

# Board Meeting Minutes—207th Meeting

February 08, 2023

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**Board members present:** Anne Haworth Root, Ellen Zuckerman, Eric Hayes, Henry Lorenzen, Melissa Cribbins, Peter Therkelsen, Roland Risser, Silvia Tanner, Susan Brodahl, Thelma Fleming, Ruchi Sadhir for Janine Benner (Oregon Department of Energy special advisor), Letha Tawney (Oregon Public Utility Commission ex officio)

**Board members absent:**

**Staff attending:** Abby Spegman, Adam Bartini, Alanna Hoyman-Browe, Alexis Brunelle, Alina Lambert, Amanda Thompson, Amanda Zuniga, Amber Cole, Andi Nix, Bayo Ware, Betsy Kauffman, Cameron Starr, Cheryl Easton, Chris Dunning, Cody Kleinsmith, Dan Rubado, Dave McClelland, Dave Moldal, Elaine Dado, Elizabeth Fox, Emma Clark, Eric Braddock, Fred Gordon, Giang Nguyen, Greg Stokes, Hannah Cruz, Jay Ward, Joshua Reed, Julianne Thacher, Kirstin Pinit, Laura Schaefer, Lidia Garcia, Lizzie Rubado, Lori Lull, Megan Greenauer, Melanie Bissonnette, Mia Deonate, Michael Fritz, Michael Colgrove, Ryan Cook, Sarah Castor, Scott Clark, Scott Swearingen, Sloan Schang, Steve Lacey, Sue Fletcher, Tara Crookshank, Taylor Ford, Tracy Scott, Tyrone Henry, Wendy Gibson

**Others attending:** Anna Kim (Oregon Public Utility Commission), Brian Lynch (AESC, Inc.) Brook Landon (CLEAResult), Chris Smith (Energy 350), Leland Davis (DThree Inc.) Randy Hastings (D Three, Inc.), Leland Davis (D Three, Inc.), Ross Finney (RHT Energy)

## Business Meeting

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Board president Henry Lorenzen called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Reminder that consent agenda items can be changed to regular agenda items at any time.

## General Public Comments

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Henry asked whether there were any requests for public comments, and there were none.

## Nominating & Governance Committee Director and Officer Nominations

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The Board then considered recommendations from the Nominating & Governance Committee for renewed terms for directors and officers and presented two resolutions for approval. The board considered and approved both resolutions.

### RESOLUTION R996 ELECTING MELISSA CRIBBINS AND SUSAN BRODAHL TO NEW TERMS ON THE ENERGY TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**WHEREAS:**

- 1. The terms of incumbent board members Melissa Cribbins and Susan Brodahl expire in 2023.**
- 2. The board nominating committee has recommended that these members' terms be renewed.**

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED:** That the Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., Board of Directors elects Melissa Cribbins and Susan Brodahl, incumbent board members, to new terms of office that end in 2026.

Moved by: Peter Therkelsen

Seconded by: Silvia Tanner

Vote: In favor: 9

Abstained:0

Opposed:0

**RESOLUTION R997  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**WHEREAS:**

1. **Officers of the Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc. (other than the Executive Director) are elected each year by the Board of Directors at the board's annual meeting.**
2. **The Board of Directors Nominating Committee has nominated the following directors to renew terms as officers:**
  - **Henry Lorenzen, President**
  - **Roland Risser, Vice President**
  - **Eric Hayes, Secretary**
  - **Susan Brodahl, Treasurer**

**It is therefore RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby elects the following as officers of Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., for 2023:**

- **Henry Lorenzen, President**
- **Roland Risser, Vice President**
- **Eric Hayes, Secretary**
- **Susan Brodahl, Treasurer**

Moved by: Peter Therkelsen

Seconded by: Thelma Fleming

Vote: In Favor 9

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Board president Henry Lorenzen noted that he will advance committee appointment recommendations following the election of new board members, such election expected at the board's next meeting. Henry expressed his hope that that current committee members will continue in their current appointments, and he asked Cheryle Easton to confirm interest by email. Henry also asked board members to consider membership, at least in the short term, on the Compensation and Human Resources Committee which currently has only one member.

## President's Report

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### President's Report

For his president's report, Henry Lorenzen discussed the rapid changes facing the utility industry, and how those changes will affect Energy Trust. Rapid deployment of electric vehicles, pressures around electrification, gas company compliance obligations, and needed changes to the grid, all with focus on equity, are each a factor that will impact utility system costs and capacity. As Henry looks ahead, he envisions energy savings goals and also system capacity goals for Energy Trust. Henry asked board members to think about how those considerations will affect Energy Trust's future goals and objectives.

The board then had a brief discussion on board minutes. Debbie Menashe will check in with board members to confirm that minutes are adequate and acceptable.

