

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN ITS OFFICES AND AVAILABLE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING ON FEBRUARY 19, 2026.

Commission Chair Daniel C. Scripps called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.
Executive Secretary Lisa Felice called the roll and declared there was a quorum.

PRESENT

Commission: Daniel C. Scripps, Chair
Katherine Peretick, Commissioner
Shaquila Myers, Commissioner

Staff: Caitlin Mucci
Matt Helms
Lisa Felice
Blair Renfro
Stephanie Fitzgerald
Jill Rusnak
Jerry McClung
Andy Hannum
Kate Daymon
Mike Byrne
Jason Mailloux
Sarah Mullkoff
Andi Taylor
Ryan Wilson
Jake Thelen
Theresa Staley
Anna Stirling
Jacqueline Langwith

Public: Suzy Westmoreland, MEGA

Additional Staff & Public Attending Telephonically/Video Conferencing: 516 Participants

I. Commissioner Peretick moved to approve today's agenda, Commissioner Myers seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The agenda was approved.

II. Commissioner Peretick moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of January 29, 2026, Commissioner Myers seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The minutes were approved.

III. CONSENTED ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. MINUTE ACTION PENINSULA FIBER NETWORK LLC
(9-1-1 wireless, U-14000, invoice no. INV-3808 dated February 1, 2026)
2. MINUTE ACTION PENINSULA FIBER NETWORK LLC
(9-1-1 wireless, U-14000, invoice no. INV-3808 dated February 1, 2026)

B. ELECTRIC

1. U-21682 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, REGARDING THE REGULATORY REVIEWS, REVISIONS, DETERMINATIONS, AND/OR APPROVALS NECESSARY FOR INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH PUBLIC ACT 295 OF 2008, AS AMENDED
(energy waste reduction plan/proposed settlement agreement)
2. U-21871 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ALPENA POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT A POWER SUPPLY COST RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026
(proposed settlement agreement)
3. MINUTE ACTION APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE JACQUELINE LANGWITH

C. GAS

1. U-21444 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS GAS COST RECOVERY PLAN (CASE NO. U-21443) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

(proposed settlement agreement)

Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve all the orders and minute actions on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The 3 orders and 3 minute actions were adopted.

IV. OTHER ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-21951 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF BW BROADBAND INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATION CARRIER (final order)

Case No. U-21951 involves an application, as amended, filed by BW Broadband Inc. for eligible telecommunications carrier designation for access to universal service fund support throughout the Winn Exchange in the state of Michigan. The order before you conditionally approves the application as stated in the order. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

B. ELECTRIC

1. U-17377 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF 2013 PA 95, AS AMENDED (notice regarding low-income energy assistance fund/proposed funding factor/opportunity to comment)

Case No. U-17377 involves implementation of the provisions of Public Act 95 of 2013, as amended, and sets the proposed Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund factor. The order before you

reminds electric utilities of the need to file required Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund information no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on April 1, 2026, and establishes a deadline for the filing of comments on the proposed factor by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on March 18, 2026. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Chair Scripps commented:

“In the order before us, we propose to increase the funding factor for the state’s low-income energy assistance fund by 25 cents per meter per month as envisioned and authorized under Public Acts 168, 169, 170, and 198 of 2024. If ultimately adopted, the proposal would increase available funds for the program to approximately \$90 million for the next fiscal year, a 20% increase over the \$75 million for the current year, assuming similar rates of program participation in meter counts. That’s 80% higher than the cap of \$50 million that existed prior to these reforms.

In addition to the pool of available funding, the legislation also expanded the eligibility from 150% of the federal poverty level to 60% of the state’s median income. As a result, a family of four was previously limited to making not more than \$48,000 annually to qualify. Today, that same family can earn up to \$70,000 and still be eligible for assistance.

With the recent spikes in fuel costs that are straining household budgets as families heat their homes, this proposed increase could not come at a better time. We appreciate the energy assistance efforts with the bipartisan majority in the legislature that supported the 2024 reforms. I am pleased that the order in front of us today takes the next steps towards implementation.”

