



**MEETING MINUTES
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022
1:00 P.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 APRIL 21, 2022, MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

CALL TO ORDER

(1:02 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:00:23)

Chair Quinlan called the meeting to order.

Committee Members present: Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Morris, and Members Fenichel, Hollinshead, Dowd, Kelly, Wells, and Booth. Member Nicholls and Lipp were absent with prior notice.

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; Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing; Ryan Tracey, Director of Planning and Analytics; Brant Arthur, Program Manager; Chris Golik, Revenue Manager; and Eric Scheier, Department of Energy Fellow

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

(1:04 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:03:33)

Public Comment: None

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSENT CALENDAR

(1:05 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:04:00)

1. Approve March 17, 2022, Draft Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

2. Receive GeoZone Update

Public Comment: None

Member Hollinshead asked how many megawatts (MW) may be bought directly by Sonoma Clean Power through GeoZone? Geof Syphers, CEO, answered between 50 and 200 MW.

Chair Quinlan asked for the reasons behind Lake County not joining. CEO Syphers stated they were interested in ensuring customers in Lake County would benefit from the new resources.

1:09 p.m. Public Comment was re-opened. There were no new speakers.

Motion to approve the April 21, 2022, Community Advisory Committee Consent Calendar by Member Hollinshead

Second: Member Dowd

Motion passed by roll call vote

AYES: Quinlan, Morris, Fenichel, Hollinshead, Dowd, Kelly, Wells, Booth

ABSENT: Nicholls, Lipp

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR CALENDAR

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

(1:10 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:10:37)

Mike Koszalka, COO, introduced Chris Golik, SCP's new Revenue Manager. Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs, introduced Eric Scheier, SCP's new Department of Energy Fellow. Director Simonson provided an update on the GridSavvy program.

Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Internal Operations, gave Advanced Energy Center updates including recent events, and Energy Education in schools. She included a story of a high school student who used the Energy Center as a resource for a school project. CEO Syphers discussed his recent educational talk he gave to a 3rd grade class.

Director Reynolds discussed monthly financials. CEO Syphers added that SCP's net position has shrunk a bit, but with the rate change in April, the net position will climb again. He also informed the Committee that SCP is preparing for in-person public meetings.

Chair Quinlan asked how much climate skepticism presenters hear while discussing energy education in schools and Director Reynolds responded that she would reach out to Sonoma Water to find out.

Member Booth asked what type of outreach is being done for the GridSavvy program. Director Simonson responded that SCP is sending out mailers and emails with the goal of increasing participation.

Chair Quinlan shared a story of how he encouraged his neighbors to go electric and encouraged the Committee to do the same.

Public Comment: None

4. Receive Legislative and Regulatory Updates and Provide Feedback as Appropriate

(1:31 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:31:25)

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, discussed resource adequacy changes. He mentioned that the state auditor found that PG&E has not done enough to improve wildfire safety and failed to prioritize improvements to the distribution lines that were the most dangerous, and that now the state auditor is requiring these areas to be prioritized.

CEO Syphers gave a legislative update. He mentioned he met with Congressman Thompson and Congressman Huffman regarding the GeoZone and met with Governor Newsom regarding the federal Department of Commerce's investigation into possible tariff violations on Chinese solar products, an investigation that has halted imports of solar products from four countries and could slow or stop the construction of solar and storage projects in the United States. He discussed AB 1814 (Grayson) regarding providing access so that CCAs could distribute funding for EV infrastructure, which has been withdrawn due to strong opposition by PG&E. He discussed SB 1158 (Becker) which would require GHG emissions be reported on an hourly basis instead of an annual basis. He then discussed SB 1393 (Archuleta) which will require specific tests for reach codes seeking to phase out natural gas, and informed the Committee that a letter of opposition has been filed due to the bill creating new legal liabilities to cities and counties.

Member Booth asked if there is any indication of support for SB 1393 and CEO Syphers answered no, but the California State Association of Counties has indicated it may support if the CEC would help with compliance with reach ordinances.

Public Comment: None

5. Receive Presentation on Spanish Language Focus Group Findings

(1:53 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 00:52:45)

Kate Kelly, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, discussed SCP's findings from the Spanish language focus groups led by Hugo Mata from Soluna Outreach Solutions. She explained that the findings show that there is low awareness in the Spanish-speaking community about SCP and it is SCP's goal to build that awareness and leverage collaborations within that community. She confirmed SCP's commitment to getting out and talking with people and with this research, SCP is going to continue to learn and improve.

Chair Quinlan asked how much Spanish speaking groups' answers correlated to non-Spanish speaking groups. Director Kelly responded that the answers were not very similar. CEO Syphers cautioned that focus groups give an anecdotal understanding of issues, but when we repeat the studies over time, we learn more. Chair Quinlan then asked when the Committee should expect to see proposals that address the data. Director Kelly answered that it would take a year to put the strategies in place.

