



## UTILITY CONSUMERS' BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

1/12/2026

#### Attendance:

UCB: Bill Steele, Jessica Lau, Terry Hart, Parks Barroso, Ron Lehr, Amy Cooke, Sondra Young Michael Carter, and Cheri Witt-Brown

Absent: Josh Bufmack

A quorum of UCB members was present.

UCA: Cindy Schonhaut, Hector Arreola, Leslie Sermos, Cory Skluzak, Josh Putterman, Kerry Kuykendoll, and Abu Shahadat Ibrahim.

AG Office: Tom Dixon, Greg Bunker and Kate Crampton

MEETING START: 10:04 AM

#### I. WELCOME

- **Approving the January Meeting Agenda and November Meeting Minutes**
  - Cheri Witt-Brown identified a spelling error in the November Meeting Minutes.
    - Hector will correct and upload corrected minutes to the shared Google Drive.
  - UCB Chair Bill Steele requested a motion to approve both the January meeting agenda and the November meeting minutes.
    - Cheri Witt-Brown motioned to approve the November meeting minutes. Terry Hart seconded the motion. The motion carried.
    - Terry Hart motioned to approve the January meeting agenda. Jessica Lau seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- UCA Director Cindy Schonhaut welcomed new UCA Rate/Financial Analyst Abu Shahadat Ibrahim.

## **II. GUEST SPEAKER**

- **Bill Steele, Chair, Utility Consumers' Board (UCB)**

UCB Chair Bill Steele, who is also an instructor, adjunct professor and advisory counsel member for the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities provided a presentation “The Basics of Utility Regulation and Ratemaking”.

Bill’s presentation covered an outline on utility regulation and ratemaking, definition of a public utility, how public utility rates are regulated, and the process of a utility rate case.

Board discussion focused on the role and impact of utility bill riders and how the UCB can assist the Board and represent their congressional districts in utility rate proceedings.

Bill Steele’s presentation can be found in the shared UCB Google Drive folder 1/12/2026 UCB Meeting.

## **III. PENDING CASE STRATEGY**

- **25AL-0494E - PSCo Phase I Electric Rate Case - Cory Skluzak, Rate/Financial Analyst, UCA**
- **24AL-0499G - Atmos Energy Phase I and II Gas Rate Case - Scott England, Economist, UCA**

Pending case strategy reports can be found in the shared UCB Google Drive folder: 1/12/26 UCB Meeting.

## **IV. OTHER ITEMS**

- **Cindy Schonhaut, Director, UCA**
  - **Annual DORA Board Survey**
    - Cindy shared that the Annual DORA Board Survey will be sent out sometime in late January or early February.
    - Cindy requested that Board members complete the survey when they receive it.
  - **Election of 2026 UCB Chair and Vice Chair**
    - Bill Steele volunteered to continue serving as the UCB chair for 2026.

- a. Cindy requested a motion to approve Bill Steele as the 2026 UCB Chair. Terry Hart motioned to approve Bill. Parks seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Parks Barroso volunteered to serve as the 2026 Vice Chair for the UCB for 2026.
  - a. Cindy requested a motion to approve Parks Barroso for the 2026 UCB Vice Chair. Terry Hart motioned to approve Parks. Bill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Bill Steele requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry Hart motioned to adjourn the meeting. Cheri Witt-Brown seconded. The motion carried.

Meeting ended at: 11:59 AM

The next UCB meeting is scheduled for February 9, at 10:00 AM

The meeting will be a remote meeting only. A Zoom link will be available to join virtually.