

**Western Community Energy
Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and
Technical Advisory Committee
June 12, 2019
Summary Minutes**

Item 4.A

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Chair Ben Benoit at WRCOG's Office, Citrus Conference Room.

Board of Directors present:

Todd Rigby, City of Eastvale (1:03 p.m. arrival)
Bonnie Wright, 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:

Bryan Jones, City of Eastvale
Andy Okoro, City of Norco
Clara Miramontes, City of Perris

Staff present:

Steve DeBaun, Legal Counsel, Best Best & Krieger
Barbara Spoonhour, WRCOG Deputy Executive Director - Operations
Andrew Ruiz, WRCOG Interim Chief Financial Officer
Janis Leonard, WRCOG Administrative Services Manager
Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager
Suzy Nelson, WRCOG Administrative Assistant

Guests present:

Ryan Baron, Best Best & Krieger

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Bonnie Wright led the Board and Committee members and staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. MINUTES - (Perris / Norco) 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 4.A was approved. The City of Canyon Lake was not present.

- A. Summary Minutes from the April 10, 2019, Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee are Available for Consideration.

Action: 1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the April 10, 2019, Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR - (Hemet / Jurupa Valley) 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Items 5.A - 5.F were approved. The City of Canyon Lake was not present.

A. Financial Summary Update

Action: 1. Received and filed.

B. Single Signature Authority Report

Action: 1. Received and filed.

C. Program Schedule Update

Action: 1. Received and filed.

D. Marketing and Outreach Activities Update

Action: 1. Received and filed.

E. Regulatory and Legislative Update

Action: 1. Adopted an "Oppose" position to Assembly Bill 56 (Garcia) and directed staff to transmit correspondence to the author.

F. Update on Portfolio Manager and Scheduling Coordinator

Action: 1. Received and filed.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Draft Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Agency Budget

Andrew Ruiz reported that given that a launch date has not yet been determined, the presented draft budget only contains funding for staff, consultants, and office expenses. Once a launch date is determined, the budget will change significantly, at which time a budget amendment will be presented.

Action: 1. Approved the Draft Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Agency Budget.

(Perris / Norco) 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 6.A was approved. The City of Canyon Lake was not present.

B. Voter / Ratepayer Survey Results

Barbara Spoonhour introduced Adam Probolsky, President of Probolsky Research, which completed the Desert Community Energy Ratepayer Survey. For the purpose of WCE's survey, a voter data base was used. If Board members desire additional detailed information on their respective jurisdiction, Mr. Probolsky can obtain it.

Mr. Probolsky reported that a uniquely comprehensive survey for WCE was completed, as well as individual surveys for each of the cities. A total of 300 surveys were completed with a margin error of +/- 5%. Consumers were contacted via both land lines and cell phones; 73% of the respondents were reached on their cell phones. The survey was made available in English and Spanish for both online and telephone access; 6.3% chose Spanish, and nearly 2% requested it in Chinese.

When asked what the top concern in their community was, some of the most popular one-word

responses included public safety and drugs, poverty and homelessness, and transportation. The most important item not on the list is a majority, 40% - 60%, for any one item; there is no over-arching problem or concern.

When asked about their familiarity with WCE, 8.5% of those surveyed had heard of WCE; this is a good number.

When asked if they supported their City Council in participating in WCE, 59% said they support it; 9% said they oppose it and many who were not sure. When looking at the 59% of those who support it, 62% indicated they strongly support and when looking at the 9% that oppose, 71% of that 9% strongly oppose.

When broken down by community, a majority of consumers in total support their City Council in participating in WCE.

Most favored having a local board overseeing WCE versus an agency in San Francisco. Approximately one-third of those who were initially unsure, are now in favor if WCE were overseen by a local board.

When told of the idea of reinvesting rate payer money locally, 63% liked this idea. Of those who were initially unsure, 46% are now more supportive based upon the idea of locally reinvesting.

Regarding more renewable energy, 61% expressed interest; 43% of those who were initially unsure were more supportive.

In reducing greenhouse gas emissions, 58% are more likely to support the program, and 10% to 11% of those who were not supportive changed their opinion, and more than one-third of those who were initially unsure were more supportive.

With regard to improving the local economy by investing in projects which create local jobs, 61% were likely to support, 18% of those who initially were not supportive changed their opinion, and 39% of those who were unsure became supportive.

When half of the sampling surveyed were asked if they would pay 4% to 6% more for 100% renewable energy, while still having the option for a 35% renewable energy, approximately 27% indicated they would, while 41% indicated they would not nearly one-third indicated they were not sure. When the other half of the sampling surveyed were asked if they would pay \$4 to \$6 more for 100% renewable energy, 35% of the consumers who initially said no then supported this.

When asked if they could save any amount on their electricity bill without any risk, 69% indicated they would take the opportunity. This is a big number.

61% prefer to have their energy rates set locally instead of by state regulators in northern California. 65% support the option for energy sources versus having Southern California Edison as the only option.

Corruption and lack of trust is the number one reason for non-support.

Giving people choices and offering competition is the number one reason for support.

Technical Advisory Committee Member Andy Okoro asked what the sampling size for each city was.

Mr. Probolsky responded 300 overall, and 300 in each of the cities.

Action: 1. Received and filed.

7. CLOSED SESSION

There were no reportable items.

8. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara Spoonhour, on behalf of the Executive Director, had nothing to report.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

11. NEXT MEETING : The next Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at 1:00 p.m., at Western Riverside Council of Governments, Citrus Conference Room, 3390 University Avenue, Suite 450, Riverside.

12. ADJOURNMENT : The Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 1:52 p.m.