

# Board Meeting Minutes—232<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

January 29, 2025

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**Board members present:** Janine Benner (ODOE Special Advisor, ex-officio), Susan Brodahl, Thelma Fleming, Eric Hayes, Ellsworth Lang, Henry Lorenzen, Les Perkins (OPUC ex-officio), Jane Peters, Roland Risser, Silvia Tanner, Peter Therkelsen, Bill Tovey, Ellen Zuckerman

**Board members absent:** Susan Brodahl, Melissa Cribbins

**Staff attending:** Melanie Bissonette, Alicia Burr, Sarah Castor, Scott Clark, Angela Clayton Schmidt, Amber Cole, Michael Colgrove, Hannah Cruz, Elaine Dado, Gemma DiMatteo, Chris Dunning, Sue Fletcher, Jeni Hall, Jane Hammaker, Sarah Hamilton, Natalie Hatheway, Betsy Kauffman, Cody Kleinsmith, Julie McMorine, Heather McNeill, Debbie Menashe, Alex Novie, Amanda Sales, Spencer Moersfelder, Alicia Moore, Elaine Prause, Helen Rabold, Danielle Rhodes, Lizzie Rubado, Laura Schaefer, Leila Shokat, Abi Sloan, Greg Stokes, Scott Swearingen, Julianne Thacher, Bayoan Ware, Jenny Urbina

**Others attending:** Steph Berkland (TRC Companies), Dinah Choi, Leah Chubb (TRC Companies), Jeff Cropp (TRC Companies), Kari Greer (Pacific Corp), Randy Hastings (DThree), Brooke Landon (CLEARresult), Joe Marcotte (TRC Companies), Lisa McGarity (Avista), Tyler Weber (AESC), Josh Weissert (Energy 350)

## Business Meeting

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President Henry Lorenzen called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m., explaining the process for the hybrid meeting. Henry also reminded board members consent agenda items can be changed to regular agenda items at any time.

## General Public Comments

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There were no public comments.

## President's Report and Consent Agenda

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The consent agenda may be approved by a single motion, second and vote of the board. Any item on the consent agenda will be moved to the regular agenda upon the request from any member of the board. There was no request for change to the consent agenda.

### MOTION: Approve consent agenda (R1058)

Consent agenda includes:

- December 13, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
- 4.02.000-P Conservation Funding for Schools Policy
- 4.15.000-P- Policy on Information Submitted by Utilities, Program Participants, Contractors and Bidders

Moved by: Roland Risser                      Seconded by: Bill Tovey

Vote:                      In favor: 10                      Abstained: 0

                                    Opposed: 0



**RESOLUTION 1060  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**WHEREAS:**

- 4. Officers of the Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., (other than the Executive Director and the Chief Financial Officer) are elected each year by the Board of Directors at the board's annual meeting.**
- 5. The Board of Directors Nominating & Governance 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 2025:**

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

Moved by: Roland Risser

Seconded by: Silvia Tanner

Vote:

Abstained: 0

In Favor: 11

Opposed: 0

Henry mentioned that this is fourth year as president, and he wants to start discussions in the coming year about officer succession. He also mentioned he is interested also in discussions about the roles of the board with the advisory councils and the evaluation advisory group, so he will be devoting time to those discussions going forward in 2025. Henry also expressed hope and interest in bringing more outside speakers to the board now that meeting time will not be fully occupied with strategic plan work.

Michael Colgrove joined Henry in also discussing the possibility of a meeting in Portland in which the Board is encouraged to come in person. There is interest in more of these meetings because of the benefit of building relationships. Danielle Rhodes, Board Services Manager, will circulate some possible dates.

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## Committee Reports

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### ***Finance & Audit Committee (Thelma Fleming)***

Thelma Fleming, Finance & Audit Committee Chair, referred to the board packet materials provided to the board. In January, the committee met and dealt with compliance-both in audits, and in data security. There was also a preliminary year end results report to the committee.

The board inquired about federal policies impacting revenue streams. Staff and the board concurred that it is too soon to tell the status of potential outcomes. ODOE has contracts with the federal government that they intend to fill. Board members discussed the importance of monitoring and not overreaction. Staff will be closely monitoring and keep the board informed..

### ***Nominating & Governance Committee (Roland Risser)***

Nominating & Governance Committee Chair Roland Risser reported that the committee had discussed the incoming new general counsel, who will be staff liaison to the committee after Debbie Menashe's retirement. Additionally, he noted that the committee had approved several exceptional people who are appointed to the DAC and expressed great pleasure that these folks are willing to extend their volunteering.

Roland also repeated Henry's reference to starting small working discussions on advisory council roles.

### ***Diversity Advisory Council (Alicia Moore)***

Alicia described the DAC retreat instead of a meeting in January. It allowed DAC members to get to know each other and to identify their focus areas: having a most holistic approach to program services, to better understand and address barriers, equity centered partnerships, implementing better tracking and data for accountability and to identify key challenges for CBOS.

