



## **OPPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**December 9, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Power District ("OPPD" or "District") was held Webex audio and video conference, on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 4:01 p.m.

Present via Webex conferencing were Directors A. E. Bogner, M. J. Cavanaugh, T. W. Gay, A. L. McGuire, J. M. Mollhoff, C. C. Moody, E. H. Williams and R. M. Yoder. Also present via Webex were T. J. Burke, President and Chief Executive Officer, S. M. Bruckner, General Counsel for the District, M. F. Hinners, Senior Corporate Governance Specialist, and other members of the OPPD Board meeting support staff. Chair C. C. Moody presided and M. F. Hinners recorded the minutes. Members of the senior management team present via Webex were: K. W. Brown, J. A. Comstock, L. J. Fernandez, M. J. Fisher, S. M. Focht, K. S. McCormick, L. A. Olson, M. L. Sedky and T. R. Via. Additionally, a number of OPPD employees and customer owners were present via Webex conferencing.

#### ***Board Agenda Item 1: Chair Opening Statement***

Chair Moody gave a brief opening statement, including reminders for using the Webex audio and video conferencing platform.

#### ***Board Agenda Item 2: Safety Briefing***

President Burke provided the safety briefing, including a reminder from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services entitled "10 Actions for Every Nebraskan to be Taking Now to Slow Spread of COVID-19." He encouraged everyone to wear a mask and reminded the public of OPPD's policy requiring all employees, contractors and visitors to wear a mask.

#### ***Board Agenda Item 3: Guidelines for Participation***

Chair Moody then presented the guidelines for the conduct of the meeting and instructions on the public comment process using Webex audio and video conferencing features.

#### ***Board Agenda Item 4: Roll Call***

Ms. Hinners took roll call of the Board. All members were present via Webex audio and video conferencing.

#### ***Board Agenda Item 5: Announcement regarding public notice of meeting***

Ms. Hinners read the following:

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*“Notice of the time and place of this meeting was publicized by notifying the area news media; by publicizing same in the Outlets newsletter and on OPPD.com; by displaying such notice on the Arcade Level of Energy Plaza since December 4, 2020; and by e-mailing such notice to each of the District’s Directors on that same date.*

*A copy of the proposed agenda for this meeting has been maintained, on a current basis, and is readily available for public inspection in the office of the District’s Corporate Secretary.*

*Additionally, a copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for inspection on oppd.com.”*

**Board Consent Action Items:**

- Item 6. Approval of the October 2020 Comprehensive Financial and Operating Report, November 2020 Meeting Minutes and the December 9, 2020 Agenda
- Item 7. Declaration of Anticipated 2021 Capital Expenditures Reimbursement – Resolution No. 6403
- Item 8. Railroad Easement Acquisitions 2021 – 2025 – Resolution No. 6404
- Item 9. BL-5: Unity of Control Policy Refinement – Resolution No. 6405
- Item 10. Bylaws Amendment – Meeting Schedule – Resolution No. 6406
- Item 11. 2021 Board Meeting Schedule – Resolution No. 6407
- Item 12. SD-8: Employee Relations Monitoring Report – Resolution No. 6408
- Item 13. Retirement Plan Amendments – Resolution No. 6409
- Item 14. 401(k) Retirement Plan Amendments – Resolution No. 6410
- Item 15. 457 Retirement Plan Amendments – Resolution No. 6411

It was moved and seconded that the Board approve the consent agenda items.

Chair Moody noted the Board discussed the consent agenda items at the All Committees meeting held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

Chair Moody then asked if any members of the public attending via Webex conferencing had any comments on the consent agenda items. There was no comment from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Thereafter, the vote was recorded as follows: Bogner – Yes; Cavanaugh – Yes; Gay – Yes; McGuire – Yes; Mollhoff – Yes; Moody – Yes; Williams – Yes; Yoder – Yes. The motion carried (8-0).

**Board Agenda Item 16: – 2021 Final Corporate Operating Plan – Resolution No. 6412**

Ms. Hinnners read the following:

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*“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Power District that the 2021 Corporate Operating Plan for the Omaha Public Power District is hereby approved.”*

It was moved and seconded that the Board approve this action item.

