

**ILLINOIS PUBLIC ENERGY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 24, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the IPEA was held pursuant to proper notice at the IPEA headquarters building, 3400 Conifer Drive, Springfield, Illinois, on April 24, 2024. Chairman Bob Coble called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Roll call was taken which showed a quorum was present.

CEO Gaden recognized Terry Ross, the Utility Superintendent from the City of Roodhouse as the new IPEA Board member replacing Mayor Tom Martin who passed away in September of last year.

Cory Sheehy made a motion to approve the minutes of February 14, 2024, seconded by Shannon Risley. The roll call vote showed all in favor.

Opportunity for Public Comment: Chairman Coble stated that pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, anyone in attendance in person shall be permitted an opportunity to comment. He then asked if anyone would like to make a comment and hearing none, the meeting continued.

Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer's Report for February 2024 was presented by Katherine Nelson. She reported that the cash balance was \$594,789 compared to \$692,068 last February. She also stated that gas revenue for February had decreased by 22% from the previous year, the price per Dth average had decreased by \$.80 from the previous year and Dth sales had decreased by 9% from the previous year. With there being no questions, Joe Fosdyck made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Jake McCoy. The roll call vote showed all in favor.

President & CEO Report – CEO Gaden gave an update on staffing transitions which included Alice Schum retiring at the end of May with Mandy Ripperda replacing her as VP of Electric Operations. Sean McCarthy will become the Manager of Electric Operations as Jon Wygant is now serving as the Energy Services Representative. He reported that Cindy Evans is retiring at the end of April with Tia Horn replacing her as the Senior Accountant. Katherine Nelson has taken over the Staff Accountant position and she will be the new IPEA Member Billing/Accounting contact. Gaden congratulated Cindy and Alice and thanked them for their combined 50 years of service. He also stated that Staci Wilson will become the VP of Government Affairs and Member Services when Mike Genin retires in January 2025. Staff will begin the search for a media communications person with legislative experience to join the Member Services Department by the end of May with plans to fill the position in August 2024.

CEO Gaden stated that the recent adoption of the ICC study of “Future of Natural Gas” will have impacts on the industry and reviewed the price volatility of natural gas during Storm Heather over the 2024 Martin Luther King holiday weekend. He then identified the issues discussed in the presentation given during the ICC proceeding and stated that IPEA Staff will continue to track these hearings and report to the Board as things evolve.

CEO Gaden encouraged members to continue to work with IPEA Staff and Constellation's team to review current gas hedging opportunities and stated that IPEA along with the Constellation staff will be hosting a markets webinar this year to assist in market price fundamentals.

Lastly, CEO Gaden reported on a successful APPA Legislative Rally in late February wherein IMUA had sponsored 4 resolutions. Staff co-presented on 2 resolutions; importance of risk-based grid security standards and importance of affordable and reliable natural gas. He stated that he had participated in visits with all 3 FERC Commissioners and pointed out that Commissioner Clements' term ends in June 2024 and she is not seeking renomination. Gaden noted that APPA members had shared industry concerns to FERC including transmission buildout and cost significance, recognizing the need for a systematic energy transition, along with concerns regarding reliability and volatility of gas prices during winter storms.

Market Update – Brandon Fong from Constellation discussed fluctuation in natural gas prices due to the expectations of a hot summer and the storage surplus which is currently 22% more than last year at this time. He reported on budget cuts by producers will lead to lower natural gas production. Fong presented the NYMEX Henry Hub natural gas forward curve graph showing price estimates through 2034. Fong stated that weather forecasts indicate this summer to be the 5th warmest on record along with an active hurricane season. He then presented graphs of the Henry Hub and Chicago Citygate historic calendar strips reflecting natural gas term pricing.

Ordinance #24-04-191 – Adopting and Approving Revised Budget for the Fiscal Year ending April 30, 2024 - Tia Horn presented the revised fiscal year 2023/24 budget stating that Dth sales were running 11% lower than the original budget projection and the Management and Administrative Services paid to IMEA decreased by \$8,700 due to lower Dth sales. She stated that net revenues at the end of the year are projected to be \$30,750. With there being no questions, Shannon Risley moved to approve this Ordinance, seconded by Jake McCoy. A roll call vote was taken showing all in favor.

Ordinance #24-04-192 - Adopting and Approving Budget for the Fiscal Year ending April 30, 2025 - Tia Horn reviewed the budget for fiscal year 2024/25 stating projected sales are based on the last five-year average gas volumes excluding Storm Uri in February 2021. Volumes are projected to increase by .4% compared to current year projections. The IMEA Management Fee increased by \$300 due to higher Dth sales projected for FY2024-25. With there being no questions, Joe Fosdyck moved to approve this Ordinance, seconded by Jake McCoy. A roll call vote was taken showing unanimous approval.

Legislative & Regulatory Update – Staci Wilson discussed HB 5315 which deals with net metering with regard to solar on rooftops. The sponsor of this bill did not call the bill for vote and it has been re-referred to the House Rules Committee. She also discussed HB 5021 and SB 3637 which would implement transparency requirements that would require electric municipal systems, co-ops, or members of a power agency to file an integrated resource plan with the Illinois Power Agency and adhere to a renewable portfolio standard. This bill also changes net metering requirements to match the investor-owned utilities. Wilson stated that HB 5021 went into Subcommittee and SB 3637 was re-referred to Rules. She reported that SB 3597 pertains to the Climate Bank Loan Financing Act and allows governmental units to borrow from the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA) for purposes of clean energy infrastructure projects. This bill also allows governmental units to issue debt to evidence their obligation to repay loans from the IFA. She noted that the IFA envisions lending federal funds to governmental units for clean infrastructure projects at attractive rates and conditions and would be structured similar to the IEPA State Water Revolving Fund. IPEA is supportive of this legislation.

