



**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021
8:45 A.M.**

******AB 361******

****RE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19****

CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF AB 361 WHICH SUSPENDED CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARTICIPATED IN THE OCTOBER 7, 2021 MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

CALL TO ORDER

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Beau Anderson, Clerk of the Board, administered the Oath of Office to incoming Director Robert Felder, representing City of Sonoma.

Chair Bagby then called the meeting to order at approximately 8:51 am.

Board Members present: Chair Bagby, Vice Chair King, and Directors Landman, Peters, Elward, Slayter, Felder, Fudge, Gjerde, and Hopkins.

Staff present: Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Koszalka, Chief Operating Officer; Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations; Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs; Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs; Scott Salyer, Programs Manager; Nathan Kinsey, Commercial Accounts Manager; Claudia Sisomphou, Communications Specialist; and Joshua Nelson, Special Counsel.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve August 5, 2021 Draft Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Notice on Starting Contract Negotiations with Calpine Energy Solutions, LLC for Data Management Services
3. Approve Updated Terms and Conditions Suspending Opt-Out Fees for 12-Month Pilot Program
4. Approve Policy B.1 Financial Policy and CEO Spending Authority
5. Approve an Investment Policy for Sonoma Clean Power

6. Adopt Resolution Attesting to Accuracy of Sonoma Clean Power Authority's 2020 Power Source Disclosure Annual Reports for CleanStart and EverGreen Products and 2020 Power Content Label
7. Adopt Resolution Authorizing Virtual Board and Committee Meetings Pursuant to AB 361

Public Comment: None

Motion to Approve the October 7, 2021 Board of Directors Consent Calendar by Director Peters

Second: Director Landman

Motion passed by roll call vote: 10 - 0 - 0

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR CALENDAR

8. Receive Internal Operations and Monthly Financial Report and Provide Direction as Appropriate

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, reported on the recruitment efforts to fill vacancies on the Community Advisory Committee and then announced that Rebecca Simonson is now Director of Programs. Director Simonson then spoke on her program-related background and vision for the Programs Department going forward. Ryan Tracey has been promoted to Director of Planning & Analytics.

Director Rogers joined the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Scott Salyer, Programs Manager, spoke on the successes of the Bike Electric program, which surpassed its goals and supplied incentives to purchase over 400 e-bikes to low-income customers.

Geof Syphers, Chief Executive Officer, spoke about the City of Baldwin Park, which has its own CCA and voted to close their program and return customers to Southern California Edison. Next, CC Power, the joint procurement entity comprised of multiple CCAs (including SCP), has made progress on its long duration energy storage and intends to enter an agreement for a 69 Megawatt, 15-year lithium-ion battery project located in Kern County. CC Power also issued a request for offers for 200 Megawatts of firm clean resources, in other words, renewable baseload power production. Next was an update on a grant Lake County applied for to construct closed-loop pumped water energy storage facilities, for which Sonoma Clean Power wrote letters of support. Staff will monitor the project. PG&E has made progress on undergrounding high-value segments of their distribution grid, some of which

were identified by SCP's own Ryan Tracey. Finally, some adjustments and corrections are being made to the financial statements and more information will be available soon.

CEO Syphers concluded the report with some discussion CC Power has had surrounding creating its own internal policies versus member agencies adhering to their individual policies when negotiating procurement deals.

Director Fudge suggested that staff consider the Town of Windsor's water tower to see if there could be an opportunity for a water energy storage facility.

Public Comment: None

9. Receive Informational Report on the 3rd Annual Spirit of Entrepreneurship Grant

Nathan Kinsey, Commercial Accounts Manager for SCP, spoke on the background and goals of the grant program, and shared information on the current winner, Tori O'Neil for The Bark Yard. He also presented some ideas for how to improve upon the grant program in future years.

Public Comment: None

10. Receive Update on Empower (SCP's Community Engagement, Education, and Outreach)

CEO Syphers introduced Claudia Sisomphou, Communications Specialist, and thanked her for the work she's done on this initiative. He also encouraged Board members, who are active in their communities every day, to think about how they can help SCP become more effective at community engagement.

The slides from Ms. Sisomphou's presentation were published in the meeting materials and updated after publishing. The presentation sparked significant engagement among Board members. She invited Directors and members of the public to email her at community@sonomacleanpower.org with any additional comments and suggestions.

During the segment on Building Partnerships, the following comments and suggestions were made by the Board of Directors:

Director Elward encouraged staff to really listen and allow people to feel empowered.

Director Fudge suggested the idea of a "listening tour" and having a commercial partner to provide the location for a listening session and to make

it enjoyable.

Vice Chair King recommended looking into the various commissions and committees that exist within each city and also recommended speaking to various service clubs, such as the Rotary. He also suggested reaching out to former Board of Directors and Community Advisory Committee members to spread the messaging among their contacts.

Director Rogers advised staff to frame the expectation that community engagement is not an activity, but rather a thought process. He also stressed the importance of going to where people are, such as farmer's markets, etc.

Director Peters suggested the idea of engaging youth through something like a social media contest. He advised staff to go to city council meetings to present new programs and benefits instead of relying on the councilmember to share the information.