Director Bogner began the Board discussion by commenting that the Finance Committee has reviewed the 2021 Corporate Operating Plan (COP) for the past few months. The 2021 COP incorporates the interests of the District and customer owners, supports the strategic directives, and allows the District to continue to honor its “no general rate increase” commitment.

Director McGuire commented that the District’s rate consultant, The Brattle Group, reviewed the proposed base rate and Fuel and Purchase Power Adjustment (FPPA) changes and found them to be fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory.

Chair Moody commented that the Board has had a robust discussion on the 2021 COP.

Chair Moody then asked if any members of the public attending via Webex conferencing had any comments. There was no comment from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Thereafter, the vote was recorded as follows: Bogner – Yes; Cavanaugh – Yes; Gay – Yes; McGuire – Yes; Mollhoff – Yes; Moody – Yes; Williams – Yes; Yoder – Yes. The motion carried (8-0).

***Board Agenda Item 17: SD-13: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Monitoring Report – Resolution No. 6413***

Ms. Hinnners read the following:

*“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Omaha Public Power District hereby accepts the 2020 SD-13: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Monitoring Report, in the form as set forth on Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof, and finds OPPD to be sufficiently in compliance with the policy as stated.”*

It was moved and seconded that the Board approve this action item.

Director Yoder began the Board discussion by noting that the Public Information Committee recommended approval of the monitoring report. He acknowledged that members of the Board and senior management team have received comments from the public on SD-13. He commented that the District is moving in the right direction with respect to continuously improving stakeholder outreach and engagement.

Director Williams expressed support for the SD-13 monitoring report and the efforts of the OPPD team to improve public engagement and outreach over the past year, including using new channels, such as OPPDCommunityConnect.com. He commented upon the importance of early and frequent engagement with stakeholders as the District prepares for the future.

Director Gay commented upon the importance of resuming in person meetings after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

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Director Mollhoff commended the OPPD team on the improvements made in stakeholder outreach and engagement over the past year. She noted the successful engagement efforts in Washington County.

Director McGuire expressed appreciation for OPPD's leadership and continuous improvement in stakeholder engagement since 2011.

Chair Moody reflected upon the challenges of 2020 and difficulties in conducting engagement and outreach activities during a pandemic. He acknowledged the comments received from the public on SD-13.

Chair Moody then asked if any members of the public attending via Webex conferencing had any comments.

Mr. Alan Vovolka, 3719 Hamilton Street, commented that OPPD has improved listening to stakeholders. He would like to see OPPD measure how it incorporates stakeholder input.

There was no additional comment from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Thereafter, the vote was recorded as follows: Bogner – Yes; Cavanaugh – Yes; Gay – Yes; McGuire – Yes; Mollhoff – Yes; Moody – Yes; Williams – Yes; Yoder – Yes. The motion carried (8-0).

**Board Agenda Item 18: Corporate Officers Compensation Adjustments – Resolution No. 6414**

Ms. Hinnners read the following:

*“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Power District that the compensation adjustments for President and Chief Executive Officer Timothy J. Burke and Vice Presidents Kathleen W. Brown, Juli A. Comstock, L. Javier Fernandez, Mary J. Fisher, Lisa A. Olson, Martha L. Sedky, and Troy R. Via, as set forth on Exhibit A attached hereto, be and hereby are approved.”*

It was moved and seconded that the Board approve this action item.

Director McGuire began the Board discussion by noting that the Board discussed executive compensation in closed session. She noted that performance reviews were conducted for President Burke and vice presidents throughout the year and that the Board desired to hold off on approving any officer compensation adjustments until more information was available concerning the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that the proposed officer compensation adjustments are small relative to the total corporate operating plan. She expressed her belief that President Burke has assembled an excellent senior management team.

Director Bogner expressed support for the senior management team and the important work they are leading for the District and support for the proposed corporate officer compensation adjustments.

