



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

The Resource Management Commission convened a meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, in Austin, Texas.

Commissioners in Attendance: Leo Dielmann, Chair (District 7), Kaiba White, Vice Chair (District 2), James Babyak (District 6), Jonathan Blackburn (District 8), Rebecca Brenneman (District 10), Lisa Chavarria (Mayor), Nakyshia Fralin (District 1), Dana Harmon (District 9), Shane Johnson (District 4) and Tom “Smitty” Smith (District 5). Scott Kohan (District 3) was absent.

Staff in Attendance: Robert Stefani and Kevin Critendon of Austin Water; Hayley Cunningham and Larry Graham of Texas Gas Service; and Debbie Kimberly, Terry Moore, Jamie Mitchell and Toye Goodson of Austin Energy.

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Dielmann called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Paul Robbins said EIA figures show that less than one percent of retail electric customers in ERCOT have lower bills than Austin Energy customers, and that the low bills are the result of energy efficiency programs. He raised concerns that energy efficiency program funds are being diverted to social programs such as low income weatherization and stressed the need to separate energy efficiency programs from social programs.

Consent Items:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of the August 20, 2019 meeting.

The motion to approve minutes of the August 20, 2019 meeting was approved on Commissioner Smith motion, Commissioner Harmon’s second, on a 9-0 vote, with Commissioner White off the dais and Commissioner Kohan absent.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Approve issuance of a rebate to Arbor Properties, for performing energy efficiency improvements at the Metropolis Apartments located at 2200 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., in an amount not to exceed \$120,900.

The motion to approve a rebate to Arbor Properties was approved on Chair Dielmann’s motion, Commissioner Babyak’s second, on an 8-0 vote, with Commissioners Smith and White off the dais and Commissioner Kohan absent.

3. Approve issuance of a rebate to the University of Texas at Austin, for performing energy efficiency improvements at the J. J. Pickle Research Campus facility located at 10000 Burnet Road, in an amount not to exceed \$97,178.

The motion to approve a rebate to the University of Texas was approved on Chair Dielmann’s motion, Commissioner Brenneman’s second, on an 8-1 vote, with Commissioner Babyak voting against, Commissioner White off the dais and Commissioner Kohan absent.

Non-Consent

STAFF BRIEFINGS

The Commission heard the update from Texas Gas Service (Item 5) prior to the briefing from Austin Water (Item 4).

4. Briefing on potential alternative onsite water use requirements for new commercial development from Robert Stefani and Kevin Critendon of Austin Water.
5. Quarterly Update on Texas Gas Service conservation program from Hayley Cunningham and Larry Graham of Texas Gas Service.

Paul Robbins was allowed to address the commission. He questioned the cost effectiveness of Texas Gas Service rebate programs.

ACCESS TO SOLAR WORKING GROUP REPORT

6. Update from members of the Resource Management Commission Access to Solar Working Group: Commissioners Brenneman, Harmon, Johnson and Kohan and Vice Chair White.
Commissioner White reported that she and Commissioner Harmon were attending the RMI e-Lab Forge workshop near Austin and they expected output from the workshop to be useful in directing next steps for the Access to Solar Working Group including hosting stakeholder group activities and forming recommendations on improving access to solar energy by low income and underserved residential customers.

OLD BUSINESS

7. Review and amend scope assigned to the Access to Solar Working Group.
There was no action on this item.
8. Discuss and recommend programs and policies designed to expand access to solar energy for low-income residents, renters, and tenants of multifamily housing.
There was no action on this item; however, Vice Chair White said the Access to Solar Working Group may bring forward recommendations at next month's meeting.

RESOURCE PLANNING WORKING GROUP REPORT

9. Report from members of the Electric Utility Commission Resource Planning Working Group: Chair Dielmann and Vice Chair White.
Chair Dielmann reported that the Resource Planning Working Group held the first meeting and established a charter, received five studies resulting from the last Resource Plan, and formed a committee to discuss increasing the racial or cultural diversity of the group. Vice Chair White said the committee held a conference call on the subject but did not come to consensus on a solution. Commissioner Smith suggested that the RMC hold a meeting to add new and diverse members to the Resource Planning Working Group. Chair Dielmann reminded others that the EUC directed the group and its process and suggested that RMC members contact the EUC chair and group members about adding members. Commissioner Johnson and other members expressed support for adding people of color who would represent residential customers to the group. Commissioner Smith suggested composing a letter on behalf of the RMC to urge the EUC chair to add diverse members to the Working Group. Chair Dielmann offered to contact the EUC chair and Austin Energy staff regarding this issue.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. Discuss potential topics for future agendas.
The staff liaison listed items on next month's agenda including: a quarterly update from Austin Water, a briefing on fleet electrification, and an update on the DirectApps contract for energy efficiency data management and reporting services. Vice Chair White requested that solar program staff be available at the next meeting to discuss the RMI workshop results and next steps to increase availability of solar energy. Commissioner Smith wants to discuss a concept to create community solar projects on land set aside for flood control.

ADJOURN – Chair Dielmann adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.