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

2. U-21090 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN UNDER MCL 460.6t, CERTAIN ACCOUNTING APPROVALS, AND FOR OTHER RELIEF
(*ex parte*/power purchase agreements)

Case No. U-21090 involves applications filed by Consumers Energy Company seeking *ex parte* approval of power purchase agreements with Watertown Solar, LLC, and Voyager II Energy Storage LLC. The order before you approves the November 21, 2025 application, conditionally approves the December 3, 2025 application, and directs the company to make a filing in this docket confirming its agreement to the Commission’s condition within 10 days. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the

order at its February 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“I want to focus my comments on two things: discipline in procurement, and discipline in compensation. Both are essential if we are going to continue advancing clean energy resources while protecting affordability for Michigan families and businesses.

First, with respect to Watertown Solar, the record demonstrates that Consumers followed the competitive solicitation process required under MCL 460.6t and the settlement agreement approved in this docket. The project is consistent with the approved IRP course of action, was competitively bid through an independent administrator, and reflects market-based pricing.

But the more important conclusion in the order before us is about the Voyager II battery storage project—and specifically the Financial Compensation Mechanism, or FCM.

Battery energy storage is an important part of Michigan’s energy future. It provides capacity, flexibility, and reliability as we integrate more renewables and retire legacy generation. Well-structured battery energy storage projects provide a lot of value. But the compensation structure proposed by Consumers Energy asked customers to pay more than is justified by the value delivered.

In this case, Consumers proposed to apply the FCM not only to the fixed energy payment associated with the battery’s availability and discharge, but also to the charging costs. In other words, the utility would earn the FCM return on both sides of the transaction.

The FCM is already a generous mechanism. It allows the utility to earn a return tied to the approved weighted average cost of capital, and it adjusts over time through general rate cases. That is a meaningful opportunity to earn provided by our legislature. But the value that the battery provides to customers comes from the energy delivered on discharge, the capacity provided, and the renewable energy credits associated with its output.

Charging costs are inherent in storage operations. They are part of how the asset functions. But they are not, themselves, the value being sold to customers. Applying the FCM to both the fixed energy payment and the charging costs would effectively allow the utility to earn twice on the same operational cycle.

That is not consistent with our responsibility under the statute to ensure that costs are reasonable and prudent—and it is not consistent with a commitment to affordability.

So, today’s approval of the Voyager II PPA in the order before us is explicitly contingent on Consumers agreeing to apply the FCM only to the fixed energy payment, that is, the payment tied to the availability of the facility and the energy delivered.

This reduces the total project cost and improves the project’s economic metrics, providing a direct, measurable protection for ratepayers.”

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

3. U-21193 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN PURSUANT TO MCL 460.6t AND FOR THE OTHER RELIEF (*ex parte*/White Pine Grove Solar project)

Case No. U-21193 involves an application filed by DTE Electric Company for *ex parte* approval of the White Pine Grove Solar Park project, as well as the contracts necessary for the development of the project. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

4. U-21680 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 ACT 295 OF 2008, AS AMENDED (energy waste reduction plan/proposed settlement agreement)

Case No. U-21680 involves an application filed by Consumers Energy Company for approval of its energy waste reduction plan for plan years 2026-2029. The order before you approves a settlement agreement resolving all issues in the case. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Chair Scripps commented:

“This is an order that approves a settlement agreement. Those typically show up on our consent agenda and not the main agenda. I wanted to highlight this as we have for a couple of recent energy waste reduction plan cases that have been approved through settlements because in this case, as in some other recent cases, there is just a tremendous amount of really positive details throughout the settlement agreement.

I want to highlight a couple of those. Among other elements, the energy waste reduction plan settlement before us includes additional commitments on the Company’s income qualified multi-family program, including working with Michigan Saves on discounted bridge loans to improve affordability and help customers access energy saving devices, greater coordination with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and connecting low-income housing tax credit applications with EWR rebates that are offered by the Company, as well as strategies to expand outreach to eligible customers.