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Director Mollhoff commented that the leaders of OPPD have performed exceptionally well during the COVID-19 pandemic and she supports the proposed merit increases and market adjustments.

Director Yoder asked for an explanation of the proposed new salary figures. Ms. Sedky, Vice President – Human Capital, explained the first new salary figure reflects the merit increase and the second figure reflects the salary with market adjustment. Director Yoder commented that he liked reviewing all of the officer compensation adjustments at once instead of individually throughout the year. He would like the Board to think about the strategy for executive compensation in the public sector.

Director Williams expressed support for the proposed compensation adjustments, commenting that the compensation ratio is favorable compared to other organizations and the proposed salary increases are in line with what OPPD employees receive and commensurate with the work involved.

Director Cavanaugh expressed support for the proposed corporate officer compensation adjustments.

Chair Moody commented that this is a tough decision to make. He expressed support for the senior management team and the transformational work that they lead.

Director McGuire commented that OPPD recruits nationally for executive talent and retention is important.

Director Gay expressed support for the salary adjustments. He noted that OPPD's executives do not receive perquisites and OPPD must recruit nationally.

Chair Moody then asked if any members of the public attending via Webex conferencing had any comments.

Mr. Alan Vovolka, 3719 Hamilton Street, expressed concern about the pay ratio.

Chair Moody read aloud comments received from Ms. Nancy Meyer, 2043 County Road Y, Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska, which were submitted via Webex chat and encouraged the OPPD board to continue to invest in renewable energy.

There was no additional comment from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Thereafter, the vote was recorded as follows: Bogner – Yes; Cavanaugh – Yes; Gay – Yes; McGuire – Yes; Mollhoff – Yes; Moody – Yes; Williams – Yes; Yoder – Yes. The motion carried (8-0).

***Board Agenda Item 19: Resolution of Appreciation for Director Tim Gay – Resolution No. 6415***

Ms. Hinnners read the following:

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*“WHEREAS, Tim Gay was appointed by Governor Heineman to the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Power District in January 2013 and then was elected to the Board for a six-year term in 2014; and*

*WHEREAS, during his tenure on the Board as a director for Subdivision 3, Mr. Gay served as Chair of the Board, Vice Chair, and Treasurer, and also chaired and/or served on all of the Board’s Standing Committees; and*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Gay’s service to OPPD was characterized by a strong interest and knowledge of the District’s business and by his steady guidance and oversight of the District, applying the breadth of his experience, judgment and expertise in legislative matters, business and community activities.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Power District as follows:*

- 1. That, at a meeting duly convened on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020, his fellow Board members and Management of the District hereby publicly acknowledge the dedicated and distinguished service of Tim Gay as a Director of the Omaha Public Power District.*
- 2. That the Board wishes to express appreciation of Mr. Gay’s invaluable contributions to the success of the District.*
- 3. That a certified copy of this resolution, suitably prepared and inscribed, be presented to Tim Gay to serve as a reminder of his faithful and loyal service.”*

It was moved and seconded that the Board approve this action item.

All Board members expressed gratitude and appreciation for Director Gay’s service to the Board and community. Director Gay expressed his appreciation to his colleagues on the Board and the OPPD senior management team and staff.

Chair Moody then asked if any members of the public attending via Webex conferencing had any comments. There was no comment from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Thereafter, the vote was recorded as follows: Bogner – Yes; Cavanaugh – Yes; Gay – Abstain; McGuire – Yes; Mollhoff – Yes; Moody – Yes; Williams – Yes; Yoder – Yes. The motion carried (7-0).

