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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING ON JULY 23, 2020

Commission Chairman Sally A. Talberg called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
Executive Secretary Lisa Felice called the roll and declared there was a quorum.

PRESENT

Commission: Sally A. Talberg, Chairman
Daniel C. Scripps, Commissioner
Tremaine L. Phillips, Commissioner

Staff: Barbara Kunkel
Lisa Felice

Additional Staff & Public Attending Telephonically/Video Conferencing: 231 Participants

I. Commissioner Scripps moved to approve today's agenda, Commissioner Phillips seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The agenda was approved.

II. Commissioner Scripps moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of July 9, 2020, Commissioner Phillips seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The minutes were approved.

III. CONSENTED ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-13802 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GLOBAL
CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA FOR A LICENSE TO PROVIDE
BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE
(request to voluntarily surrender license)

2. U-20840 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF WINN TELEPHONE COMPANY d/b/a WINN TELECOM TO EXPAND THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF ITS LICENSE TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE
(temporary license/request for license expansion)
3. MINUTE ACTION METRO ACT
(amended tax credit determination report)
4. MINUTE ACTION PENINSULA FIBER NETWORK NEXT GENERATION SERVICES, LLC
(9-1-1 wireless, U-14000, invoice No. INV-PI&W1, dated July 7, 2020)

B. ELECTRIC

1. U-20561 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES, AMEND ITS RATE SCHEDULES AND RULES GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC ENERGY, AND FOR MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY
(request to withdraw petition for reconsideration)

Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve all the orders and minute actions on the consent agenda.
Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The 3 orders and 2 minute actions were adopted.

IV. OTHER ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-16465 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF I-WIRELESS, LLC FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS
(request to expand service area)

Case No. U-16465 involves an application, with supporting exhibits, filed on June 4, 2020, by i-wireless, LLC, to expand the service area

of its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier in the state of Michigan. The order before you grants the application. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

B. ELECTRIC

1. U-15805 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, REGARDING THE REGULATORY REVIEWS, REVISIONS, DETERMINATIONS, AND/OR APPROVALS NECESSARY FOR CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH PUBLIC ACTS 286 AND 295 OF 2008
(*ex parte*/proposed amendments)

Case No. U-15805 involves an application by Consumers Energy Company for *ex parte* approval of amendments to a power purchase agreement and a renewable energy purchase agreement. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

2. U-17377 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF 2013 PA 95
(low-income energy assistance funding factor/final order)

Case No. U-17377 involves implementation of the provisions of 2013 PA 95. The order before you adopts the funding factor for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund for 2020-2021. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

3. U-17473 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR A FINANCING ORDER APPROVING THE SECURITIZATION OF QUALIFIED COSTS (proposed adjustments to securitization charges)

Case No. U-17473 involves an application by Consumers Energy Company for approval of the company's annual routine true-up of securitization surcharges for the billing months of August 2020 through July 2021. The order before you approves the new securitization surcharges. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

4. U-18356 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, REGARDING THE REGULATORY REVIEWS, REVISIONS, DETERMINATION, AND/OR APPROVALS NECESSARY FOR UPPER MICHIGAN ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 61 OF 2016 PA 342 (voluntary green pricing program)

Case No. U-18356 involves an application by Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation, pursuant to Section 61 of 2008 PA 295, as amended by 2016 PA 342, requesting approval of its voluntary green pricing program proposal. The order before you approves the company's voluntary green pricing program proposal. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

5. U-20316 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO CONSIDER CHANGES IN THE RATES OF ALL OF THE MICHIGAN RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC, STEAM, AND NATURAL GAS UTILITIES TO REFLECT THE EFFECTS OF THE FEDERAL TAX

CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017: INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY (ELECTRIC) FILES AN APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF CREDIT B AS DESCRIBED IN ORDERS U-18494 AND U-20107

(Credit B residual balance proposal)

U-18494 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO CONSIDER CHANGES IN THE RATES OF ALL THE FOLLOWING MICHIGAN RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC, STEAM, AND NATURAL GAS UTILITIES TO REFLECT THE EFFECTS OF THE PENDING FEDERAL TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017: ALPENA POWER COMPANY, ET AL.

