



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

UP ENERGY TASK FORCE MEETING
Meeting Minutes

Tues., Dec. 15, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Liesl Clark, Howell, Mich.
Mike Prusi, Ishpeming Township, Mich.
Tanya Paslawski, East Lansing, Mich.
Dave Camps, Hancock, Mich.
Mike Furmanski, Escanaba, Mich.
Jenn Hill, Marquette, Mich.
Douglas Jester, East Lansing, Mich.
Aaron Johnson, Howell, Mich.

Jim Kochevar, Ishpeming, Mich.
Michael Larson, Marquette, Mich.
Mike Nystrom, East Lansing, Mich.
Tony Retaskie, Marquette, Mich.
Dan Scripps, Village of Northport, Mich.
Roman Sidortsov, Portage Township,
Houghton County, Mich.
Tonya Swenor, Marquette, Mich.

Welcome and Task Force Business

In compliance with current state measures designed to suppress the spread of the Covid-19 virus, and in accordance with the Open Meetings Act changes (Public Act 254 of 2020, effective Dec. 23, 2020) the U.P. Energy Task Force met virtually.

The meeting commenced at 10 a.m. Liesl Clark welcomed everyone, performed roll call, and summarized the agenda. The following task force business was conducted:

- Tony Retaskie moved and Dan Scripps seconded approval of the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Mike Nystrom moved and Mike Furmanski seconded approval of the October meeting minutes. The October minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Mike Nystrom moved and Douglas Jester seconded approval of the November meeting minutes. The November minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Proposed UP Energy Task Force meeting dates for January-March 2021 were reviewed. Jenn Hill moved and Tanya Paslawski seconded approval of the proposed meeting schedule. The meeting schedule for January-March 2021 was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting Recap

Tanya Paslawski provided a recap of the meeting topics so far in Phase 2 of the Task Force.

- May 12. The Michigan Public Service Commission presented an overview of the energy picture in the Upper Peninsula.

- June 9. Meeting focused on transmission. A representative from ATC presented an overview including description of service territory. There was an additional presentation on MISO.
- July 15. Mike Furmanski gave an overview of the types of utilities and how they are governed. The City of Marquette municipal utility and UPPCO presented on their companies.
- Sept. 14. Cloverland presented an overview of co-ops. Douglas Jester presented ideas for priorities and possible recommendations, including siting, transportation, electrification, and energy efficiency.
- Oct. 7. Discussion of Douglas Jester's presentation was continued. Sarah Mills from the University of Michigan presented on a survey of local government leaders in the UP on energy issues.
- Nov. 6. Dan Scripps provided overview of the integrated resources planning (IRP) process and financing for energy efficiency programs. SmartGrid and broadband were also discussed.

The task force members suggested additional information be provided on the number of line miles per customer and the impact of the UP's electrical connection to Wisconsin.

Recommendation Identification

Liesl Clark introduced Public Sector Consultants (PSC), who was hired to help identify recommendations and prepare the Phase 2 report.

Julie Metty Bennet of PSC explained a whiteboarding exercise with a goal of recognizing themes for recommendations. Priorities gathered by task force members were sorted into the following themes: rate design, renewables, supply chain, community engagement, increase energy waste reduction, heating, cross cutting, economic development, planning, and system reliability.

Julie noted that task force members could contribute additional items after the meeting and that an assignment would be provided in preparation for the next meeting.

Public Comments

Public comments were heard.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Approved at Jan. 11, 2021, UP Energy Task Force meeting.