**Board Agenda Item 20: Resolution of Appreciation for Director Anne McGuire – Resolution No. 6416**

Ms. Hinnners read the following:

*“WHEREAS, Anne McGuire was elected to the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Power District for a six-year term in 1996 and re-elected in 2002, 2008, and 2014; and*

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*WHEREAS, during her tenure on the Board as a director for Subdivision 2, Ms. McGuire served as Chair of the Board, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, and also chaired and/or served on all of the Board's Standing Committees; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. McGuire's service to OPPD was characterized by a strong interest and knowledge of the District's business and by her steady guidance and oversight of the District, applying the breadth of her experience, judgment and expertise in public health, business and community activities, and the development of OPPD's governance structure.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Power District as follows:*

- 1. That, at a meeting duly convened on this 9th day of December 2020, her fellow Board members and Management of the District hereby publicly acknowledge the dedicated and distinguished service of Anne McGuire as a Director of the Omaha Public Power District.*
- 2. That the Board wishes to express appreciation of Ms. McGuire's invaluable contributions to the success of the District.*
- 3. That a certified copy of this resolution, suitably prepared and inscribed, be presented to Anne McGuire to serve as a reminder of her faithful and loyal service."*

It was moved and seconded that the Board approve this action item.

All Board members expressed gratitude and appreciation for Director McGuire's lengthy service to the Board and the community. Director McGuire expressed her appreciation to her colleagues on the Board and the OPPD senior management team and staff.

Chair Moody then asked if any members of the public attending via Webex conferencing had any comments.

Mr. John Pollack, 1412 N. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, thanked Director McGuire for her service.

Ms. Frances Mendenhall, 3719 Hamilton Street, thanked Director McGuire for her service.

Chair Moody read aloud the following comment received from Megan McGuire, which was submitted via Webex chat:

*"I had the unique privilege of getting to vote for my mom at 18. I want to congratulate and thank her for her part in keeping the lights on and showing up with continuous energy for OPPD for the past 24 years! I too, am now complete."*

There was no additional comment from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Thereafter, the vote was recorded as follows: Bogner – Yes; Cavanaugh – Yes; Gay – Yes; McGuire – Abstain; Mollhoff – Yes; Moody – Yes; Williams – Yes; Yoder – Yes. The motion carried (7-0).

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The Board took a break at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 5:37 p.m.

***Board Agenda Item 21: Workforce Transformation Strategic Initiative Update – M. L. Sedky, Vice President Human Capital, and M. V. Pinder, Director Total Rewards***

President Burke began with a reminder that the Workforce Transformation strategic initiative is one of five major interrelated initiatives at the District. Each initiative has a cross-functional team of employees working to develop and clarify the scope of projects. The management team will continue to provide updates to the Board on each of the strategic initiatives.

Ms. Sedky explained that the transformation in the electric utility industry requires the workforce to adapt to a more complex, unstructured and collaborative environment. She introduced M. V. Pinder, Director Total Rewards and manager of the workforce transformation strategic initiative.

Ms. Pinder presented the following information:

- Discussion Highlights – Why? What? How?
- Strategic Vision 2050
- Our Business Is Changing
- What Employees Will Feel
- Workforce Transformation Supports the Strategy
- Connection to SD-8: Employee Relations
- The Pillars: Digital Dexterity, Culture, Employee Experience
- The End Game – Strategic Initiative Objectives and Goals
- The Bridge Approach – Workforce Transformation is the bridge between current state and future state.
- Personnel – Cross-functional team of employees, representing diverse experiences, will help shape the results.
- Strategic Initiative Timeline
- Our Reality

The Board and management team discussed aspects of the Workforce Transformation strategic initiative, including attracting new employees, use of a physically distributed workforce, a culture of continuous change and learning, the connection between this strategic initiative and SD-8: Employee Relations, and the timing of future updates to the Board.

***Board Agenda Item 22: President's Report***

President Burke presented the following information:

- November Baseload Generation
- November Peaking Generation
- November Renewables
- Honor Our Community activities and events
- Honor Our Community remembrance
- Appreciation for Retiring Directors Tim Gay and Anne McGuire
- Video – 2020 Year in Review



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**Board Agenda Item 23: Opportunity for comment on other items of District Business**

Chair Moody asked for comments from the public.

Mr. John Pollack, 1412 N. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, expressed appreciation for the departing board members and disappointment that customer trend information was not presented at the Board meeting. He also provided the Board with a weather update. Chair Moody noted that customer trend information was presented during the All Committees meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

Mr. David Corbin, 1002 N. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Chair of the Nebraska Sierra Club, expressed appreciation for Directors Gay and McGuire and hope that they would continue to advocate for renewable energy. Mr. Corbin also expressed appreciation for the acknowledgement that the Board and senior management team had received his comments on SD-13, which are attached to these minutes.

