

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD

December 6, 2021 || 10:00 a.m.

Constitution Hall – Conference Rooms A & B

525 W. Allegan Street

Lansing Michigan 48933

Call-In option: 888.363.4735 (US Toll Free)

Conference Code: 683488

Meeting Minutes

Present: Paul Isely (Board Chairperson), Elise Matz (Board Vice Chair), Sam Passmore (Board Member), Mike Troupos (Board Member), Leah Wiste (Board Member), Emily Loder (Assistant to the Board), Dan Horn (LARA-FAS Bureau Director), Anshu Varma (LARA- Procurement Director), Laura Kwiecien (LARA- Manager), Douglas Jester (CUB), Amy Bandyk (CUB), Don Keskey (RCG),

Attending by phone: Jackson Koepfel (Soulardarity), Christan Dock, Jan Beecher (MSU), Rob Blacksoft (Soulardarity, We Want Green Too), Kate Hutchins (Soulardarity), Gloria Lowe (We Want Green Too), Debbie Fisher, Shawn Warden (LARA), Shay Gaffey (LARA), Chris Bzdok (MEC)

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 4, 2021 (Attachment 1)

- Amend October 4, 2021 minutes to reflect that Mike Troupos was present in-person at the meeting

Moved by **Elise Matz**, Seconded by **Mike Troupos**

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, abstained

Motion to Approve Carried

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by **Elise Matz**, Seconded by **Mike Troupos**

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes

Motion to Approve Carried

IV. State Administration Updates

A. LARA Updates

- Introduce New Staff
 - Anshu introduced Laura Kwiecien, new manager and UCPB board liaison
 - Grantee training
 - Introduction of new email box (LARA-UCPB@michigan.gov)
- Grantee Training
 - Let municipal league know
 - Will be scheduled for a later date
- Budget Update (Attachment 2)
 - About \$305,000 requested for today, if all grants are approved today
 - \$183,000 remaining for rest of the year

B. Attorney General Update

- AG has talked with all grant seekers and deems all cases valuable

V. New Business

A. Welcome New Board Member: Leah Wiste

B. 2022 UCPB Schedule (Attachment 3)

- Move to 2nd Monday of the month
- Change Meeting Location for 2022 Schedule
 - Marijuana Regulatory Agency (MRA) Building 2407 N. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906 Jupiter Conference Room
- Feb Meeting: finish meeting and have Michael (AG Office) give a discussion about where upcoming cases may be coming from. Provide additional background and training for the Board.

Moved by **Sam Passmore**, Seconded by **Leah Wiste**

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes

Motion to Approve Carried

VI. Public comment (Three (3) minute limit)

- CUB: requests for today, remainder of funds from previous cases. Returning some funds for Northern Michigan power case, about \$10,000. Cases have been filed, at the point where CUB would need funding to intervene. Previous cases have been filed, CUB will submit summary of completed case/results by next meeting.
On the Horizon: DTE will file electric rate by end of Jan. Integrated resource plan filing in Oct 2022 (funds possible for participating in stakeholder process). Possible gas rate case. Consumers: has rate case near its end, possible for Consumers to file electric rate case in March. Indiana Michigan: integrated resource plan, to file in Indiana in Jan and Michigan in March (board funded participation in stakeholder process). UPPCO: likely to file rate case in approximately March (or April).
- Soulardarity: Preparing for DTE to file case, joint intervention with We Want Green Too. 1st time DTE is requesting electric rate increase since COVID. Planning a few key strategies: include low-income rate payers in case proceedings through survey/research and testimony. Try to prove correlation between rising residential rates and shareholder payouts. Focus on reliability. Plan for three witnesses.
- We Want Green Too: Initiative that assists veterans in returning to communities and becoming leaders and addressing climate change and environmental injustices. Communities dealing with energy burdens, want to become involved in proceedings so groups stop speaking on their behalf. Wanted to know how households were dealing with many power outages in Detroit. This was the basis for their survey, results of the survey need to be voiced and made known to DTE and the Public Service Commission. It is so important for people to understand that we are moving in a direction where many households many not be able to economically recover from rate hikes. There is negligence and lack of concern for people who may not be able to afford services if rates continue to rise.
- Debbie Fisher: Serve neighborhood that is predominantly low-income POC. Want approaches that reduce energy cost and increase reliability. Encourages board to fund Soulardarities proposal.
- MEC: two requests today. 20826 is a no-cost transfer of funds – no new money requested. Expert to legal transfer, DTE filed for new information which led to motions to strike and rebuttal. Want to transfer funds and return whatever is not used. The ROE case is described in item 4 of the proposal. MEC feels like they have a lane in the case, and wants to use the case as a discrete pilot process. Would discuss with the board results and changes made at conclusion of case. They categorize this as a “soft ask.” Case is requested two ways: half-funding and full-funding. Possibly engage in Consumers electric in March 2022.