Director Hopkins highlighted the importance of having open-ended conversations. She also echoed an idea brought forth by Community Advisory Committee Chair Mike Nicholls of leveraging customers we have established relationships with, such as e-bike owners acting as ambassadors for SCP.

Director Fudge commented on a climate focused club at Windsor High School and built on the idea posed by Director Peters of working with youth to design an outreach program which can be incentivized with a prize as well.

Director Elward added that it's important to listen to school students, especially from less-affluent families and neighborhoods, and really connect with them because they can take what they learn home and teach it to their families and friends.

Chair Bagby recommended to look at small businesses to help get the word about Sonoma Clean Power out and highlighted the Surf Market/EverGreen partnership success as an example.

Due to the level of engagement on this item, CEO Syphers suggested that Ms. Sisomphou continue her presentation in a future meeting.

Public Comment:

Woody Hastings from The Climate Center echoed Director Elward's comments about listening first, and recommended that staff connect to an organization called the North Bay Organizing Project.

Terry Taylor pointed out the huge need for skills for people to more

effectively engage with the public. He advised that there are many skills that staff can develop and improve upon.

Marcy Snyder, from the Grassroots Institute in Mendocino County, expressed her willingness to connect with everyone who spoke about outreach and shared her contact information.

Director Fudge advised staff to concentrate more on planned replacement for items such as water heaters and how to reach those individuals.

Director Gjerde stressed the importance of knowing about the rebates and incentives that are available for customers.

Chair Bagby closed by reminding everyone that the idea of meeting people where they are doesn't only refer to their location, but also meeting people when they need it, such as when the water heater dies.

Chair Bagby called for a 5-minute recess.

11. Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates and Provide Direction as Appropriate

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, began by announcing that Marybel Batjer is resigning from her position as President of the CPUC, however staff does not know who the next CPUC President will be. CEO Syphers implored the Board to recommend candidates, if they know any.

Director Reardon continued by giving verbal updates on the Net Energy Metering (NEM) item in the written report.

CEO Syphers gave a brief legislative update. He highlighted that Governor Newsom signed AB 170 which contains the Climate Resilience Budget Package. He also highlighted the Customer Arrearages Payment Program (CAPP) and that there was a successful targeted effort by CalCCA and a coalition of CCAs to ensure that CCAs were included as utilities able to be reimbursed for customer nonpayment during economic challenges.

Public Comment: None

12. Approve Resolution Creating a Geothermal Opportunity Zone

In the absence of Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning & Analytics, who headed this effort, CEO Syphers presented this item to the Board. The goal of this initiative would be to explore the potential for developing more geothermal energy to serve as a clean baseload resource. The Counties of Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino are uniquely situated and contain the largest operational

geothermal resource in the world, providing an opportunity to partner and support the research and development of additional geothermal power.

Director Gjerde, Vice Chair King, and Director Landman expressed excitement and support. Director Landman asked about the uniqueness of The Geysers and whether or not the technologies being developed could be used elsewhere as well.

Director Slayter asked if a closed-loop system would be best considering the prospect of droughts. CEO Syphers responded that even a closed-loop system does use some water and stated that staff would return to a future meeting with more information relating to numbers and details once more is known about the technologies. Director Slayter also asked about regulations of asset ownership.

Public Comment:

Dick Dowd, member of the Community Advisory Committee, spoke about his excitement for this opportunity zone. He encouraged the Board to approve the item.

Director Gjerde advised staff to involve non-member cities of Healdsburg and Ukiah to this project. CEO Syphers replied he's already reached out to both cities.

Chair Bagby commented that this resolution and direction is consistent with Sonoma Clean Power's mission and vision.

Motion to Approve Resolution Creating a Geothermal Opportunity Zone by Vice Chair King.

Second: Director Elward

Motion passed by roll call vote: 11 - 0 - 0

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Peters asked if there has ever been consideration of a resolution to oppose the "coal train" because other cities and counties are proposing resolutions against it. CEO Syphers replied that a stand has not been taken but he would be happy to draft a resolution.

Director Gjerde announced that County of Mendocino is looking into amending JPA bylaws to function as a Climate Protection Authority. He thanked Neal Reardon for his assistance.

Director Fudge commented that she's a happy on-bill finance customer and her home is being used as an experimental project by utilizing different sized mini-split heaters in different rooms, allowing the project to use less units than expected.

Vice Chair King announced that City of Petaluma will resume its Veteran's Day Parade on November 11th.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Public Comment: None

At 11:19 a.m. Chair Bagby called for an 11-minute recess and requested that the Board of Directors convene for Closed Session at 11:30 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

13. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 1 case

At 12:04 p.m., following closed session, CEO Syphers and Joshua Nelson, Special Counsel for Sonoma Clean Power, returned to provide a report out of the closed session discussion. Mr. Nelson announced that the Board of Directors voted unanimously to authorize staff to initiate litigation if necessary. If commenced, the identity of the defendants and particulars of the matter will be disclosed publicly upon request.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beau Anderson
Clerk of the Board