Ms. Frances Mendenhall, 3719 Hamilton Street, commented upon the high capacity factor.

Mr. Alan Vovolka, 3719 Hamilton, expressed appreciation for the workforce transformation strategic initiative presentation. He also inquired about the ability for public attendees to see the attendee list in Webex.


Chair Moody read aloud a comment received from Ms. Nancy Meyer, 2043 County Road Y, Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska, which was submitted via Webex chat, recommending that everyone enjoy a rare look at the northern lights tonight.


There was no additional comment from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. David Holtzclaw, President of Transduction Technologies LLC, emailed a letter (*attached*) with comments on the SD-13: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Monitoring Report. The letter was forwarded to all Board and senior management team members.

Ms. Liz Veazey, submitted comments with respect to public engagement via the Board/senior management team contact form (*attached*). The comments were forwarded to all Board and senior management team members.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
  
B020A01382E3463...  
S. M. Focht  
Assistant Secretary

DocuSigned by:  
  
ECB979C26449479  
M. F. Hinners  
Assistant Secretary of the Meeting

**From:** [BoardMemberContact](#)  
**To:** [Executive Secretaries](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Email message to OPPD Board Members and/or Senior Management  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 11:50:03 PM

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From: BoardMemberContact@oppd.com  
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:50:02 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: BoardMemberContact; Rick M Yoder; Eric H Williams; Janece M Mollhoff  
Cc: Craig C Moody; Amanda E Bogner; Anne L McGuire; BoardMemberContact  
Subject: Email message to OPPD Board Members and/or Senior Management

This email is from the Contact a Board Member or Senior Management web page. This email is intended for the following Board Member(s) and/or Senior Manager(s):

Craig Moody  
Timothy J. Burke  
Rick Yoder  
Amanda Bogner  
Eric Williams  
Michael J. Cavanaugh  
Tim Gay  
Anne L. McGuire  
Janece Mollhoff  
Juli A. Comstock  
Lisa A. Olson  
Scott M. Focht

\*\*\* Contact Information \*\*\*

Name: David Corbin  
Address : Not Provided

City : Not Provided

State : Not Provided

Zip Code : Not Provided

Phone : Not Provided

E-mail Address: dcorbin@me.com  
Preferred response method: E-mail

\*\*\* Message Information \*\*\*

Subject: SD-13

Message:  
Comments about SD-13

OPPD has been making improvements in Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement such as methods to virtually engage during the pandemic such as Community Connect. The Sierra Club is looking forward to further improvements. Below are some suggestions for ways to improve stakeholder outreach and engagement.

There is a need to improve the online customer surveys. Many surveys are confusing, forced choices with no opportunity to choose “none of the above,” or seem to be more like push polls trying to lead respondents to certain answers.

There are many examples of organizations such as the Sierra Club that support certain OPPD clean energy initiatives such as solar energy in Washington and Sarpy Counties, promoting the EV and charger incentive programs, advocating for and promoting the utilities assistance CARES Act funds and advocating for the maximum allowable funding for charging stations from the national VW Settlement. When organizations such as the Sierra Club and others support OPPD initiatives, even though they don't support all initiatives, these organizations should be provided with social media materials and other information to help OPPD promote these initiatives that they have in common.

Other stakeholders that should be emphasized are City Officials. The City of Lincoln and LES have set net zero carbon goals. OPPD needs to work to more closely with the City of Omaha on common energy goals. OPPD could also work with MUD on common goals such as promoting and implementing energy efficiency programs.

In the spirit of transparency OPPD should make it easier for customers to know the cost of major projects once the projects have been awarded.

Finally, when stakeholders provide comments, they should receive a response.



