IOWA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES DIVISION

MINUTES OF THE UTILITIES BOARD

A meeting was held on April 21, 2016, commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Iowa Utilities Board Hearing Room, 1375 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. Board Members attending were Chair Geri Huser and Nick Wagner with Board Member Jacobs participating via telephone conference call.

Chair Huser asked if there was any discussion on the consent items and being none, Board Member Wagner motioned, Board Member Jacobs seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the February 5, March 10, March 15, March 25, March 29, March 31, April 4, and April 8, 2016, meeting minutes. Board Member Jacobs made a motion, Board Member Wagner seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the public notification of Board administrative actions and Board orders.

Board Telecom Section staff Joni Nicoll and Administrative Law Judge Amy Christensen discussed the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for selecting the Telecommunications Relay and Captioned Telephone Relay Service Provider. Board Member Wagner made a motion directing staff to issue the RFP and to proceed with related actions such as providing public notice and posting the information online, Board Member Jacobs seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved it.

Board General Counsel staff Ben Flickinger discussed the Board order to be issued in Docket No. FCU-2015-0001, Property Management Group, LLC v. Black Hills/Iowa Gas Utility Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy. Board Member Jacobs made a motion, Board Member Wagner seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the issuance of the order in this docket.

Board General Counsel David Lynch discussed Docket No. E-22100, ITC Midwest LLC, noting staff would prepare a memo to the Board with its analysis as to whether the company had followed through with certain tree trimming and vegetation management requirements included in the previous Board order affirming the Proposed Decision and Order. Board Member Jacobs made a motion directing staff to prepare a memo and order for the Board's review, which Board Member Wagner seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

Board General Counsel staff Jennifer Johnson updated the Board on the status of Docket No.EEP-2012-0001, Interstate Power and Light Company's request for modification of its energy efficiency plan. Board Member Wagner made a motion to approve the issuance of an order, which Board Member Jacobs seconded and the Board unanimously approved. Johnson also provided an update on amendments to telecommunications service regulations in Chapter 22 of the Board rules, Docket No. RMU-2015-0002. She said staff would prepare an order with the final changes to be submitted to the Iowa Administrative Bulletin Code Editor for publication.

Lynch stated that staff had reviewed the Docket No. CGP-2015-0010, World Fuel Services, Inc. application filing to provide competitive natural gas service to both small and large volume customers in Iowa. Lynch recommended that the Board issue an order approving the application. Board Member Wagner made a motion to issue an order granting the application, which Board Member Jacobs seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

Lynch discussed staff's proposed order regarding a transmission line extension request in Docket No. E-22246 ITC Midwest, LLC. Board Member Wagner made a motion to issue an order granting the extension, which Board Member Jacobs seconded and the Board unanimously approved. Lynch also informed the Board about the Department of Commerce Administrative Rules Chapter 181, stating that General Counsel is updating the Board's information for inclusion in these rules. Board Chair Huser directed General Counsel to provide comments back to the Department of Commerce and to provide updates to the Board.

Deputy Executive Secretary Judi Cooper provided the agency monthly financial report. Cooper and Nicoll informed the Board that the sign language services contract for the dual party relay service was renewed with Deaf Services Unlimited for a reduced cost. Board staff Brenda Biddle provided an update on the distributed generation notice of inquiry, Docket No. NOI-2014-0001. Biddle stated MidAmerican Energy Company, Interstate Power and Light Company, and Winneshiek Energy District filed information on net-metering pilot projects, which staff reviewed and parties to the docket will be asked to provide comments on as part of the ongoing information-gathering process.

Chief Operating Officer Cecil Wright provided an update on the rules review process. Lynch updated the Board on Docket No. HLP-2014-0001 Dakota Access, LLC, stating staff had prepared an order for the Board's review regarding the pending application for rehearing and was drafting a separate order about construction as well as notice to landowners and county inspectors.

Lynch and Board Energy Section Manager Mack Thompson updated the Board on the MidAmerican Energy Company request for advance ratemaking principles (Docket No. RPU-2016-0001) that would apply to its "Wind XI" electric generation project, stating MidAmerican requested a decision by mid to late September 2016 to take full advantage of federal production tax credits, which would require an expedited procedural schedule. They recommended the issuance of an order scheduling an April 28, 2016, conference call with stakeholders to discuss the shortened timeframe.

Solar City Deputy Director of Policy and Electricity Markets Patrick Bean provided a rate design presentation related to the company's solar energy technologies and ideas for a 21st century distributed generation grid. Iowa Solar Energy Trade Association President Tim Dwight and Farmers Electric Cooperative Chief Executive Officer Warren McKenna also made rate design presentations to the Board, highlighting local, regional, and national solar generation growth, projects, rates, and related issues and statistics. John Zakrasek discussed the concept of developing a national HVDC electric grid.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m. Recorded by Rob Hillesland.

Approved at the May 17, 2016, Board meeting.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Geri D. Huser
Chair

ATTEST:

/s/ Trisha M. Quijano
Executive Secretary, Designee