

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD
April 25, 2022|| 10:00 a.m.
CRA Building – Sun Conference Room
Please use South Entrance (Door Will Have a Sign)
2407 N. Grand River Avenue
Lansing Michigan 48906
Call-In option: 888.278.0296 (US Toll Free)
Conference Code: 4803352

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Paul Isely (Board Chairperson), Elize Matz (Board Vice Chair), Sam Passmore (Board Member), Mike Troupos (Board Member), Anshu Varma (LARA- Procurement Director), Emily Loder (Assistant to the Board), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Don Keskey (RCG), Mike Byrne (Public Service Commission), Susan Westmoreland

Attending by phone: Leah Wiste (Board Member), Colleen Mulligan (MEC), Shay Gaffey (LARA), Shawn Warden (LARA), Jackson Koeppel (Soulardarity), Brenda Davis (LARA)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Paul Isely established a quorum and called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of February 14, 2022 (Attachment 1)

Moved by Sam Passmore, Seconded by Mike Troupos

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

Motion to Approve Carried

III. Approval of Agenda

Conversation about moving board training to next meeting

Moved by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Elise Matz

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

Motion to Approve Carried

IV. State Administration Updates

A. LARA Updates – Anshu Varma

○ Budget Update (Attachment 2)

- FY 2023 budget includes \$100,000 additional authorization to spend, for a total of \$850,000 – likely to be supported by the legislature
- For FY 2022, \$201,259 available as of today
- Enough money to fund everything on the table today
- Approximately \$168,000 being requested today
 - Conversation had about how the Board is authorized to spend any returned funds – fund balance includes returned funds.

○ Calendar Year 2021 Annual Report Update

- Emails will be sent showing outstanding Closeout Forms

- Anshu reminds any grantees with outstanding closeout forms to send them in
- Paul is working on who in the legislature is supposed to receive the report

B. Attorney General Update

- Not present but Michael Moody supports everything on our list

C. Public Service Commission Update

- Mike Byrne gave a short presentation on pending cases, upcoming cases, and activities of note within the Public Service Commission

Two pending rate cases (Consumers gas and DTE electric) have orders due on approximately 10/1 and 11/21 respectively. PSC anticipates that consumers will file electric rate case this week - Potential filings is UPPCO. I&M has pending IRP and would likely file a rate case as well. NSP-W (summer 2022) and DTE gas (fall 2022) may also be expected.

Seeing increase on fuel prices that is having implications on PSCR and GCR plans.

Discussion on the timing of IRP filings and future filings. Working group within MI Power Grid currently working on updating future filing requirements. New requirements could be update/in place more frequently

Planned GCR cases would likely need interventions in the later summer months, recon would cross budget years

Energy affordability and accessibility was born by the commission out of the pandemic for low-income customers. Brought people together to set up collaborative to allow for conversations to take place around energy affordability and waste reduction for low-income customers and define affordability. PSC is leading it but it is staffed by leaders with experience in certain areas as well as stakeholders.

V. New Business

A. 2021 Annual report

- Calendar Year 2021 Closeout Forms, Closeouts going forward
 - Send Closeout Form at the same time as final FSR
- Grantees contact Shay in advance of submission to confirm case balances

VI. Public comment (Three (3) minute limit) – Grantee request summary

CUB: Consumers gave notice that they will be filing their next rate case this week. Last case CUB collaborated with MEC, Sierra Club, NRDC. CUB will focus on ratepayers with a focus on low-income payers and will collaborate with MEC to not duplicate info. On the radar: UPPCO rate case in august (could do either this year or next year funding). DTE gas rate case, not aware of filing date.

MEC: would like board to fund both CUB and MEC for their lower amount in the Consumers rate case. Gave info on their previous ROIs and the Consumers IRP settlement. Put in DTE PSCR reconciliation as a placeholder if the board wants to get into that at the current time

VII. Grant Requests

I. U-21224 – Consumers Electric Rate Case

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21224 for \$47,470
 - Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-21224 for \$111,100 or \$90,900
 - Elise asks CUB how much they would need in funding for future cases.
 - CUB could propose a starter grant for upcoming cases in FY '22 with the bulk of funding coming in FY '23
 - With the timing of filings the board has no large concerns over funding
- Motion to Approve request by CUB for \$47,470 by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Elise Matz
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes
Motion to Approve Carried

Motion to Approve request by MEC for \$90,900 by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Elise Matz

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes
Motion to Approve Carried

2. U-20827 – DTE Electric 2021 PSCR Reconciliation Case

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-20827 for \$10,100
 - MEC in the past reduced the scope of PSCR cases they worked on, and this would fall somewhat outside of that scope so it would be a “just if” should the board want to get back into this type of cases.
 - MEC would be okay with being funded for a smaller amount to start and would come back and ask for more should they find it worthwhile.
- Motion to Approve request by Elise Matz, Seconded by Sam Passmore
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes
Motion to Approve Carried

VIII. Public Comment (Three (3) minute limit)

A. Grantee Updates – existing grants

MEC: Consumers IRP settlement/ ROI: expected that the big showdown of the case would be shutdown of Campbell 1 and 2, but consumers came out with the proposal to shut down all Campbell which means getting out of generating electricity by coal. Due to concerns about reliability MEC proposed to keep some Karns operational.

GLREA: they strongly opposed the proposal by consumers to buy gas units for 400mil when the value was 100mil which violated commission code of conduct rules. The settlement was reached with no purchasing of plants. Opposed the financial compensation mechanism consumers wanted. 5mil would come from shareholder funds to fund low-income programs (instead of being charged to payers). Advocated for more solar and an enhancement of battery storage programs. Consumers will get 9% equity return by closing coal plants (Campbell 3), that issue may be discussed in future rate cases.

CUB: FERC: filed comments opposing funds going to lobbying. PSCR cases: essentially just checking their math and keeping them honest. PSCR planned cases partnered with AG office. DTE voluntary pre-pay proposal: maybe dismissing case and rolling over issues into rate case. UMERC IRP just got underway Consumers gas rate: filed testimony – ongoing. CUB advocating for outage credits and changing the mechanics behind how they are charged in the utilities' next rate case.

Chris MEC: Gave some comments regarding transparency. The Commission allowed MEC to access some “confidential” information they had requested – setting a precedent for what it takes to make/keep information confidential.

IX. Next Meeting June 13, 2022

X. Adjournment

Motion moved by Mike Troupos and seconded by Elise Matz