

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD

April 12, 2021

12:15 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Present: Paul Isely (Interim Board Chairperson, Grand Rapids), Elise Matz (Interim Board Vice Chairperson, Calumet), Sam Passmore (Board Member, Okemos), QuanTez Pressley (Board Member, Detroit), Mike Troupos (Board Member, Grand Rapids), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Jocelyn Krueger (LARA), Tanya Paslawski (CUB), Greg Rivet (LARA), Douglas Jester (CARE and CUB), Kelly Jo Kitchen (Assistant to the Board), Michael Moody (AG), Shawn Worden (LARA), Don Keskey (RCG, GLREA), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Abby Kearney, Ryan Michael Dinkgrave, Dan Horn (LARA), Heather Johnston (LARA), Jan Beecher (MSU), John Freeman (GLREA), Brian W. Coyer (RCG and GLREA), Charlotte Jameson (MEC), John Liskey (CARE), Shay Gaffey (LARA), John Richter (GLREA)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Paul Isely established a quorum and called the meeting to order. He reviewed the statutory requirements and protocols regarding the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Sam Passmore

Seconded by Elise Matz

Roll Call Vote: Sam Passmore, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried

III. Meet and Greet

a. Introductions

QuanTez Pressley and Mike Troupos introduced themselves and presented their respective backgrounds. Paul Isely, Elise Matz, and Sam Passmore welcomed the new Board members. Elise stressed that the diversity within their respective backgrounds will be a great asset to the Board. Greg Rivet also introduced the new Board members to LARA staff.

IV. Vote to elect Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Sam Passmore nominated Paul Isely as Chairperson of the UCPB.

Motion by Sam Passmore for Paul Isely for Chairperson

Seconded by Elise Matz

Roll Call Vote: Elise Matz, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried

Sam Passmore nominated Elise Matz as Vice Chairperson of the UCPB.

Motion by Sam Passmore for Elise Matz as Vice Chairperson

Seconded by QuanTez Pressley

Roll Call Vote: Mike Troupos, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried

V. Assistant to the UCPB contract

The Board discussed revising the Statement of Work (SOW) for the Board Administrative Coordinator position. Once the SOW is finalized, the contract will be bid out via a Request for Quote (RFQ). Those that are interested in the position would need to complete a new vendor registration in the SIGMA Vendor Self Service (VSS) system.

VI. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of February 1, 2021

Motion by Mike Troupos

Seconded by Sam Passmore

Roll Call Vote: Elise Matz, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried

VII. Consent Items

a. Correspondence (Received and Placed on File)

1. Attachment 1

b. LARA Budget Update

1. Shawn Worden reported that the current balance available for grants is \$329,553.00.

VIII. Business Items

a. IPU Report Recommendations

Jan Beecher highlighted some of the recommendations in the report and suggested doing an addendum to address all the changes occurring in the energy sector. She acknowledged Valerie Brader for her help with the report.

One of the recommendations involved having a consistent process for decision making and weighing the effectiveness of each intervention. Potential funding appears to be entering the infrastructure realm that may be important to future cases. Jan Beecher recommended implementing some of the recommendations as part of a pilot program. She also recommended trying to broaden grantee participation through communication and outreach and making the grant process more specific to the Board's goals.

Elise Matz suggested consulting with the AG and Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to gain input on upcoming cases that may be relevant to residential rate payers. The Board could use that information to present Request for Proposals (RFPs) from potential grantees.

Mike Troupos asked about the Board's priorities and Elise Matz responded that the priorities change depending on the issues at hand. The Board discussed the critical information it needs to be able to make decisions on grants.

Sam Passmore noted the Board has limited administrative funding and suggested the Mott Foundation could provide more funding for an outside group to generate ideas not only for the grant process, but also for the annual report.