VII. Grant Requests

1. U-20826 – DTE Electric 2021 Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) Plan
 - Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-20826 for \$55,550
Motion to approve request for no-cost transfer by **Elise Matz**, Seconded by **Sam Passmore**
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.
Motion to Approve Carried

2. U-20836 – DTE Electric Rate Case
 - Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-20836 for \$40,400 or \$20,200
 - The funding is being requested as a soft ask by MEC, they want to try out the approach.
 - There is a possibility for needing additional funds later, but MEC does not anticipate this.
 - This is the same case as Soulardarity: (TBD) for \$78,780
Motion to approve request for \$20,200 by **Mike Troupos**, Seconded by **Elise Matz**
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.
Motion to Approve Carried

3. U-21048 - Consumers Energy Company (CECo) 2022 Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) Plan
 - Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21048 for \$45,450
Motion to approve request by **Elise Matz**, Seconded by **Mike Troupos**
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes
Motion to Approve Carried

4. U-21052 - Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M) Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) Plan
 - Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21052 for \$6,693
Motion to approve request by **Mike Troupos**, Seconded by **Elise Matz**
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.
Motion to Approve Carried

5. U-21056 - Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation (UMERC) Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) Plan
 - Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21056 for \$1,643
Motion to approve request by **Elise Matz**, Seconded by **Mike Troupos**
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.
Motion to Approve Carried

6. U-21058 - Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) Plan

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21058 for \$1,643
Motion to approve request by **Elise Matz**, Seconded by **Sam Passmore**
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.
Motion to Approve Carried

7. U-21148 – Consumers Energy Company (CECo) Gas Rate Case
 - Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21148 for \$24,947
Motion to approve request by **Elise Matz**, Seconded by **Mike Troupos**
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.
Motion to Approve Carried
8. TBD - Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO)/ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
 - Citizens Utility Board (CUB): (TBD) for \$50,500
 - No problems with CUB if the board decides to fund half now and half later.
 - CUB is the primary participant/intervener for MichiganMotion to approve request for \$25,250 by **Mike Troupos**, Seconded by **Elise Matz**
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.
Motion to Approve Carried
9. TBD - DTE Energy Electric Rate Case
 - Souldarity: (TBD) for \$78,780
 - Experts, whoever they may be, can be approved by the Board regardless of “qualifications” as long as the Board deems them a good witness. This case has a lot of qualitative data/experts.
 - This is the same case as Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-20836 for \$40,400 or \$20,200
Motion to approve request by **Elise Matz**, Seconded by **Leah Wiste**
Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Elise Matz, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Mike Troupos, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.
Motion to Approve Carried

VIII. Public Comment (Three (3) minute limit)

- Don Keske (RCG): Board had given small grant for U-20940, ALJ issued a decision adopting RCGs decision for a test year no more than 12 months after rate filing. In U-20963, ALJ rejected utilities projections on the basis of “little support.”

IX. Next Meeting February 14, 2022

X. Adjournment

Motion moved by **Mike Troupos** and seconded by **Elise Matz**