U-20107 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO CONSIDER CHANGES IN THE RATES OF ALL OF THE MICHIGAN RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC, STEAM, AND NATURAL GAS UTILITIES TO REFLECT THE EFFECTS OF THE FEDERAL TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017: INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY (ELECTRIC) FILES AN APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF CREDIT A AS DESCRIBED IN ORDER U-18494

Case Nos. U-20316 *et al.* involves a request by Indiana Michigan Power Company for approval of a one-time credit to certain rate classes and a one-time surcharge to other rate classes resulting from the residual balance arising from the implementation of its Credit B tax refund amount. The order before you approves the request as consistent with the directives in the January 18, 2019 order in this case. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

6. U-20375 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, REGARDING THE REGULATORY REVIEWS, REVISIONS, DETERMINATIONS, AND/OR APPROVALS NECESSARY FOR NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY- WISCONSIN TO FULLY COMPLY WITH PUBLIC ACT 295 OF 2008, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC ACT 342 OF 2016
(energy waste reduction reconciliation for 2018/final order)

Case No. U-20375 involves an application by Northern States Power Company seeking approval of its 2018 energy waste reduction reconciliation and 2020-2021 energy waste reduction plan. The

order before you approves the 2018 energy waste reduction reconciliation and approves, in part, the 2020-2021 energy waste reduction plan. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Commissioner Scripps commented:

“Thank you, Madam Chair.

I want to focus my comments on the interplay between integrated resource plan cases and energy waste reduction proceedings, and specifically between this EWR case and Northern States Power’s IRP.

Paragraph 7(e) of NSP’s IRP settlement agreement includes the following commitments:

NSP does not object to a graduated increase in EWR savings goals to be achieved by the state program administrator of up to 1.50% by 2021. Program design and costs for achieving any increase in EWR savings goals by the state administrator applicable to NSP in 2020 and 2021 will be resolved in NSP’s current EWR plan filing in Case No. U-20375. [This case.] Goals and costs for EWR beyond 2021 will be addressed in future EWR plan cases after another statewide potential study can assess the most appropriate levels for EWR beyond 2021 in the Upper Peninsula.

That language was taken directly from the IRP settlement agreement signed by both NSP and Commission Staff, and approved by the Commission on February 6, 2020 in Case No. U-20599

It’s important to remember that the statutory purpose underpinning the IRP statute is to evaluate the resources that contribute to the most reasonable and prudent long-term resource mix, including consideration of levels of EWR beyond the statutory minimum that are considered cost-effective.

Indeed, this is exactly what took place in the NSP IRP, including commitments agreed to by NSP and approved by the Commission.

Further, the fact that NSP uses the Commission-approved program administrator should not be viewed as an obstacle to meeting the commitments it agreed to in its IRP. NSP has used the program administrator since the inception of the EWR programs in 2008. Further, as noted above, the use of the program administrator was expressly considered in the terms of the settlement agreement agreed to by NSP.

Our approval of the order in this case simply effectuates the terms of the IRP settlement agreement, provisions that were already agreed to by NSP and which were an integral component of the integrated resource plan approved by the Commission as the most reasonable and prudent means of meeting NSP’s long-term energy needs. I look forward to the full cooperation of the parties as we move forward to turn these previously agreed to commitments into action.”

