



**Community Advisory Panel
Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2023**

Members attending the meeting:

Mark Campen, Tiki Dixon, Terry Ledford, Kent Minault, Stephen Smith, Amy Midis, Haseeb Qureshi, Barbara Kelly

Others in attendance:

Facilitator: Dawn Ford

KUB Staff: Gabe Bolas, Elba Marshall, Erin Gill, John Gresham, Tiffany Martin, Mark Walker, John Williams

KUB Commissioners: Kathy Hamilton

New Business

The Community Advisory Panel met at 11:30 a.m. on November 2, 2023 at KUB's Hoskins Operations Center (4505 Middlebrook Pike).

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

Ms. Ford explained the agenda for the meeting, which included the conclusion of the initial three-year terms for panel members and updates from KUB staff on topics the panel has discussed.

Gabe Bolas, KUB President and CEO, shared remarks with the panel to express his appreciation for their service and input. He appreciated their flexibility over the past three years, especially during Covid. He gave examples of their valuable input on topics including customer outage notifications and KUB Community Solar planning.

Ms. Ford recognized Tiffany Martin, Vice President and Chief Customer Officer, and Mark Walker, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, to give a presentation of updates from KUB.

Ms. Martin began the presentation by discussing the collaboration of CAP and KUB. Discussions from CAP were regularly presented to the Board of Commissioners, and she reiterated that the input was valuable to their decisions. Ms. Martin then gave an update on KUB Fiber and the work done over the past year and the importance of the service. She thanked the panel for their feedback at the beginning of the rollout.

For the next update, Ms. Martin discussed the customer outage notifications. She pointed out that the panel's input influenced recent storm restoration communications including phone calls, early communication on the restoration timeframe, and social media posts. Next, Ms. Martin gave an update on weatherization assistance. She discussed how KUB approached the panel for suggestions on how to increase applicants to the program. These suggestions were influential in surpassing the goal to serve 250 homes in fiscal year 2023 with 450 homes served. She also recognized SACE and their upcoming Energy Efficiency Workshop at Ijams Nature Center on November 5. She continued by sharing more of KUB's energy efficiency efforts including TVA EnergyRight rebates, energy workshops and communicating incentives to KUB customers. These communications were influenced by the panel's input. Ms. Martin recognized Mr. Walker to continue the presentation.

Mr. Walker discussed new Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) incentives and tax credits. He discussed how the panel gave guidance on communicating this to customers. KUB took this input to update web content, social media posts and articles on customer newsletters. Mr. Walker continued by discussing grants that KUB received and those that are pending. These grants help cover part of KUB's costs so they are not passed on to the customer.

Mr. Walker continued the presentation by discussing KUB's solar programs. He discussed presenting this to the panel earlier this year and the feedback was subscriptions in the KUB Community Solar program would quickly fill up. The response has been greater than KUB expected with a 91% subscription rate as of this meeting. Mr. Walker continued by discussing the Green Invest program and KUB's investment and commitment for 325 MW of new solar generation projects by 2026. Three solar projects are currently under construction with the first scheduled to come online in the summer of 2024. Mr. Walker then discussed participation in TVA's Power Supply Expanded Flexibility Agreement. With this agreement, KUB can produce a percentage of their own power through renewable resources. He then discussed KUB's support for the Solar For All grant submitted by the State of Tennessee.

Amy Midis asked about the pricing for solar and why it is so high. Mr. Walker said demand, the pandemic, and supply chain issues all impacted the prices of solar equipment. He recognized Dr. Stephen Smith to give more information. Dr. Smith agreed and said we are starting to see some drops in prices. He said solar prices are still on a trajectory to decrease and still a great investment.

Dr. Smith asked about Flexibility 2.0 and if KUB has looked at neighboring LPCs (local power companies) and if it's possible to partner with them for larger projects. Mr. Walker agreed these options are available. He said KUB wanted to look at our system first and see if better pricing or locations are available through collaboration. Dr. Smith brought up questions asked to TVA from previous meetings. He said that there is a high probability that funds from the weatherization program could be reallocated to areas that are using these funds more than other LPCs. Barbara Kelly agreed and said their current waitlist for weatherization is more than 200 families. Ms. Kelly said more funding and resources would allow them to put more work towards weatherization. Ms. Martin and Mr. Walker told the

panel they will continue to ask TVA for more funds based on the results of KUB's weatherization program and their capacity. Dr. Smith also discussed TVA's rebates and how the program works with the IRA funds. He shared that TVA stacking these funds will be valuable and discussed how education on these programs would be beneficial. Dr. Smith used HVAC and heat pump updates as examples.

Kent Minault asked if KUB had already signed the Power Supply Expanded Flexibility Agreement and if this would work with community solar and Solar For All programs. Mr. Walker confirmed the agreement was signed and would work with those programs.

Ms. Ford recognized KUB Commissioner Kathy Hamilton. Commissioner Hamilton shared remarks with the panel on behalf of KUB's Board of Commissioners. She shared the Board's gratitude and commended them for serving on the first panel. She said their input is vital to understanding how decisions impact customers.

Ms. Ford shared with the panel that KUB staff will be in contact in the coming weeks with those who expressed interest in continuing to serve on the panel as well as the schedule for 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.