

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD
October 16, 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 (Board Chair), Mike Troupos (Board Member), Nishaat Y. Killeen (Board Member), Anne Polakowski (Board Member), Laura Kwiecien (LARA), Ashtaan Rapanos (Assistant to the Board), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Dan Dundas (MEGA), Dan Horn (LARA), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Michael Moody (AG), Kevin Kubacki (LARA)

Attending by Phone: Shawn Worden (LARA), Colleen Mulligan (MEC), John Liskey (CUB), Douglas Jester (CUB), Nick Gobbo (LARA)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

II. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of August 14, 2023 (Attachment 1)

Moved by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Anne Polakowski, Seconded by Nishaat Y. Killeen.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

IV. Updates from Chair Isely

No updates to share this meeting.

V. State Administration Updates

A. LARA Updates

- Budget Update (Attachment 2)
 - Amount requested: \$27,500.00
 - Amount available: \$2,449,334.00

B. Attorney General Updates

- DTE Electric Rate case received decision a week ago

- DTE Gas Rate Case is beginning
- A few rate case notices were recently filed (Consumers Gas, Alpena)

VI. Approval of MSU UCPB Coordinator Grant

Moved by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

VII. Approval of 2023 Meeting Schedule Revision

Moved by Nishaat Y. Killeen, Seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

VIII. Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule Correction

Moved by Nishaat Y. Killeen, Seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

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

Chris Bzdok (MEC): DTE rate case is coming in November, it is new for them to request UCRF funding for this type of case. This is the second case of what may be many; concerned about customer costs and carbon issues from long-term trends from residential gas and heating utility industry. By 2032 more homes likely will be heated by electric than gas, which will create cost spiral issues, and is already causing issues now. MEC has committed its own funds and is asking for support from UCRF. MEC is expecting to ask for additional funds in the future.

Amy Bandyk (CUB): CUB submitted two grant requests for this meeting but they were removed from the agenda. Looking for clarification on this.

Nick Gobbo (LARA): The matter is currently under legal review.

John Liskey (CUB): Looking for a special meeting with Board ahead of December meeting once these issues are resolved. The Board agrees that they will work to accommodate this.

X. Grant Requests

I. U-21291 – DTE Gas 2024 Rate Case

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) for \$27,500.00

Mike Troupos (Board): There was past discussion about DTE nexus pipeline; is it something MEC has been working on?

Chris Bzdok (MEC): This was an uneconomic agreement, MEC fought this and got one disallowance, but Commission pivoted and MEC felt it didn't really leave them a path to go forward. Attorney General's office is continuing to work on this. MEC isn't sure this is something to be pursued in this rate case but can't say it won't be.

Michael Moody (AG): Attorney General's office has been involved, and experiencing the same difficulties. They are reconsidering if this is something they continue to argue.

Amy Bandyk (CUB): CUB is planning to look at this in a study and will plan to share with the Board when completed.

Motion to approve request by MEC for \$27,500 by Mike Troupos, Seconded by Anne Polakowski.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

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

Chris (MEC): PFD has been released on the DTE Rate Case. MEC's strategy was to target the model that is used to justify additional expenditures by DTE. The PFD found multiple ways that the model doesn't measure up and references work done by experts funded by the Board. MEC will have a memo on this for the Board in the future.

Amy (CUB): Incentives/Disincentives workgroup kicked off. CUB filed comments; arguing that we shouldn't be talking about incentives until we are up to par with other states. CUB will keep the Board informed on this working group.

Mike Moody (AG): Commends the intervenors the Board funds; funding given to these groups has been immensely helpful for Attorney General's office and helps to make impactful change.

XII. Next Meeting December 18, 2023

XIII. Adjournment

Motion moved by Mike Troupos and seconded by Nishaat Y. Killeen.