

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES DIVISION**

**MINUTES OF THE UTILITIES BOARD**

A meeting was held on December 15, 2015, commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) Hearing Room, 1375 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. Board Members attending were Chair Geri Huser, Libby Jacobs, and Nick Wagner.

Board Chair Huser asked if there was any discussion on the consent items, including the previous month's meeting minutes, and being none, the Board unanimously approved the November 17, 2015, meeting minutes as well as all other administrative items.

General Counsel Staff Cecil Wright provided an update on Docket No. HLP-2014-0001 regarding the Dakota Access LLC pipeline proposal. Deputy Executive Secretary Judi Cooper provided the monthly financial reports and noted the Board would be filing for an additional budget appropriation with the Department of Management for the outside services budget, largely due to the HLP-2014-0001 hearing expenditures.

Board Staff Jane Whetstone informed the Board a new agency telephone system utilizing Voice over Internet Protocol technology is scheduled to be installed by February 25, 2016. General Counsel Staff Jennifer Johnson provided updates on the Docket No. RMU-2015-0002 rule making and federal regulatory dockets. Board Staff Parveen Baig provided information on annual reliability reports filed by MidAmerican Energy Company and Interstate Power and Light Company for the last 12 years under Electric Delivery Reliability (EDR) dockets. General Counsel David Lynch updated the Board on the Rock Island Clean Line proposed transmission line and the administrative rules review process. Chair Huser discussed a proposed redesign of the Board's hearing room associated with online video streaming changes for Board hearings and public meetings. She noted the vendor that provided video streaming of the Board's recent hearing in Boone is scheduled to test video streaming options at a Board hearing in Des Moines in February 2016. Board General Counsel staff Gary Stump and Cecil Wright provided updates on Docket Nos. ARC-2015-0156 (MidAmerican Energy Company) and SPU-2015-0028 (Black Hills Energy), respectively.

Under action items, Board staff Joni Nicoll asked that the Board approve the issuance of up to 10 iPad vouchers per month using equipment distribution program funds budgeted for the current fiscal year. Board Member Wagner motioned and Board Member Jacobs seconded the motion to approve the use of the existing equipment budget for iPads so long as it is limited to 10 iPad vouchers per month, monthly updates on the budget amounts are provided to the Board, and the total annual budget amount of \$1,276,000 is not exceeded. The Board unanimously approved this funding request for iPads based on the conditions noted.

Bob Bird and Ellen Shaw discussed Docket No. NOI-2015-0001 regarding renewable energy tax credits requirements under 199 Iowa Administrative Code 15.19 and 15.21. Board Member Wagner stated that the Board should ask each limited liability company (LLC) for ownership information (beyond just the LLC as owner) and require minimum progress reports for approved projects not yet completed. The Board members noted seeking the specific ownership information going forward should not reverse previous Board decisions and directed staff to prepare proposed administrative rules for Iowa Code 476C. Board Member Wagner made a motion for staff to prepare the administrative rules based on the comments of the Board, which Board Member Jacobs seconded and the Board unanimously approved. The Board directed staff to continue to work with the Iowa Department of Revenue on its conversion from paper to electronic tax credit applications.

Regarding Iowa Code 476C Operational Deadline Extension Requests of Emmet County Energy 10, LLC et al., IAC-2007-1519, Board Member Jacobs made a motion that the Board ask for required

documentation regarding progress towards project completion and extend their 476C tax credit status for one year. Board Member Wagner seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved this extension request. Board Member Jacobs also motioned to withdraw the 476C tax credit status of Milford Wind Energy, LLC; Ag Land Energy 7, LLC; Westerly Wind Energy, IAC-2012-1519 and IAC-2013-1519, because they did not respond to the Board's requests for additional information. Board Member Wagner seconded the motion to withdraw their extension requests with the Board voting unanimously to deny.

Board staff Kerri Johannsen asked the Board to approve the agency's annual performance report to the Legislature. Board Member Jacobs made a motion to provide this year's agency annual performance report to the Department of Management and discuss some necessities pertaining to this report at a later date, which Board Member Wagner seconded and the Board unanimously approved. Board staff Parveen Baig asked the Board to also approve the annual small wind innovation zones report to the Legislature with Board Member Jacobs making a motion to approve, Board Member Wagner seconding the motion, and the Board unanimously approving the submission of this year's report.

General Counsel David Lynch provided an overview of Iowa Code assessment requirements related to utility customer funding of Iowa Energy Center/Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research programs. Board Member Jacobs made a motion, seconded by Board Member Wagner, and the Board unanimously agreed to send a letter asking the Iowa Energy Center to provide more information to the Board at its February 2016 public meeting.

Chair Geri Huser announced General Counsel Staff Cecil Wright would become the Board's Chief Operating Officer effective on December 18, 2015. Board staff Kerri Johannsen informed the Board that she and Cecil Wright, as well as the three Board members, will be included on the Legislature's lobbyist registration rolls during the upcoming session.

In public comments, Dave Duncan of the Iowa Communications Alliance thanked Board Telecommunication Section staffer Michael Balch, who is retiring on December 31, 2015, for his years of providing expertise and guidance on telecommunications issues.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. Recorded by Rob Hillesland.

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Approved at the January 19, 2016, Board meeting.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Geri D. Huser

Chair

ATTEST:

/s/ Trisha M. Quijano

Executive Secretary, Designee