DRAFT

MINUTES

REAP Business Meeting

May 12, 2022

12:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID# 615-031-3051

The monthly meeting of the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Kirk Holwell.

The following Board Members were present:

Loretta Daniel	Mark Harding	Kirk Holwell	Frank Linnebur
Gary May	Becky Zierer		

Guests attending were:

Kendra	Davis	Arapahoe County
Gilbert	Flores	Xcel Energy
Julio	Iturreria	Citizen
Steve	Loeffler	CDOT
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Sara	O'Keefe	Xcel Energy
Justin	Reyher	Beacon Realty
Gretchen	Ricehill	Arapahoe County
Ethan	Rowe	Adams County
Gisselle	Rowe	I-70 CCoC
Ashley	Valdez	Xcel Energy
Steven	Vetter	I-70 Scout

Approval of April 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman Report:

Kirk Holwell welcomed guest and speakers.

Guest Speakers – Ashley Valdez, Area Manager Community & Local Governmental Affairs & Gilbert Flores, Regional Transmission Planner

The Colorado's Power Pathway covers 14 counties, it's a $1.7 – $2 billion dollar investment and is a new double-circuit 345-kilovolt electric transmission line. It's about 560 miles divided into 5 segments. These segments include 3 new and 4 expanded sub-stations, there is also potential for new sub-stations near the existing Tundra Station down in the Pueblo area. This is a great investment for the energy future in Colorado and the growing needs on the energy front. This transmission loop enhances the system reliability and can withstand loss of one transmission path without interrupting power flow and allows for wind and solar generation diversity on the system. The first section in-service in 2025 to take advantage of Production Tax Credits. Segment 1 is looking to be in place by 2026. Segments 4 & 5 from southern Colorado and heading back up to the Denver area would be an in-service date of 2027. There are benefits to an electrical system like this. There are energy benefits and community benefits as well. Eastern Colorado is one of the best places for wind and solar and new transmission lines encourage the construction of wind and solar path plans to bring more low-cost electricity and helps the needs of our growing state. The Colorado Power Pathway also supports Xcel's green energy plan and will add approximately 5,000 megawatts of new wind, solar and other resource through 2030 to enable the state's transition to clean energy. It meets the company's goal of 80% lower carbon emissions by 2030 and the needs of a growing community with reliability and affordability. There was a mandate through the state legislature to be at that 80% lower carbon emissions by 2030 so this project will help to get to that goal. The transmission on the Eastern plains primarily serves local needs and it's nearly full due to the existing generation that is expected to come online in 2024. It also adds additional capacity for resources to bring on-line. The benefits to the community are the creation of jobs and revenue, both temporary and permanent jobs related to the project. There is lease revenue that comes with the project and increased tax revenue. As Xcel adds the new renewable regeneration into the system, this project supports those resources to come on-line and there is a tremendous amount of tax revenue that comes from that as well. There is an increase in reliability of the electric grid for all users and availability for new renewable energy projects. This project does require approval from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a certificate of public needs and necessity. In 2021 Xcel took the first step in filing with the PUC, the application can be found on the Public Utilities website in their E filings. Xcel has received verbal approval from the PUC for this project and waiting on written approval. Ashley talked about the study area 5-point process which includes: Defining the study area, suitability analysis, preliminary links, focus areas and revise links and identify preferred routes. Segment 1 is the Fort St. Vrain - Canal Crossing. The major routing and siting considerations are fixed at Fort St. Vrain and Pawnee Canal Crossing with the Platte River to the north. I-76 must be crossed. Dense development to west and oil & gas are throughout most of study area including existing electric and gas lines. Segment 2 is the Canal Crossing – Goose Creek. End points are fixed at Pawnee/Canal Crossing and new Goose Creek substation location to be identified. This is the longest segment which includes four counties, Morgan, Washington, Kit Carson and Cheyenne. The focus area is broader in the north and narrower at I-70 due to limited options to cross the interstate. Segment 3 is the Goose Creek – May Valley. End points are Goose Creek and May Valley substations. Excel has a couple of existing wind generation projects out

here, the Rush Creek Wind project and the Cheyenne Ridge Project that was commissioned a couple of years ago. It has been a great benefit to that community with land leases and tax revenues. It includes the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic site, the Queens State Wildlife Area, conservation easements, the Lesser prairie-chicken habitat, and Big Sandy Creek and associated sensitive resources. Xcel has studied all that as they worked through segment 3. Segment 4 is the May Valley – Tundra. The end points are May Valley over to Tundra, it covers Pueblo, Lincoln, Crowley and Kowa Counties. Xcel is considering and the Stewardship Land Trust. Xcel has worked with landowners and conservation groups to understand their concerns and work through the best way to work through the project. Ashley invited everyone to go to the www.Coloradospowerpathway.com to check out this project further. I know you may have questions about transmissions and grant funding that is available so I will turn it over to Gilbert.

