



**Community Advisory Panel
Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2023**

Members attending the meeting:

Christina Bouler, Mark Campen, Erin Gill, Kent Minault, David Myers, Stephen Smith

Others in attendance:

Facilitator: Dawn Ford

KUB Staff: Jamie Davis, Susan Edwards, Mark Walker, John Williams

New Business

The Community Advisory Panel met at 3:00 p.m. on May 11, 2023 at KUB's Hoskins Operations Center (4505 Middlebrook Pike).

Ms. Ford asked if anyone had corrections to the March meeting minutes. There were no corrections, and the panel approved the minutes.

Ms. Ford introduced Alyssa Ramirez, Calvin Tong, and Daniel Zimmerman with West Monroe Consulting who were in attendance to share a presentation related to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and related funding opportunities for KUB and its customers.

Mark Walker, KUB Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, recognized West Monroe for their work to evaluate the IRA and identify opportunities for KUB and its customers. He noted that during the panel's July meeting, there would be more discussion about an approach to conduct outreach for KUB customers.

The West Monroe team shared their presentation, including their assessment of tax credits, incentives, rebate programs, and grant opportunities. The key outcomes of their assessment were to provide education and awareness on relevant clean energy and energy efficiency opportunities and to equip the panel with material to support their discussion and recommendations at their next meeting.

The presentation provided information about direct pay tax credits that KUB may be able to take advantage of for various programs related to clean energy/electricity, renewable energy, and alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure. West Monroe shared information about how the credits can be maximized by pursuing projects that incorporate key considerations, including development and support of the local workforce, investment in low-income and underserved communities, alleviating high energy burdens, and bolstering domestic manufacturing.

West Monroe noted KUB may be able to qualify for credits for its community solar project and electric vehicle (EV) chargers recently installed in downtown Knoxville. KUB's goal to get 70% alternative fuel for its light duty fleet by 2032 was referenced, and West Monroe noted KUB's purchase of Ford Lightning vehicles would qualify for a credit.

Other project opportunities West Monroe noted included:

- Compressed natural gas fueling stations
- TVA Flexibility self generation
- Standalone battery storage
- Level 2 EV charging stations at KUB's water treatment plant
- Rural EV fast charging
- Methane reuse / biogas generation at KUB's Kuwahee Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Commercial building energy efficiency upgrades
- Heavy duty fleet vehicles

West Monroe's presentation also highlighted opportunities for KUB customers to take advantage of tax credits and rebates, including the Residential Clean Energy Credit, which offers individuals up to 30% annually to make home energy efficiency improvements. They also described the Home Energy Performance-Based Whole House program and High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate, which vary depending on household income in comparison to area median income. The U.S. Department of Energy is coordinating with State energy offices to disseminate the funding. Mark Walker noted that TVA is working with the State energy office to determine if TVA may be able to assist with program administration.

West Monroe shared information about credits related to electric vehicles and alternative fuels, including previously owned electric vehicles. These credits will significantly expand options for customers to adopt alternative fuels.

The panel discussed questions and answers with the West Monroe team.

Dawn Ford confirmed that during the July meeting, the panel will be asked for input on opportunities for customers related to the IRA and how KUB can communicate these opportunities to customers. Stephen Smith suggested the meeting include information about the City's perspective on opportunities. Erin Gill suggested information could be shared about funding other local organizations may be pursuing. Dr. Smith feels the discussion could help bring the organizations together to collaborate. Ms. Ford said she will reach out to other panel members to evaluate these options for the July meeting.

Mark Walker shared the following updates with the panel:

- KUB's community solar program is 54% subscribed one month after launch. The City of Knoxville subscribed to 25%. Commercial subscriptions will open on June 1st.
- Through March, KUB has weatherized 330 homes during this fiscal year.

- KUB is actively pursuing grants. KUB received a \$15 million grant for broadband deployment in rural areas and submitted an application for \$40 for grid modernization and electric system resiliency. KUB received \$25 million from the City and County to help fund a water plant project.
- KUB became qualified for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to assist lower income customers with internet service.
- KUB continues to partner with SACE, SEED, and Three Cubed on weatherization assistance outreach, and next week, SACE is hosting a community event as part of this partnership. Dr. Smith shared the details of the May 17th event.

The next meeting will be on July 6, 2023 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.