



UTILITY CONSUMERS' BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

9/9/2024

Attendance:

UCB: Bill Steele, Tina Francone, Terry Hart, Ron Lehr, and Parks Barroso

Absent: Josh Bufmack and Sondra Young

A quorum of UCB members was present.

UCA: Cindy Schonhaut, Hector Arreola, Scott England, Chris Neil, Ron Fernandez, Cory Skluzak, Leslie Henry-Sermos, and Kerry Kuykendoll

AG: Tom Dixon and Kate Crampton

MEETING START: 10:03AM

I. WELCOME

- **Approve September Meeting Agenda and July Meeting Minutes**
 - UCB Chair Bill Steele requested for a motion to approve both the July meeting minutes and the September meeting agenda.
 - Terry Hart motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. Tina Francone seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - Terry Hart motioned to approve the September meeting agenda. Tina Francone seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. GUEST SPEAKER

- **Shubha Harris, Equity in Energy, Policy Consultant, Fresh Energy**

Shubha Harris serves as an Equity in Energy Policy Consultant for Fresh Energy and the Environmental Law and Policy Center. Shubha's work focuses on the intersection of equity and affordability in dockets at the public utilities' commissions in Minnesota and Michigan, in particular, ensuring the voices and

needs of historically under-represented communities are included in energy decision-making.

Ms. Harris provided a presentation on Low Income Program Design & Energy Justice defining what is energy assistance, the need for energy assistance for low-income individuals and families, the history and role of Low-Income Heating and Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the challenges of administering LIHEAP to those in need, additional utility assistance programs, and an overview on the background and history of Energy Justice.

Board discussion was focused on improving utilities' efforts to reach additional customers in need of assistance, the role of local, state and federal governments in supporting utility assistance programs, and ongoing efforts of developing an energy justice policy.

Ms. Harris' presentation can be found in the shared UCB Google Drive folder 9/9/2024 UCB Meeting.

III. ANNUAL UCB TRAINING

- **Tom Dixon, First Assistant Attorney General, CO. Attorney General**
 - Tom's UCB training presentation, UCB bylaws, and best practices can be found in the shared UCB Google Drive folder 9/9/2024 UCB Meeting.
 - UCA Operations Manager Hector Arreola will be sending Annual Board Training affidavits for UCB members to review and sign.
 - Please return signed training affidavits to Hector at your earliest convenience.

IV. OTHER ISSUES / MISC. UPDATES

- UCA Director Cindy Schonhaut requested suggestions for topic / guest speaker for the next UCB meeting on 11/4/24 and upcoming 2025 meetings.
- UCB Chair Bill Steele gave kudos to Hector Arreola for his efforts for all matters regarding the UCB and requested that Board members please respond to Hector when he sends emails accordingly.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Bill Steele requested for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tina Seconded. The motion carried.

Meeting ended at: 11:53 AM

Next meeting is Monday, November 4, 2024, at 10:00AM