

**UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD**  
**April 10, 2023|| 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, Sam Passmore, Mike Troupos, Nishaat . Killeen, Anna Polakowski, Anshu Varma, Laura Kwiecien, Emily Loder, Chris Bzdok, John Rickter, John Friedman (GLERA), Michael Moody, Brenda Davis(LARA), Dan Dundass

Attending by Phone: Colleen Mulligan (MEC), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Douglas Jester (5 lakes energy), Shaun Worden, Shay Gaffey, Rick Bunch (MI-MAUI)

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 January 9, 2022 (Attachment 1)

Moved by Sam Passmore Seconded by Paul Isely.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, abstain; Anne Polakowski, abstain; Nishaat Y. Killeen, abstain.

**Motion to Approve Carried**

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mike Troupos Seconded by Sam Passmore.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes; Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

**Motion to Approve Carried**

IV. Updates from Chair Isely

A. Introduction of new Board Members

- Nishaat Y. Killeen
- Anna Polakowski

B. Vote for new Chairperson

Move to appoint Paul Isely as Board Chairperson by Sam Passmore, seconded by Mike Troupos.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes; Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

**Motion to Approve Carried**

C. Board Packet Delivery Timeline

D. June Meeting Reschedule/Modification

- Potentially no money left by the end of this meeting. Meeting may be best used for board education.
- Meeting day might have to move around to accommodate schedules

IV. State Administration Updates

E. LARA Updates

- Budget Update (Attachment 2)
  - Approximately \$302,000 requested today
  - \$171,000 available
- Revision from MI-MAUI
  - Reduce request from \$30,020 to \$15,010

F. Attorney General Updates

- Two largest cases are DTE Electric Rate Case, and DTE IRP Case
- Michael confirms that the AGs office is collaborating with all grantees on their cases, except GLERA.
- Endorses all activities requested today
- I&M Rate Case will be coming up
- IRP Cases likely won't come up next fiscal year
- Mike Troupos asks which cases may be most important to allocate resources to
  - i. Michael Moody says Consumers Electric, DTE Electric, MGU Case may need the most action

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

Chris Bzdok (MEC): Consumers Electric Rate case: CUB and MEC were both involved in the last rate case together, and that went well. Both MEC and CUB asking for grants again during this case. Chris hopes the board will support both MEC and CUB in their grant requests to engage collaboratively.

MEC is looking to add on the Wired Group as experts on capacity in the U-21297 DTE Electric General Rate Case

GLREA: DTE is benefitting from the energy that solar owners are returning to the grid, and thus should be paying/crediting solar owners. Promoting solar programs also lowers the need for peaker power plants.

MI-MAUI: Reducing request amount, due to collaboration with AGs office. Want to support other experts on the rate of return issue. MI-MAUI can also bring unique testimony from local governments to this case.

Amy Bandyk (CUB): Amy spoke about the funds that CUB is returning to the board. For the Consumers Electric Rate Case, AMY echoed the statements that Chris made about the case. About the MGU (southwestern MI gas utility) Rate Case, Amy believes that CUB can work very well with the AGs office. The Consumers PSCR Reconciliation Case is the most important for CUB to engage in, of the PSCR Plan cases they've previously engaged in. CUB would have flexibility in being funded for the PSCR reconciliation case.

## VI. Grant Requests

### I. Grant Award Reductions:

- U-21267 – PSCR Plan Case – Citizens Utility Board (CUB): (\$7,581.75)
- U-21265 – PSCR Plan Case – Citizens Utility Board (CUB): (\$5,223.63)
- U-21257 – Consumers 2023 PSCR Plan Case – Citizens Utility Board (CUB): (\$37,380.75)
- U-21261 – I&M 2023 PSCR Plan Case – Citizens Utility Board (CUB): (\$13,743.13)
- U-21308 – Consumers Gas Rate Case – Citizens Utility Board (CUB): (\$14,910.50)
- U-21259 – DTE Electric 2023 PSCR Plan – Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): (\$51,700.00)

Motion to accept all grant award reductions moved by Mike Troupos, seconded by Nishaat Y. Killeen.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes; Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

**Motion to Approve Carried**

Sam Passmore mentions that his priority is to focus on consumers electric case as a priority, as well as MI-MAUIs actions.

