



ENRAC Agenda – Agenda

April 10, 2024 4:00 – 5:30pm

Attendees

Members: Michael Hughes, Deb Merchant, Damilola Olajubutu, Jackson Rheuben, and Sydney Tamplin
Excused: Kanchan Ojha, Milt Roselinsky, & Jason Schindler
Staff/Guests: Sean McGuire, Benton County Staff; Dan Orzech, Oregon Clean Power Co-Op

Welcome – Deb Merchant

4:00

- *Opened Meeting*
- *Icebreaker Question: Jackson Rheuben – What skills would you like to build in the near future? Milt Roselinsky will provide Icebreaker for May.*
- *Approved March Minutes*

Member Introductions – All Members

- *Each Member briefly introduced themselves, shared why they joined ENRAC & their interests, and stated expertise or attributes that they feel will help ENRAC.*

Group Updates – Deb Merchant

- *Members shared upcoming events & Member updates*

Action Item Updates – Deb Merchant

- *Carbon Offset Program & Needs for Benton County – Sean shared that the Program is a great resource for our communities. Though, the scale of the Program will not meet the needs to adequately offset County emissions.*
- *Seeds for the Sol & Potential Benton County Revolving Fund – Sean shared that he & Julie Williams developed a one-pager for distribution.*
 - ↳ *Sean Action Item: Meet with Julie & Staff to pursue viability*
- *Methods for Outreach to Rural Areas – One initiative for ENRAC to pursue is outreach to rural areas. Specifically, broadening the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition’s Shift Together campaign.*
 - ↳ *Sydney Action Item: Research messaging in rural areas to build trust.*
 - ↳ *Sean Action Item: Talk with PIO staff on outreach opportunities & messaging approaches to disseminate information & build trust.*
 - ↳ *Deb Action Item: Next steps to engage rural Benton County.*

Planning & Zoning for Solar Generation – Dan Orzech

Dan Orzech, Oregon Clean Power Co-Op, presented on solar farm opportunities in the rural areas. Years ago, private solar farms popped up in the valley, and groups were concerned that lands would be lost to solar farms. Legislature passed a law barring solar farms on high-grade land, which is the entire Willamette Valley. Dan is on an Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD) committee looking at this issue. However, some Counties read the law differently than Benton County's interpretation.

Options include to put solar farms on other lands. Examples include Corvallis Public Works, WinCo, and regionally within the Pacific Power grid. Questions came up about agri-voltaics. Discussion addressed asking Community Development on interpretation of the law, and Sean suggested ENRAC develop a list of specific questions for Community Development to respond.

Benton County Updates – Sean McGuire

In speaking with ENRAC members, Sean will provide brief monthly updates on Benton County activities, initiatives, & priorities.

- *ENRAC Membership & Leadership*
- *Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Coordinator*
- *Benton County Government GHG Emissions & Climate Action Plan*
- *Sustainable Materials Management Plan*
- *Topics from Members*

Future Meetings, Wrap-Up, & Next Steps

- *May Meeting – In-Person?*
- *Review Action Items & Follow-Ups; Next Month's Topic; &/or Identify Speaker/s*

Adjourn

5:30