

Board Meeting Minutes—224th Meeting: Regional Board Meeting in Hood River and Strategic Planning Workshop

May 14, 2024

Board members present: Janine Benner (ODOE Special Advisor, ex officio), Melissa Cribbins, Thelma Fleming, Eric Hayes, Ellsworth Lang, Henry Lorenzen, Roland Risser, Silvia Tanner, Letha Tawney (OPUC ex-officio), Peter Therkelsen, Bill Tovey, Ellen Zuckerman

Board members absent: Anne Haworth Root, Jane Peters

Staff attending: Caryn Appler, Kathleen Belkhat, Shelly Carlton, Sarah Castor, Amber Cole, Michael Colegrove, Hannah Cruz, Elaine Dado, Mia Deonate, Chris Dunning, Sue Fletcher, Jeni Hall, Marshall Johnson, Chris Lyons, Debbie Menashe, Spencer Moersfelder, Alicia Moore, Alex Polley, Elaine Prause, Danielle Rhodes, Laura Schaefer, Tracy Scott, Jess Siegel, Abby Spegman, Greg Stokes,

Others attending: Mayor Witt Anderson (City of Mosier), Kari Greer (Pacific Corp), Sarah Hall (OPUC), Randy Hastings (DThree), Peter Kernan, (OPUC) Steve Lacey, Representative Pam Marsh, Brian Mayfield (CLEAResult), Lisa McGarity (Avista), Laney Ralph (NW Natural), Jenny Sorich (CLEAResult), Benedikt Springer (OPUC), Holly Valkama (1961 Consulting), Jake Wise (PGE)

Opening

President Henry Lorenzen called the meeting back in session at 9:02 a.m. and explained the process of a hybrid meeting. Henry also previewed the agenda.

Strategic Planning: Areas of Focus

Holly Valkama of 1961 Consulting previewed the strategic planning development topics for the day: Areas of Focus and Outcomes/Goals. Regarding the Areas of Focus, Holly noted that staff input had been compiled for the board for their review and consideration. Holly also noted that in this strategic plan, areas of focus will be considered in the context of a multiyear plan process, which means that the board and staff can be more specific about goals that are measurable over the course of the multiyear plan as well as over the strategic plan period.

Executive Director Michael Colgrove then discussed his vision for the relationship between the new strategic plan and multiyear planning, noting that he believes that the new strategic plan would set forth a higher level and comprehensive vision and areas of focus, with the multiyear being more specific about how to achieve that vision in a variety of ways over time. Mike suggested a number of high-level issues and questions for the board to consider in their discussion. The board then broke into small groups for discussions and then reconvened for reports outs.

Break

The board recessed for a break at 10:45 and reconvened at 11 a.m.

State and Local Representatives Panel

Following the break, the board welcomed Oregon State Representative Pam Marsh, District 5 (Southern Jackson County), Chair of the House Housing and Homelessness Committee, member of House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee, member of House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee, and Mayor Witt Anderson of the City of Mosier. Chris

Lyons, Senior Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Policy, moderated the panel.

Mayor Anderson talked about the need for community engagement and the way in which communities focus together on energy efficiency. He described how Energy Trust can help community projects by supplementing community resources with technical and financial assistance.

Representative Marsh then shared context about her district, which is focused on, and has experienced wildfire devastation in its more urban and dense areas and its rural areas alike. For Representative Marsh, Energy Trust has an important role in community resilience and getting to 100% clean energy that addresses heavy load growth, housing, and the lack thereof.

Board members thanked the panel members for their comments and asked several questions about community interest in resiliency and decarbonization strategies. Board members also asked the pane for their thoughts on how Energy Trust can best disseminate information about its programs and offerings to their communities. Both Panel members expressed their appreciation for Energy Trust's support and engagement of their communities and urged the board to support continued community support efforts. Panel members also stressed how important it is to have multiple voices around planning tables to make sure that barriers for participation are minimized.

Board members and Chris Lyons thanked the panelists for a great discussion, offered Energy Trust as a resource and asked them both to look at our draft strategic plan and offer comments.

Recess for Lunch

The board recessed for lunch at 12:03 p.m.

Call to Order and Invitation for Public Comment

Henry called the meeting back to order at 1:01 pm. There was no public comment.

Strategic Planning: Areas of Focus

Henry then turned the meeting over to Holly Valkama for continued discussion on the Areas of Focus portion of the plan. Holly explained the next small group assignment to identify no more than five areas of focus and answer the question: What must Energy Trust prioritize or focus on to deliver the highest possible value?

Following their breakout sessions, each of the small groups reported on their discussions. Board members discussed the various topics that emerged out of the discussions, which include community engagement, influx of federal funding and collaboration with agencies, reaching customers not yet reached, and resiliency.

Break

The board recessed for a 15-minute break at 3:30 p.m. and reconvened at 3:45 p.m.

Final Closing: Strategic Planning

The board finished the day by confirming the following possible focus area descriptions:

- Optimize customer use of energy resources in service to decarbonization but Ellen's not satisfied with either.
- Deeper work in historically underserved customer groups.
- Resilience
- Increase the affordability of the system – the board discussed how to think about the system more broadly over merely electric/renewable energy/energy efficiency/batteries.

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Next steps are for the ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee to revise language for presentation at the June board meeting. Additionally, the board asked that the committee return with some proposals for outcomes and goals that could flow from these focus areas.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Energy Trust of Oregon Board of Directors will be held June 12, 2024, hybrid on Zoom and at the Energy Trust of Oregon, 421 SW Oak St., Suite 300, Portland, OR 97204.

DocuSigned by:

Eric Hayes

Signed: Eric Hayes

6/17/2024 /

Date