In addition, Consumers also committed to increase its overall annual investment in the Michigan Saves Loan Fund by \$2 million, maintain the Super-Efficient All-Electric New Homes program for 2026 with a budget of \$750,000, transition the All-Electric New Homes pilot to a commercialized program, and increase the budget for the New Homes Construction program by \$300,000 per year. Consumers also agreed to continue its geotargeted Flint Initiative with a budget of \$4.5 million through 2029.

Finally, the company committed to collaborate on the development of a draft multi-year efficient electrification plan, which will be completed by December 31, 2026. The plan is designed to facilitate integrated delivery of both electrification and energy waste deduction building envelope efficiency measures.

I explicitly express my appreciation to the company, Attorney General, our staff, Urban Core Collective, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and the Ecology Center, and those who are other intervenors in this proceeding. The order before us, in my opinion, builds on our best in the nation performance on energy waste reduction, and I am pleased to see the settlement that’s been brought forward.”

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

5. U-21859 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR *EX PARTE* APPROVAL OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO RATE GPD (petition for rehearing)

Case No. U-21859 involves an application filed by Consumers Energy Company for *ex parte* approval of certain amendments to Rate GPD. The order before you denies the petition for rehearing filed by the Michigan Department of Attorney General. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

6. U-21860 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 (final decision)

Commission Staff Stephanie Fitzgerald, Commissioner Advisor, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Commissioner Myers commented:

“The decisions in this order reflect a balance between reliability, resiliency, affordability, and equity. Customers expect power to be there when they flip with their switch. Investments in tree trimming, hardening lines, replacing equipment, pole top maintenance, and undergrounding are not discretionary luxuries — they are core investments in delivering safe and continuous service. These investments strengthen the grid against extreme weather and aging system. Failing to invest would ultimately cost customers more — through outages, emergency/reactive repairs, restoration repairs, and escalating risks.

We are also facing the reality of increasing demand. We must invest in the grid of the future: one that is more resilient, more flexible, and capable of meeting rising demand. Meeting that demand responsibly means investing in a grid that is more resilient, more flexible, and better prepared for the future. At the same time, we cannot lose sight of affordability. For many households and small businesses, utility bills are not abstract numbers. They represent real tradeoffs. When rates rise, the impact is not felt evenly. It is felt most acutely by low-income customers, seniors on fixed incomes, and communities that already face disproportionate burdens through shutoffs of service. In this order, it requires the company to thoroughly analyze shutoff data and determine non-payment shutoffs, average time for restorage, duration of shutoffs, shutoff duration and arrearage balances, and any other factors to provide insight on disconnections.

Keeping equity at the forefront of our mind requires us to scrutinize costs and think carefully about how today’s investments will shape tomorrow’s rates. It requires us to ensure that the benefits of grid modernization — improved reliability, enhanced safety, and long-term system savings — are shared broadly across all customer classes and communities.

We must strike a balance that protects public safety, strengthens the system for the long term, and avoids unfairly burdening customers today.”

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“Thank you, Ms. Fitzgerald, for your excellent presentation, and all of your work on this case, as well as our whole hard-working team of advisors and staff.

Today's order is about a basic promise: Michigan families and businesses pay their bill, and in return they deserve safe, reliable service at just and reasonable rates. That means we scrutinize what's being requested, we approve what is reasonable and prudent, and we hold the company accountable when the record shows customers are being asked to pay too much, too soon, or without adequate support.

This order before us continues the work we've been doing on improving reliability. For the first time in at least two decades, DTE Electric's reliability ranking for restoring customers experiencing outages in all weather conditions hit the top quartile among energy utilities around the country in 2025, lowering customer outage times 60% compared to 2024. That noteworthy milestone came after the utility reported a 70% reduction in the amount of time customers were without power from 2023 to 2024.

We're seeing encouraging results. And this order continues that work.

At the outset, I want to thank Judge Sally Wallace for an excellent Proposal for Decision. The PFD is thorough, careful, and well-grounded in the record, which is exactly what we need in a case of this size and complexity.

I would like to highlight a few parts of the order that is before us. The order is extensive at almost 500 pages, so this doesn't come close to a summary. It's just a few items I'd like to bring to the foreground.

