

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD
June 10, 2024 || 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), Nishaat Y. Killeen (Board Member), Anne Polakowski (Board Member), Sam Passmore (Board Member)
Laura Kwiecien (LARA), Ashtaan Rapanos (Assistant to the Board), Abigail Bies (incoming Assistant to the Board), Don Donald (LARA), Dan Horn (LARA), Jamie Cutler (LARA), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Don Keskey (GLREA), John Richter (GLREA), Suzy Westmoreland (MEGA), Aaron Walden (AG)

Attending by Phone:

Shawn Worden (LARA), Colleen Mulligan (MEC), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Michael Moody (AG), James Burnell (DTE)

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 April 15, 2024

Moved by **Nishaat Y. Killeen** Seconded by **Paul Isely**

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

Motion to Approve **Pending Quorum**

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by **Sam Passmore**, Seconded by **Nishaat Y. Killeen**

Motion to Approve **Carried by Consensus**

IV. Approval of Potential Conflict Disclosure Statement

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

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

Motion to Approve **Carried**

V. Updates from Chair Isely

There is a change in the application due to a change in the statute.

The Board is looking to build funding opportunities for lower capacity grantees through LARA's training sessions and an upcoming PowerPoint is being prepared to distribute to potential grantees of the UCPB.

The Board is looking to cut down on boilerplate language to be less daunting to lower capacity grantees,

VI. State Administration Updates

A. LARA Updates

Reminder to grantees that following meetings they need to submit their proposals so they can be submitted as soon as possible.

a. Budget Update (Attachment 2)

Current balance of funding: \$1,185,644

Two amendment requests and three original requests totaling \$312,895

Remaining balance for FY24: \$872,749

Sam Passmore: What happens if we do not spend all the money for this year?

Laura Kwiecien: It will remain accessible.

B. Attorney General Update

Michael Moody sees value in the grant requests.

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

GLREA Presentation: Promoting renewable energy in Michigan, majority of renewable energy is contracted by utility companies, which affects the cost effectiveness. 10 years in the business of promoting and preserving green energy and preventing wasteful spending.

MEC: DTE continues to raise the ceiling for everyone else, this is unprecedented. Relates to consumer advocacy.

CUB: Rate increase would translate to an ~8% increase in residential customers. CUB has a new expert to add to their list and have annual funding requests to be submitted for the following meeting.

VIII. Grant Amendment Requests

1. U-21585 - Consumers' Electric Rate Case (Amendment)

- a. Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) for U-21585 \$85,140

Motion to Approve Request by MEC for 85,140 by **Nishaat Y. Killeen**, Seconded by **Anne Polakowski**

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

Motion to Approve **Carried**

2. U-21291 - DTE Gas 2024 Rate Case (Amendment)
 - a. Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) for U-21291 \$11,000

Sam Passmore: If grant is not spent, is the money lost from the following fiscal year?

Dan Horn: Depending on when it is spent will decide whether or not it rolls over into the next fiscal year

Laura Kwiecien: There can be an Grant Amendment filed for the August meeting if the money is not spent and it can be returned to the Board

Motion to Approve Request by MEC for \$11,000 by **Anne Polakowski**, Seconded by **Nishaat Y. Killeen**

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

Motion to Approve **Carried**

Laura Kwiecien requests that MEC informs LARA as soon as MEC knows about the funds

IX. Grant Requests

1. TBD - DTE Renewable Energy Plan Case
 - a. Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) for TBD \$ 118,250

Sam Passmore: How was the budget constructed for this?

Chris Bzdok: This was an hours estimate from Five Lakes and MEC matched it

Motion to Approve Request by MEC for TBD \$118,250 by **Nishaat Y. Killeen**, Seconded by **Anne Polakowski**

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

Motion to Approve **Carried**

2. U-21585 - Consumers Electric Rate Case

- a. Citizens Utility Board of Michigan (CUB) for U-21585 \$76,890

Sam Passmore: Are different pieces led by each organization? Why is the Board getting two separate requests?

Chris Bydok: Precedent and also it is easier for LARA to separate the case between the two organizations.

Sam Passmore: How do you know who to bill for what?

Chris Bzdok: It depends on the expense, they either separate it or split it based on subject matter.

Sam Passmore: UCPB would like information on the partner from the underserved community.

Chris Bzdok: The member of the underserved community is a witness, MEC is not having direct communications, so they did not put it forward.

Motion to Approve Request by CUB for \$76,890 by **Sam Passmore**, Seconded by **Nishaat Y. Killeen**

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

Motion to Approve **Carried**

3. U-21534 - DTE Electric Rate Case
 - a. Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA) for U-21534 \$21,615

Sam Passmore: GLREA has had questionable performance in the past and would prefer if money goes to spending on underserved communities if he had to choose.

Paul Isely: Board members will provide oversight to GLREA to ensure deadlines are being met.

Motion to Approve Request by GLREA for \$21,615 by **Sam Passmore**, Seconded by **Nishaat Y. Killeen**

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

Motion to Approve **Carried**

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

Chris Bzdok: MEC is excited about the work they are doing with the gas rate case. There will be more to report in the upcoming months.

Amy Bandyk: CUB provided all of the updates in writing, apologized for joining by phone and thanks the Board.

Laura Kwiecien: Thanked Ashtaan for all the hard work over the last year.

XI. Next Meeting August 12, 2024

Last meeting of the fiscal year.

Laura Kwiecien: If a case needs to be extended, let the UCPB email know ASAP.

XII. Adjournment

Motion moved by **Nishaat Y Killeen**, Seconded by **Anne Polakowski**

Motion Approved by Consensus

DRAFT