

Board Learning Session Minutes—170th Meeting

December 12, 2019

Board members present: Ernesto Fonseca, Roger Hamilton, Lindsey Hardy, Eric Hayes, Elee Jen, Mark Kendall, Debbie Kitchin, Henry Lorenzen, Alan Meyer, Roland Risser, Letha Tawney (Oregon Public Utility Commission ex officio), Ruchi Sadhir for Janine Benner (Oregon Department of Energy special advisor)

Board members absent: Susan Brodahl, Melissa Cribbins, Anne Root

Staff attending: Cheryle Easton, Jeni Hall, Tyrone Henry, Steve Lacey, Debbie Menashe, Mark Wyman

Board Learning Session Call to Order

Roger Hamilton called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He introduced and welcomed Energy Trust's new diversity, equity and inclusion lead, Tyrone Henry.

General Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Director Report (Michael Colgrove)

Michael Colgrove, executive director, presented a proposed schedule for 2020 board meetings, which will include six board meetings, three half-day board learning sessions and two board orientation meetings.

The six board meetings will include a board president's report; executive director report; policy revisions for review and approval; contracts for approval; and presentations from staff, stakeholders, utilities, business partners and study results.

The three-half day board learning sessions are for topics the board has expressed interest in or informational presentations that support Energy Trust business.

The 2019 nominating Committee Orientation process calls for two half-day orientation meetings. Orientation meetings are designed to inform new board members and connect existing board members with the new board members. The two meetings will cover a general Energy Trust overview, program and process detail.

Debbie Kitchin arrived at 1:45 p.m.

Update on Manufactured Homes Replacement Pilot (Mark Wyman)

Mark Wyman, residential program manager, provided an update on the status of the manufactured homes pilot and the development of an accompanying loan product. Mark reviewed the goals of the pilot, which include creating a replicable program model, developing new working relationships with partner organizations and formalizing the role of ratepayer energy efficiency programs in supporting home replacement activities. The pilot advances organizational goals to expand participation and to support new approaches, and aligns with focus area four of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.

The board asked if staff are looking at enhancing partnerships with health care entities. The program is interviewing participants and capturing self-reported health and welfare outcomes, and would like to develop partnerships with actors in the public health or health care systems.

Mark described the loans and financing models that help manufactured homeowners finance home replacements at a reasonably priced fixed rate. He outlined 2020 priorities to continue outreach to partnering Community Action Agencies and to work with Craft3 as it considers changes to its loan products. Staff will continue to explore new sources of loan capital and will work with market partners to seek cost efficiencies.

The pilot has completed more than 25 replacements, which have all been financed by nonprofit housing developers for use as rental housing. None of the completed projects served owner-occupied units, although owner-occupied projects are advancing, and staff expect partner financing to play a critical role in enabling these households to realize their goals.

Update on Residential Net Zero Specification (Jeni Hall, Mark Wyman)

Mark Wyman and Jeni Hall, senior solar project manager, presented the Residential Net Zero Specification program, which combines energy efficiency and solar offerings. Energy Trust has been working with stakeholders and advisory councils for the last year to develop a Residential Net Zero specification, with the assumption that the offer complies with fuel-neutral policies, remains consistent with site-based savings analysis and works under current net metering rules.

Mark and Jeni provided background on how to design a combined energy efficiency and renewable energy offer that benefits both individual customers and the broader utility system. The board reviewed the results of a stakeholder survey that articulated support for Energy Trust's approach to developing a Residential Net Zero specification.

Mark outlined next steps to develop incentives and offers, including a smart grid responsive homes offer in development for 2020.

Update on High-Value Solar (Dave McClelland)

Dave McClelland, senior solar program manager, described how the Solar program will prioritize high-value solar projects that provide more benefits for society and the grid through advanced technology and optimized deployment. Prioritizing high-value solar projects will enable the program to effectively advance solar in Oregon given limited staff time and resources.

The Solar program plans to combine advanced technologies and targeted system installations to address larger challenges facing customers, partners and utilities. By the end of 2020, staff will streamline Energy Trust's conventional Solar program and shift focus toward advanced technologies, equitable deployment and more integrated offerings.

Ruchi Sadhir arrived 3:25 p.m.

Discussion on What is a Non-stakeholder Board (Debbie Kitchin)

Debbie Kitchin kicked off a board discussion about what it means to be a non-stakeholder board and described the Energy Trust board's history as a non-stakeholder board. Since its founding, Energy Trust's board has been comprised of members representing the broad interests of all ratepayers, rather than any particular stakeholder group or perspective. The board members have focused on Energy Trust's vision, strategic planning and organizational goals over specific interest areas. As stakeholders with a particular perspective, utilities do not serve on the board. Utilities are invited to serve on the organization's advisory councils and meet regularly with staff to provide input on plans and activities.

The board discussed the many advantages to continuing as a non-stakeholder board.

Ernesto Fonseca arrived at 4:00 p.m.