## Consent Agenda

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The board then considered and approved the consent agenda.

### MOTION: Approve consent agenda

#### Consent agenda includes:

1. December 16, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Roland Risser

Seconded by: Silvia Tanner

Vote: In favor: 9

Abstained: 0

Opposed:

## Executive Director Report

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Executive Director Michael Colgrove presented his first Executive Director Report of the year and explained that, based on board member feedback, his regular reports will be in a new format. His reports will track on activities that have emerged as topics of regular and possible board high interest:

- Community Based Organization (CBO) Engagements
- Rural Program Activities
- Commercial & Industrial Program Activities

A guest speaker will be invited to each meeting to provide additional information on one or all of these topics.

Mike first reported on CBO engagements, noting that Energy Trust currently tracks approximately 120 CBO engagements throughout the state. Mike explained that CBOs provide Energy Trust with direct connections with the communities and clients they serve. Mike reported on Energy Trust's Working Together Grants, which are competitive awards to CBOs and described a couple of examples of CBOs with whom Energy Trust works, including the Prineville Chamber of Commerce which connects with trade allies and businesses in Central Oregon. In Portland, through an agreement with the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), Energy Trust is helping coordinate a group of CBOs working to increase access to solar energy among Black, Latino and immigrant refugee customers. Mike also highlighted Energy Trust's outreach team engagement with the Beaverton Chamber of Commerce and the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon.

With regard to Energy Trust's rural activities, Mike provided information on sites served by region and sector. While site counts are still predominantly in the Portland, Mike noted that compared to 2021, Energy Trust is tracking increases in sites served in rural areas, with increases of 16% in Southern

Oregon; 9% in the Willamette Valley, 11% in North coast, 40% in Eastern Oregon, and 35% in Central Oregon. Mike acknowledged that these are good trends, but there is still work to be done to increase the numbers of sites served.

Mike then reported on specific flexible and responsive strategies for program delivery in areas in rural Oregon that have been impacted by natural disasters, including in Eastern Oregon following a dense hail storm in August 2022.

Mike then introduced Chris Smith of Energy 350, the program management contractor (PMC) providing overall program management for the Industrial & Agriculture Program. is the guest speaker. Energy 350 has been supporting the Industrial & Agriculture program since 2010, but with the recently approved PMC agreement, Chris and the Energy 350 team have greater responsibilities.

Chris provided an update on the manufacturing sector, noting that labor shortages are an ongoing challenge which makes puts upward pressure on project pricing and project lead times. These challenges mean that production can be prioritized over energy efficiency even though energy prices are rising.

Chris provided updates on other industry sectors important to the program, including chip manufacturing, wood products, agriculture, airline supply chain, and cannabis. Overall, sectors face a variety of challenges, but the possibility of increased federal funding and incentives to complement Energy Trust's efficiency work is expected to help. Board members and Mike thanked Chris for his comprehensive presentation

Mike then introduced Scott Clark, who is assuming a new leadership role as Director of Information and Technology Services. This new role represents a strategic focus on data and how the data and information we collect supports our programs. In this new role, Scott will oversee Energy Trust's IT, Planning & Evaluation, and Project Management groups.

## **Preliminary Results for 2022**

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Michael Colgrove presented preliminary annual results for Energy Trust's 2022 performance. These are preliminary results, and they might change for the organization's final report to the OPUC which will be released in April 2023. These preliminary results are for savings and generation; they do not include expenditure results yet, so levelized cost and cost effectiveness information is not included in this report.

Mike continued by presenting savings and generation results. 2022 was a challenging year, but end of year results did come in slightly better than projected. Energy Trust's programs saved 46.8 aMW, representing 92% of its 2022 electric savings goal, 5.9 MMTh, representing 82% of its 2022 natural gas savings goal, and generated 5.9 Am, 145% of its 2022 renewable goal. Energy Trust's energy efficiency programs met their goals for PGE but fell short of goals for the other four funding utilities in Oregon.

Mike then presented information on the preliminary efficiency results by utility and described the conditions that help explain the results presented. These conditions include ongoing supply chain challenges which resulted in the delay or cancellation of projects. Solar activity was robust. Notwithstanding challenges in the efficiency programs, solar installation costs continue to go down. This is important and encouraging for the continued focused work on low and moderate income customers.

Board members asked questions and engaged in discussion with Mike regarding the way in which Energy Trust identifies low and moderate income customers and benchmarking to other Pacificorp energy efficiency programs outside of Oregon.

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## Legislative and Policy Update

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Jay Ward, Senior Stakeholder Relations and Policy Manager, presented on current policy landscape and legislative activity.

