

## UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD

12:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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Present: Jim MacInnes (Board Chairperson), Sam Passmore (Board Member), Elise Matz (Board Member), Bali Kumar (Board Member), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Don Keskey (RCG, GLREA), John Liskey (CARE), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Tonya Paslawski (MEGA), Michael Moody (AG), Greg Rivet (LARA), Suzy Westmoreland, John Freeman (GLREA), John Richter (GLREA), Charlotte Jameson (MEC), Michael Moody (Attorney General), Douglas Jester, (CARE and CUB), Cory Connolly (MIEIBC), John Liskey (CARE), LeAnn Droste (LARA), Kelly Kitchen (Assistant to the Board)

Monday June 1, 2020

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

Jim MacInnes discussed ground rules and roll call of board members.

##### a. Approval of Agenda and April 13, 2020 minutes (including consent items)

Moved: Bali Kumar, Seconded Elise Matz:

Roll Call Vote: Jim MacInnes (yes), Sam Passmore (yes), Elise Matz (yes), Bali Kumar (yes)

Motion Carried

##### b. LARA Budget Update:

Greg Rivet; The current balance is \$3,604 plus monies being turned back in brings the available funds for grants to \$33,062.33.

#### II. Business Items

##### a. Attorney General Update

Mike Moody: AG is in the gas rate cases, jointly working on cases with CARE and MEC as well as CUB. There is a mix of sharing an expert and/or a joint litigation agreement with the above groups. AG has amended their request for additional money for a GCR case similar to CUB.

The AG has been working closely with the MPSC on protections for low income folks. The AG does not appear to be in the PPA case.

DTE electric case is coming in July and that will be a big case. Michigan Gas Utility may wait to file their case. The IRPs are ongoing. The AG is going over COVID related things.

Q: Sam Passmore: What is the AG not doing because of COVID, where are the priorities of time.

A: Some of the IRP cases the AG is allowing the grantees to do the leg work on those cases. FERC is taking more time lately and CARE and CUB have been very helpful. The AG is able to lean on the consumer advocates for assistance. Arrearages issues of bad debt because of COVID. The Feds have given some support for this through the CARES Act. Will look into participating in cases that are just asking for comments.

Q: Jim MacInnes: Requested an update from the AG opinion regarding which cases the UCPB can participate in.

A: There has not been any communication as yet from the opinion section of the Ag as yet.

b. MEC

- Funds returning to the UCRF: 2019 Grants DTE IRP (U-20471) \$3,066.36  
DTE PSCR (U-20203) \$5,044.9 and  
2020 grant DTE PSCR (U-20203) \$7,070.00 for a total of \$15,181.56.
- No cost transfer of \$5,000 from expert to legal in DTE Electric Rate Case (U-20561) for defending issues on rehearing.  
Q: Regarding the timing of the rehearing.

Moved: Elise Matz; Seconded: Bali Kumar

Roll Call Vote: Jim MacInnes (yes), Sam Passmore (yes), Elise Matz (yes), Bali Kumar (yes)

Motion Carried

- DTE 2020-21 Electric Rate Case U-TBD for \$15,150 in starter funds, \$7,500 legal and \$7,500 expert, \$150 administrative.  
Many issues are being carried forward from previous rate cases.  
Low Income issues will be addressed at a high level especially because of the pandemic.  
Q: Jim MacInnes: What about rate design and what drives rate increases.  
A: Maintenance and expansion of customer base and who pays for what.  
Q: Jim MacInnes: is most of the new interconnections from industrials?  
A: Douglas Jester: the interconnections are a mixture of residential and commercial. There is a cross-subsidy that occurs because of the ratio of revenue that is received. This is a 20 million dollar a year impact on residential customers.  
Q: Elise Matz: What would the total budget look like?  
A: Chris Bzdok: probably around \$100,000 like previous cases. The ROI comes back at around 17 to 1.  
Q: Sam Passmore: If you had more resources would you use them  
A: Chris Bzdok: we could use more monies if they were available, but we are trying to stay within the UCPB budget constraints.  
Q: Bali Kumar: this case is coming out in June or July.  
A: Chris Bzdok: Probably July, MEC is trying to get started on this case and then request more in the next fiscal year.