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

7. U-20377 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION,
REGARDING THE REGULATORY REVIEWS, REVISIONS,
DETERMINATIONS, AND/OR APPROVALS NECESSARY FOR
UPPER MICHIGAN ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION TO
FULLY COMPLY WITH PUBLIC ACT 295 OF 2008, AS AMENDED

BY PUBLIC ACT 342 OF 2016
(energy waste reduction reconciliation for 2018/final order)

Case No. U-20377 involves an application by Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation seeking approval of its 2018 energy waste reduction reconciliation and 2020-2021 energy waste reduction plan. The order before you approves the 2018 energy waste reduction reconciliation, approves the 2020-2021 energy waste reduction plan, and directs the Commission Staff to work with the state-appointed energy waste reduction program administrator, Efficiency United, in evaluating the costs and cost-effectiveness of setting higher energy waste reduction savings targets in Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation's service territory. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

8. U-20604 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-20604 involves an application by Consumers Energy Company requesting *ex parte* approval of power purchase agreements between Consumers Energy Company and Durban Solar, LLC; Esmarelda Solar, LLC; and Shady Solar, LLC; and the termination of power purchase agreements between Consumers Energy Company and Stockholm Solar, LLC, and Ulysses Solar, LLC. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

9. U-20697 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES

FOR THE GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY
AND FOR OTHER RELIEF
(petition for rehearing)

Case No. U-20697 involves an application by Consumers Energy Company for authority to increase its rates for the generation and distribution of electricity and for other relief. The order before you denies the petition for rehearing filed by Phil Forner. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

10. U-20757 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, TO REVIEW ITS RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC, INCLUDING THE STATEWIDE STATE OF EMERGENCY, AND TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION TO ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
(interim order)

Commission Staff Cathy Cole, Strategic Operations Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Commissioner Phillips commented:

“Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you, Cathy, for that summary of order before us and for your continued support of the Commission.

Today, I am encouraged by the results and the data we have seen since the issuance of our initial COVID-19 response order on April 15th. The recommendations and guidance we have received from intervenors in this proceeding, in particular consumer advocate organizations, the cooperation and coordination with state agencies and our state electricity and gas utilities as well as the continued hard work of MEAP grantees and other community-based organizations have allowed the Commission and staff help address the needs of customers during this unprecedented and challenging period in our state and nation’s history.

Since the initial COVID-19 order on April 15th:

- Over 3,500 households have had their service restored as of July 9th
- 10’s of thousands of customers have had their utility bills paid down through a combination of energy assistance and arrears forgiveness programs
- Hundreds if not thousands of additional customers have adopted flexible payment plans with their utility
- Furthermore, utility EWR programs are continuing to ramp up operations, putting Michigan residents back to work while adopting new technologies that will allow EWR contractors to

prioritize customer safety and offer households the opportunity to better manage the increased electricity usage experienced by residential customers during this time

- We are also very encouraged that Michigan’s investor-owned utilities are reporting declines in the number of customers who are behind on their utility bills

Despite all these encouraging signs, the realization is that we may still be in the early stages of this once in a generation pandemic. Our country has once again crossed the threshold of over 1,000 COVID-19-related casualties a day, figures that we have not seen since late May of this year. Many uncertainties also lie ahead, including the trajectory of the virus in the fall and winter, successful development and distribution of a vaccine, and the continuation of federal unemployment and other forms of financial support for individuals and businesses.

To that end, we are not, by any means, declaring victory, and through this order today, will continue to monitor and respond to the urgent needs of customers as they arise. Additionally, we continue to strongly encourage customers in need to contact their utility or call 211 to be connecting to energy assistance dollars that are immediately available.

Lastly, we cannot say this often enough, but thank you to our incredible staff across all of our divisions for your tireless and unwavering commitment and support of customers throughout the great state of Michigan.”

Chairman Talberg commented:

“Thank you, Commissioner Phillips, for your leadership and focus on customer protection, and to Commissioner Scripps for your leadership and perseverance addressing critical infrastructure issues across state government and with industry and other stakeholders during this pandemic.