Paul Isely suggested creating a workgroup that could interface with Jan to come up with some ideas. Elise Matz will work with Jan to develop a proposal for a pilot program utilizing recommendations presented to the Board. The proposal will be brought before the Board for discussion.

b. Attorney General Update

Mike Moody greeted the new members and gave an overview of cases the AG is in and which cases they have joint litigation agreements. He will send a memorandum detailing which cases the Board can participate in and rely on the statute for guidance on how to prioritize the cases. He discussed an agreement that the AG made to appoint three attorneys from Olson, Bzdok, & Howard, PC as Special Assistant Attorney Generals (SAAGs). He will inform the Board of any conflicts that arise.

c. CUB Update on MISO

Tanya Paslawski gave a presentation on Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) and Independent System Operators (ITOs). She stated that cost allocation is a big topic in MISO currently.

d. Grant Requests

GLREA

- Grant 21-03 CEC Co 6t IRP Case (U-TBD) for \$24,240.00

John Freeman gave an overview of GLREA and the cases it has participated in with UCPB funding. He also discussed the issues that may come up in the IRP.

John Richter provided details regarding the modeling CEC Co is using and the changes that can be made to it.

Elise Matz asked when the work would start on this case and expressed her concerns about an industry receiving funding from the UCPB. Discussions continued about supporting a diverse set of grantees and what the funding levels usually are for IRP cases.

Motion by Paul Isely

Seconded by Sam Passmore

Roll Call Vote: Elise Matz, no; QuanTez Pressley, no; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, no; Paul Isely, no

Motion Failed

MEC

- Grant 21-04 DTE 2019 PSCR-R Case (U-20222) no cost transfer of \$6,950.00 from expert to legal

Chris Bzdok gave an overview of where the case is and the need for the transfer.

Motion by Elise Matz

Seconded by Mike Troupos

Roll Call Vote: Elise Matz, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Sam Passmore, yes, Mike Troupos, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried

- Grant 21-04 CEC0 6t IRP Case (U-TBD) for \$101,000.00

Chris Bzdok covered the issues and the leverage MEC has in the case because of agreements already in place between MEC and CEC0 from the last IRP. MEC's request in the alternative is either full funding or a starter budget of \$20,000.00.

Charlotte Jameson stated that MEC partners with other organizations to leverage the work and share costs.

Chris Bzdok mentioned that there might be overlap with GLREA on the modeling issues as well as the arbitrary solar cap issue. He also stated that MEC will partner with the AG on this case. Discussions continued regarding the additional funding MEC receives from other funders and how those funds are used.

Motion by Elise Matz

Seconded by Sam Passmore

A discussion took place regarding waiting on the full amount vs. using a starter budget.

Roll Call Vote: Elise Matz, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried for full funding amount of \$101,000.00

- Grant 21-04 DTE Electric 2021 PSCR Plan Case (U-20826) for \$5,050.00

Motion by Mike Troupos

Seconded by Elise Matz

Roll Call Vote: Elise Matz, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried

- DTE Rate Case (U-20836) balance of \$14,963.15 will be returned since the filing of the case has been postponed.

RCG

- Grant 21-05 CECo Electric Rate Case (U-20963) for \$27,270.00

Don Keskey gave an overview of RCG's membership and the issues RCG would pursue in this case.

CUB

- Grant 21-06 DTE Gas Rate Case (U-20940) for \$20,000.00

Amy Bandyk provided an overview of what CUB will be doing in that case.

Motion by Elise Matz

Seconded by QuanTez Pressley

Roll Call Vote: Elise Matz, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried

- Grant 21-06 Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation Rate Case (U-20718) for \$40,400.00

Amy Bandyk reviewed the issues CUB would be pursuing in this case. She stated that CUB would be in a joint litigation agreement with the AG.

Motion by Elise Matz

Seconded by QuanTez Pressley

Roll Call Vote: Elise Matz, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried

- Grant 21-06 CECo Electric Depreciation Case (U-20849) for \$50,500.00

Douglas Jester described that depreciation cases are usually part of the rate case, but they have been peeled off by the MPSC.

Motion by Elise Matz

Seconded by Sam Passmore

A discussion took place regarding the statutory requirements in this case.

Roll Call Vote: Elise Matz, yes; QuanTez Pressley, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Paul Isely, yes

Motion Carried

IX. Reports

a. Grantees

No reports.

X. Public Comment

No public comments.

XI. Next meeting: June 7, 2021

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Sam Passmore to adjourn

Seconded by Mike Troupos

Meeting Adjourned