

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, the following members were present:

Travis Kavulla, Chairman
Gail Gutsche, Vice Chair
Bill Gallagher, Commissioner
John Vincent, Commissioner

Commissioner Molnar left his proxy with Commissioner Gallagher

APPEARANCE

Jim Ahrens, 4860 Frontage Road, Craig, MT

Mr. Ahrens commented on the lack of broadband services in the Craig area and asked the Commission to use the universal funds, or influence the utilities to get services in this area.

APPEARANCE

Judy Scheier, Assistant Commission Secretary

(258) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of September 3, 2012.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the minutes for the week of September 3, 2012. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Dennis Lopach, Administrator, Legal Division

(259) In the matter of D2012.9.92: Larry Schuster v. NorthWestern Energy, to consider whether to require NorthWestern Energy to answer customer complaint regarding winter termination.

Chairman Kavulla moved to CERTIFY this matter as a complaint and REQUIRE NorthWestern Energy to answer. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(260) In the matter of D2012.9.93: Mountain Water complaint against Edward Janecek III, Milo R. Janecek, and Jean Janecek.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to CERTIFY this matter as a complaint and REQUIRE the defendant to answer. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Staci Litschauer, Administrator, Centralized Services

(261) In the matter of FY 2014 and 2015 budget reduction: Discuss agency response to 17-7-111(3)(f) MCA which requires agencies to identify how they will operate at 95% of their base budget for each year of the next biennium.

Chairman Kavulla moved to ADOPT staff's 5% proposed reduction for the base budget to submit to the Governor's Office. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Chairman

GAIL GUTSCHE, Vice Chair

W. A. GALLAGHER, Commissioner

BRAD MOLNAR, Commissioner

JOHN VINCENT, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier,
Assistant Commission Secretary

(SEAL)