Mike Troupos echoes Sam Passmore, and states that funding the PSCR cases is not a priority. Mike also states that funding MI-MAUI may not be a necessity, as many other interveners are already on the case. Mike also notes that the GLREA Successor Tariff case may be valuable to fund. Anne Polakowski voices support for MI-MAUI but agrees that funding their intervention may not be in the budget.

Mike Troupos asks what might be a reasonable amount to set aside for the I&M Rate Case that will be upcoming. Amy Bandyk states that \$20,00-\$30,000 would likely be enough to get started.

### 2. U-21258 – Consumers PSCR Reconciliation Case

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21258 for \$40,700

Sam Passmore asks what CUB would need to get started, Amy says that half of the initial request would be enough.

Motion to deny request by CUB for \$40,700 by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Sam Passmore.  
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes;  
Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

**Motion to Deny Carried**

3. U-21366 – MGU Rate Case

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21366 for \$8,800

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$8,800 by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Sam Passmore.  
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes;  
Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

**Motion to Approve Carried**

4. U-21389 – Consumers 2023 Electric Rate Case

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): for \$51,700

Sam Passmore asks if CUB may be willing to take less than full funding on this case, Amy states that they would accept any amount.

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$43,945 by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Anne Polakowski.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes;  
Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

**Motion to Approve Carried**

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): for \$99,000

Sam Passmore asks if MEC may be willing to accept less than the full grant request. Chris Bzdok states that he would rather to board give nothing for the DTE PSCR Reconciliation and attempt to fully fund the Consumers rate case.

Motion to approve request by MEC for \$84,150 by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Anne Polakowski.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes;  
Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

**Motion to Approve Carried**

5. U-21376 – DTE Successor Tariff for Residential Ratepayers
  - GLREA for \$15,907

Motion to deny request by GLERA for \$15,907 by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Sam Passmore.  
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, no; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes;  
Nishaat Y. Killeen, no.

**Motion to Deny Carried**

6. U-21172 – DTE Volunteer Green Pricing Plan
  - GLREA for \$15,907

Motion to deny request by GLERA for \$15,907 by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Anne Polakowski.  
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes;  
Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

**Motion to Deny Carried**

7. U-21051 – DTE Electric 2022 PSCR Reconciliation
  - Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): for \$55,000

Sam Passmore asks what MEC would need to get started, Chris Bzdok states that MEC would take anything left, potentially \$10,000. But MEC would rather have no funding for this case if the Board could fund the Consumers Electric Rate Case.

**This request was withdrawn by MEC**

8. U-21297 – DTE Electric General Rate Case
  - MI-MAUI for \$15,010

Mike Troupos asks why the board would need to fund four interveners on this case, the board has previously funded three other interventions. MI-MAUI states that they have a unique local government perspective that other interveners may not be able to testify to.

Motion to approve request by MI-MAUI for \$15,010 by Sam Passmore, Seconded by Anne Polakowski.  
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, no; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, no; Anne Polakowski, yes;  
Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

### **Motion to Approve Carried**

Motion to approve Wired Group as expert witnesses for MEC on case U-21297 by Mike Troupos, second by Sam Passmore

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Anne Polakowski, yes; Nishaat Y. Killeen, yes.

### **Motion to Approve Carried**

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

Chris Bzdok (MEC) spoke about, and thanks, the board for supporting MEC in engaging against Wolverine Power's appeal of a previous PSC decision.

AMY Bandyk (CUB) thanks the Board for their continued support.

VII. Next Meeting June 12, 2023

Board agreed that the next meeting is a tentative TBD

IX. Adjournment

Motion moved by Paul Isely and seconded by Sam Passmore