Transduction  
Technologies

*Providing transforming ideas to evolving industries*

Director Moody  
Chair, OPPD Board of Directors  
444 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Mall  
Omaha, NE 68103-0995

December 7, 2020

## **RE: OPPD SD-13: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Monitoring Report**

Director Moody:

After reviewing the slides from the Public Information Committee on the Monitoring Report for SD-13 (<https://www.oppd.com/about/leadership/committee-meeting-agendas/>), I would like to share with you some of my experiences with OPPD regarding stakeholder outreach and engagement.

To my knowledge, I've taken every OPPD power panel survey. I find the surveys poorly designed, poorly written, confusing, and clearly designed to guide the survey taker to a OPPD desired outcome or conclusion. Everyone I have spoken with whom have also taken the surveys feels the same way. Worse, I've expressed this frustration multiple times with both board members and staff, even during the surveys themselves, but yet these issues continue. From OPPD's own objectives (pages 6-7 of monitoring report), OPPD has failed to "consult" the stakeholder, nor has OPPD listened to or implemented any of the feedback given at multiple times and at multiple levels. It is clear OPPD does not value my feedback. My recommendations on improvement for the surveys would be as follows: 1) hire a professional to design, write, and implement the surveys; 2) at the end of surveys, let the participant review and confirm their responses; 3) once a survey is complete, summarize the results including OPPD's interpretation of the results and provide to the survey participants so they can see how others responded and confirm OPPD's interpretation. Furthermore, I have not seen OPPD use **ANY** social media for stakeholder engagement. A quick poll, open ended question, thread, can be a very easy way to both increase customer-owner engagement as well as receive timely feedback. "Energy twitter" alone has hundreds of threads were energy policy experts around the world have debated everything from decarbonization strategies to customer behavior policies. These outreach efforts are cheap, easy, but take time to build an active following. Ditto for the OPPD website. **OPPD needs to significant increase the modes and frequency of customer-owner engagement.**

Another example is the natural gas stakeholder virtual presentations made back in September 2020. During the presentation, I made several points and asked quite a few questions, some were talked about during the presentation and some were not. The next day I got a follow-up call from OPPD staff asking if my questions were answered. I said no, they were not answered. The OPPD staff asked for some examples and I gave her several. Then she said, "well, we talked about issue X during the presentation?" My answer was "talking about issue X does not mean you answered the question about issue X nor does it mean issue X has been adequately solved or addressed." **OPPD customer-owner engagement practices demonstrate that OPPD's core attitude is that providing a "response" to a customer-owner's question or concern is sufficient, when often the response does little more than restate the question or concern and rarely provides solutions or other resources to address the core question or concern.** Furthermore, during the natural gas presentation, several recommendations were made. I asked the OPPD staff person, which recommendations would be incorporated. Specifically, I asked "now that you have stakeholder feedback, specifically, what changes will be made? She told me they were not planning on making any changes. The whole point of the



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presentation was to provide information. Again, there was no “consult” (page 6-7 of monitoring report), just information. I recommend OPPD begin to document any and all ideas coming from customer-owners that are incorporated and present that next year during the SD-13 monitoring report.

Another example is the letter I submitted to the board and senior management last month during the board’s discussion of SD-11 economic development. I’ve written “public comments” to the board about a half dozen times, and I’ve never gotten a response, other than “thank you for your comments” or something similar. After a few weeks, I asked one of the board members if I should expect a response this time. The board member said they would look into it. A few days later, I did get an email response. So, thank you for a response. In my letter to the board (item #3), I requested “for future economic development impact analysis, please include a section to consider how your rates both positively and negatively impact local economic development within the district.” This recommendation was not addressed in the response email. Secondly, I requested that “future SD-11 economic development studies consider an additional topic – **sustainable economic development**, i.e. “require some amount of work to be given to local vendors to develop local tradespersons, who can then both service those systems in the future and build new, smaller systems for other customer-owners within the district. These sustainable, economic development type of projects or activities should be highlighted and emphasized.” The response was “OPPD evaluates vendors through a robust decision-making process and does not give preference to vendors based on its own facility location.” So, the response said, “no, we ain’t doing it,” but did not give a reason why, just a vague “robust decision-making process”, without further detail. So, customer-owner feedback was given and it was rejected without explanation to the customer-owner. Thirdly, (item #5), I recommended sustainable economic development analysis when more than one SD was being addressed by a program be considered when determine program support. This recommendation was not addressed in the response email.

