

# Board Meeting Minutes—209th Meeting

April 12, 2023

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

**Board members absent:** Eric Hayes, Melissa Cribbins, Peter Therkelsen

**Staff attending:** Abby Spegman, Amanda Potter, Amanda Sales, Amanda Thompson, Amber Cole, Betsy Kauffman, Cheryl Gibson, Cheryle Easton, Chris Dunning, Danielle Rhodes, Dave Modal, Debbie Menashe, Elaine Dado, Emma Clark, Fred Gordon, Greg Stokes, Hannah Cruz, Ian Bogley, Jay Ward, Jeni Hall, Julianne Thacher, Karen Chase, Kyle Petrocine, Laura Schaefer, Lizzie Rubado, Melanie Bissonnette, Mia Deonate, Michael Fritz, Michelle Spampinato, Michael Colgrove, Natalia Ojeda, Ryan Cook, Sarah Castor, Scott Clark, Scott Swearingen, Shelly Carlton, Sloan Schang, Steve Lacey, Sue Fletcher, Taylor Ford, Thad Roth, Tracy Scott, Wendy Gibson

**Others attending:** Brian Mayfield (CLEARresult), Bridgett Wheeler (Coquille Tribe), Brook Landon (CLEARresult), Chris Smith (Energy 350), Jack Strother-Blood (Moss Adams), Julie Davies O'Shea (FCA Solutions), Lisa Littleton (TRC Companies), Lisa McGarity (Avista Corp.), Randy Hastings (DThree), Ross Finney (RHT Energy), Scott Morris (RHT Energy), Scott Simpson (Moss Adams), Wendy Campos (Moss Adams),

## Business Meeting

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Board President Henry Lorenzen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and explained that the meeting is conducted in a hybrid manner, with virtual participation via Zoom. Public comments will be taken later, and the Zoom platform will be used for those comments. Henry also introduced Danielle Rhodes, who will be replacing Cheryle Easton as Board Services Administration Manager upon Cheryle's retirement in August.

## General Public Comments

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There were no public comments.

## President's Report

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Henry Lorenzen's report focused on the challenges facing the electric utilities as the state works to meet significant carbon reductions goals, with requirements that utilities reduce carbon emissions by 30%. These reductions and the implications for the utility system has significant implications for Energy Trust. Energy efficiency measures are more and more important, especially those that can assist in addressing system capacity challenges.

Henry asked the board to consider and focus on how the organization identifies its desired outcomes and how it measures its achievements. Henry stressed that the board should keep in mind that the organization uses resources for both efforts and for outcomes. Some activities resourced by the organization currently will result in outcomes in the future, but it is always important for the board to press to identify desired outcomes and ways to measure whether those are achieved, both in the short term and beyond.

Henry then asked the board to consider the Consent Agenda. Henry reminded the board that consent agenda items can be changed to regular agenda items at any time.

## Consent Agenda

*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.*

**MOTION: Approve consent agenda, with correction to February 8, 2023 minutes as noted by Thelma Fleming on page 7 regarding correcting the spelling of “board.”**

Consent agenda includes:

- February 8, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- March 07, 2023, Board Workshop Minutes
- March 08, 2023, Board Meeting & Workshop Minutes

Moved by: Roland Risser

Seconded by: Silvia Tanner

Vote: In favor: 7

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

## Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Michael Colgrove outlined the topics to be covered in his Executive Director Report: Innovation and Development Group Update, Community Based Organization (CBO) Engagement Update, Commercial and Industrial Program Activity, and Rural Engagement Update.

### Innovation and Development (InnDev) Group Update

Lizzie Rubado, Director of Energy Trust’s Innovation and Development Services (Inn/Dev) group introduced her team and described the group’s focus. Lizzie noted that the foundation for the focus of the Innovation and Development Services group is Focus Areas #4 and #5 of the Energy Trust 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, which call for leveraging additional funding to support Energy Trust’s core work and working efficiently.

The InnDev group is focused on identifying and seeking new funding sources that can help to provide additional resources to advance Energy Trust’s work and state energy policy and to overcome current challenges in Energy Trust’s program delivery. In addition to seeking funding directly, the InnDev group can reach out to organizations who may also be eligible and provide support to them in completing necessary funding application materials. Examples of challenges faced are to provide enough support to customers for safe and comfortable homes and provide more accessibility to services to rural customers. Lizzie described a number of specific funding and rebate opportunities.

Lizzie noted that the InnDev group is not focused on funding for work that is not consistent with Energy Trust’s current core purpose or beyond its current service territory. Expanding beyond that work could be part of the development of the next strategic plan.

