



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

**UP ENERGY TASK FORCE MEETING**

Monday, Oct. 7, 2020; 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Meeting via Microsoft Teams

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attendees:

Liesl Clark  
Mike Prusi  
Tanya Paslawski  
Kris Bowman  
David Camps  
Mike Furmanski  
Jenn Hill  
Douglas Jester

Aaron Johnson  
James Kochevar  
Michael Larson  
Mike Nystrom  
Tony Retaskie  
Dan Scripps  
Roman Sidortsov  
Tonya Swenor

**Welcome, Task Force Business**

Meeting commenced at 1 p.m.

Liesl welcomed everyone and took roll call of the task force members. The following task force business items were shared and managed:

- Liesl commented on the recent Michigan Supreme Court ruling on the Governor's COVID Executive Orders and said the Task Force will continue to meet virtually until further instructions are provided by the Governor or the Legislature.
- Liesl reviewed the agenda. Mike Nystrom moved to approve agenda which was seconded by Dan Scripps. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Tony Retaskie moved to approve the 9/14/20 UP Energy Task Force meeting minutes. Jenn Hill seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Task Force Work Session Regarding Priorities and Potential Recommendations**

A recap of Douglas's 9/14 presentation was reviewed, including the following priorities/potential recommendations:

- Explore Comparative Cost Structures of UP Electric Utilities
- Renewable Energy Siting
- Transport Electrification
  - Work on charging infrastructure
- Building Electrification
  - Work on electricity rate design
- Deep Energy Savings in Buildings
  - Financing and workforce/business development

The task force discussed priorities and potential recommendations, including:

- Consider which recommendations require additional authority and/or are achievable.
- Focus on items that would reduce customers' utility bills
- Plan for load growth that may result from electrification
- Include impact on local communities like job creation
- Spend time on the things that influence price, now and in the future
- Consider all energy sources and their pros and cons
- Michigan Technological University and Michigan State University have a grant from National Science Foundation to work with the tribal communities in upper Michigan to consider holistic plans and how renewables fit in

### **Energy Rates**

- High electricity costs will inhibit the adoption of electrification.
- A peninsula-wide resource planning effort would be valuable.
- Energy efficiency can avoid cost for participants, but doesn't necessarily reduce rates. Increased electricity sales with electrification can reduce fixed costs and rates.
- May be best to focus on high-speed charging along the highways as a start. Utilities may be able to help identify opportunities.
- Could recommend all vehicles be electric by a certain year.
- Do a study on electric vehicle viability in the UP to gain information about capital costs.
- Green banks and Michigan Saves may be able to help with financing.

### **Executive Directive 2020-10**

- Governor Whitmer issued Executive Directive 2020-10 setting carbon-neutrality goals for Michigan. Dan Scripps noted that the Michigan Public Service Commission is in the process of reviewing related planning parameters and modeling assumptions that go into the Integrated Resource Plans.
- Will need to include the risks for different options for compliance and the risk of continuing the status quo.
- Roadblocks will have to be considered like fuel-switching, opposition to mining, opposition to solar farms, large scale solar farms and wind energy.
- It may be beneficial to include a timeline for potential changes since everything can't be done right away.
  - Communication will be key.
- On some of these things, the work of the task force is different than the work on climate solutions. The goal in the Governor's announcement is for net zero emissions, not electrification.
- The group may want to include a discussion on renewable propane.

### **Renewable Propane**

- Kris Bowman shared that legislation was introduced for a propane fund to be created that could be used to provide rebates for energy-efficiency for propane customers. Meetings continue between EGLE and the Michigan Propane Gas Association.
- Liesl Clark supports an all of the above solution.
- For information on renewable propane, search the terms “renewable propane” and “Stuart Wiedie” on youtube. Stuart Wiedie is president and CEO of Blossman Gas and the immediate past chairman of the National Propane Gas Association.

### **Future Discussion/Presentation Topics**

Topic suggestions for future agendas included:

- MPSC presentation on IRPs
- EV Infrastructure / Roadways and Traffic patterns
- MISO presentation on planning in the UP
- Financing

### **Presentation – Energy Survey Overview and Clean Energy in the U.P.**

Sarah Mills, PhD, Senior Project Manager at Graham Sustainability Institute and Lecturer, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan, presented on the MiLEs Energy Survey with a focus on Upper Peninsula Results, and provided an overview on renewable energy options in the Upper Peninsula. The PowerPoint presentation is available at the link below or by visiting [Michigan.gov/UPEnergyTaskForce](https://www.michigan.gov/UPEnergyTaskForce):

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/egle-UPETF-Presentation-Mills\\_704919\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/egle-UPETF-Presentation-Mills_704919_7.pdf)

The full October 7, 2020, meeting recording can be found at the following links, and under “Links to Video Recordings” at [Michigan.gov/UPEnergyTaskForce](https://www.michigan.gov/UPEnergyTaskForce):

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVXWaaJyTog>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMwGPFBLZBs>

### **Public Comments**

Public comments were heard.

### **Adjournment**

Next meeting is November 6, 2020, from 1-3:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**\*Approved at Dec. 15, 2020, UP Energy Task Force meeting.\***