So, the email response is an excellent example of OPPD’s customer-owner engagement practice of providing a “response”, but not tackling the issues raised. Two of the three issues raised were completely not addressed, and one of the three issues was partially addressing.

SD-13 states “OPPD shall share context with customer-owners for key decisions; use an integrated, clear, and transparent engagement process that provides meaningful ways for customer-owners to participate and provide feedback; is representative of the interested and impacted customer-owner segments that OPPD serves; continuously evaluate and improve its outreach and engagement process.”

I have given you three separate examples where OPPD has failed in this process. I ask the OPPD board of Directors not to accept the resolution regarding SD-13 Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement. I look forward to OPPD’s effort to improve their customer-owner engagement.

Regards  
David Holtzclaw  
Customer-Owner

**From:** [BoardMemberContact](#)  
**To:** [Executive Secretaries](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Email message to OPPD Board Members and/or Senior Management  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 10:11:35 PM

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From: BoardMemberContact@oppd.com  
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 10:11:35 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: BoardMemberContact; Rick M Yoder; Eric H Williams; Janece M Mollhoff  
Cc: Craig C Moody; Amanda E Bogner; Anne L McGuire; BoardMemberContact  
Subject: Email message to OPPD Board Members and/or Senior Management

This email is from the Contact a Board Member or Senior Management web page. This email is intended for the following Board Member(s) and/or Senior Manager(s):

Corporate Secretary  
Craig Moody  
Timothy J. Burke  
Rick Yoder  
L. Javier Fernandez  
Kate W. Brown  
Amanda Bogner  
Eric Williams  
Michael J. Cavanaugh  
Tim Gay  
Anne L. McGuire  
Janece Mollhoff  
Juli A. Comstock  
Mary J. Fisher  
Lisa A. Olson  
Martha L. Sedky  
Troy R. Via  
Scott M. Focht  
Kevin McCormick

\*\*\* Contact Information \*\*\*

Name: Liz Veazey  
Address : Not Provided

City : Not Provided

State : Not Provided

Zip Code : Not Provided

Phone : Not Provided

E-mail Address: liz.veazey@gmail.com  
Preferred response method: E-mail

\*\*\* Message Information \*\*\*

Subject: Meaningful Public Engagement

Message:

I have made a series of comments at OPPD board meetings over the last 5 years and have consistently brought up the problem of lack of meaningful public engagement at OPPD. I hear that is up for discussion this week, so I'm summarizing some of my concerns and resending parts of a few of my past comments. I was initially upset at the public engagement in the "rate restructure" or "fixed-fee hike" in 2015, which was rushed through at the end of the year and approved with only a slight adjustment after overwhelming public comments against it. I then attempted to engage in the WAPA IRP process and felt like OPPD was just checking a box and had no interest in public comments or engagement. Since then, I believe that board members who are committed to improving public engagement have been elected, but meaningful engagement continues to be a problem. A few more recent examples include a Community Solar stakeholder engagement process with every participant agreeing that OPPD's Community Solar program was NOT community solar because it is just a pay more for solar program and it does not include: ownership of solar panels, virtual net metering, options to buy shares for nonprofits or others, or low-income access. OPPD was again checking a box and there is no evidence that stakeholder feedback was incorporated into the policy. The "Power with Purpose" process rushed approval of around \$1 billion in new solar and gas infrastructure in 2019 with the decision seemingly made before it was public and only a month for public engagement (with the initial proposal for public engagement of only a few days).

Here are a few selected comments that I have made in the past relating to public engagement:

From my November 2019 comments:

One month for public engagement is not enough, especially when the decision seems to already have been made, and the only public engagement has been done by board members on their own with no public meetings hosted by the district about this plan. I thought that the board & management were committed to improving public engagement, but this is one of the worst public processes I have ever seen. The District has known for at least a year about the need for additional generation, and this process seems rushed on purpose to reduce public input. Let's set up short-term capacity contracts if we need extra capacity soon, but vote no on new gas and create a broader public conversation about how to best meet these needs in the public interest and avoid stranded assets.

