



COLORADO

Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate

UTILITY CONSUMERS' BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

4/8/2024

Attendance: UCB: Bill Steele, Parks Barroso, Tina Francone, Hannah Wilks, Terry Hart
Ron Lehr, Gretchen Stanford, Dave Kranz, and Sondra Young

Absent: Shawn Martini

A quorum of UCB members was present.

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

AG: Tom Dixon, Michel Singer Nelson, Patrick Witterschein, Kate Crampton, and Greg Bunker

Start: 9:02 AM

I. WELCOME:

- Approve February Meeting Agenda and January Meeting Minutes, March Meeting Agenda and February Meeting Minutes, April Meeting Agenda and March Meeting Minutes:
- Approve February Meeting Agenda
 - Approve January Meeting Minutes:
 - Approve March Meeting Agenda:
 - Approve February Meeting Minutes
 - Approve April Meeting Agenda
 - Approve March Meeting Minutes

Chair Bill Steele requested for a motion to approve all. Ron Lehr motioned to approve. Tina Francone seconded the motion. The motion is carried.

II. GUEST SPEAKER:

- **Eric Blank, Chairman, Public Utilities Commission (PUC)**

Chairman Blank provided a presentation on average electric rate trends in CA, CO, and the US; cost impact of Net-Metering on consumers, Xcel Energy's proposed \$17b investment in electric infrastructure, PSCo's 30-year rate model, Colorado's role of being on the cutting edge of renewable resources, and the PUC's role of making legitimacy decisions based on data and records.

Board discussion was focused on the PUC's agenda, Organized Wholesale Markets (1-2 day ahead markets within next 2-3 years) cost savings in day ahead markets, Clean Heat Plans, Distribution System Planning, ways to improve communication with consumers, investments in weatherization, the importance of the voice of consumers, and ways to to increase the LEAP budget.

Chairman Blanks presentation can be found in the shared folder: 4/8/2024 UCB Meeting.

III. PENDING CASE STRATEGY DISCUSSION

- **23A-0330E: PSCo - Economic Development Rate; Ron Fernandez, UCA Analyst**

Board Discussion was focused on the need for data centers and their high electric load usage.

The pending case strategy summary is found in the Shared Google Drive folder UCB Meeting 4/8/2024 UCB Meeting.

IV. OTHER ISSUES

- **Legislative Updates: Joseph Pereira, Deputy Director, UCA**
Joseph Pereira informed the Board that there are three topic areas the UCA is monitoring:
 - SB24-085 - data center bill, waiting for committee assignment.
 - Bill being drafted on distribution planning systems role in decarbonization.
 - Legislation on decarbonization.
 - Clean Energy Goals - changes to Colorado's decarbonization goals, discussion to move goal to a sooner time frame.

V. Misc. Business / Updates

- **Poll Results - Preferred day and Time for UCB Meetings**

Hector Arreola shared the results of the poll. The majority of respondents prefer meetings to occur on Mondays. The majority of respondents prefer meetings to start at 10 AM.

- UCB Chair Bill Steele requested for a motion to move the Board meetings to the second Mondays at 10 AM beginning with the July 8th meeting. Gretchen Stanford motioned. Dave Kranz seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Hector will send out email to the Board regarding the Board meeting time change beginning with the July 8 meeting.

Terry Hart suggested having the Board annual training in place of a guest speaker for a future meeting, perhaps for the July or September meeting. The Board agreed and will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

- **Board Membership and Attendance**

UCB Chair Bill emphasized the importance of Board member attendance and the importance of responding to any correspondence from Hector and the UCA

- **Board Member Resignation**

UCA Director Cindy Schonahut informed the Board that Bonnie Trowbridge has resigned. She was a governor appointee of CD8. Cindy encouraged Board members to send her any references of potential Board members for CD8.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Parks motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tina seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at: 11:10AM

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- As a reminder the Board meets each month during the legislative session, January through May, and every other month through the end of the year.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13, at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting. A Zoom link will be available to join virtually.

The Google UCB Shared Drive may be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c39luxCxD8MWbYUrRB4Vhw6tEEem3uzO?usp=sharing>