

**PORTLAND CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND (PCEF)**

**GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

**February 16, 2023 • 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting—Zoom Call & PCC Southeast Campus Community Hall**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>
Dr. Megan Horst	Co-Chair	Associate Professor, School of Urban Studies & Planning at Portland State University	Yes
Ranfis Villatoro	Co-Chair	Oregon State Policy Manager, BlueGreen Alliance	Yes
Shanice Brittany Clarke	Member-at-Large	Director of Community Engagement, Portland Public Schools	No
Faith Graham	Member-at-Large	Principal Director, West Coast Strategy and Development, Elevate Energy	Yes
Maria Gabrielle Sipin	Member-at-Large	Technical Assistance Manager, Safe Routes Partnership	Yes
Michael Edden Hill	Member-at-Large	Community Member	Yes
Robin Wang	Member-at-Large	Vibrant Future LLC	Yes
June Reyes	Community Engagement Coordinator	PCEF Staff	Yes
Sam Baraso	Program Manager	PCEF	Yes
Cady Lister	Deputy Program Director	PCEF	Yes
Jaimes Valdez	Org. Development & Policy Manger	PCEF	Yes
Elizabeth Stover	Senior Communications Strategist	PCEF	Yes
Tracy M. Smith	Facilitator	Inhance LLC	Yes
Camerina Galván	Notetaker	Galvan Consulting LLC	Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Ciara Pressler, Pregame; Chris Rhoads; Ali Berman; Kalium Yazzie; Erica Porras; Gayle Palmer; Randy Feldhaus; Arthur Davis; Wade Seaborn, City of Hood River; Cory Hawbecker; Dude; Jeff Lane; Jason Ford; Valeria McWilliams; Brooke Crews, Sauvie Island School Parent; Jenni Hall; Virginia Wiltshire-Gordon; Ada.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

- Tracy M. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.
- The quorum was met.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Ada provided public comment regarding the following points:
  - More than three minutes is needed for public comment.
  - She would like CIP to be a community-led process and to see more people of color involved in the community meetings.
  - She is glad to see a transparent strategic approach and feels the priorities could be improved to focus on resourcing cultural groups. She recommends listening to stories and learning from the lived experience of cultural communities.
  - There can be improvements in communications using the media and newspapers.
  - Connections between the current climate plan, local government, and nonprofits are needed. Most nonprofits are small and need help with staff retention and finances. This excludes a group of people, particularly working families, from engagement.
  - She would like to be involved in the CIP process.
- Sam Baraso invited Ada to leave her contact information.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** PCEF staff will follow up with Ada.

### **UPDATE: ELIZABETH STOVER INTRODUCTION: SAM BARASO, PCEF STAFF**

- Elizabeth Stover is the new PCEF Senior Communication Strategist.

### **UPDATE: CLIMATE INVESTMENT PLAN (CIP) COMMITTEE BRIEFING TIMELINE UPDATE: SAM BARASO, PCEF STAFF**

- The Resilient Community Hub briefings will be during the March 2023 and April 2023 small group meetings.
- A second committee meeting will be scheduled between June 2023 and July 2023.

### **UPDATE: DISABILITY INCLUSION IN CIP: JUNE REYES, PCEF STAFF, AND SAM BARASO, PCEF STAFF**

- June Reyes shared what PCEF has done, is doing, and will do to include the disability community in PCEF programming and the CIP development process.
- Sam Baraso shared five questions that can co-create solutions for disability inclusion and asked the public to engage in the process and stay updated.
- Sam Baraso asked the committee, "What feels like a cadence? How can we deepen our dialogue with the committee?"
  - A committee member appreciated the update and the way the efforts were framed. Updates every couple of months would be helpful, along with asking the committee members, "Where do you see ways to deepen improvements and connections?"
- A committee member asked the PCEF staff to share learnings or a barrier that was removed to make the funding more accessible.
  - Response: PCEF core underlying systems were set up precisely for accessibility, and continued modifications are being made for improvement.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** More details on the nuances can be shared in a small group setting.

