

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes

January 14, 2025

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Notice was duly published January 10, 2025, on page 8 of The Daily Record that the regular public meeting of the Commissioners of the Nebraska Public Service Commission would be held on January 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln.

Chair Commissioner Tim Schram called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier present in the Commission Hearing Room. Chair Schram stated that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room and invited the public to address the Commission. No public comment was offered. No announcements were made.

Attention was called to the following proceedings:

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

C-5561: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to administer the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program in the 2024 program year. Motion made by Commissioner Kevin Stocker, seconded by Commissioner Eric Kamler to enter an Order issuing NBBP grant awards. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

C-5564/ PI-250: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to review and consider modifications to the Commission's service outage reporting requirements. Motion made by Commissioner Christian Mirch, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier to enter an Order granting Motion for Reconsideration, in part. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

C-5618: In the Matter of the Application of Chris Tramp, Crofton, seeking authority to receive telecommunications service from the Hartington Exchange of Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Christian Mirch to enter an Order granting boundary change application. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

C-5621: In the Matter of the Application of FiberComm, L.C., Charlotte, North Carolina, seeking authority to add the trade name ImOn. Motion made by Commissioner Kevin Stocker, seconded by Commissioner Eric Kamler to enter an Order granting application. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

C-5622: In the Matter of the Application of John Schwader, Crofton, seeking authority to receive telecommunications service from the Hartington Exchange of Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc. Motion made by Commissioner Christian Mirch, seconded by Commissioner Eric

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Kamler to enter an Order granting application. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NUSE-37.448: In the Matter of Cullen Robbins, Director, Nebraska Universal Service Fund Department of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, Complainant, v. CallTower, Inc., Respondent. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Christian Mirch to enter an Order dismissing the Complaint. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NUSE-139: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to consider appropriate modifications to the high-cost distribution and reporting mechanisms in its Universal Service Fund program, in light of federal and state infrastructure grants. Motion made by Commissioner Kevin Stocker, seconded by Commissioner Christian Mirch to enter an Order of Findings and Conclusions and authorizing payments. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

STATE 911 DEPARTMENT

911-075/PI-248: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, conducting an investigation into the 911 service outage that began on August 31, 2023 in areas of Nebraska served by Lumen and its affiliates; and.

911-077/C-5581/PI-252: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, conducting an investigation into 911 service outages occurring in areas of Nebraska served by Lumen and its affiliates. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Christian Mirch to enter an Order Issuing Findings and Closing Investigation. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT

NG-122: In the Matter of Northwestern Corporation, d/b/a NorthWestern Energy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, seeking approval of a natural gas general rate increase for Nebraska. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stocker to enter an order approving the loan fund application. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NG-122: In the Matter of NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, seeking approval of a natural gas general rate increase for Nebraska. Nichole Mulcahy informed the Commission a notice of extension was received from the parties that they have agreed to extend the negotiation deadline to March 5, 2025.

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Nichole Mulcahy reported a total number of 6 consumer complaints and inquiries received at the Commission during the fourth quarter of 2024. For each company: Black Hills Energy - 3; NorthWestern - 1; and Other Entities - 2.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

MT-0001.05: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to address certain carriers in non-compliance with annual renewal requirements. Motion made by Commissioner Kevin Stocker, seconded by Commissioner Christian Mirch to enter an Order to Show Cause and Schedule Hearing. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

MT-0001.05: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to address certain carriers in non-compliance with annual renewal requirements. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Eric Kamler to enter an Order to Dismiss, In Part. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

B-2128.01r: In the Matter of the Application of Zum Services, Inc., Redwood City, California, seeking to establish its rates and charges subject to the Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. (Reissue 2014), Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3. Motion made by Commissioner Christian Mirch, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stocker to enter an Order Granting Rates on an Emergency Basis. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

In the Matter of completed Household Goods Mover License renewals. Dillon Keiffer-Johnson reports on the renewal of Paid in Full Transportation LLC ML-37.

GRAIN DEPARTMENT

GW-852: In the Matter of the Application of Country Partners Cooperative, Gothenburg, Nebraska requesting a deductible on its stock insurance higher than \$10,000. Motion made by Commissioner Kevin Stocker, seconded by Commissioner Eric Kamler to enter an Order granting application. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

LEGISLATIVE

Discussion on pending legislation. No Motion was made.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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Executive Director's recommendation to approve Commissioner Tim Schram to travel to and attend the NARUC Winter Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. from February 22, 2025 to February 26, 2025 with lodging expenses to be paid by the Commission and registration and travel expenses to be reimbursed by the Commission. Motion made by Commissioner Christian Mirch, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stocker. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

Executive Director's recommendation to approve Cullen Robbins to travel to and attend the NARUC Winter Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. from February 22, 2025 to February 26, 2025 with expenses to be paid by the Commission. Motion made by Commissioner Kevin Stocker, seconded by Commissioner Christian Mirch. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m. with Commissioners Tim Schram, Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier present. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on January 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. with an agenda to be available in the office of the Executive Director at 10:00 a.m. on January 21, 2025.

Chair

Executive Director