

## **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**