- A committee member asked if the Office of Equity and Human Rights has been involved in these conversations.
  - Response: PCEF staff has regular communication with them for feedback and advice.
- A committee member asked if people from the disability community are being engaged in conversations regarding workforce development.
  - Response: This is an area that needs the most work. Engagement with groups with this expertise will continue. This is work the City needs to get better at doing.
- A community member asked how PCEF engages unhoused populations, agencies, and older adults.
  - Response: Much of this occurs at roundtables and with grantees such as Central City Concerns or Street Roots, who provide feedback on Resilient Community Hubs and affordable housing. One grantee, Community Vision, is doing a research project to develop workforce opportunities and employers for the disability community in the green sector. There is input around the accessibility of funding and ensuring housing projects incorporate disability justice tenants and accessibility. Conversations are starting regarding the disability community within the workforce contracting agreement that is part of all PCEF grant agreements.

**CIP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE: JUNE REYES, PCEF STAFF**

- June Reyes shared photos from in-person and virtual engagement events and shared the number of participants at events.
- The following steps include developing a preliminary draft for review. Two community review panels will be established—one focused on youth and the other on frontline communities. Panel recruitment has started. There are two in-person and one virtual event scheduled for March 2023. The online survey will open mid through the end of March 2023.
- Feedback received is that people would like to help promote events. Flyers are ready for distribution.

**CIP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND COMMITTEE GUIDANCE: CIARA PRESSLER, PREGAME**

- Ciara Pressler provided an overview of the CIP development plan. The process is in the community engagement phase. She reviewed the role of the committee and the PCEF staff before a meeting, during a committee meeting, during small group meetings, and individually.
- Ten strategic programs will be reviewed twice by committee members. The first time to provide feedback is in the committee meetings. The second opportunity will be through an optional feedback form. PCEF staff will follow up regarding the feedback submitted through the form.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** The link to the feedback form will be reshared with the committee.
- Committee members will wait to ask questions or provide feedback until after the meeting. Their input and questions will be captured in real-time and organized into a chart to ensure follow-up is done.
- When reviewing the strategic project draft, committee members will be asked two questions (listed below) and will use the feedback form to raise other questions, comments, or anything unaddressed.
  - Is this in alignment with our Guiding Principles?

- Are you concerned about this approach's feasibility or alignment with the City's carbon reduction goals?
- A committee member asked if no feedback pre-meeting is a hard rule.
  - Response: Yes, so the process is productive and organized.
- A committee member asked if there would be a need to hold longer meetings given the volume of information.
  - Response: Today's meeting is going until 8:30 PM, and we are looking into venues that allow for ending meetings past 9:00 PM.
- The community member would not like to have weekday meetings end past 9 PM and suggested holding weekend meetings.
- A committee member asked if they could provide feedback on questions 1-3 using the form after the meeting.
  - Response: Yes, including questions 4 and 5 using the feedback form.

**STRATEGIC PROGRAM 1: CLEAN ENERGY IN NEW AND REDEVELOPED REGULATED MULTIFAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING: CADY LESTER, PCEF STAFF**

- Cady Lester presented on Strategic Program 1: Clean Energy in New and Redeveloped Regulated Multifamily Affordable Housing.
- Committee member comments and questions:
  - Is the intent of the market study to recommend utilization goals to the committee, or is the study's purpose of stating what is currently happening in the market?
    - Response: The study won't tell us the goals. It will be one of the many pieces that will help inform a recommendation to the committee.
  - A committee member feels that mainly contractors have been engaged and advises that more laborers and workers be engaged.
  - It would be helpful for a committee member to know the math. How much will material cost, contractor expenses, and labor expenses cost? What will be the cost of additional materials and time? The answer to these questions will help the committee member understand the balance of the benefits provided.
  - Regarding feasibility, a committee member is concerned about a wave of change orders and inflation. How much is the cost going to inflate?
  - A committee member feels the strategic program in written form needs to have goals. She doesn't get a sense of what will be achieved. How many buildings and units? How many people will be benefiting? What will be their monthly saving cost? The recommendation is to state annual and five-year goals and track them.
    - Response: We do need to have goals and not just metrics. The challenge for phase one projects is that those projects are either already under construction or nearly ready to start building. There are opportunities to do some things but not to redesign project elements. PCEF staff has identified a list of eligible investment measures that reduce green gas emissions, reduce energy use, and improve indoor air quality, which can be added to the projects. In phase two, PCEF staff are working with technical consultants to identify what is

a realistic goal given the cost of project implementation. Clear goals will be established for emission reductions. The development of goals is still in process. There will be clear goals in terms of emission reductions. It will be a range and will be fine-tuned over time.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Cady Lester will share with committee members where the units will be located and how many people they are intended to house.
- A committee member asked if PCEF staff could tell more descriptive stories about the priorities. Will it house multigenerational households, people who have larger households, and renters with expanded configurations? Will it match their family needs or meet only the profile of a specific type of low-income renter? It would be beneficial to illustrate who will benefit on top of the equity prioritizations.
- A committee asked for examples of how the projects will look.

