



**MINUTES OF THE  
TWO HUNDRED NINETY NINTH MEETING  
OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL GOVERNING BOARD  
September 17, 2013**

Members Present: Gene Krebs, Chairman  
Sally Hughes  
Susheela Suguness  
Roland Taylor  
Mike Watkins  
Stuart Young

Members Absent: Jason Clark  
Joe Logan  
Fred Yoder

Guests: Jeff Clark, Attorney General's Office

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Krebs called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. Mrs. Knight called the roll.

The Farm Science Review and the September Governing Board meeting are scheduled on the same day; Chairman Krebs suggested that the September 2014 Governing Board meeting be held at the Farm Science Review.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Ms. Suguness moved to approve the July 17, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. Mr. Taylor abstained. The minutes are approved.

Mrs. Knight was asked to resend the email regarding ethics training.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTHS**

Larry Sauer is the employee of the months for May and June 2013. Mr. Weston described his service to consumers as a member of OCC's Legal Department.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**FirstEnergy Renewable Energy Overcharges**

Ms. Yost gave a presentation to the Board on a PUCO proceeding involving renewable energy credits.

In the FirstEnergy Renewable Energy Overcharge case, an Auditor's Report was prepared that OCC obtained through a public records request. The independent auditor recommended that the PUCO examine the disallowance of excessive costs associated with purchasing RECs to meet the FirstEnergy Ohio utilities In-State All Renewable obligation.

Chairman Krebs stated that he finds it odd that OCC had to complete a public records request in order to obtain the auditor's report and that he is to be informed if this becomes a trend.

#### **Dayton Power & Light Electric Security Plan**

Mr. Weston presented the Board with an editorial published in the Akron Beacon Journal on September 10, 2012, regarding the Dayton Power & Light rate plan.

Electricity prices on the market are at historic lows. OCC would like Ohioans to receive the benefit of these low prices. The Ohio law that deregulated electricity was passed in 1999 and Dayton Power & Light is still not at market.

Mr. Weston stated that protections that exist in electric security plan cases are not as strict as those in rate cases.

OCC is concerned that by the time Dayton Power & Light customers are able to take advantage of a deregulated market, prices may be higher.

Chairman Krebs stated the Akron Beacon Journal is not usually involved in utility issues outside its readership.

Chairman Krebs suggested that the format of utility bills be a topic for a future meeting.

#### **CONSUMERS' COUNSEL'S REPORT**

##### **Natural Gas**

In the area of natural gas, OCC is concerned with straight fixed variable rates as opposed to per unit pricing. OCC will continue to recommend and advocate for distribution service be charged at a low flat rate.

##### **Smart Grid/Smart Meters**

Some consumers have concerns with smart meters, such as concerns about whether the smart meters compromise their privacy. OCC's position is that consumers should have an opportunity to opt out of having a smart meter installed in their home.

##### **Legislation**

The General Assembly is back in session. OCC continues to be involved in legislation affecting Ohioans.

The Board was in recess from 10:10 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

**Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council's (NOPEC) DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: MyEnergyMyWay**

Mr. Keiper, NOPEC's Executive Director, was introduced to the Board and provided a presentation on NOPEC.

NOPEC was formed shortly after the 1999 passage of SB3.

Stuart Young arrived at 10:26 a.m.

The Board was given a sample packet similar to what new NOPEC customers receive. NOPEC's program, MyEnergyMyWay, is a profit-free program designed to engage, educate and empower people.

NOPEC announced that it has entered into a contract with NextEra that will reduce customers' bills by 45 cents per unit.

**PRESENTATION BY STUART YOUNG**

Chairman Krebs, Mr. Yoder and Mr. Weston met with the Farm Bureau regarding the issue of farmers who were switched from residential to commercial rates. This switch occurs when changes are made that affect the farmer's utility needs.

Mr. Young's presentation to the Board illustrated the difference between single and three-phase electricity.

Mr. Young stated that single-phase is more expensive, and three-phase is more efficient.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Watkins made a motion to enter executive session to consider the employment of a public employee or official. Mrs. Hughes seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 12:00 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 1:00 p.m.

**BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Young made a motion to adopt a format, with changes, for the future Performance Review for the Consumers' Counsel and the Deputy Consumers' Counsel. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

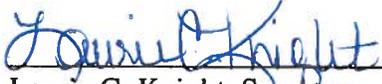
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With Mr. Young present, he made a motion to approve the July 17, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. Mr. Taylor abstained. The minutes are approved.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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