Today’s order and the MPSC’s overall response to COVID-19 address pressing issues for energy and telecommunications customers. Our team was immersed in:

- legal, rate, financial, and accounting analyses
- customer protections and assistance
- customer outreach and education
- identifying and troubleshooting issues that affected critical infrastructure industries such as local permitting and PPE
- continuity and accessibility of the MPSC’s operations

Couple of specific observations about today’s order:

First, the Commission’s approach to customer protections and energy assistance was unique and shaped by three considerations:

- First, and always at the forefront, there was a deep commitment to customers and using new, creative strategies to serve those in need
- Second, strategically thinking about the short- and the long-term impacts on customers (did not solve an immediate issue but create bigger problem down the road), and
- third, it was important to carry forward lessons learned from the Great Recession that hit our state particularly hard over a decade ago

As a result, customers maintained their gas and electric service, and new forms of assistance was targeted at those in need. MPSC-regulated utilities have reported that unpaid utility bills are either not increasing or going down. Customers are obtaining millions of dollars in assistance and concerted efforts continue to educate customers who are worried about their bills on how to get assistance.

Second, we took a measured approach in considering the financial impacts on regulated utilities, listening to the feedback from customers and other stakeholders. During the past few months, utilities took meaningful steps to identify and implement significant cost savings to mitigate the financial impact of COVID on their operations.

Today we are rejecting utility requests for deferral or recovery of additional COVID expenses beyond the initial authorization for bad debt expense. Recognizing the dynamic and unpredictable nature of this virus, our order does outline a process if an individual utility faces an extraordinary situation and specifies in detail the information that would be needed to consider such a request.

The impact of this virus on families and businesses is profound and it is important to have shared sacrifice by the utilities. The Commission also felt it was important to provide certainty on these accounting issues now so that utilities can continue to focus on serving their customers in a safe, reliable manner and realize appropriate cost savings for the duration of this year.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the important contributions from every single division at the MPSC, as well as our extended MPSC family in the Dept. of AG and Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules. It is a pleasure to work with such a committed team to serve 10 million Michiganders during this difficult time in our world's history."

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

11. U-20765 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY FOR *EX PARTE* APPROVAL OF THE SOUTH BEND SOLAR PROJECT
(proposed amended renewable energy plan)

Case No. U-20765 involves an application filed by Indiana Michigan Power Company for *ex parte* approval of its proposed South Bend Solar Project and amendments to its renewable energy plan. The order before you approves the South Bend Solar Project and the amendments to the company's renewable energy plan. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

12. U-20833 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-20833 involves an application by Consumers Energy Company requesting *ex parte* approval of power purchase agreements with STS Hydropower, LLC, for the outputs of the Cascade Hydro Plant and the Fallasburg Hydro Plant. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

13. U-20838 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-20838 involves an application filed by Consumers Energy Company for the *ex parte* approval of power purchase agreements. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

C. GAS

1. U-20797 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION FOR ACCOUNTING APPROVAL
(*ex parte*/request for deferred accounting)

Case No. U-20797 involves an application filed by Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation for accounting approval to defer incremental investments made from January 2016 through the end of December 2019. The order before you approves the application with deferred accounting beginning January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2021, or until new rates are approved by the Commission in Case No. U-20718, whichever occurs first. Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission approve the order at its July 23, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Phillips seconded that motion.

Commissioner Scripps commented:

“Thank you, Madam Chair.

I want to step back and highlight a couple of important points related to this order, and to some of the other work the Commission has undertaken in order to keep rates in check for customers during the COVID pandemic. I know we also approved the larger COVID order earlier in the agenda, and want to recognize and thank both you and Commissioner Phillips for your leadership on these issues, and for your attention to the many details needed to ensure adequate protections for those struggling to pay their utility bills. As you mentioned, much of this credit also belongs to our Customer Assistance Division and other Staff who have been intimately involved in these discussions.

This order, like the order relating to DTE Electric Company’s acceleration of its accumulated deferred income taxes that we issued at our last meeting (in Case No. U-20835), represent what I would characterize as both a constructive and flexible approach to maintaining the ability of Michigan utilities to make needed critical infrastructure investments while shielding customers from rate increases in the midst of this pandemic. Like the DTE case, the request in front of us today delays a rate case increase request that MGU planned to file in March – MGU’s first such request since new rates took affect January 1, 2016.