#### **STRATEGIC PROGRAM 2: EQUITABLE TREE CANOPY: JAIMES VALDEZ, PCEF STAFF**

- Jaimes Valdez presented on Strategic Program 2: Equitable Tree Canopy.
- Committee member comments and questions:
  - It would be helpful to know the scale. What is the average Portland tree planting now compared to this plan? How will they be stored? Will you need additional capacity for procurement? Were these considerations built into the budget? How will we partner with government agencies with access to public spaces?
    - Response: About 3,000 street trees are planted yearly, and the strategic program would be additive. It would be a significant scale-up and will ramp up slowly. We'll work with partners to identify local tree sources. Oregon exports many trees, and the contracts are locked up for now. There is great interest in school tree planting, an independent body of work outside this program. The care and storage will be built out as the rollout occurs.
  - With the heat response program, we ran into logistic and scale issues. There appear to be similarities here.
  - Will the trees burden low-income communities 20 years later due to care or maintenance?
    - Response: We will build into the program income-qualified households support to provide tree care. Initially, we haven't considered leaf raking. We've mostly been discussing tree care that will prolong the tree's life. Part of the conversation is selecting the correct type of trees and determining the proper distribution for the urban canopy. A workgroup will be needed.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Jaimes Valdez will add leaf raking to the list of considerations.
  - One inequity a committee member is concerned with is creating conditions hostile to pedestrians or unhoused people as unintended consequences.

#### **STRATEGIC PROGRAM 3: COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO) CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FRAMEWORK: ANGELA PREVIDELLI, PCEF STAFF**

- Angela Previdelli presented on Strategic Program 3: CBO Capacity Building.
- Committee member questions and comments:

- Is it feasible to provide tailored technical capacity-building services? Will consultants provide the services, or will it be staff? The right mix of skills will be needed. What assessment have you done regarding this?
  - Response: The procurement process is being developed. The needs of grantees will align with the services PCEF can provide. Angela Previdelli can't speak to the services PCEF will provide.
- Is this program replacing the current small grants program and the current capacity-building grants?
  - Response: No, it is additive. Other grantees will tap into the contracts and services as needed.
- PCEFF staff need to articulate that grantees in this cohort must have greenhouse gas reduction outcomes.
  - Response: In the materials, PCEF staff is making the connection clear. How staff will ask about this in the eligibility process is still taking shape.
- A committee member asked if there have been discussions with community-based organizations (CBO) about the funding used for general operating support instead.
  - Response: PCEF is balancing operating funding and capacity building. Each organization will receive \$25,000 in operational funding annually. In roundtables, CBOs shared that they would benefit from PCEF holding contracts they can tap into. They want PCEF to be involved in the service provider component to bypass the procurement process.
- What will the selection process look like?
  - Response: It is currently unknown. The intention and the objectives will be determined first, followed by designing the selection process.

**MINI-GRANT UPDATE: ANGELA PREVIDELLI, PCEF STAFF**

- Angela Previdelli provided an update on the PCEF Mini-Grant Program.
- Committee member questions and comments:
  - Committee members feel the update provided the right level of information.
  - Why were only 97 grantees funded?
    - Response: It is due to staff capacity. As staff capacity grows, the number of grantees funded will increase.
  - Will transportation-oriented mini-grant applications be more eligible with the addition of transportation decarbonization as a focus area?
    - Response: Some mini-grant transportation projects have been funded. Angela Previdelli anticipates more will apply and be funded with the added focus area.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:23 PM.**

**NEXT MEETING:** The next hybrid meeting will be Thursday, March 16, 2022, 6:00 PM—9:00 PM

Submitted by Camerina Galván, Notetaker, Galvan Consulting LLC.