

## UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD

February 14, 2022|| 10:00 a.m.

MRA Building – Sun Conference Room

2407 N. Grand River Avenue

Lansing Michigan 48906

Call-In option: 888.278.0296 (US Toll Free)

Conference Code: 4803352

Present: Paul Isely (Board Chairperson), Mike Troupos (Board Member), Leah Wiste (Board Member), Sam Passmore (Board Member), Anshu Varma (LARA – Procurement Director), Laura Kwiecien (LARA-Manager), Emily Loder (Assistant to the Board), Douglas Jester (CUB), Dan Horn (LARA-FAS Bureau Director), Heather Johnston (LARA), Jamie Cutler (LARA), Chris Bzdok (MEC)

Attending by phone: Shawn Worden, Jackson Koeppel (Soulardarity), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Susan Westmoreland

### 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 December 6, 2021 (Attachment I)

Moved by **Mike Troupos**, Seconded by **Leah Wiste**

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes

**Motion to Approve Carried**

### III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by **Leah Wiste**, Seconded by **Mike Troupos**

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes

**Motion to Approve Carried**

### IV. State Administration Updates

#### A. LARA Updates

- Anshu and Dan thank Heather for all her hard work and contributions
  - Heather expresses her pleasure in working for the board, and thanks everyone for the opportunities
- FY 2023 Governor's Recommendation includes \$100,000 in additional spending authorization. Pending legislative deliberations
- Board Liaison – Email (LARA-UCPB@michigan.gov)
- Grantee Training completed on Jan 19
  - 10-12 grantees attended
  - No new information added, just provided any clarifications needed
- Clarifying Updates Provided
  1. Grant Application
  2. Application Proposal Template
  3. Budget Form
  4. Calendar Year 2021 Closeout Forms

- Grantees contact Shay in advance of submission to confirm case balances
    - All forms should be turned in by April 5, 2022
  - Budget Update (Attachment 2)
    - \$ 284,584 available
    - \$ 201,259 in spending authority if both grants are approved today
    - The funds being returned by CUB go into a savings account to be used in FY '23
  
- B. Attorney General Update
  - Michael Moody (AG) unable to attend the meeting
  - Confirms he is working with CUB and MEC and deems their cases to be valid
  
- V. New Business
  - A. Discussion of board training for April
    - Due to covid, board training was moved to April
    - Have someone from MPSC to speak on what could be upcoming
    - have someone come speak professionally about what the board is doing
    - 1-1.5 hours of training following regular meeting on April 11, 2022 (lunch provided)
  
  - B. Discussion with Board Grantees about how new processes are working
    - Chris Bzdok (MEC): states that there has been an increase in professionalism with how the board handles and has been streamlining processes in recent years. Says there is an improvement across the board, changes are logical, shorter meetings have been appreciated. Changes are purposeful and logical, and LARA is always available when anything is needed.
    - Jackson Koepfel (Soulardarity): LARA has been very helpful, training was very helpful for new employees, processes and level of responsiveness has improved.
  
- VI. Public comment (Three (3) minute limit)
  - Douglas Jester (CUB): Increasingly likely that Consumer's will file an electric case in late March, UPPCO expected to file case in march. The board funded CUB in the stakeholder process for the I&M IRP they are requesting funds for today. It is clear what I&M will be proposing.
  - Chris Bzdok (MEC): MEC will be engaging in a complimentary/supportive role for the I&M IRP case, their position was laid out in a memo to the board. MEC's role will be in rate impact analysis and connecting it to historic and projected rise in prices. They plan to focus on low-income customers/communities.
  
- VII. Grant Requests
  - Sam Passmore asks about I&M's service breakdown, how much of their business is conducted in Michigan? Chris Bzdok confirms that Michigan represents about 12% of the company's business. There was an IRP case filed in Indiana, but that is separate from Michigan issues. Collaboration happens between the Michigan and Indiana sides.

- Mike Troupos points out that MEC’s grant budget has about a 50-50 split between funding expert witnesses and legal, but CUB’s grant budget is skewed to heavily fund expert witnesses. Why? Douglas Jester explains that CUB is engaged with joint litigation with AG which brings down the cost of legal significantly
- Leah Wiste wants to know how MEC supports low-income customers and if race is a factor? Chris Bzdok explains that rate impact analysis is a plan for how companies will do business, and a comparison of the projected costs of their plan vs. market costs. MEC feels that that hypothetical market is not a realistic approach, and they focus on what the bill will look like for customers as companies increase costs. Environmental justice likely won’t be a part of this case directly, but in advocating for low-income consumers, the climate related issues might come up as low-income customers bear the brunt of climate impacts. Energy burden is front-and-center in MEC proposal and what bill impacts mean for customers.

I. TBD – Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M) Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): (TBD) for \$53,025

Motion to Approve request by **Mike Troupos**, Seconded by **Sam Passmore**

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes

**Motion to Approve Carried**

2. TBD – Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M) Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): (TBD) for \$30,300

Motion to Approve request by **Mike Troupos**, Seconded by **Sam Passmore**

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes

**Motion to Approve Carried**

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

- No Public Comments at this time

IX. Next Meeting April 11, 2022

X. Adjournment

Motion moved by **Sam Passmore** and seconded by **Mike Troupos**