



**MINUTES OF THE  
TWO HUNDRED NINETY FIFTH MEETING  
OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL GOVERNING BOARD  
January 15, 2013**

Members Present: Gene Krebs, Chairman  
Joe Logan, Vice Chairman  
Sally Hughes  
Susheela Suguness  
Michael Watkins  
Fred Yoder  
Stuart Young

Members Absent: Jason Clark

Guests: Jeff Clark, Attorney General's Office

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Krebs called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Logan moved to elect Mr. Krebs Chairman of the Governing Board. Mr. Yoder seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Watkins moved to elect Mr. Logan Vice Chairman of the Governing Board. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Watkins moved to approve the November 20, 2012 meeting minutes. Mr. Logan seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Krebs put forth future meeting topics that include a presentation by Ms. Kurt on the legislative process and the Governing Board's involvement; bill tracking for the Board's information; a discussion with Mr. Weston and Ms. Kurt in regards to forming a legislative subcommittee; Mr. Yoder's energy choice YouTube video; and OCC providing a Better Business Bureau-like rating on utility companies.

**NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION**

- Dr. Adams introduced Jim Gould, Senior Regulatory Analyst
- Mr. Weston introduced Michael Schuler, Assistant Consumers' Counsel

- Mr. Repuzynsky introduced Krista Shaw, Administration Manager
- Ms. Yost introduced Dorothy Roczkowski, Legal Intern and Michael Disotell, Legal Extern

Mr. Weston greeted the Board and expressed his appreciation for their service in the public interest.

### **ELECTRIC ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND PEAK DEMAND REDUCION IN OHIO**

Mr. Gonzalez reported on Electric Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction in Ohio.

The definition of energy efficiency is using less energy to provide the same service be it lighting, heat, cooling, mechanical work, etc. Conservation on the other hand is turning the thermostat down and putting on a sweater.

Peak Demand Reduction means the reduction of the maximum instantaneous load or the maximum average load over a designated interval of time.

Energy efficiency programs offered by Ohio's electric utility companies include: energy audit, energy assessment, lighting discounts, appliance rebates/recycling, air conditioner tune-ups, and energy control.

Energy efficiency benefits consumers by lower energy costs, among other things.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the cheapest kwh is the one not produced.

The cost impact on consumers is utilities may charge customers for all prudently incurred costs that are approved by the PUCO. These costs include, energy efficiency program costs, lost distribution revenues and shareholder incentive.

A possible legislative initiative by FirstEnergy would freeze state energy efficiency standards at current levels. OCC's response to any proposal will be developed as more is known and when and if legislation is introduced.

The Board recommended that the staff monitor and give consideration to forming a coalition on energy efficiency.

Board discussion ensued.

### **EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTHS**

Mr. Weston informed the Board of the employee of the months:

- Ray Foeller, Outreach and Education – October and November

The Board recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

### **ENERGY COMPETITION IN OHIO**

Mr. Weston presented on Energy Competition in Ohio. Recent natural gas settlements have occurred in the Dominion East Ohio and Columbia Gas of Ohio cases.

In Dominion East Ohio's service territory, residential customers' standard offer is protected until at least 2016. In the Columbia Gas of Ohio case, OCC negotiated that the utility cannot propose elimination of the standard offer until at least April, 2017. And Columbia cannot propose elimination of the residential standard offer until and unless at least 70% of residential customers have switched to a marketer. Even then, Columbia is not required to request elimination of the standard offer. Also, six local public hearings will be held for public input if the utility proposes to end the standard offer. The settlement also provided \$24 million in customer savings and Columbia must continue its shadow billings (which shows whether consumers collectively have saved money or lost money, compared to the standard offer, when choosing to buy natural gas from marketers).

Board discussion ensued.

Energy competition is being considered at many levels: utility cases (settlements), PUCO regulations, and an investigation. The OCC is advocating for affordable energy choices for Ohioans.

### **RESOLUTION**

Chairman Krebs presented for the Board's consideration a resolution in support of preserving the option of public utility standard offers for Ohio's residential consumers to purchase natural gas and electricity.

Mr. Logan moved that the Board approve the resolution. Mr. Yoder seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Logan moved the Board enter Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, promotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, that being the Deputy Consumers' Counsel. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:10 p.m.

The Board returned to Public Session at 2:00 p.m.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr. Young moved that the Board appoint Melissa Yost as Deputy Consumers' Counsel. Mr. Yoder seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Yoder moved to set Ms. Yost's annual salary at \$102,000. Ms. Hughes seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2012 & 2013 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW**

Ms. Kurt presented on the legislative overview for 2012 and 2013. OCC was active in the following legislation in 2012:

- Mid-Biennium Budget Bill (HB 487)
- Energy Bill (SB 215)
- Telephone Bill (SB 271)
- Water Bill (HB 379)

Quite a bit of time was spent meeting with the General Assembly on these pieces of legislation.

The 130th General Assembly began its work last week. There are 17 new members of the House of Representatives and 2 new members of the Senate.

2013 Legislative Committees consist of:

- House Public Utilities
- House Finance and Appropriations
- Senate Public Utilities
- Senate Energy and Natural Resource
- Senate Finance (General Government)

### **2012 ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS**

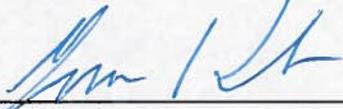
Dr. Adams presented an overview of issues in 2012 regarding electric, natural gas, telephone and water.

Discussion ensued regarding solar plants.

Chairman Krebs stated the Board's evaluation for Mr. Weston will be discussed at the March meeting and that the evaluation will be done in May.

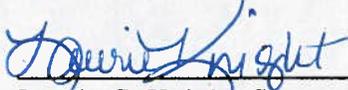
With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

I verify that the above meeting minutes have been approved and ratified by the OCC Governing Board on this 19th day of March, 2013.



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Gene Krebs, Chairman  
Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board



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Laurie C. Knight, Secretary  
Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board