Working with Staff, MGU agreed to postpone this filing until 2021, and the order in front of us approves accounting treatment to maintain MGU’s financial position and allow them to continue to make needed investments, including some of the investments they’ve made since 2016, while postponing the prospect of a rate increase until late 2021. I want to commend both MGU and our Staff – and in particular our Regulated Energy Division – for this constructive approach that balances the needs of the company with those of its customers in these challenging times.

I want to be clear that our actions in this case and the DTE Electric case before it should not be viewed as a blank check – the proposed spending and other elements will continue to be thoroughly reviewed for prudence in the next case – nor is it an invitation for others to file similar requests. But where there are extenuating circumstances, I think these orders show a willingness on the part of the Commission to be flexible and find creative regulatory approaches in order to protect struggling Michigan families and businesses in a way that also allows for needed investments to go forward.”

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Hagerty, Michigan Solar Solutions, addressed his concerns regarding the half percent cap for residential connections accelerated due to COVID and other related concerns.

Mr. Rob Rafson, Chart House Energy, commented on Case No. U-20697. Chairman Talberg indicated that his comments would be noted in the docket file.

Chairman Talberg commented:

“Governor Whitmer announced last week the appointment of Commissioner Scripps as the new MPSC chair starting Monday, July 27, so this is my last meeting as Chairman. I plan to continue to serve on the Commission during 2020 as part of my career transition.

Congratulations are in order and it is with great excitement to pass the gavel to Chair Scripps.

Governor Whitmer made two excellent appointments to the MPSC in 2019 with Chair Scripps and Commissioner Phillips and I am honored to serve with the two of you.

Chair Scripps, you are uniquely knowledgeable and passionate about the MPSC and the issues we face.

With your vision, hard work, and dedication, I am confident you will make a major impact on the agency and the energy and telecommunications industries.

We have important issues facing the MPSC in the coming years, and are fortunate to have the talent and fresh perspectives the two of you bring to the Commission as well as the expertise, continuity, and institutional knowledge of the staff.

I’ll ask my colleagues and our audience to indulge me for a moment to reflect on my time as chair but first I want to thank both Governors Snyder and Whitmer for their support of me and respect of the MPSC as an independent agency.

Also, the staff at the MPSC are top notch and I am grateful for their support of one another, expertise, patience, wise counsel, and commitment to public service. I am proud of our collective accomplishments the last few years:

- developing and implementing our first strategic plan
- implementing major energy laws with a ton of stakeholder involvement
- overhauling legacy IT systems
- expanding our world-class gas safety program
- standing up a communications team
- overhauling our power supplies to be cleaner and more efficient and addressing other pressing infrastructure issues to address safety and reliability
- ensuring continuity amid numerous retirements of long-time employees, COVID, and other changes
- advancing broadband including expansion of the role of electric cooperatives and e-911 oversight

I am appreciative of the collaboration with stakeholders on all these issues. Michigan has history of working through utility issues in a bipartisan, collaborative manner, which can be powerful to bring about sustainable change.

Before I close, I want to acknowledge an individual who was particularly supportive of me as I grew into the role a chair. Norm Saari was there from day 1, helping me behind the scenes with communications and legislative strategies, among other things. I am finally taking his wise advice to prioritize my family. Greg, Eva, and Nina have been patient putting up with a distracted wife and mom and have been incredibly supportive. The girls even had a pen inscribed with the name “Chairmom” and I may hold onto that title after today.”

Commissioner Scripps acknowledged Chairman Talberg for her efforts and looks forward to working with her in his new role.

Commissioner Phillips thanked Chairman Talberg for her leadership roles and impact on the PSC and the state of Michigan.

A recording of the proceedings of the July 23, 2020 meeting is archived at:
https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,9535,7-395-93307_93316_93317_93875---Y,00.html .

Chairman Talberg announced that the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will be held on August 20, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. We anticipate that this meeting will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams video conferencing.

Commissioner Scripps moved that the Commission adjourn, Commissioner Phillips seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Scripps, Phillips
Nays – None

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Lisa Felice
Executive Secretary