Board members asked a number of questions, including about the intersection of health and air quality funding and the way in way those areas intersection with Energy Trust’s work. Board members also asked questions about programs for low income customers and urged the group not to duplicate efforts. Lizzie explained that the group’s focus is to identify the right delivery channel for each type of customer and to make sure that all customers are being reached, whether it’s by Energy Trust’s various delivery channels or through other agencies like the Community Action Partnerships across the state. Layering various funding sources is a way to support all customers, and the InnDev group is focused on doing this work efficiently.

The board requested that Lizzie provide a year-end report on the InnDev group, with focus on achievements and not only efforts, noting that such a report will be important and helpful to the board as it considers this work in the coming year and in the next strategic plan.

### **CBO Engagement Activity**

Michael Colgrove gave a brief update on Energy Trust's work with CBOs. Energy Trust works closely with CBOs, learning from their experience, particularly about customers Energy Trust has not served well in the past. CBO's have trusted relationships with the communities they serve and because of that they are good program delivery partners. Energy Trust currently tracks approximately 120 CBO relationships across its service territories. Examples of our engagement are through sponsorships, like a sponsorship of an event for the Black Business Association of Oregon, and tabling at events such as the APANO Small Business Resource Fair.

### **Commercial and Industrial Activity**

Michael updated the board on activity in the commercial and industrial programs. Michael described how the organization is tracking data on projects and incentives. Currently the Existing Programs program in the Commercial sector drives most savings, but the Production Efficiency Program for industrial customers drives more savings in the eastern and southern parts of Oregon. Michael described how the organization also tracks program penetration in terms of urban or rural locations.

Michael further described how Energy Trust connects with community partners in the commercial and industrial programs. One example is a customer connection made through Sustainable Northwest. Through Sustainable Northwest, Energy Trust was able to provide irrigation incentives to the Duncan family farm located near the Sprague River.

### **Rural Activity**

Michael then introduced Karen Chase, Energy Trust Senior Community Strategies Manager, and Scott Morris, Existing Buildings and Multifamily Energy Advisor with RHT Energy. Karen and Scott described Energy Trust's no-cost-to-customer heat pump installation offer. The offer is delivered by Energy Trust's Existing Building program, initially in rural Klamath County. The pilot is focused on sites with unsafe and highly inefficient housing units in areas of high poverty. Karen and Scott presented a series of slides showing pictures of the pilot delivery and providing insight into the significant improvement in safety, comfort, and efficiency in the housing units where the heat pumps were installed.

Michael and board members thanked Scott and Karen for their presentation and their important efforts. Board members asked questions about the reach of the pilot, including to renters. Ruchi Sadhir, of ODOE, noted that Karen and Lizzie Rubado are coordinating with ODOE to leverage ODOE community development funding for heat pump installations and support for renters.

Anna Kim, OPUC liaison to Energy Trust, expressed her great appreciation for Karen and Scott and the program's work on this pilot. Anna noted that this pilot identifies the way to deliver this kind of benefit to customers in need so that as additional funding is available through the federal IRA or elsewhere, Oregon and Energy Trust will be ready to deploy.

## **Business Meeting**

### **Finance & Audit Committee**

At the last Finance & Audit Committee meeting, Moss Adams representatives presented details on Energy Trust's annual financial audit. As part of the Finance & Audit Committee's report out to the full board, Scott Simpson, Jack Strother-Blood, and Wendy Campos of Moss Adams did a similar presentation for the full board. Scott Simpson, primary audit partner for Energy Trust, was the primary presenter on behalf of the Moss Adams team. Scott reported that the audit resulted in the issuance of



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## General Public Comments

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There were no public comments.

## 2023 Legislative update

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Hannah Cruz, Jay Ward, Senior Stakeholder Relations and Policy Managers, and Natalia Ojeda. Stakeholder Relations and Policy Group Specialist presented information to the board on the current Oregon 2023 Legislative Session. Hannah, Jay, and Natalia highlighted bills and activities covered in more detail in the briefing paper provided to the board as part of the meeting pre-read materials. Of particular note was information on HB 2531 which would prohibit the sale of fluorescent lamps and linear CFLs in the next two years. This change would have significant impact to Energy Trust's lighting program. Other bills highlighted by the Stakeholder Relations and Policy team were HB 3166 to develop a "one-stop shop" at ODOE for navigation of Inflation Reduction Act funding opportunities, bills emerging out of the REBuild Task force, including bills on healthy heating and cooling and new building design standards.

The team noted that approximately 300 bills are queued for review by the Joint Ways and Means Committee. At the next board meeting, the group will return to provide more information on the status of those bills. Also relevant to Legislative action will be state revenue forecasts which will be updated at the time of the next board meeting.

The board thanked Hannah, Jay, and Natalia for their excellent and informative report.

## Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) Annual Irrigation Modernization Program (IMP) Update

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Julie Davies O'Shea and Dave Moldal and Betsy Kauffman presenting on the IMP

Dave Moldal, Energy Trust Senior Program Manager-Renewable Energy, Betsy Kauffman, Renewable Energy Sector Lead, and Julie Davies O'Shea, Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) Executive Director, provided an update to the board on the Energy Trust/FCA Irrigation Modernization Program.

