

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD

12:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Present: Jim MacInnes (Board Chairperson), Sam Passmore (Board Member), Bali Kumar (Board Member), Paul Isely (Board Vice Chair), Elise Matz (Board Member), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Jocelyn Krueger (LARA), Tanya Paslawski (MEGA), Greg Rivet (LARA), Douglas Jester (CARE and CUB), LeAnn Droste (LARA), Kelly Jo Kitchen (Assistant to the Board), Michael Moody (AG), Margarethe Kearney (GLREA), Shawn Worden (LARA), Bob Nelson (CUB), Mike Troupos, Don Keskey (GLREA and RCG)

Monday, December 7, 2020

I. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Jim MacInnes established a quorum and reviewed the meeting procedures and protocols.

a. Approval of Agenda (including consent items)

Motion by Jim MacInnes to revise the agenda changing a 2021 meeting date from April 5 to April 12, add III(b) Interim Board Chair Discussion, and III(c) Review draft mission statement for UCPB website.

Seconded by Paul Isely

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Bali Kumar, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Jim MacInnes, yes

Motion Carried

b. Consent Items

- Minutes of October 5, 2020
- Minutes of October 29, 2020
- Correspondences (Received and Placed on File)
- LARA Budget Update

Shawn Worden updated the FY 2020 amounts and stated that the available funds for FY 2021 for grant making is \$611,850.

Sam Passmore asked whether the spending authority is more than what the Board typically carries at this time. Paul Isely said he believes the grants are being requested and dispensed differently this fiscal year than in years past.

Jim MacInnes requested input from Michael Moody. Michael stated that the success of grantees getting some moratoriums on rate cases is part of the reason that some big cases are being pushed into the future. Chris Bzdok agreed with Michael and added that most of MEC's work would be in 2021 calendar year.

Sam added that the Board should keep an eye on the budget to make appropriate grants during the fiscal year.

II. Business Items

a. Attorney General Update

Michael Moody reviewed the cases that the Attorney General is currently working on and what is expected in 2021.

b. Assistant to the UCPB contract

Kelly Jo Kitchen discussed job expectations and communication capabilities.

Motion by Bali Kumar to extend the Assistant to the Board contract for Kelly Jo Kitchen for fiscal year 2021.

Seconded by Sam Passmore

Roll Call Vote: Bali Kumar, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Jim MacInnes, yes

Motion Carried

c. Meeting Dates for 2021

February 1, April 12, June 7, August 2, August 23, October 4, December 6

Paul Isely wanted to make sure that the dates would provide time for the informational meetings as discussed in previous meetings. The Board discussed the pros and cons of extending normal meetings or holding separate meetings to accommodate the sharing of information with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). Jocelyn Krueger will follow-up with LeAnn to determine whether an MPSC representative will be available to attend the February 1 meeting. The Board also discussed having Jan Beecher do a presentation to the new Board members regarding the rate making process once they are confirmed. Jim MacInnes stated that Michigan State University's Institute of Public Utilities holds a conference every February that would be very informative for new and current Board members.

Motion by Paul Isely to adopt the calendar of meeting dates as amended

Seconded by Elise Matz

Roll Call Vote: Sam Passmore, yes; Bali Kumar, yes; Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Jim MacInnes, yes

Motion carried

d. Grant Requests

CUB

- Amendment to grant 21-06 Grant Request for UMERC PSCR Plan Case (U-20808) for \$11,400

Doug Jester stated that both cases have a lower cost of recovery than were originally requested. Adjusting the cost of recovery will be important to oversee. Initial discovery should be available soon.

Motion by Paul Isely to approve the grant as requested.

Seconded by Elise Matz

Roll Call Vote: Sam Passmore, yes; Bali Kumar, yes; Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Jim MacInnes, yes

Motion Carried

- Amendment to grant 21-06 Grant Request for UPPCO PSCR Plan Case (U-20810) for \$11,322

Motion by Paul Isely

Seconded by Bali Kumar

Roll Call Vote: Sam Passmore, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Bali Kumar, yes; Paul Isely, yes; Jim MacInnes, yes

Motion Carried

III. Reports

a. Grantees

Chris Bzdok reported that the proposal for decision (PFD) in the CECO rate case (U-20697) favors many key issues that were advocated for by MEC. Capital spending for distribution disallowances were supported. Residential low-income assistance also made progress. A discussion took place about the disallowances of capital expenditures and if patterns emerged. Sam Passmore questioned whether the Board could fund participating in a study group if the MPSC creates one focusing on low-income residential customer relief. Michael Moody stated it would be a proper use of UCPB funds since it flows from a rate case.

Bob Nelson reported that (U-20757) is a docket on the MPSC's own motion to collect data on the effects of Covid-19 on low-income residential customers.

A discussion took place regarding the Return on Equity (ROE) and how it is trending downward but does not appear to be making a big impact on utilities decision making. Jim MacInnes suggested working with other groups like ABATE on the ROE issue.

Douglas Jester reported on the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) Capacity Import Limit (CIL) expansion study. MISO has increased its capacity limits and those increases will show up in the next purchases as well as expansion projects. The resource adequacy construct is also being analyzed within the study.

Bob Nelson discussed CUB's Utility Performance Report.

Margarethe Kearny reported on behalf of GLREA and the favorable PFD they got on the value of solar.

b. Interim Board Chair Discussion

Jim MacInnes stated he would like to step down as the chair of the UCPB but would continue as a Board member until a replacement is appointed.

Motion by Elise Matz to nominate Paul Isely as interim UCPB Chair

Seconded by Sam Passmore

Roll Call Vote: Bali Kumar, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Jim MacInnes, yes

Motion Carried

Motion by Sam Passmore to nominate Elise Matz as interim UCPB Vice Chair

Seconded by Bali Kumar

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Bali Kumar, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Jim MacInnes, yes

Motion Carried

c. Review of draft mission statement

Elise Matz presented language for a mission statement that would be placed on the UCPB website. The Board discussed the wording and Elise said she will share a revised copy with the Board.

Jim MacInnes thanked Bali Kumar for his time and expertise as a Board member. Elise and Sam thanked Jim for his dedicated service as Board Chair.

IV. Public Comment

V. Next meeting: February 1, 2021

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Bali Kumar to adjourn; Jim MacInnes adjourned the meeting.