

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD
October 10, 2022|| 10:00 a.m.
CRA Building (previously MRA) – 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

MINUTES

In Attendance: Paul Isely (Board Chairperson), Leah Wiste (Board Member), Mike Troupos (Board Member), Sam Passmore (Board Member), Anshu Varma (LARA- Procurement Director), Laura Kwiecien (LARA), Emily Loder (Assistant to the Board), Amy Bandyk (CUB) Chris Bzdok (MEC), Susan Westmoreland, Brenda Davis (LARA)

Attending by Phone: Colleen Mulligan (CUB), Shawn Warden (LARA), Daniel Abrams (ELPC), Douglas Jester (CUB), Shay Gaffey (LARA), Will Kennly

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 August 8, 2022 (Attachment 1)

Moved 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

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Carried by Consent

IV. State Administration Updates

A. LARA Updates

- Budget Update (Attachment 2)
 - \$666,100 available today
 - Total requests of about \$250,000
- Due date for FSRs for FY22 is the first week of October 2022
 - Reminder to grantees to submit any remaining closeout forms
- FY23 UCPB Meeting Schedule
 - Generally 2nd Monday every other month
 - Move October meeting to October 16, 2023
- Clarifying Items
 - ELPC case number is correct on meeting agenda but was not included in packet
 - Laura has been working on improving administrative process and fine-tuning documents
 - Posting revised documents and instruction document to UCPB documents

- B. Attorney General Update
 - o AG is not with us today but is already involved in or working to arrange joint litigation agreements for all cases today
 - o DTE IRP is the big case in the room for the year

V. New Business

CUB requested an increase in their administrative costs for their grants from 1% to 10%. Board members were agreeable to this change.

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

CUB: limited scope for DTE IRP case, cub would be preparing testimony for representing residential customers. 2023 PSCR plan cases have all been filed now, want to just check math and keep the utilities honest. The reconciliation cases later in the year will be very important as well and they do plan to get in on reconciliation cases as well.

MEC: defense of Wolverine's appeal of Consumer's IRP ruling by the PSC. Just want to defend the commission's order.

DTE PSCR plan and natural gas issues. Also think that reconciliation cases are crucial and want to engage on those later as well

ELPC: Will offer fully comprehensive, alternative to DTE's plan.

VII. Grant Requests

1. U-21193 – DTE IRP

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21193 for \$27,500.00

Mike asks about changing technology and other areas of demand response

CUB says smart heating/cooling/thermostat, hot water heaters can help. The customers need to have the technology and the utility needs the ability to signal the tech to adjust to demand response, customers need to know which options are available to them and most worth it. Utilities need to educate customers on opt-in programs.

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$27,500 moved 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. U-21257 – Consumers 2023 PSCR Plan

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21257 for \$49,500.00

Sam asks if there are other PSCR Plan cases that CUB is not intervening on.

CUB notes that MEC has historically intervened on DTE PSCR cases so CUB did not want to go in as well.

If in March, all the action is on the DTE PSCR Reconciliation would CUB get involved?

Not likely, they would want the board to fund MEC

Paul notes that reconciliations might be messier this year and asks how that would affect grant requests.

CUB predicts they would need \$20,000 to engage in the Consumers reconciliation. They also say they would pursue joint litigation agreements with the AG in order to save money as well as collaborate with CUB

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$49,500 moved by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Leah Wiste

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

Motion to Approve Carried

3. U-21262 – I&M 2023 PSCR Plan

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21262 for \$ 19,250.00

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$19,250 moved 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

4. U-21267–UPPCO 2023 PSCR Plan

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21267for \$13,750.00

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$13,750 moved by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Leah Wiste

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

Motion to Approve Carried

5. U-21265 – UMERC 2023 PSCR Plan

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21265 for \$13,750.00

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$13,750 moved by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Leah Wiste

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

Motion to Approve Carried

6. U-21193 – DTE 2022 IRP

- Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC): TBD for \$53,830

Leah asks how ELPC will reach frontline communities.

ELPC will work with We Want Green Too to incorporate feedback from communities into their modeling process. Community groups will be compensated for their time

Sam asks about coordination with MEC

Have spoken with MEC and individuals from Sierra Club and will share notes, troubleshoot, and coordinate together.

Motion to approve request by ELPC for \$53,830 moved 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

7. U-21090–Consumers IRP

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-21090 for \$11,000.00

Motion to approve request by MEC for \$11,000 moved by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Leah Wiste

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

Motion to Approve Carried

8. U-21259 – DTE Electric 2023 PSCR Plan

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-21259 for \$55,000.00
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Paul notes that reconciliations might be messier this year and asks how that would affect grant requests.

MEC predicts they might need to request \$10,000 more than usual to cover the more robust issues. MEC also notes that MEC and CUB will collaborate whenever possible.

Mike asks how much gas utilities buy and save for the future vs how much gas they buy on the spot as needed.

MEC states that a lot of utilities buy a lot of their gas on the spot from 3rd parties. Part of the plan is determining the right mix of spot vs firm, but as of right now a lot of gas purchasing is spot.

Motion to approve request by MEC for \$55,000 moved by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Leah Wiste

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

Motion to Approve Carried

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

Chris Bzdok (MEC) thanks the board

Amy Bandyk (CUB) gives a case update on DTE's voluntary prepaid proposal. Testimony established that this was a program no one asked for and that removed customer protections. DTE was trying to target low-income customers and get pre-payment to shut off service faster. Program proposal was rejected by ALJ. CUB and Soulardarity both worked on this case.

The board has a discussion about getting reappointed for their position and recruitment to fill in the open slot (appointed by the AG's office).

Motion to approve public notice of meeting with the amendment of changing the 10/9/23 meeting to 10/16/23

Moved by Leah Wiste, seconded by Mike Troupos

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

Motion to Approve Carried

X. Next Meeting December 12, 2022

XI. Adjournment

Consensus to adjourn