Moved: Bali Kumar, Seconded: Elise Matz

Roll Call Vote: Jim MacInnes (yes), Sam Passmore (yes), Elise Matz (yes), Bali Kumar (yes)

Motion Carried

c. CARE

- Funds returning to the 2020 UCRF: UMEREC PSCR (U-20533) \$14,277.35

No requests, just returning some monies. The PSCR cases that CARE usually participates in do not require intervention this year.

d. CUB

- DTE Gas Rate Case (U-20642) for \$8,080.00  
Asking for additional monies for two rate cases.  
Douglas Jester: Cost allocation issue from residential to transmission customers.  
Amy Bandyk: 5 Lakes Energy has been working pro bono and there is still more work to be done from the experts. Funding is coming in for the electric case so CUB has not asked for monies in those cases, no additional funding has been found for the gas cases.

Moved: Bali Kumar, Seconded: Elise Matz

Roll Call Vote: Jim MacInnes (yes), Sam Passmore (yes), Elise Matz (yes), Bali Kumar (yes)

Motion Carried

- CECo Gas Rate Case (U-20650) for \$6,060.00  
Douglas Jester: CECo is asking for a large rate increase. Joint litigation agreement with AG.  
Amy Bandyk: The same use of expert time will be required to finish up this case.

Moved: Bali Kumar, Seconded: Elise Matz

Roll Call Vote: Jim MacInnes (yes), Sam Passmore (yes), Elise Matz (yes), Bali Kumar (yes)

Motion Carried

e. RCG

- CECo Amendment to PPA (U-20734) for \$11,059.00  
Don Keskey gave an overview of the issues that may be presented in this case.

RCG Amended Request: No cost transfer for the rehearing for legal costs for DTE Rate Case (U-20561).

Bali Kumar: Request AG opinion if UCPB can participate in PPA cases.

Mike Moody: Said that there could be an argument that there is a connection of a PPA case to the statutory cases outlined for the UCPB.

Elise Matz: What are the strategic and financial reasons to get involved in this case.

Don Keskey: The AG would be welcomed in this case.

Mike Moody: Staff issue and the AG could monitor the case.

Jim MacInnes: Where does this plant stack up, what is the Delta cost of this plant?

Don Keskey: The plant produces base load energy.

Jim MacInnes: This is very speculative for a very short time duration.

Don Keskey: This decision should be made with all information being brought forward and that is what RCG would do.

Elise Matz: The education process in looking at requests I will look at the dockets. It would be helpful if we had a better way to evaluate requests as they come in.

Jim MacInnes: Why did this motion fail last meeting.

Elise Matz: The vote that was taken last time had to deal with the monies that were available and the requests that were made.

Sam Passmore: It is good to finish what you start. The vote previous was made with the idea that the money would come back into the UCRF if the continuation request was not funded. If there is monkey business going on in this case it seems like the MPSC would find it.

### III. Reports

#### a. Grantees

Jim MacInnes: would like to hear from Douglas regarding the MISO CIL meeting.

Douglas Jester: The study that MISO is conducting looks at the capacity available outside zone 7 and the limits that zone 7 has on capacity creation. Zone 7 hit the local clearing requirement and the price was set at the cap. This could lead to more capacity being built and a rising of costs. The commission asked MISO how capacity import limits could be raised for the upcoming years. The first tranche study found that there were relatively easy steps that could be taken to relieve the current local clearing requirements. The study just looks at options, the next part is looking at potential providers such as ITC and what the cost-benefit analysis would be.

MEC COVID response: Amy Bandyk commends Charlotte for taking the lead and getting the commission to act. Governor made an executive order to restore water service, but a problem arose with those customers who also had their electric shut-off. The data is open to the public which made things easier. Protections extend through June 12.

Sam Passmore: I appreciate the efforts being done. The proposals for the year as they prepare them it would be helpful if the proposals speak to their efforts during the pandemic and if the pandemic has shifted their priorities.

Don Keskey: DTE (U-20561) and (U-20134) supported a settlement agreement would remove on-peak pricing for this summer.

### IV. Public Comment

#### V. Next meeting: August 3, 2020

Moved: Sam Passmore: Seconded: Bali Kumar

Roll Call Vote: Jim MacInnes (yes), Sam Passmore (yes), Elise Matz (yes), Bali Kumar (yes)

#### VI. Adjournment 3:25

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