Dave Moldal provided background on the program, which was launched by Energy Trust with FCA in 2015. The key objective of the Energy Trust program is to help irrigation districts complete system modernization feasibility studies to enable districts to apply for and receive federal funding for system piping. Modernization of irrigation districts has many benefits, including water and energy savings and potentially generation of in-pipe hydropower. Since its inception, every dollar from Energy Trust has leveraged at least \$17 in federal dollars.

Julie Davies O'Shea thanked Energy Trust and the board for supporting the program, noting that more than \$200 million has come into Oregon because of Energy Trust's work and investment. She explained that the model is being replicated all over the United States. Showing a video about the program, Julie noted that the program is also leveraged to help with community resiliency in that irrigation modernization can be coordinated with internet cable expansion, electric vehicle charging, and other infrastructure benefits to rural communities.

Board members expressed great appreciation for the program and asked questions to confirm that the program supports Energy Trust's funding utilities.

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## **Committee Reports**

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### ***Compensation & Human Resources Committee***

Debbie Menashe, Director of Legal and Human Resources, reported on the last Compensation & Human Resources Committee by referring to the notes provided in the board packet. Debbie highlighted that the committee reviewed the Energy Trust 401K plan performance, employee retirement planning education efforts, and updates that may impact the 401K plan that come out of the Secure Act 2.0.

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

Michael Colgrove reported on the last ad hoc Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. The committee discussed planning for upcoming board and committee workshops on DEI topics.

### ***Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)***

Hannah Cruz, Energy Trust staff liaison to the CAC reported out. Hannah noted that at the CAC's February meeting, Noemi Ortiz of Northwest Natural Gas, and Charity Fain, of Community Energy Project, were welcomed as new CAC members. At the meeting, CAC members expressed interest in learning more from the board as the board addresses the role and purpose of advisory councils.

Hannah explained that the meeting was informational, with presentations to the CAC on the recently adopted OPUC equity metrics, landlord provided cooling space program offerings, and new funding and its impact on CAC member's organizations.

### ***Diversity Advisory Council (DAC)***

Michael Colgrove, who has stepped in as staff liaison to the DAC since Tyrone Henry's departure from Energy Trust, reported on the most recent DAC meeting and referred board members to the notes in the board packet. At the last meeting Melissa Cribbins and Henry Lorenzen reported on board DEI activities emerging out of the board's ad hoc DEI Committee. Michael noted also that the DAC will welcome two new members, recently approved by the Nominating & Governance Committee, at its next meeting: Christopher Banks and Rhea Standing Rock.

### ***Renewable Energy Advisory Council (RAC)***

Betsy Kauffman and Bayo Ware, staff liaisons to the RAC reported on the last RAC meeting, referring board members to the RAC meeting notes in the board packet. At that meeting, Alan Bean was welcomed as a new member and the RAC discussed its role and the role of the advisory councils as a follow-up to the board's discussion at its last meeting. RAC members also discussed the new OPUC equity metrics, focusing on the metrics that are directly focused on the work of the Renewables team: Energy Trust's solar ambassador initiative, its focus on low-to-moderate income customers, and solar plus storage incentives.

The meeting then adjourned to Executive Session for the board to take up internal personnel matters pursuant to Energy Trust bylaws 3.19.1

Following the executive session, President Henry Lorenzen reconvened the public board meeting and proposed approval of a performance merit salary increase for Executive Director Michael Colgrove. By roll call vote, the board approved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 1001  
APPROVING MERIT AWARD INCREASE FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**WHEREAS:**

1. **Energy Trust's Executive Director Review Committee completed its evaluation of Michael Colgrove's performance for the 2022 work plan and performance period.**
2. **An evaluation of Michael's performance compared to his 2022 work plan goals and competencies have been met and demonstrated. Michael is well-regarded by the board of directors, Energy Trust staff and stakeholders.**
3. **The Executive Director Review Committee considered the following in proposing a merit increase from the review:**
  - a. **Energy Trust's existing salary structure and Michael's current salary position in that range.**
  - b. **Periodic survey and market analysis of comparable position salaries.**

**It is therefore RESOLVED:**

**The Board of Directors authorizes a merit award increasing Executive Director Michael Colgrove's salary by 15% effective January 1, 2023.**

Moved by: Susan Brodahl

Seconded by: Anne Hawthorn Root


Vote: In favor: 7

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

**Adjourn the meeting**

Henry Lorenzen adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Signed: Eric Hayes

7/17/2023 /  
Date

**The next regular meeting of the Energy Trust Board of Directors** will be held Wednesday, June 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. hybrid on Zoom and in Coos Bay, location to be determined.