

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD
December 18, 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

In Attendance: Paul Isely (Board Chair), Mike Troupos (Board Member), Anne Polakowski (Board Member), Sam Passmore (Board Member), Laura Kwecien (LARA), Ashtaan Rapanos (Assistant to the Board), Brenda Davis (LARA), Jamie Cutler (LARA), Dan Horn (LARA), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Dan Dundas (MEGA), Michael Moody (AG), Jackson Koeppel (Soulardarity), Valerie Brader (City of Ann Arbor), Mike Byrne (PSC)

Attending by Phone: Nishaat Y. Killeen (Board Member), Shawn Worden (LARA), Colleen Mulligan (MEC), Douglas Jester (CUB), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Shay Gaffey (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 October 16, 2023 (Attachment 1A)

Moved by Mike Troupos and seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

III. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of November 13, 2023 (Attachment 1B)

Deferred to February 2024 meeting.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Sam Passmore and seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

V. Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule Revision

Paul Isely (Board Chair): The start date of the new law is the day after the Board's next meeting. Moving the meeting to February 20th would mean the Board votes under new law, but the Board won't have materials prepared for people to understand how it will vote under new law

beforehand. Proposing that a subcommittee of two works on adjustments to rubric for how the Board will make decisions to be voted on at the February meeting.

Sam Passmore (Board Member): Could the Board defer any grant decisions after this meeting to the April meeting?

Amy Bandyk (CUB): Consumers did file a rate case past Friday, so CUB would already be doing work without funding prior to the February meeting.

Laura Kwezien (LARA): The one-time funding of \$1.8million wouldn't be restricted to be spent under the current law.

Moved by Mike Troupos and seconded by Sam Passmore.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, no; Sam Passmore, no; Mike Troupos, no; Anne Polakowski, no.

Motion to Approve Rejected

VI. Updates from Chair Isely

A subcommittee (of 2) is needed to work on the new rubric. Chair Isely will be part of the subcommittee, and Mike Troupos volunteers to support.

VII. State Administration Updates

A. LARA Updates

- Laura Kwezien has been promoted and her role will be backfilled
- Budget Update (Attachment 2)
 - Total Requests: \$472,955
 - Amount Available: \$2,309,334

B. Attorney General Updates

- Case updates: Consumers and Alpena rate cases were filed last week, DTE Gas should be filed in February 2024, DTE Electric will likely be filed in February or March 2024
- Attorney General's office is currently working multiple cases with the grantees
- Summary and discussion of recent amendments to MCL 460.6m, which takes effect February 13, 2024; increases funding, expands definitions of "consumer interests", expands who to encourage to file grant applications, expands list of case types grantees can request funds for
- Revisions to the statute opens up the issues that can be funded by the Board

Sam Passmore (Board Member): To the grantees in the room, should the Board expect additional grant request funds from them that reflect this expansion, or should they anticipate new grantees?

Jackson Koeppel (Soulardarity): DAAO supports organizations that have been working in issue areas that may now fall under this purview, and would like to support different front-line organizations to apply to grants from the Board.

Amy Bandyk (CUB): CUB will likely pursue funding for EWR cases in the future as it has intervened in these in the past.

Chris Bzdok (MEC): These cases will come in predictable waves. It could be useful to map this out so the Board knows what case types are coming down the pipeline in which years.

VIII. Grantee Overview Presentations

I. City of Ann Arbor

The City has concerns regarding the cost of electricity and gas for residents and is currently doing a lot of work to make sure people can safely and affordably heat their homes. This is the first time the City has intervened in a gas case but it has been successful in electric cases. The City will use knowledgeable experts, including attorneys and a gas utility worker.

2. Soulardarity

Distribution of burdens and benefits in the existing energy system is not equal or equitable; addressing this is the basis of a just energy transition. This can't be done without changes in legal and regulatory processes that govern the energy industry. Affordability, infrastructure quality, technology access are Soulardarity's three guideposts. The Board funded two cases in FY2023 which saw monetary and policy outcomes. Soulardarity is looking for funding for two cases in FY2024, DTE gas and electric cases. It will be focusing on integrated gas and electric distribution planning, just energy transition, grid equity, and low-income issues.

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

Chris Bzdok (MEC): MEC is seeking an amendment for the DTE gas case for phase 2 of a plan presented in the Fall. The initial funding got the case up and now MEC is coming back for additional funding, including 3 additional experts. A new grant request is for the next DTE electric case. MEC will follow essentially the same plan as last time, heavily focusing on distribution capital expenditures.

Amy Bandyk (CUB): CUB is looking for a grant amendment since the case was not filed when the first grant request was made. It has now been filed and the amendment reflects the additional scope that CUB plans to pursue.

X. Grant Amendment Requests

Paul Isely (Board Chair): CUB, MEC, Ann Arbor, and Soulardarity are all requesting funding for the DTE gas case. All of them are looking at different issues, and some are looking at issues relevant to the future of gas.

Mike Troupos (Board Member): Is the Board on track from a budget perspective for the year? We do have more resources, and no major IRPs that we need to hold on to funding for the back half of year.

Sam Passmore (Board Member): How do CUB and MEC differentiate from each other for this case?

Chris Bzdok (MEC): MEC's proposal will focus on two primary issues: capital investment and fixed cost distribution over customers.

Douglas Jester (CUB): CUB plans to focus on financing, return on equity, cost of service and rate design issues.

I. U-21291 – DTE Gas 2024 Rate Case Amendment

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-21291 for \$82,500.00

Motion to approve request by MEC for \$82,500.00 by Mike Troupos and seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

2. U-21461 – I&M Rate Case
 - Citizens Utility Board of Michigan (CUB): U-21461 for \$33,000.00

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$33,000.00 by Mike Troupos and seconded by Sam Passmore.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

XI. Grant Requests

1. U-21291 – DTE Gas 2024 Rate Case
 - City of Ann Arbor: U-21291 for \$72,500.00

Sam Passmore (Board Member): What is the City of Ann Arbor's motivation for coming to the Board for funding?

Valerie Brader (City of Ann Arbor): Some issues would be specific to Ann Arbor, but some are related to communities outside of Ann Arbor. Since this would impact other communities, the City thought it appropriate to seek funding from a group that supports these broader communities.

Motion to approve request by City of Ann Arbor for \$72,500.00 by Mike Troupos and seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

- Soulardarity: U-21291 for \$77,137.50

Motion to approve request by Soulardarity for \$77,137.50 by Mike Troupos and seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

2. U-TBD – DTE Electric Rate Case
 - Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-TBD for \$121,000.00

Paul Isely (Board Chair): Wants to confirm with Mike Moody when we can anticipate DTE electric rate case.

Mike Moody (AG): Around February. They have said it will be coming.

Sam Passmore (Board Member): DTE just got a bunch, why are we sure they are coming back for a lot more?

Chris Bzdok (MEC): Recently talked to a DTE lawyer and they did confirm that QI the case is coming. They will come for what they didn't get last time plus additional for what is in their future plans.

Motion to approve request by MEC for \$121,000.00 by Mike Troupos and seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

- Soulardarity: U-TBD for \$86,817.50

Motion to approve request by Soulardarity for \$86,817.50 by Mike Troupos and seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

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

Chris Bzdok (MEC): Provides a quote on how it isn't cost effective to deal with reliability by broadly applying hardening measures.

XIII. Next Meeting February 12, 2024

XIV. Adjournment

Motion moved by Paul Isely and seconded by Sam Passmore.