First, this order takes a hard look at customer shutoff data. Not with anecdotes, but with analysis. This order directs work that uses customer account data and statistical analysis to better understand shutoffs and related outcomes so we can focus protections where they matter most.

Second, we are directing DTE to implement an initiative to educate all eligible low-income customers about available support and to assist them in accessing weatherization, energy waste reduction, and energy efficiency resources. This is critical. A benefit that exists but is not accessed is not a benefit. We need enrollment, navigation help, and delivery, because affordability is not a theoretical challenge for many Michigan households.

And I want to connect the directives in this order to the Commission's broader affordability work. The record in this case recognizes the importance of designing programs around energy burden including the Staff's affordability work and recommendations that aim for an overall affordable energy burden target.

Third, we continue to tighten the accountability loop on vegetation management. This order requires improved tracking of DTE's tree trimming progress. It also includes mechanisms that can lead to disallowances if DTE fails to stay on track and that failure results in tree-related circuit damage. We also require analysis of moving to a shorter four-year cycle. This is practical reliability accountability: if the work isn't being done on schedule and outages follow, the company cannot pass those costs on to customers.

On reliability more broadly, this order reflects a consistent approach: DTE must justify its spending with evidence, including benefit-cost analysis where required. This order reiterates that wish lists and stories are not data, and we are not going to approve major spending when the company does not meet prior Commission directives to provide verifiable plans and quantify costs and benefits where needed.

I also want to address the Investment Recovery Mechanism, or the IRM. This order allows a one-year extension, but it does not authorize extending the IRM beyond that one year at this time. Before we can even consider extending the IRM any further, DTE must present a comprehensive plan that clearly outlines their spending strategy and how it will achieve positive safety and reliability outcomes. The value of the IRM is the “ring-fence”: if the investments approved by the Commission aren’t actually made for safety and reliability, the dollars are reconciled and returned—not converted into shareholder gain. That discipline is essential, and this order keeps that structure intact. But without a comprehensive plan that gives me confidence in the benefits of these investments, I cannot support expanded investment.

We also continue pressing on audit follow-through, including pole-top inspection and maintenance modernization work, using the valuable outputs of the audit to continue to guide approvals.

Finally, I want to note a couple of generation-related items that matter for reliability and cost. The order before us approves the Trenton Channel Battery Energy Storage System and reflects careful review of cost updates, including reductions tied to supplier changes and updated forecasts.

And at the Slocum plant, the order before us approves costs for a battery energy storage project that replaces oil peakers, moving away from older oil/diesel peaking resources while maintaining capacity and operational flexibility.

At the end of the day, this order uses a simple standard: reasonableness and prudence. If customers are paying more, they must be getting more, especially in reliability, safety, and affordability. This order advances that standard through targeted protections, stronger tracking and enforcement, and clear expectations that DTE must meet going forward.”

Chair Scripps commented:

“First, I would like to echo the progress that’s being made on the reliability front. As Commissioner Peretick mentioned, DTE last year was in the first quartile for all weather. Now, clearly some of that was that we didn’t see the storm activity in DTE’s service territory that we’ve seen in previous years. But some of that is just as clearly the result of the investments that have been approved by this Commission and undertaken by the company over the last several years. In fact, looking at Michigan as a whole, Michigan is number one in the country in terms of base reliability improvements between 2019 and 2024. We’ve taken nearly an hour of outages off the system since 2019. There’s still clearly a long ways to go, but progress is increasingly evident and I know that customers are feeling that as well. The order in front of us really doubles down on a strategy that is increasingly clear is working.

To echo some of the comments around tree trimming. One of the central findings of the recent audit was the value of more regular tree trimming and now is not the time to back off from that

commitment. In fact, in addition to reaffirming our support for a 5-year tree trimming cycle and providing resources to get to that point. We also, as Commissioner Peretick mentioned, are requiring a study of whether the benefits of moving to a 4-year cycle would justify the additional costs of getting there. Tree trimming continues to be foundational to our strategy around reliability improvements, and this order continues in that vein.