Public Comment: None

6. Recommend the Board of Directors Authorize the CEO or his Designee to Execute the First Amendment to an Agreement with the Center for Sustainable Energy to Offer Additional Incentives for Public EV Charging Infrastructure

(2:13 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:13:09)

Brant Arthur, Program Manager, discussed the proposed amendment to an agreement with the Center for Sustainable Energy to offer up to \$800,000 in special customer incentives for fast EV charging. He stated that the proposed amendment will help fill gaps in funding and will focus funding on level 3 chargers. He explained that this proposal will target specific areas and will require that the stations are served by 100% local renewable power through EverGreen and be open to the public 24/7.

Member Booth asked if there are metrics written into the program so there are no double credits in conjunction with the Low Carbon Fuel Standard program. Mr. Arthur responded yes, and SCP would have access to the charging data.

Member Hollinshead asked if there is an infrastructure upgrade included and whether SCP will go after this aggressively. Mr. Arthur responded that an

infrastructure requirement could be added, and CEO Syphers expanded that workplace charging should be prioritized due to the coincident use during peak solar hours.

Member Wells asked how many fueling stations will be replaced and Mr. Arthur pointed out that gas stations are also applying for grants as well.

Member Kelly inquired if property tenants will see a benefit. Mr. Arthur clarified that the incentive dollars are specifically for property owners. Member Kelly then asked if the chargers add equity to property and CEO Syphers responded that the community is starting to see value in electric charging, but it is still early on.

Public Comment: None

Motion to modify the recommended action, to read, "Recommend the Board of Directors authorize the CEO or his designee to execute the first amendment to an agreement with the Center for Sustainable Energy in the amount of \$869,565 to offer additional incentives for public EV charging infrastructure, with staff report outs to the Community Advisory Committee and Board of Directors at a minimum of once per year" by Member Dowd.

Second: Member Booth

Motion passed by roll call vote

AYES: Quinlan, Morris, Fenichel, Hollinshead, Dowd, Kelly, Wells, Booth

ABSENT: Nicholls, Lipp

7. Review the Empower Action Plan as Appropriate

(2:41 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:41:28)

Director Kate Kelly explained that the Empower Action Plan is an agency-wide endeavor that is receiving positive feedback. The Plan is focused on improving outreach to customers in SCP's service territory and organizations throughout the communities.

Director Kelly asked the Committee to refer any community organizations that would be interested to SCP.

Public Comment: None

8. Recommend that the Board of Directors Approve a Revision to Financial Policy B.2 Financial Reserves

(2:48 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 01:48:12)

CEO Syphers explained SCP's financial policy was created when SCP was in the early stages and had very little in assets. Building a cash reserve was critical. Now that SCP is more established and has a credit rating, staff recommends simplifying the policy.

Member Kelly asked how SCP's funds are held. COO Koszalka answered in insured accounts at two financial institutions and also with the Sonoma County Investment Pool.

Member Dowd inquired whether SCP has had conversations with ratings agencies. CEO Syphers explained that yes, SCP has spoken with both Moody's and S&P, and both have provided guidance on the subject which recommend having 6 months of expenses in reserve.

Member Hollinshead asked if this change covers purchasing power and if SCP has a long-term investment strategy. CEO Syphers responded that SCP may soon be able to use public debt and bond issuance.

Public Comment: None

Motion to recommend that the Board of Directors approve a revision to financial policy B.2 Financial Reserves by Member Morris.

Second: Member Hollinshead

Motion passed by roll call vote

AYES: Quinlan, Morris, Fenichel, Hollinshead, Dowd, Kelly, Wells, Booth

ABSENT: Nicholls, Lipp

9. Review and Provide Feedback on the Draft Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

(3:12 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:11:13)

COO Koszalka explained that he is asking the Committee for input and comments on the upcoming Fiscal Year Budget which he could share with the Board of Directors. He explained that under "Revenues" the budget requires no rate change at this time but will likely have to come back to the Committee during the fiscal year to adjust rates, as is typical in most years. He explained that personnel costs are up 4% and staffing is comparable with similar-sized CCAs. He explained that the Advanced Energy Center and Marketing budgets have increased with the planned outreach budget, but SCP's Customer Service

budget has been reduced. COO Koszalka pointed out this budget proposal and forecast have resulted in a large increase to SCP's net position which plans to get SCP close to its revenue targets early.

3:20 p.m. Member Fenichel exited the meeting.

Chair Quinlan asked why the GHG targets were 30% below PG&E and COO Koszalka explained that these are a result not a target. Chair Quinlan then asked why there is a significant drop in electricity revenues and COO Koszalka explained in SCPs 4-year outlook SCP anticipates the ability to lower rates.

Vice Chair Morris asked if Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) events are just losses. CEO Sypfers confirmed that they are, absent legal action.

Public Comment: None

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

(3:33 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:33:08)

None

ADJOURN

(3:34 p.m. - Video Time Stamp: 02:33:55)

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,



Darin A. Bartow, J.D.
Clerk of the Board