

UTILITY CONSUMER PARTICIPATION BOARD
January 9, 2023|| 10:00 a.m.
CRA Building (previously MRA) – Sun Conference Room
Please use South Entrance (Door Will Have a Sign)
2407 N. Grand River Avenue
Lansing Michigan 48906
Call-In option: 888.278.0296 (US Toll Free)
Conference Code: 4803352

MINUTES

In Attendance: Paul Isely, Leah Wiste, Sam Passmore, Laura Kwiecien (LARA), Anshu Varma (LARA-Procurement Director), Emily Loder (Assistant to the Board) Amy Bandyk (CUB), Chris Bzdok (MEC), Dan Dunas (MEGA), Brenda Davis (LARA)

Attending by phone: Shawn Warden (LARA), Jackson Koeppel (Soulardarity), Lauren (MEC), Douglas Jester (CUB), Colleen Mulligan (MEC)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Paul Isely established a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Paul notes that Mike Troupos is absent due to the date change of this meeting

II. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of October 10, 2022 (Attachment I)

Moved by Sam Passmore, Seconded by Leah Wiste

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.

Motion to Approve Carried

III. Approval of Agenda

Decision to strike request number 4 as it is null due to the meeting date change.

Moved by Leah Wiste, Seconded by Sam Passmore

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.

Motion to Approve Carried

IV. State Administration Updates

A. LARA Updates

a. Anshu reminds board members about renewing their positions

o Michael Moody is aware of the current board vacancy

- b. Anshu and Paul remind everyone that the February meeting has been cancelled
- o Budget Update (Attachment 2)
 - Extra \$11,000 in spending authority with cancellation of item number 4
 - Roughly \$40,000 would be left if all grants are funded today

B. Attorney General Update

Michael Moody is not in attendance

V. Public comment (Three (3) minute limit) – Grantee request summary

Jackson K – Expectant DTE electric rate case and IRP case. Not doing multiple witnesses.

Chris Bzdok (MEC) – DTE electric rate case, long term budget forecast, introducing lawyer to work on cases.

MEC and CUB will pursue joint effort on the DTE rate case. MEC will mainly deal with capital expenditure and CUB will deal with cost allocation issues. One of MECs long term forecast items is a Consumers electric rate case sometime this spring, could bridge fiscal years. Also expecting to ask for grant for a complaint case against utilities for property tax assessments. MEC is still holding funds from a previous grant to fund reconciliation cases and possibly for other cases if a shortage of funds is apparent.

Amy Bandyk (CUB) – MISO/FERC in the amount that they typically request to keep allowing a consumer voice at MISO. Amy reiterates Chris' statements about the DTE case and notes they will be collaborating with the AG office. Consumers energy case has now been filed and some of the issues are: pipeline maintenance, greenhouse gas reductions, cost of capital, level of operating expenses, level of corporate overhead, etc. Still in discovery portion of other cases, unsure if money will be returned.

VI. Grant Requests

Discussion about overall budgeting approach.

Sam states that everything today is compelling. Could vote for everything and if money runs out it could be the basis for a larger budget request from the legislature next year. Could also be more strategic in what we approve now and save up for potential big issues later in the year.

Leah brings up possibly partially funding some of the requests. Amy Bandyk (CUB) states that they could not find space to reduce spending. Chris Bzdok (CUB) would prefer prioritizing cases over bridging them between fiscal year. DTE electric rate case is top priority, Consumers electric rate case (spring) is #2 but could be bridged, PSCR reconciliations would be #3 but could also be bridged. Complaint case is important but doesn't have a timing issue. Would bail on PSCR plan and focus on reconciliation if it came to that. Jackson states that the IRP work is their top priority right now due to timing, could delay electric rate case if necessary.

Paul thinks all cases for today are good, if better cases show up grantees would likely ask for reallocation of funds/ to switch money. Paul is willing to chance potentially running out of funds. AGs office has said MISO/FERC work is one of the best things the Board funds. DTE electric rate case is "now or never", as is the DTE IRP case due to timing. Would not prefer to partially fund requests.

Motion to approve the extra attorney for MEC by Leah Wiste, seconded by Sam Passmore

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.

Motion to Approve Carried

I. MISO/FERC

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): MISO/FERC for \$55,000

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$55,000 by Leah Wiste, Seconded by Sam Passmore.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.

Motion to Approve Carried

2. U-TBD – DTE Electric 2023 Rate Case

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-TBD for \$51,700

Motion to approve request by MEC for \$51,700 by Leah, Seconded by Sam.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.

Motion to Approve Carried

3. U-TBD – DTE Electric 2023 Rate Case

- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC): U-TBD for \$99,000

Motion to approve request by MEC for \$99,000 by Leah, Seconded by Sam.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.

Motion to Approve Carried

4. U-TBD – DTE Electric 2023 Rate Case

- Soulardarity U-TBD for \$68,806.25

Motion to approve request by Soulardarity for \$68,806.25 by Leah Wiste, Seconded by Sam Passmore.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.

Motion to Approve Carried

5. U-21308 – Consumers Energy Gas Rate Case

- Citizens Utility Board (CUB): U-21308 for \$38,500

Motion to approve request by CUB for \$38,500 by Sam Passmore, Seconded by Leah Wiste.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.

Motion to Approve Carried

6. U-21193 – DTE 2023 IRP Case

- Soulardarity U-21193 for \$68,806.25

Motion to approve request by Soulardarity for \$68,806.25 by Sam Passmore, seconded by Leah Wiste.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Isely, yes; Sam Passmore, yes; Leah Wiste, yes.

Motion to Approve Carried

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

Chris Bzdok (MEC): have settled in the consumers rate case, which they worked on with CUB. There will be a one-time refund of \$15million next year. Got what they wanted in terms of distribution cost allocation. \$10Million shareholder donation to low-income ratepayers, direct assistance to accounts instead of having payers enroll in programs and jump through hoops. Building electrification program with a low-income component, switching from propane to electric heat. Consumers will participate in workgroup about industrial and commercial customers. CUB and MEC feel positively about the outcome.

Amy Bandyk (CUB): Thanks the board for funding their requests and continuing to support their work. DTE voluntary pre-paid program, commission denied the program and agreed with CUB's assessments of the program.

Douglas Jester (CUB): NSP gas rate case has reached a settlement, the proposed increase was reduced to \$700,000. CUB views settlement as successful and got everything they advocated for. UPPCO electric rate case testimony is due soon

VII. Next Meeting April 10, 2023

IX. Adjournment

Motion moved by Leah Wiste and seconded by Sam Passmore