Wilson gave an update on the ICC “Future of Natural Gas” hearings stating that the ICC had directed its staff to develop a plan for a “Future of Gas” proceeding including a timeline for workshops and a formal proceeding. She reported that on March 7, 2024, the ICC adopted an Initiating Order to convene a “Future of Gas” proceeding including specific timeframes for two series of workshops. The ICC directed that a “Future of Gas” proceeding should fully explore issues arising from decarbonization in the gas distribution system, develop recommendations for future Commission policies and action and develop recommendations for any necessary legislative changes. Wilson stated that the Phase 1 Workshop series will identify issues on all relevant topics related to the future of natural gas distribution. A facilitator will then draft an initial report with an opportunity for comments. A final draft report will be produced by August 1, 2024. Wilson reported that the Phase 2 Workshop series will begin no later than September 1, 2024 and examine the issues and information identified in Phase 1. A facilitator will then develop a draft report with an opportunity for comments with a final report to the Commission submitted by July 1, 2025. Wilson presented a workshop schedule for Phase 1, ranging from April 1 through May 20, along with topics for each one. She stated that IPEA Staff or representatives from APGA may make a presentation at the workshop on May 20, 2024 pertaining to issues unique to municipal utilities.

On a Federal level, Wilson reported that Congress had passed minibus spending bills which would fund LIHEAP at around \$4 billion. She also noted that APGA continues to monitor and engage in the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) process.

Member Competitive Position – Genin reported that five IPEA members were hedged into 2027 and seven IPEA members are hedged into 2025 with one member on a Discount to Index program. IPEA/Constellation will be sending updates regularly with price quotes. Genin also noted that April 2024 was the lowest NYMEX First of Month (FOM) price on record since 1998.

Nominations & Awards (N&A) Committee: CEO Gaden reported on a meeting of the N&A Committee held by teleconference on March 26th with Bob Coble, Jake McCoy and Cory Sheehy in attendance. General discussion was held regarding the slate of Officers for fiscal year 2024/25. It was recommended by the Committee that the current officers remain as such for the upcoming year. After confirming that all of the officers had expressed a desire to continue, the committee recommended the following slate:

Bob Coble, Chairman
Shannon Risley, Vice Chairman
Jake McCoy, Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Lebshier, Member-at-Large
Todd Shaffner, Member-at-Large

And to reappoint Troy Fodor as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Election of Officers & Executive Board Members - CEO Gaden asked if there were any nominations from the floor separately for the Chairman, Vice Chairman, the Secretary/Treasurer and Member-At-Large positions. There being none, Joe Fosdyck moved to approve the recommended slate from the N&A Committee. Cory Sheehy seconded the motion which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #24-04-193 – Establishing the Meeting Schedule for FY 2024-25 - CEO Gaden reviewed the meeting schedule for the upcoming year and Shannon Risley moved to approve this Resolution, seconded by Joe Fosdyck. Roll call vote showed all in favor.

Committee Appointments: CEO Kevin Gaden reported that it was recommended at the Nominations & Awards Committee meeting on March 26 that there be no change to the current slate for the Nominations & Awards Committee which includes Bob Coble, Jake McCoy and Cory Sheehy. Since the Financial Oversight Committee consists of the current officers, it would include Bob Coble, Shannon Risley and Jake McCoy. CEO Gaden asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Jake McCoy moved to approve the recommended appointments, seconded by Joe Fosdyck. A roll call vote was taken showing all in favor.

FOIA and OMA Appointments: During the Nominations & Awards Committee meeting on March 26, it was recommended that Troy Fodor and Staci Wilson continue as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) officers. Joe Fosdyck moved to approve the recommended FOIA and OMA appointments, seconded by Mike Kirk. A roll call vote was taken showing all in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:02 p.m. by a motion from Joe Fosdyck. Jake McCoy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Bethany	Shannon Risley
Bushnell	Joe Fosdyck
Flora	Bob Coble
Marshall	Cory Sheehy
Rantoul	Jake McCoy
Roodhouse	Terry Ross
Sullivan	Mike Kirk

MEMBERS ABSENT

Casey	Shelby Biggs
Edinburg	Mike Lebshier
Fairfield	Mayor Gary Moore
Greenup	Mike Ryder
Martinsville	Todd Shaffner

OTHERS PRESENT

Constellation	John Jambois (via webinar)
Constellation	Brandon Fong (via webinar)
IPEA	Kevin Gaden
IPEA	Troy Fodor
IPEA	Mike Genin
IPEA	Staci Wilson
IPEA	Tia Horn
IPEA	Chris Wise
IPEA	Jonathon Wygant
IPEA	Rodd Whelpley
IPEA	Sean McCarthy
IPEA	Katherine Nelson
IPEA	Danny Chung
IPEA	Glenn Cunningham
IPEA	Adam Baker
IPEA	Tammy Hall