

## UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD

12:30 p.m.

Michigan Library & Historical Center

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lake Superior Room

702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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Present: Jim MacInnes (Chairperson), Paul Isely (Board Member), Bali Kumar (Board Member), Sam Passmore (Board Member), Elise Matz (Board Member), Kelly Jo Kitchen (Board Assistant), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Don Keskey (RCG and GLREA), Greg Rivet (LARA), Amy Bandyk (CUB of MI), John Freeman (GLREA), Robert Nelson (CUB), Paul Lange (CARE), Tonya Paslewski (MEGA), Charlotte Jameson (MEC), Janice Beecher (IPU-MSU), Jackson Koeppel (Solardarity), Celste Gill (AG), Bonnie Jansen, Valerie Brader (Rivenoak), LeAnn Droste (LARA), Phil Forner (Public), Nick Griffin (DTE)

Monday October 7, 2019

#### I. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

- a. Approval of Agenda (including consent items)

Moved: Bali Kumar, Seconded: Paul Isely  
Motion Carried

- b. LARA Budget Update: Jim Wilson took a new position with the Labor and Economic Opportunity Division; Greg Rivet will be sitting in for Jim until a new person is hired.
- c. Nick Griffin: MISO proceedings and FERC filings regarding battery storage designation.

#### II. Business Items

- a. Attorney General Update  
AG updated which cases they are in and who they have joint participation agreements with i.e. CUB.  
The UCPB letter requesting an informal opinion from the Attorney General regarding the scope of participation for the UCPB has been sent to the opinion board.
- b. Annual Report  
The annual report was reviewed and accepted.  
  
Moved: Sam Passmore, Seconded: Paul Isely  
Motion carried
- c. Letter to AG for informal opinion  
Discussion regarding if the question presented to the AG should be expanded from Energy Waste Reduction cases (EWR) to include Renewable Energy cases (REP). An amended letter will be drafted and presented to the board.

Jim MacInnes gave an overview of the issues that are confronting the UCPB.

d. Soulardarity

- Grant Request – DTE IRP (U-20471) \$7,500 (AG is in this case)  
Issues centered around low-income residential customers, infrastructure issues, cost risks, appropriate valuing of DG, looking at stakeholder participation and actually using the planning principals.  
Q: About the business practices and the effect of DTE’s business practices. Infrastructure upgrades and where dollars are being spent and which class of residential customers those upgrades benefit.

Moved: Bali Kumar, Seconded Paul Isely  
Motion Carried

- Grant Request – DTE Rate Case (U-20561) \$7,500 (AG is in this case)  
Issues centered around low-income residential customers, looking at disparate impact.  
Q: About the work on alternative energy issues; Soulardarity had to expand out from that issue because of the complexity of community solar.  
Q: About Benefit to cost ratio and how to quantify the return on dollars.  
Comment: Sam Passmore stated that the energy burden on low income rate payers is substantial and would be a good place to focus some UCRF monies.

Moved: Bali Kumar, Seconded: Paul Isely  
Motion Carried

e. RCG

- Grant Request - CECO PSCR (U-TBD) for \$16,665 (AG is in case)  
RCG issues are unique; the contracts under ACT 304 and the TCJA to see if these are affected and should be renegotiated. Look at inner connection pipeline costs.

Moved: Paul Isely, Seconded: Elise Matz  
Motion Carried

- Grant Request – DTE PSCR (U–TBD) for \$16,665 (AG is in case)  
Tax issues
- Grant Request – Appeal of DTE Rate Case (U-20162) Appellate Docket (U-350008) for \$12,726  
Question regarding the Scope of RCG’s Appeal. RCG will assert that DTE has violated the statute regarding the test year issue.  
Jim MacInnes requested an opinion from Jan Beecher regarding the test year issue.  
Elise Matz questioned the likely success of the appeal.  
AG has begun to look at the issue of the historic test year.

f. CARE

- Grant Request – I & M IRP (U-20591) for \$60,000 (AG will be sharing an expert with CARE)

Developing a plan for the retiring 2 nuclear plants and another coal plant; want to make sure the cost allocation is fair to residential rate payers. Energy waste reduction program needs improvement. Reduce request to \$45,000 because of sharing a witness with the AG.

Moved: Paul Isely, Seconded: Elise Matz  
Motion Carried  
Sam Passmore Opposed

- Grant Request – UPPCO PSCR Plan (U-20535) \$15,000  
Interruption customers and who pays for capacity issues.

Moved: Paul Isely, Seconded: Elise Matz  
Motion Carried

- Grant Request – UMERC PSCR Plan (U-20533) \$15,000  
Tilden mines are back in UMERC territory.

Moved: Paul Isely Seconded: Elise Matz  
Motion Carried

g. MEC

- Grant Request – DTE PSCR-R 2018 (U-20203) \$15,150 (AG Informally working with MEC)

Moved: Paul Isely, Seconded: Bali Kumar  
Motion Carried

- Grant Request – CECO PSCR Plan Case 2020 (U-20525) \$40,400 (AG looking for ways to work with MEC)
- Grant Request – DTE PSCR Plan Case 2020 (U-20527) \$50,500

Moved: Paul Isely, Seconded: Sam Passmore  
Motion Carried

h. GLREA

- Grant Request – DTE Renewable Energy Plan (REP) (U-20484) for \$12,500 (AG is not sure ACT 304 funds can be used for it)  
Board will table this issue until AG decision
- Grant Request – I & M Renewable Energy Plan (REP) (U-20485) for \$12,500
- Grant Request – I & M IRP (U-20591) for \$26,664 (AG is in case)  
Add diversity and reliability in the mix.  
Clarification regarding where the tariffs are established.
- Grant Request – CECO Electric Rate Case (U-TBD) for \$33,330 (AG is in case)  
Expected to be filed in January.
- Grant Request – DTE Rate Case (U-20561) \$33,330 (AG is in case)

III. Reports

a. Grantees

CARE: UPPCO RDM case regarding refund for residential ratepayers.

UPPCO IRP: Solar facility approved

RCG: PSCR for CECO is ongoing

GLREA: DTE IRP is moving forward

IV. Public Comment

Energy Ombudsmen position needs to be filled and there was a question about who pays for an energy companies unregulated activity.

V. Next meeting: December 2, 2019

VI. Adjournment

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