Gilbert Flores: Practically everyone in Xcel has had something to do with this very large project. We look forward to getting this project going and get some of the rich wind and solar renewables that are out there in this part of the state. Unfortunately, there is not technology yet to get from point A to point B without implementing the conventional poles and wires. We do take into consideration in new technologies in span lengths, conductor sizes and the suspensions and tensions to putting a project like this into place. We utilize land on an available route to us most efficiently. To get the most use out of transmission lines we look for utilizing and ambient temperature that may cool the line to allow more energy to run through them. We have an idea of power flow controllers which can manipulate the power flow, if we have a power outage, we can detect it through power sensors that can open and close switches and these things can happen automatically further reducing impacts to the customer. Conductors are advancing with reduced weights and improved capacity allowing for more flow at lower temperatures. The weigh part plays into the amount of structures needed to support that line over long distances. Those are some technologies that are on the fore front. Energy storage utilization we are limited by the characteristics of lithium-ion technology at the moment. We are seeing advancements on the electric vehicle but it's not at the scale we would need to support the system. We are hoping for advancements there scale up to support transmission.

Frank Linnebur: Where are you at with the bids on the Missile Solar Project?

Ashley Flores: I don't have information on that right now. I can tell you the Electric Resource Plan that was filed in 2021, the Power Pathways Plan supports that plan. We are still waiting for approval with the PUC. Once the request for proposal is approved through the PUC we will open it up for request for proposal so I'm not sure if Missile is through that. Ashley asked Frank for contact information so she could get his questions answered.

Kirk Holwell: As part of this transmission line that you are putting in its backup but is it going to take in wind power as well as solar that's coming up through there?

Ashly Flores: Our current system is just at about capacity. In 2018 we did a filing with the PUC and they approved it. It brought on new energy such as solar, we have the Rush Creek Project and Cheyenne Project out east. We have to look at how we are going to get to that 80%, so the Colorado Power Pathway will do that. It's our system but at the same time it all works together. There are times when we purchase power from Tri-State. Tri-State which provides power for the coops, purchases power for

us and the transmission line will be an open source. So, if we have groups that would like to buy into the transmission system to have their generation they certainly can. We will be adding gas generation out at the Pawnee Plant out in Brush and that is transitioning over to gas.

Kirk Holwell: How do you work with landowners, obviously easements, agreements and all of that in place so you have to plan where you go?

Ashley Flores: We start with that 20-mile slot and through the process of elimination we limit it down and we work with landowners. Xcel is the blue golden standard on how we work with landowners. There are agreements that we work with and there are payments that come from those. A transmission is a little different from how you would do a generation resource like a wind turbine, they are a little bit different animals so there are different negations. They both have an economic benefit for the landowner.

Kirk Holwell: How is it weighing in on electric vehicles and that need for power?

Ashley Flores: We have some hefty goals pertaining to that and we have a robust program from working the communities to have these charging stations and fast chargers. We also have consultants that will come in and work with our municipalities and counties on their fleet vehicles or their transition from gas to electric. It's a new frontier for us. Building out that system does not just include the metro area. In rural areas in some cases, you have to go from A and go to N so how do you build that system out and make sure there are charging systems along the way to relieve some of that anxiety.

Frank Linnebur: The wind towers that are in the Hugo area, Rush Creek is that power funneling into the Deer Train Sub-Station?

Ashley Flores: I'm not sure where that feeds in but when we built that project, we did have to build transmission lines down through Elbert County it comes into Deer Trail and there are a few other sub-stations related to the Rush Creek Project.

Gilbert Flores: I'm familiar with Missile Site. It is not a good idea to put several lines in a single corridor it makes for a single event to take out more than one line so that is a liability issue. The distances you would need between two lines, so you don't have arcing over, interference between the two lines, you have to have set distances.

Frank Linnebur: There is something that we call electrical pollution and that's the high voltage lines that we have crossing this country. It's effecting land values and everything else. So, it is one thing to consider when you're trying to bundle electrical power and you have it in place it really doesn't affect people to put more of the same in the same location. When you go all over the country, and you take different routes you are affecting a vast number of more people. It's pollution and nobody wants to look at it.

Ashley Flores: Through the PUC we have an obligation to serve so as we do our routing working with land rights and looking at that we really do consider population areas and work with landowners to make it as minimally impactful as it can be.

Gilbert Flores: That is a big infrastructure bill the DOE announced, it's 420 million to advanced clean energy breakthroughs. That doesn't just include energy it also includes transportation so that's the bulk of it. When you think about electric vehicles, charging stations and infrastructure to support those types of things. Also, buses, commuter electrifications so we can support transportation with electric. Energy

is in there, broadband, water resiliency and the environment. Xcel will be looking at a grant program so where we can, we will be filling out grants to take advantage of some of the programs that are being made available like energy efficiency programs, weatherization and energy conservation. In terms of the grid there are some grid resiliency programs out there, grid hardening to prevent outages and long-term disruptions on the grid. There is wildfire risk reduction, which is the key and important for Colorado, there will be money for that. There are a lot of questions as to how that would be allocated and the requirements to win some of that funding for special projects.

Justin Reyher: I wanted to give a quick update on the Comanche Crossing in Strasburg. We have a total of 19 lots, and we have 11 of them closed or under contract. The road paving is being completed this morning. We are really excited that our 2-acre residential project that has been a couple of years in the making but really excited that things are moving forward.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.