From my July 2019 comments:

My experience with public and stakeholder engagement including around the fixed fee increase, the IRP for WAPA, and the "community" solar project has been that OPPD management has proposed what they want and they are not open to feedback from the public or stakeholders.

My understanding is that OPPD has a commitment to meaningful public engagement – meaning that OPPD listens to the public, adapts proposals based on public feedback and ideally we come up with a better outcome by working together. I would like to see OPPD show that through meaningful engagement throughout the development of the decarbonization study. I would also like to see it with any future public engagement around integrated resource planning.

From December 2015 comments:

OPPD had the opportunity to meaningfully engage the public on potential options to address concerns about the rate structure, but, if this proposal passes today, I'm disappointed to say that I think the opportunity will have been lost. Last week at the OTOC event, Lisa Olson, VP of PR, told me that this vote could not be delayed because it was "bogging you down." OPPD senior staff members are clearly not interested in receiving public feedback and are not willing to have a more meaningful public engagement process. We expect more. OTOC's event was a great attempt, but OPPD staff continued defending the proposal with the same talking points, as they had at the open houses, in the messages from OPPD "Listens," and in communications with the public. This is going through the motions, not public engagement. OPPD has used the outcomes of focus groups to show public support for their proposal. Even with focus groups designed to sell and justify this proposal without any other options, only 45% or less of the weighted respondents thought it was "reasonable."

I was glad to see that OPPD revised the proposal, which was released late Monday, to shift a little less of the burden from richer to poorer customers, but there was no discussion of other options or work with the public to address concerns including lack of access to the common fund. Tim Burke even said that two days was enough time to receive public feedback on the revised proposal-Ha! We expect more from a public power district. The OPPD board

members are publicly elected to serve the public interest, not the OPPD senior staff members. I applaud my representative, Secretary Barrett, for being responsive to public feedback and open to delaying or voting no on this unfair, regressive proposal. Board members seem to have engaged with the public in some ways, but many seem committed to defend and pass the proposal no matter what. If the staff really wanted to engage the public, they must recognize that they have failed and despite it being a “burden,” this is their charge as a public institution. I want public power, but I expect more.

Yes, it might take more time, but it would produce a better result with less pollution, a lower peak, higher customer satisfaction, reduction in shut-offs and unpaid bills, and if people felt heard, they would be inspired to get more civically involved in our community improving it for all of us. Let’s work together to make public power all it can be. OPPD, we expect more.

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In conclusion, there should be a way for OPPD to track and measure meaningful engagement—not just checking boxes/counting people who engaged with no regard for what they said. Here are a few ideas. For major board decisions, meaningful public engagement could be defined as having X number of meetings in diverse locations throughout OPPD territory (or in the case of a pandemic, diverse times of day/days of week for virtual meetings) with outreach through multiple channels targeted at diverse stakeholders. Maybe there's even a requirement for a certain percentage of OPPD customers to attend a meeting or submit comments, what about at least 0.5% of total meters? Then, to go beyond box checking, after the decision is made, a follow up survey is sent to everyone who engaged; to succeed at meaningful public engagement, X% (maybe 35 or 40%) have to feel like they were listened to and the outcome reflects incorporation of/responsiveness to their concerns/comments. OPPD should produce a report outlining the public engagement process, numbers and types of people and groups engaged, major concerns expressed during the process, and, crucially, how OPPD is incorporating those. This report would need to be in at least a final draft phase for approval at the same time as the major decision. And, as I said in my past comments: “Yes, it might take more time, but it would produce a better result . . . , and if people felt heard, they would be inspired to get more civically involved in our community improving it for all of us. Let’s work together to make public power all it can be.”

I am hopeful that the board will make decisions this week that will lead to significant improvements in OPPD public engagement. Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Sincerely,  
Liz Veazey  
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