

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD
April 15, 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

MINUTES - DRAFT

In Attendance: Paul Isely (Board Chair), Mike Troupos (Board Member), Nishaat Y. Killeen (Board Member), Laura Kwiecien (LARA), Ashtaan Rapanos (Assistant to the Board), Dan Horn (LARA), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Aaron Walden (AG), Brenda Davis (LARA), Don Dine (LARA), Rick Bunch (MI-MAUI), Dan Dundas (MEGA), Jamie Cutler (LARA)

Attending by Phone: Shawn Worden (LARA), Colleen Mulligan (MEC), Tanya Paslawski (Elevated Engagement), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Douglas Jester (CUB), Joyce Leslie (DTE), Akanke Hill (Soulardarity)

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 February 12, 2024

Moved by Mike Troupos Seconded by Nishaat Y. Killeen.

Majority Consent

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mike Troupos Seconded by Nishaat Y. Killeen.

Majority Consent

IV. Approval of Potential Conflict Disclosure Statement

Moved by Mike Troupos Seconded by Nishaat Y. Killeen.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

V. Approval of Revised Evaluation Criteria (Attachment I)

Moved by Mike Troupos Seconded by Nishaat Y. Killeen.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

- VI. Updates from Chair Isely
- Chair Isely, Nishaat, and Attorney General's Office will be part of small task force to discuss outreach plans for supporting other groups in applying for grant funding, will work on this over the next two months

VII. State Administration Updates

A. LARA Updates

- Don Dine is the new procurement manager and will be the primary board liaison moving forward
- Following up from financial discussion last meeting: AG's office stated that requesting things like Form 990 from organizations will be fine from grantees
- LARA has been working on updating application and can add Form 990 request as part of those revisions
- Budget Update (Attachment 2)
 - Money requested today: \$44,110
 - Money available: \$1,229,754

B. Attorney General Updates

- Continuing to work with grantees to coordinate where possible
- AG's office recently launched a utilities web page (<https://www.michigan.gov/ag/initiatives/utilities>) – a one-stop shop for information on utilities rate cases, providing comments before MPSC, etc.
- AG's office has been working with MI-MAUI on DTE Electric Rate Case; this is a big case and the requested amount is reasonable
- AG's office also believes MEC request is reasonable for Consumers Electric Rate Case; this is also a big case

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

Rick Bunch (MI-MAUI): MI-MAUI is an association of cities that has a vested interest in utilities: keeping costs down, municipal services, policies. MI-MAUI tries to focus interventions on where local governments have unique interests. For the requested case, the focus is on energy security: affordability, reliability, and customer protections. The goal is to improve the distribution system in better coordination with local governments to reduce costs and reduce disruptions. Association also wants better data access for local governments.

Chris Bzdok (MEC): Request is to provide starter funds to begin MEC's preparations and commencement of next Consumers Electric Rate Case. The approach to these cases now is to team up with CUB and coordinate with AG's office. There were significant wins on property taxes and changes to economic development rates in the last Consumers case. Comments have been filed on distribution spending dockets, and a memo was provided to the Board on this initiative. Looking to identify experts for this case; starter funds will help with that.

IX. Grant Requests

I. U-21534 – DTE Electric Rate Case

- Michigan Municipal Association for Utility Issues (MI-MAUI) for \$33,110

Mike Troupos (Board): The Board is funding MEC for this case as well, has MI-MAUI had a chance to meet with them; are they working with the other intervenors?

Rick Bunch (MI-MAUI): They do work with 5 Lakes on this.

Motion to approve request by MI-MAUI for \$33,110 by Mike Troupos Seconded by Nishaat Y. Killeen.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

2. U-21585 – Consumers Electric Rate Case
 - Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) for \$11,000

Mike Troupos (Board): Should the Board expect that asks from MEC and other intervenors will be along the same as these cases in the past? When will the next requests be?

Chris Bzdok (MEC): For MEC, they will request again at the June meeting, and expect that the ask will be similar to last time, or perhaps a bit higher, because this case is similar except for higher distribution spends.

Amy Bandyk (CUB): CUB funding request will come in June and will likely be similar to asks from past cases.

Motion to approve request by MEC for \$11,000 by Mike Troupos Seconded by Nishaat Y. Killeen.

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

Motion to Approve Carried

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

Chris Bzdok (MEC): A traditional type of case the UCPB has put resources into is PSCR. MEC hasn't requested on those lately and others haven't either. Just bringing this to their attention, perhaps it is just due to limited resources. They are important case, but with the size of these rate cases, MEC just hasn't figured out a plan yet. PSCR filings have quietly come in, and MEC is still thinking about them and could bring these to the Board again in the future.

Aaron Walden (AG): AG's office is involved in those PSCR cases.

Amy Bandyk (CUB): UPPCO has filed a case since CUB filed the last written updates.

Akanke Hill (Soulardarity): Soulardarity is currently drafting testimony in the DTE Gas case; interested in leveraging Board funding to cover general operational costs as well as expand capacity by bringing on some additional support.

Tanya Paslawski (Elevated Engagement): Urges Board to consider having either an additional process that is more simplified for smaller organizations or revising the process in general to be significantly simplified. Doesn't want the process to be inaccessible for smaller organizations; the current process to apply is really burdensome for an entity that doesn't already have support from someone who has participated in these proceedings.

- XI. Next Meeting June 10, 2024

- XII. Adjournment
Motion moved by Chair Isely.
Majority Consent

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