I also want to speak about the role of the audit, and the distribution system plans and the infrastructure recovery mechanism that Commissioner Peretick also addressed because there are three legs of the same stool. The order in front of us today really tries to clarify how the three things work together. I think we will be more comfortable approving a longer term IRM if it is clearly grounded in a strategy that we have confidence in and that is supported with sufficient evidentiary support and modeling and the buy in of other intervening parties. That strategy is really best placed to be developed through the distribution system plan.

In the future iterations of the distribution system plan an opportunity, as Ms. Fitzgerald mentioned, to evaluate the effectiveness of that strategy. Are we getting what we wanted to? Is the pillar of the strategy ultimately developing or delivering the results that they were intended to deliver? And, where so, then let's move forward and potentially expand those. Where we find that the evidence doesn't ultimately support the investments being made, delivering the reliability benefits that were promised, that might be a time to re-evaluate, back off, or remove those altogether. That iterative cycle of developing a strategy that informs what the IRM contains and then reviewing the specific elements of the IRM and rate cases, I think will give more confidence that the strategy is right and that we can essentially pre-approve those dollars, ring fence those dollars and get about the work of execution.

I not only look forward to not only future rate cases in their development of the IRM, but understanding the broader strategy that informs the IRM, including the company's distribution system plan that it will file later this year.

Maybe zooming out just a little bit, in many ways this order is a continuation of current work. The increase that is approved in the order is almost exactly where staff's recommendation was in testimony. We also maintain the currently authorized return on equity of 9.9%, as well as the current 50% debt to equity capital structure (50% long-term debt and 50% equity). This is a continuation of the financial metrics and solid support for the investments being undertaken.

I will close with some thank yous. As Commissioner Peretick mentioned, the proposal for decision from Judge Sally Wallace in this was thorough, well-argued, and well supported with evidence from the record. I also want to thank the intervening parties for the work they've put into this, as well as our staff. The independence of the staff is one of the great benefits of the Commission structure, where they can bring their expertise and recommendations through testimony on the record. Finally, I'll close with particular thanks to our advisers and attorneys who helped in the development of the order that is in front of us. It's 486 pages. It contains literally hundreds of decisions, and all done on a statutory 10-month timeframe. It's an incredibly heavy lift and it is clear to me, increasingly with every day and certainly with every case, that we could not do the work that we've been tasked by the legislature without the profound drive, expertise, passion, and commitment of our advisors, our attorneys, and our staff as a whole."

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

C. GAS

1. U-21989 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF HAYES OTSEGO PIPELINE, LLC REQUESTING *EX PARTE* APPROVAL TO DECREASE ITS RATES FOR TRANSPORTATION ON THE HAYES OTSEGO PIPELINE SYSTEM
(amendments to gas transportation agreements)

Case No. U-21989 involves an *ex parte* application filed by Hayes Otsego Pipeline, LLC, seeking Commission approval of amendments to its existing gas transportation agreements, providing for a \$0.04 per thousand cubic feet rate decrease. The order before you approves the application and authorizes the amended transportation rates to take effect as stated in the order. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

2. U-22021 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION FOR *EX PARTE* ACCOUNTING APPROVAL OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH AN INCIDENT AT TRANS CANADA HIGH PRESSURE GAS MAIN
(interim order)

Case No. U-22021 involves an *ex parte* application filed by Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation for accounting approval associated with an incident at the Trans Canada High Pressure Gas Main. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Myers seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Zimmer, West Olive commented on the numerous Consumers Energy's power outages at his home.

Sarah Babbs commented on the request for a rehearing in the Saline Data Center case.

Tim Bruno, Saline commented on the request for a rehearing in Case No. U-21990.

Brian Snigowski, Detroit Sierra Club, commented on the request for a rehearing in Case No. U-21990.

Wendy Albers commented on the request for a rehearing in Case No. U-21990.

Eric Green, Saline, commented on the request for a rehearing in Case No. U-21990.

Chris G.H., Detroit, Earth Justice, commented on the request for a rehearing in Case No. U-21990.

Eric Williams commented on the request for a rehearing in Case No. U-21990.