Jay reported that over 2000 bills have been introduced in the Oregon legislature, and it is projected that another 2000 bills or more are waiting to be introduced. Jay reviewed previously enacted bills that have impacted Energy Trust including SB 1519 which created the Resilient Efficient Building (REBuild) Task Force. The REBuild Task Force was established to develop options to reduce greenhouse gas building emissions. Most of the policy options identified by the task force are related to Energy Trust's work, including policies to refocus Energy Trust's mission to be more directly focused on carbon emission reductions.

Jay then identified the key dates for legislation during the session and leadership. Jay also noted that federal rulemaking to implement Inflation Reduction Act and other major federal legislation could have significant complementary impact on Energy Trust programs. Jay summarized a number of bills that could have other direct or indirect effect on Energy Trust, including proposed legislation at the state level and local level to limit installation of natural gas appliances.

Jay continued by describing other policy activities that Energy Trust is tracking, including the Oregon DEQ Climate Protection Plan and the recent release of the OPUC's Natural Gas Fact Finding final report.

Jay noted that the Energy Trust is known as a credible and effective organization to support Oregon's clean energy policy direction, and the Policy Services team will continue to keep the board informed.

The board thanked Jay for his thorough and interesting report.

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## Adjourn for Lunch

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The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. and was reconvened by President Henry Lorenzen at 1:04 p.m. Upon reconvening, Henry asked whether any public comment time had been requested, and there were no such requests. The board continued the meeting with committee reports.

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## Committee Reports

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### ***Finance & Audit Committee***

Susan Brodahl, chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, reported. Susan noted that notes from the committee's December meeting are contained in the board packet for this meeting. The committee also met in late January and heard a report on Energy Trust's internal audit functions. In addition, the committee heard and discussed CFO Chris Dunning's plan to use a new investment product offered by Umpqua Bank, an Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) product to replace current repurchase agreement investments.

### ***Nomination & Governance Committee***

Nominating & Governance Committee chair, Roland Risser, reported and noted that the notes contained in the packet provide a good summary of the committee's last meeting. Roland updated the board on the committee's work on board recruitment process. As of the date of the meeting, the committee conducted two interviews, and is planning for six more. Roland noted that the candidate pool is excellent.

Roland also explained that the committee recommended a board conversation regarding the advisory councils, which will be a topic later in the meeting.

Finally, the committee discussed the current fuel switching policy and possible revisions to insure that the policy does not bar Energy Trust's opportunities to seek or receive federal funding emerging out of recent federal legislation. The committee stressed the need to stay in line with the OPUC on this topic, and staff will return to the committee with suggested revisions, with input from the OPUC,

### ***Conservation Advisory Council (Peter Therkelsen)***

Peter Therkelsen provided a report on the Conservation Advisory Council. Quicker update. No meeting since end of last year. However, Peter noted that three new members were appointed to the Conservation Advisory Council: Charity Fain of Community Energy Project; Laney Ralph, of NW Natural; and Noemi Ortiz of Cascade Natural Gas.

### ***Renewable Energy Advisory Council***

There was no Renewable Advisory Council meeting since the last board meeting.

### ***Ad hoc Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee and Diversity Advisory Council***

Tyrone Henry, Energy Trust DEI Lead reported on the ad hoc board DEI Comm as well as the most recent Diversity Advisory Council meeting. The ad hoc DEI Committee is preparing for the next board DEI training which will address the board's DEI workplan for the coming year. Board members expressed appreciation for the work of the committee and asked questions regarding the way in which these efforts relate to Energy Trust organizational activities overall. Tyrone discussed activities of the organization and the Diversity Advisory Council (DAC), noting that prospective new members for the DAC will be recommended to the coming weeks to the Nominating & Governance Committee.

### ***Evaluation Advisory Group Update and 2023 Plan***

Energy Trust Evaluation and Engineering Manager Sarah Castor reported to the board regarding the work of the Evaluation group and the an update on the Evaluation Advisory Group. Sarah was joined by Dan Rubado and Cody Kleinsmith, also of the Evaluation Group.

Sarah thanked the board for the opportunity to explain the work of the Evaluation Group, explaining the purpose of the group is to help Energy Trust understand the impact of its programs to make sure that Energy Trust help customers as well as it can. The Evaluation group has three types of projects: Program process and Impact evaluations, pilot studies, and other evaluation and research projects.

Dan Rubado, Senior Project Manager, explained the process evaluations, which evaluation program processes and suggest process improvements. These types of evaluations are run every 3-5 years, depending on what is going on in the programs.

Impact evaluations analyze actual savings from programs. In the Commercial and Industrial programs, these types of evaluations examine actual savings from projects. In the Residential programs, impact evaluations are different; they evaluate savings from measure categories. Billing analyses are used for impact evaluations.

