

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD

December 15, 2025 || 9:00 a.m.

Grand River Building – Sun Conference Room

Please use South Entrance

2407 N. Grand River Avenue

Lansing Michigan 48906

Virtual Options:

Call-In 408-418-9388 (*6 to toggle unmute/mute) Access Code: 2334 833 7397

In Attendance:

Paul Isely (Board Chair), Nishaat Y. Killeen (Board Member), Mike Troupos (Board Member)

Deandrea White (Assistant to the Board), Jaime Curtis (LARA-FAS), Amber Clouse (LARA-FAS), Don Dine (LARA-FAS), Brittanie Davis (LARA-FAS), Don Keskey (GLREA), John Freeman (GLREA), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Dan Dundas (MEGA), Chris Trubac (CUB)

Attending by Phone/Virtual:

Colleen Mulligan (MEC), Suzy Westmoreland (MEGA), Daniel Abrams (ELPC), Tanya Paslawski (Elevated Energy), Doug Jester (5 Lakes Energy), Elizabeth (Resident), Alex Miskho (Abrams Law Clinic), John Richter (GLREA)

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 20, 2025

Moved by Mike Seconded by Nishaat

Roll call vote for the motion to approve the minutes of October 20,2025

Mike Troupos, **Yes**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Approve: Carried

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve: Carried

IV. Updates from Chair Isely

V. State Administration Updates

A. LARA Updates

- Grant authority at start of meeting: \$1,245,373 remaining for grants

- Cases up for consideration today: 10 new FY grant requests
- Total amount requested today: \$641,920
- If all grants are approved as proposed: \$603,453 remaining authority for the rest of the fiscal year (not including any potential return of unspent funds)
- Available funding if all pending requests are approved: \$857,964
- Closed cases returning funds: 7 cases expected to return nearly \$140,000
- Note on returned funds: this increases available funding only; does not increase FY26 grant authority
- Grantee updates: grantees have been timely and responsive
- Payment processing note: thanks for patience due to extra processing time around fiscal year-end
- October payments: working to send ASAP; AG office review was just received
- Reporting reminder: November financial status reports are due today (extensions available if needed)
- Public comment clarification:
- First public comment section is for grantees/prospective grantees to summarize their requests before the board
- General public comment period will occur later in the agenda

B. Attorney General Updates

- AG litigation highlights shared (representative is not present today)
- AG is seeking a contested case hearing in U-21990 regarding DTE's data center special contracts
- AG is litigating (with many UCPB grantees involved) the following rate cases:
 - DTE Electric and DTE Gas
 - Consumers Energy Electric and Consumers Energy Gas
 - Note: DTE gas and Consumers Energy gas rate cases are just starting
- AG will intervene in SEMCO Energy Company's upcoming gas rate case
 - SEMCO plans to file its application in February 2026
- AG has intervened and is working on the Consumers Energy hydro dam sale case
- AG has intervened in the I&M data center/large load tariff case

- AG is actively challenging the U.S. Department of Energy emergency orders requiring Consumers Energy to keep running the Campbell coal plant, which was expected to retire last May

VI. Public Comment (Three-minute limit) – Grantee request summary

- **Chris Bzdok (MEC):**

- **PPA testimony:** evaluating and submitting testimony on the PPA; believes avoided costs would be higher than the PPA
- **Coal plant costs:** customers will be paying for net book assets for coal plants, but MEC does not want this as a long-term approach
- **DTE data center case:** “astonishing” they’re considering not going through a contested case
 - Wants to participate if the case is opened
 - If it isn’t opened, they have a lower amount requested to support an appeal
- **Funding priority order / what to cut first (if needed):**
 - Prefers not approving a case over trimming a case down
 - First to cut: hydro plant case (because other supporters are working on it)
 - Second to cut: depreciation cases
 - Noted tension between near-term customer advocacy vs long-term impacts
 - DTE data center is very important; aware the AG is working hard on it
 - Top priority overall: Consumers Energy Gas Rate Case
- **Looking ahead / upcoming filings:**
 - Consumers Energy IRP in June (would request support in April)
 - Consumers Energy Electric and DTE Electric: late spring / early summer
 - Mentioned an opportunity to bridge (note appears incomplete)

- **Amy Bandyk (CUB):**

- **EAAC:** more involved process; reviewing the technical design
- **Consumers Energy Gas Rate Case:**
 - Coordinating with MEC to avoid duplication
 - Noted Consumers Energy ROE was reduced
 - Focused on tangible results, including ROE adjustments in rate cases
- **Data center case:**
 - Described as huge
 - Working with the AG collaboratively
 - Did not submit a request this month for it, but ongoing coordination continues
- **SEMCO:** emphasized ensuring all customers are represented through UCPB

- **Douglas Jester (5 Lakes Energy):**

- **SEMCO gas rate case:**
 - SEMCO filed a notice and expects to file its application in February 2026