Chair Scripps announced:

“If you are paying close attention to the items on our consent agenda, you will have noted that we’re excited to welcome a new administrative law judge. Judge Jacqueline Langwith is the newest ALJ with the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) assigned to the Commission proceedings. She most recently served as an administrative law specialist with MOAHR. Judge Langwith earned her Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Michigan Tech and her JD from Cooley Law School. I had the great, good fortune to work with Judge Langwith when she was with the Legislative Services Bureau, where she served from 2000 to 2015.

She also brings a wealth of experience in private practice, and a passion for science and helping people, which I love. I’m pleased to offer our welcome and congratulations to Judge Jacqueline Langwith.”

Commissioner Myers announced:

“Black History Month provides us with an important opportunity to honor on the contributions, achievements, and resilience of Black Americans throughout our nation’s history and reflect on the courage, leadership, innovation, and resilience that have shaped our communities and strengthened our democracy.

Throughout our history, Black Americans have made transformative contributions in public service, science, education, business, the arts, civil rights, and countless other fields. Their achievements have

often come despite profound and persistent barriers, and their perseverance has expanded opportunities not only for one community, but for our country as a whole.

Here at the Michigan Public Service Commission, this history includes milestones in public service and leadership. The first African American appointed to the commission was Otis M. Smith in 1954. He was appointed to chair of the Commission. Commissioner Smith had a habit of breaking barriers. He was also the first African American to serve as Michigan's Auditor General in 1960. In 1961, he was appointed as the first African American justice on the Michigan Supreme Court and later became the first African American general counsel for General Motors. Commissioner Smith's appointment was a meaningful step forward at a time when representation for Black Americans in state government was far more limited than it is today.

George Washington was appointed in 1963 and served as the chair briefly. He later became the first African American to serve in the Michigan Cabinet as Director of the Michigan Department of Administration.

Willis Ward served as a Commissioner and Chair in the 60s and 70s. He was only the second African American to play football at the University of Michigan and notably was Gerald R. Ford's roommate at Michigan.

Willa Mae King was appointed to the Commission in 1977 and the first woman and African American woman to serve as Commissioner.

Edwyna Anderson was appointed to the Commission in 1980 and has the distinction as the longest to serve in MPSC history. She was the first African American to serve on the Mott Community College Board of Trustees and the first African American Board Chair. Commissioner Anderson was also the first African American reporter for the Flint Journal and to belong to the Genesee Co Bar Association. Post her time as the commission, she became the first African American and woman to serve as president of the Pennsylvania Electric Association.

Ron Russell was appointed in 1988 and served on the national NARUC executive board.

Orijakor Isiagu served as Commissioner and Chair in 2007. While on the commission, he was an integral part of the NARUC international partnership with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Racheal Eubanks was appointed to serve as a commissioner in 2016 and later became the first woman and African American to serve as Michigan Treasurer.

Tremaine Phillips was appointed to serve as a commissioner in 2019 and was Chair of the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications.

I'm honored to serve on this commission and be a part of this prestigious cohort of trailblazers. Recognizing that even now we are still making history, I having served as the first African American chief of staff to a Michigan Lt. Governor and the first African American to serve as chief of staff to a Michigan speaker of the house before being appointed to the commission.

These milestones reflect both the progress achieved and the broader journey toward inclusion in public institutions. Importantly, Black History Month is not only about the past. It is also about the present and the future — it is about celebrating leaders, neighbors, colleagues, and young people whose talents and aspirations continue to shape our communities in meaningful ways. As we close this month, may we take time to learn, to listen, and to honor these stories that are part of American History. Black History is American History.”

Chair Scripps commented:

“Commissioner Myers that was really incredibly well done. All of us stand on their shoulders and I’m just as confident that future generations commissioners and Commission staff will be on your shoulders, as well. Thank you for that tribute.”

A recording of the proceedings of the February 19, 2026 meeting is archived at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3B6sXvlSOM0> .

Chair Scripps announced that the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission adjourn, Commissioner Myers seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Myers
Nays – None

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Lisa Felice
Executive Secretary