Cody Kleinsmith, Project Manager, described a recent pilot evaluation which studied commercial smart thermostats. The point of pilot evaluations are to verify results for future program use.

Other research and evaluation projects undertaken by the Evaluation group include surveys and interviews. Examples Cody and Dan described and explained were Fast Feedback, Customer Awareness and Participation Surveys, and interviews with trade allies.

Cody explained a pilot overview. Recently completed commercial smart thermostats, wall [SEE SLIDE] The point of this work is to verify the results. In addition to these projects, the Evaluation group also does internal studies and surveys like the organizational employee engagement survey and market

research for the organization and for regional efforts, such as NEEA's residential and commercial building assessments.

Sarah continued by updating the board on the efforts of the Evaluation Advisory Group (the EAG). The EAG is a helpful advisory on research design, methods, and policy. It met twice in 2022, and the goal is to meet three times a year, with updates to follow to the board.

Board members thanked staff for the informative report and asked questions. The board discussed how Evaluation group work could inform about workforce development needs and opportunities that will emerge out of federal programs from the Inflation Reduction Act. Board members discussed how ODOE will be part of this planning as well.

### **Overview of 2024-25 Budget and Planning Process**

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Energy Trust Chief Financial Officer Chris Dunning presented an overview of board engagement in the budget planning process, first recounting the process for 2022. In 2022, the board was engaged early on with information about market trends and key budget topics such as staffing levels.

In 2023, the board will again be engaged early, with initial engagement at the board's March workshop. Early discussions will help inform and align with the organizational business planning process. In addition to regular engagement with the board starting in March, staff will engage with other key stakeholders: advisory councils, utilities, OPUC, customers, and communities.

Board members asked questions about these stakeholder engagements and how they differed from each other, and Chris responded. The board then discussed the possibilities of additional levels of energy efficiency requirements in 2024 given utility compliance obligations under their clean energy plans and IRPs. Energy Trust Director of Planning and Evaluation took questions from the board in a robust discussion regarding the planning and budget implications of topics such as potential load growth, measures targeted at addressing capacity constraints, grid resilience, how load shape information is being enhanced.

### **Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) Equity Metrics Update**

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In December 2022, the OPUC staff presented draft equity metrics for Energy Trust as required by HB 3141 to the OPUC commissioners. Anna Kim, OPUC Senior Utility Analyst, provided information to the board on these equity metrics, noting that, as required by HB 3141, equity metrics will be included with all of the performance measures adopted annually for Energy Trust by the OPUC. Initial proposed equity metrics were created through an open stakeholder process in 2022, and Anna expressed appreciation for OPUC staff and Energy Trust staff, particularly Hannah Cruz, Karen Chase, and Alex Novie, for their assistance and support of the stakeholder process.

Four metric theme areas have been proposed, with attendant proposed metrics for movement and change: Access to support for communities, access to information, energy burden reduction, and community resilience. The draft equity metric proposal is open for public comment, and is expected to be presented to the OPUC for approval on March 7, 2023.

Questions or feedback from the board?

Board members asked a number of questions, including questions regarding whether the metrics measure ultimate objectives or resources used to reach such objectives. Anna noted that OPUC staff has struggled with this, but that over time, and as the work measured by the current metric theme areas matures, the intent is to have metrics that all measure ultimate outcomes. Additionally, the board discussed how community members and stakeholders will be engaged in the future, and Anna

responded that OPUC staff intends to increase outreach in the coming year so that more community members and stakeholders can participate in an annual process of setting these metrics.

Board members thanked Anna for her presentation and responses to their questions.

### **Role of Advisory Councils**

Roland Risser led an initial board discussion on the role of Energy Trust's advisory councils, Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) and Renewable Advisory Council (RAC), noting that the board undertook a similar review of the role of the board committees in 2021. Board members are now interested in reviewing the role of CAC, DAC, and RAC.

Board members engaged in a robust discussion of the following questions regarding the advisory councils: What role or function is desired from each of the councils and what current functions of the advisory councils are more focused on staff and not the board.

Roland noted that notes of the discussion were kept. The next step will be for the Nominating & Governance Committee to review the notes of the board discussion and consider whether further review is needed. The Nominating & Governance Committee will keep the full board advised of their discussions.

Henry thanked Roland for facilitating the discussion.

### **Board Meeting Review Discussion**

Henry Lorenzen asked for thoughts from board members on the meeting, and board members responded positively regarding the discussions and level of information provided. Board members thanked staff for their presentations.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Energy Trust Board of Directors** will be held Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 p.m. on Zoom and at Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., 421 SW Oak Street, Suite 300, Portland, Oregon.

DocuSigned by:

*Eric Hayes*

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Signed: Eric Hayes

4/21/2023

Date