provided at public meeting on 10/20/20.
- > **UM 2032** - Treatment of network upgrade costs for QF’s. Working with REC and NIPPC on testimony. Greg will appear at hearing.
- > **UM 2108** - PacificCorp queue reform proposal. NewSun is appealing. We agreed to support with a capped cost share. We have reached the cap and HewSun would need to fund additional work.
- > **UM 2011** - Generic Capacity Investigation. Workshop will be held in May. Very technical.
- > **UM 2038** - Investigation into treatment of QFs in Utility IRP Process. CREA has not intervened.
- > **UM 2059** - PacificCorp RFP IE Docket. Where PacificCorp is requesting RFP docket for significant amounts of renewable energy. OPUC is considering independent evaluator. CREA not involved.
- > **AR 641** - PGE Avoided Cost determination. CREA is not involved but watching.

Legislation -

HB 2021A - ???

Community-based renewable energy

Hearing scheduled for May 13 in House Revenue. Les and David Brown scheduled to testify. Amanda Dalton has prepared testimony (which we will share later). We will oppose without amendments to modify 8% language and require 50% In-state. We find Rep. Owens and Sen. Findley support that position. The bill still includes the small scale project study and the Renewable Energy Development Grant Program. Copenhagen Industrial Partners has dropped the amendment pertaining to storage due to opposition.

SB 333-4

Tuesday, the Oregon House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass 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 production and use in Oregon and report results no later than September 15, 2022, to the Legislature. The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Lee Beyer (D – Springfield).