- CUB report (earlier this year): SEMCO's projected future gas rate increases were more modest than DTE and Consumers
- Still forecasting rate increases above inflation
- **UPPCO rate case:**
 - Expected to be filed in Q1
 - Will likely request support for that case
- **John Freeman (GLREA):**
 - Present for three cases
 - Requesting seed/starter funds for:
 - IRP cases
 - Data Center case
 - Noted this is the first time going through the IRP process since the law was implemented in 2023
 - **DTE Data Center case:**
 - Stated DTE hasn't provided data to support their position
 - Emphasized ensuring residential ratepayers are represented
 - Believes it should proceed as a fully contested case
- **John Richter (GLREA)**
 - **DTE Data Center case:**
 - Stated that DTE's affordability analysis is fundamentally flawed
 - Emphasized the need for a contested case to allow for proper review and scrutiny
- **Board Discussion**
 - **Projected caseload:** 2–3 electric rate cases (incl. possible UPPCO), 1 gas rate case, and 1–2 IRPs
 - **Priorities:** general alignment to prioritize rate/IRP work and deprioritize hydro; question raised about whether added funding for the data center case would be duplicative given AG/public attention
 - **Data center strategy:** shared A/B plan — pursue a contested case; if MPSC grants the ex parte approach, prepare for a possible appeal (group believes ex parte approval is likely)
 - **Why residential advocacy matters:** industrial intervenors (e.g., ABATE) may participate, but their interests don't fully cover residential ratepayer impacts; few residential advocates beyond the AG and grantees
 - **Broader impacts:** decision could shape upcoming IRPs; concerns include reliability/demand, higher prices, increased plant run-time/emissions, and environmental justice considerations
 - **MPSC dynamics:** noted heavy pressure on MPSC; potential “middle-ground” idea discussed to allow more time for contract review

VII. FY26 Grant Requests

1. U-20757 – Energy Affordability and Access Committee for \$5,170.00

- Citizens Utility Board of Michigan (CUB): U-20757 for \$5,170.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to approve Citizens Utility Board of Michigan's grant request for \$5,170.00 for the Energy Affordability and Access Committee.

Mike Troupos, **Yes**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Approve: Carried

2. U-21981 – Consumer's Energy Gas Rate Case for \$115,500.00

- Citizens Utility Board of Michigan (CUB): U-21981 for \$115,500.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to approve Citizens Utility Board of Michigan's grant request for \$115,500 for the Consumer's Energy Gas Rate Case.

Mike Troupos, **Yes**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Approve: Carried

3. U-21981– Consumers Gas Rate Case for \$121,000.00

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-21981 for \$121,000.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to approve Citizens Utility Board of Michigan's grant request for \$121,000 for the Consumer's Energy Gas Rate Case.

Mike Troupos, **Yes**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Approve: Carried

4. U-21985 – Consumers Hydroelectric Dams Case for \$40,000.00

- Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC): U-21985 for \$40,000.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to approve **Environmental Law & Policy Center's** grant request for \$40,000 for the Consumers Hydroelectric Dams Case U-21985.

Mike Troupos, **No**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **No**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Approve: Not Carried

5. U-21985– Consumers Hydroelectric Dams for \$99,000.00

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-21985 for \$99,000.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to approve Michigan Environmental Council's grant request for \$99,000 for the Consumers Hydroelectric Dams Case U-21985.

Mike Troupos, **No**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **No**; Paul Isely, **No**

Motion to Approve: Not Carried

6. U-21990 – DTE Data Center Case for \$26,180.00

- Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA): U-21990 for \$26,180.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to approve Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association's grant request for \$26,180.00 for the DTE Data Center Case U-21990.

Mike Troupos, **Yes**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Approve: Carried

7. U-21990- DTE Data Center Case for \$97,350.00

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-21990 for \$97,350.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to approve Michigan Environmental Council's grant request for \$97,350.00 for the DTE Data Center Case U-21990.

Mike Troupos, **Yes**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Approve: Carried

8. U-TBD – Consumers Energy Depreciation Case for \$58,850.00

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-TBD for \$58,850.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to approve Michigan Environmental Council's grant request for \$58,850 for the Consumers Energy Depreciation Case #U-TBD.

Mike Troupos, **No**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **No**

Motion to Approve: Not Carried

9. U-TBD DTE Energy Depreciation Case for \$58,850.00

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-TBD for \$58,850.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to approve Michigan Environmental Council's grant request for \$58,850 for the DTE Energy Depreciation case #U-TBD.

Mike Troupos, **Yes**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Approve: Carried

10. U-TBD DTE Electric IRP Case for \$10,010.00

- Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA): U-TBD for \$10,010.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to table Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association's grant request for \$10,010 for the DTE Electric IRP Case #U-TBD to the February 2026 Meeting.

Mike Troupos, **Yes**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Table: Carried

11. Case U-TBD Consumers IRP Case for \$10,010.00

- Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA): U-TBD for \$10,010.00

Roll Call Vote for the Motion to table Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association's grant request for \$10,010 for Consumers IRP Case # U-TBD to the February 2026 meeting.

Mike Troupos, **Yes**; Nishaat Y. Killeen, **Yes**; Paul Isely, **Yes**

Motion to Table: Carried

- I. Public Comment (Three (3) minute limit)**
- II. Next Meeting February 9, 2025**
- III. Adjournment at 11:02am**