

**Western Community Energy  
Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and  
Technical Advisory Committee  
August 12, 2020  
Summary Minutes**

**Item 4.A**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Ben Benoit on the Zoom virtual platform.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Board of Directors present:**

Todd Rigby, City of Eastvale  
Russ Brown, City of Hemet  
Chris Barajas, City of Jurupa Valley  
Ted Hoffman, City of Norco  
Rita Rogers, City of Perris  
Ben Benoit, City of Wildomar (Chair)

**Technical Advisory Committee Members present:**

Gina Gibson Williams, City of Eastvale  
Rod Butler, City of Jurupa Valley  
Andy Okoro, City of Norco  
Clara Miramontes, City of Perris

**Staff present:**

Andrew Ruiz, WRCOG Chief Financial Officer  
Ani Dhruva, WRCOG Intern  
Avie Barron, WRCOG Senior Analyst  
Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs  
Janis Leonard, WRCOG Administrative Services Manager  
Lupe Lotman, WRCOG Staff Analyst  
Mei Wu, WRCOG Intern  
Princess Hester, RCHCA Director of Administration  
Riana Fisher, RCHCA Staff Analyst  
Rick Bishop, WRCOG Executive Director  
Steve DeBaun, Legal Counsel, Best Best & Krieger  
Suzy Nelson, WRCOG Administrative Assistant  
Tyler Masters, WRCOG Director of Western Community Energy

**Guests present:**

Amber Nyquist, GDS & Associates  
Denis Vermette, Pilot Power  
Hope Christman, California Public Utilities Commission  
Lindsay Bask, Member of the Public  
Martha Masters, Riverside County Transportation Commission  
Sheetal Parr, Pilot Power  
Todd Warden, South Coast Air Quality Management District

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR** - (Perris / Hemet) 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Items 4.A through 4.G were approved. A representative from the City of Canyon Lake was not present.

**A. Summary Minutes from the July 8, 2020, Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee are Available for Consideration.**

**Action:** 1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the July 8, 2020, Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee.

**B. Financial Summary Update**

**Action:** 1. Received and filed.

**C. Program Schedule Update**

**Action:** 1. Received and filed.

**D. Regulatory and Legislative Activities Update**

**Action:** 1. Received and filed.

**E. Marketing Update and Outreach Activities Update**

**Action:** 1. Authorized the Executive Director to enter into a 2nd Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement between Western Community Energy and The Creative Bar for Marketing and Outreach Services, not to exceed \$90,000, through June 1, 2021.

**F. Amendment to WCE Conflict of Interest Code**

**Actions:** 1. Adopted Resolution No. 2020-13; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Western Community Energy adopting an amended Conflict of Interest Code pursuant to the Political Reform Act of 1974.  
2. Directed that such amendment be submitted to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors as WCEs Code-reviewing body (Gov. Code § 82011), requesting approval of the amendment as required under Government Code Section 87303.

**G. WCE Enabling Agreement to Add Energy Provider**

**Actions:** 1. Adopted Resolution No. 2020-15: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Western Community Energy approving Master Power Purchase Agreements.  
2. Approved the Edison Electric Institute Master Agreement (“Master Agreement”) between Western Community Energy and Constellation / Exelon and authorized the Executive Director, or designee, to execute the Master Agreement, in substantially similar form as approved by Legal Counsel.  
3. Approved the Edison Electric Institute Master Agreement (“Master Agreement”) between Western Community Energy and 3 Phase Renewable and authorized the Executive Director, or designee, to execute the Master Agreement, in substantially similar form as approved by Legal Counsel.

**5. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

**A. Program Launch Update**

Tyler Masters reported that the current opt-out and participation rates are beginning to stabilize. Opt-out rates are just under 5% and opt-ups to the Choice Plus Plan, which is the 100% green sources energy rate plan, are continuing to increase.

Since launch, customers have saved just under \$2M on their utility bills. Two posts per week on social media will begin in August. One post will focus on retention and education of existing social media followers and the other on acquisition of new potential followers within the WCE subregion.

Staff have seen a small uptick in questions from residents wondering why their electric bill has increased in recent months. During the months of June and July the weather heated up, rates transitioned from winter to summer, and due to the current pandemic with adults working from home and children learning from home, residential bills are going to increase. Some of the upcoming posts on social media will focus on energy-saving tips to help WCE customers conserve energy and reduce their utility bills

Per the request of this Board, a Bill Comparison Tool is being created which will allow customers to compare their rates to Southern California Edison rates for any given month. The Tool will be located on WCE's website by the end of November 2020.

**Action:** 1. Received and filed.

## **B. Non-Residential Client Engagement and Outreach Update**

Avie Barron reported that as was indicated a few months ago, Southern California Edison had billing issues with multiple rate bills, which caused delayed billing and customers contacting WCE with concerns. The matter was promptly addressed, and to date, no additional complaints have been received.

Commercial opt-out rates remain relatively low at 3.4%. Initial contacts to 38 of the top 50 clients have been completed; staff are working to contact the remaining clients and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Staff continues to work on an online savings calculator which will be accessible to all WCE customers by the end of 2020.

**Action:** 1. Received and filed.

## **C. WCE's 2020 Integrated Resource Plan**

Amber Nyquist reported that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requires that all Load Serving Entities (LSEs) develop and file an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) every two years. The purpose of the IRP is to coordinate across all LSEs to meet state greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals.

The CPUC study period is between 2020 and 2030. Included in the filing is a narrative and two conforming portfolios; one with target emissions of 46 million metric tons (MMT) of carbon dioxide and one with 38 MMT. The resource data template will include all current and projected resources over the study period including existing contracts.

The conforming portfolios of 46 MMT and 38 MMT were shared, which portrayed the load share of the system capacity and all the available energy resources, such as nuclear, gas, and wind, to name a few, under each MMT portfolios. Emissions results under either portfolio shows that WCE is at or below its emissions target.

The exploration of Demand Response programs has determined the cost to be high, so these types of programs will be put on hold for now.

Energy storage is a key resource as nuclear energy will retire and no new natural gas resources are sited. Local renewable options will benefit local low income and disadvantaged communities.

Director Ted Hoffman suggested utilizing City Managers for their expertise regarding financial aspects of the cities and what can and cannot be done.

- Action:**
1. Adopted Resolution No. 2020-14; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Western Community Energy adopting Western Community Energy's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and authorize staff to submit the IRP, in substantially similar form, to the CPUC by September 1, 2020.

(Norco / Eastvale) 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 5.C was approved. A representative from the City of Canyon Lake was not present.

## **6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Rick Bishop reported that there could be economic development opportunities associated with the Integrated Resource Plan and staff will look into determining these opportunities.

## **7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items for future agendas.

## **8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no general announcements.

**9. NEXT MEETING :** The next Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday , September 9 , 2020 , at 1:00 p.m. , on the Zoom platform .

**10. ADJOURNMENT :** The Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 2:08 p.m.