### ***Renewable Energy Advisory Council (Bayoan Ware)***

Bayo Ware provided an update to the board on the RAC. Notes from that meeting are not in packet and will be in the next one. At that meeting, Staff presented reports on average cost and capacity and solar and solar and storage and storage only systems. The new report covers how systems are paid for. There will be a city RFP released for a solar supply.

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## Executive Director Report

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### **Introduction to General Counsel**

Executive Director Michael Colgrove introduced Dinah Choi, new General Counsel to Energy Trust. Mike also described the recruitment process, which was run by Motus and gave us a robust set of candidates. Mike also thanked Monica Williams, one of our internal recruiters, as well as People Services and Amanda Sales for all her group does.

Board members expressed their appreciation for how well general counsel recruitment process went, and thanked staff for their work in this.

Dinah then introduced herself, and thanked Mike, Debbie and the board and the wider team at Energy Trust. Dinah described her work history, starting in private practice and moving to providing in-house legal services, and looks forward to applying these experiences to her new role at Energy Trust. Dinah expressed her focus on supporting high performing teams to drive a successful organization.

The Board expressed their appreciation for Dinah's thoughtful comments.

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**Legislative Session Reminder**

Energy Trust government relations team and leadership are monitoring a number of legislative issues, including the next biennial budget, which prioritizes funding for housing, behavioral health care, and K-12 schools. The team is also monitoring other bills and legislative concepts on energy efficiency and decarbonization and will provide regular updates to the board. Big themes related to Energy Trust's work are affordability in rates and utility decarbonization goals. Energy Trust advisory councils are also updated regularly.

Michael Colgrove reminded board members of Energy Trust's lobbying prohibition, including its application to board members in their capacity as board members.

**Lease Update**

Mike provided a quick lease update, describing a prior discussion with the Finance and Audit Committee and some details about the new space and its location downtown. Staff are hoping for an October move date.

**Break**

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The board took a break at 10:30 and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

**Multiyear Planning Project Status Update**

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Helen Rabold, Energy Trust Project Management Office, and Scott Swearingen, Assistant Director of Program Operations, updated the board on multiyear planning, including a review of the multiyear plan structure, how it was developed, and plans for stakeholder engagement.

The Energy Trust Multiyear Plan is expected to have four elements: a Business Plan, a Staff Resourcing Plan, a Financial and Energy Target Plan, and a Complementary Funding Strategy.

Helen then described how the board and other stakeholders would be engaged. Between February and March, we will have five virtual workshops organized around programs. There will also be updates to the board at meetings in March, April, and May. There will also be regular updates to the board's Finance and Audit Committee.

Board members asked questions, including how to manage an end-of-year "hockey stick," cost-effectiveness considerations in a multiyear plan, generation target assumptions and plans for acceleration of savings, and contracting plans, and staff responded.

**Adjourn for Lunch**

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The board adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

**General Public Comments**

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There were no public comments.

**Evaluation and Research Update**

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Sarah Castor, Evaluation and Engineering Manager, presented the evaluation team's plans for communication and oversight going forward, with a focus on strategic planning in 2024. She outlined new activities to keep the board and stakeholders informed about evaluation practices, priorities, and results. These include presenting to the Board and Advisory Councils up to twice a year, providing a high-level list of planned and completed evaluation projects at the beginning of each year, and continuing to include executive summaries in board packets and updates in Board Effect. Webinars will

also be scheduled that the board members will have invitations to. Evaluation staff also plan to connect with advisory councils and other organizations such as NEEA and NPPC.

Board members asked questions about how adjustments are made now that there is no committee. Henry asked about the evaluation provided on the Home Energy Report and Jane mentioned these reports can give us savings and are worth utilizing to obtain further savings in the future, and PG&E completed a study on these evaluation reports and their impact.

Mike also urged board members to attend webinar if they can, so if there are things they want to hear at board meetings, they can suggest that more information comes to the board. The list and schedule will help with that too. Peter supports the plan. He would also appreciate an email when the summaries come out. Henry thanked Sarah for the presentation and the discussion.

### Logic Model Training

Michael Colgrove then described the organizational activities around, and to develop, logic models, as well as their application in the organization's strategic planning implementation. Mike and staff explained that logic models are not new concepts, but are being adopted more consistently, and now by Energy Trust, to help organize thinking around an organization's goals. They are a tool to help understand the overall theory of change that a program is attempting to realize. Mike discussed the next steps in the process, including the development of logic models for each program and the subsequent stakeholder workshops.

### Executive Session

The board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:20 p.m. to discuss matters pursuant to Bylaws section 3.19.1 for a discussion of internal personnel matters.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Energy Trust Board of Directors** will be held Wednesday, March 26, 2025, hybrid on zoom and at . at Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., 421 SW Oak Street, Suite 300, Portland, Oregon.

Signed by:

*Eric Hayes*

3/26/2025

Signed: Eric Hayes Date