

## UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD

12:30 p.m.

Michigan Library & Historical Center

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lake Superior Room

702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES *Draft*

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Present: Jim MacInnes (Chairperson), Paul Isely (Board Member), Brian Vilmont (Board Member), Sam Passmore (Board Member), Susan Haroutunian (Board Member), Kelly Jo Kitchen (Board Assistant), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Don Keskey (RCG and GLREA), Jim Wilson (LARA), Tonya Paslawski (Michigan Electric and Gas Association), John Liskey (CARE), Mike Moody (AG), Brian Coyer (RCG and GLREA), John Freeman (GLREA), Ed Haroutunian (Public), Michelle Rison (RCG)

Monday February 4, 2019

#### I. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

- a. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of December 3, 2018.  
Moved: Brian Vilmont; Seconded: Paul Isely  
Motion carried

#### II. Business Items

- a. LARA Budget Update  
Discussion about unencumbered funds
- b. Attorney General:  
Mike Moody: The new attorney general, Dana Nessel, will appear at the IPU forum. AG will be in DTE IRP case. The tax cases are wrapping up and they are moving into the IRS C cases. The Consumer Energy gas disruption issue is being looked at by the AG and will be analyzed in the GSCR case.  
John Freeman commented about the action Consumers took in order to avoid shut-offs and how Consumers made a PSA during the Super Bowl.
- c. CARE
  - Grant request - UPPCO PSCR-R, (U-20206) for \$15,000  
Moved: Paul Isely; Seconded: Susan Haroutunian  
Motion carried  
CARE has been working really well with UPPCO management in resolution of capacity costs issues. The industrials are pushing back on this and want to go back to the previous model that UPPCO was using.  
Q: Jim MacInnis: What is the opportunity is in this case?  
A: John Liskey: Looking at replacement contracts for the one UPPCO cancelled as well as looking at the interruptible tariffs.
  - Grant request – UMERC PSCR-R, (U-20208) for \$15,000  
UMERC is a standalone company owned by Weppco out of Wisconsin, looking a PPAs between the two companies and making sure the split between the two companies is fair.  
Moved: Paul Isely; Seconded: Susan Haroutuntian  
Motion carried

d. MEC

- Grant request #4 – DTE 6t IRP, (TBD) for \$101,000  
MEC made a presentation on what is involved in the upcoming IRP case. MEC is beginning to put the team in place and the filing is March 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Q: John Freeman: What is happening with the two big companies CECO and DTE and why are they going in different directions with their future energy needs. Discussion.  
Q: Sam Passmore: Inquired about the challenges regarding the DTE gas plants construction that is occurring.  
MEC addressed the uphill fight for each of those challenges.  
Moved: Paul Isely; Seconded: Susan Haroutunian  
Motion Carried  
Discussion about aligning the work among grantees and with the AGs office and what can be achieved.  
Discussion about other funding to compliment the grant(s) received from the board.
- Grant request – DTE Rate Case, (U-20162) No-cost internal budget transfer of \$7,000 from expert to legal.  
Moved: Paul Isely; Seconded: Susan Haroutunian  
Motion Carried

e. GLREA

- Grant request – DTE PURPA, (U-18091) for \$15,150  
GLREA states commission reopened this case.  
Moved: Paul Isely; Seconded: Brian Vilmont  
Motion Carried
- Grant request – DTE 6t IRP, (TBD) for \$36,966  
Moved: Paul Isely; Seconded: Susan Haroutunian  
Discussion regarding the amount of money that is left in the UCRF that can be used for grants for the remainder of the fiscal year.

### III. Reports

a. Grantees

CARE: Busy month ahead

RCG: CECO rate case they advocated for a historical test year and not a future year test year. CECO will not file another rate case for at least two years. Rate cut occurred. The board requested a highlight memo.

MEC: Highlighted the memo that MEC provided the board.

### IV. Board Education via email

- <https://www.elprocus.com/flexible-ac-transmission-system-need-definition-types/>
- <https://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/the-smarter-grid/chinas-state-grid-corp-crushes-power-transmission-records>
- <https://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/the-smarter-grid/after-almost-100-years-of-talk-time-might-be-right-to-strengthen-the-interconnect>

## V. Public Comment

Michelle Rison raised the question about how to make experts more accountable for their testimony in cases before the MPSC. A discussion of the standards of conduct during discovery was presented by the grantees.

## VI. Adjournment 3:45

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