

• OCTOBER 12, 2023 •



# GENERAL MANAGER'S BOARD MEETING BULLETIN



Virginia Harman

## Board votes for ongoing support of home weatherization program

The MPE Board voted to continue to support the Energy Outreach Colorado CARE (Colorado's Affordable Residential Energy) Program in 2024.

In February 2023, the Board approved a \$20,000 donation for the CARE Program through Sustainable Grand. These funds helped provide for 12 area income-qualified households to have weatherization and energy-efficiency projects completed, up from two such projects in 2022.

Todd Budin, executive director of Sustainable Grand, shared at the September MPE Board of Directors meeting that five projects have been completed through August. The remaining seven projects, which are equally distributed across MPE's

service area, are in process and on target to be completed before winter.

Budin said that for every \$1 from MPE, he would try to unlock another \$3 from other funding sources, such as the CARE Program. The program has exceeded that target thus far by unlocking \$3.30 for every dollar, with a total cost of the five projects at around \$40,000.

The Board approved to use the Unclaimed Capital Credit fund for the \$20,000 obligations in 2023 and in 2024. The 2024 funding is contingent on Budin again providing a report on the use of the funds as he did at the September meeting.

## Other Board Meeting Actions

- The Board scheduled the 2024 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, April 27, in the Middle Park High School auditorium.
- The Board voted to suspend the Electrify Everything program, and corresponding tariff, which launched in 2020 based on funding awarded to MPE from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP). MPE was awarded a \$10 million interest-free loan for the purpose of providing low-interest loans to members for their participation in qualified activities under the Electrify Everything program. However, shortly after being selected for RESP funding, MPE refinanced all of its RUS debt due to burdensome and costly compliance issues. Since that time, MPE has been coordinating with RUS on possible resolutions while funding the program internally, benefiting 47 local Electrify Everything Program projects. MPE continues to seek ways to possibly continue the program and will notify members if and when it again becomes available.
- During the pandemic, adjustments were made to MPE facilities and operations. The Board agreed these adjustments could return to pre-pandemic protocols. This includes reopening of the MPE Community Room to the public, which will be available for reservations once again. Updates and information will be available at [www.mpei.com/community-room](http://www.mpei.com/community-room). The livestreaming of Board Meetings, which was enacted when Board members, staff, members, and guests could not attend in person due to Covid-19 mitigation, will no longer continue. Board Meetings, which are generally held at 8 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, remain open to members/guests. Board Meeting minutes are also posted at [www.mpei.com/board-meetings](http://www.mpei.com/board-meetings), along with the General Manager's Board Meeting Bulletin, which provides additional context to Board actions.