

Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District

Planning Committee

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Committee of the Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District has called a Regular Meeting of the Committee to be held on **Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 1:00 PM** via video/teleconference on Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85894753727>

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19 AND TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS:

Based on mandates by the Governor and the Alpine County Health Officer to shelter in place and the guidance from the CDC, to minimize the spread of coronavirus, please note the following changes to the District's ordinary meeting procedures:

- The District offices are open to the public.
- The meeting will be conducted via video and teleconference.
- All members of the public seeking to observe and/or to address the Committee may participate in the meeting telephonically or online, as described below.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE / OBSERVE THE MEETING:

Telephone: Call Zoom at (669) 900-6833 and enter Meeting ID# **858 9475 3727** followed by the pound (#) key.

Computer: Follow this link to join the meeting automatically:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85894753727>

Mobile: Open the Zoom mobile app on a smartphone and enter Meeting ID# **858 9475 3727**

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION:

Committee meetings are accessible to people with disabilities and others who need assistance. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to observe and/or participate in this meeting and access meeting-related materials should contact Jessica Gillies, Clerk of the Board, at least 48-hours before the meeting at (209) 258-4444 or jgillies@kmpud.com Advanced notification will enable the District to swiftly resolve such requests and ensure accessibility.

The Agenda for this Regular Meeting is:

- 1) **Electrical Base Fee Appeal or Exception Process.** Discussion & possible action.
- 2) **Propane Use Shifting (new and conversion to heat pump) Incentives.** Discussion.
- 3) **Public Good Charges Fund Use.** Discussion & possible action.
- 4) **EV Charging.** Discussion & possible action.
- 5) **Future Topics.**
- 6) Next Meeting/Staff Recommendation: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 1:00 PM.

The Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the District at (209) 258-4444, by email to igillies@kmpud.com. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least two business days before the meeting.

Planning Committee AGENDA 07.28.2021

1) **Electrical Base fee Appeal or Exception Process:** Discussion & possible action.

Whenever shifting rate structure, there are most likely individual cases that were not anticipated or just not taken into consideration. As the district is aiming at minimizing negative impact to all customers, it seems appropriate to have a review or appeal process so district can evaluate specific cases. It is actually the norm to have such appeal/review process.

In addition, Board has expressed concern of people having sustained reduction of electric usage, whatever the cause is, and would like to have a mean to adjust the base fee to better reflect actual consumption in these cases. The danger of setting this as a rule is abuse and an appeal mechanism would allow to minimize such risk.

How should such appeal/review process be set up?

We already have the case of someone who owned his place for 18 months and therefore, with the current wording of the ordinance, will have his first-year usage based on previous owner usage. He has not used as much electricity than previous homeowner and is not happy about be charged being based on previous homeowner usage. Adjusting the ordinance wording to use consumption between April 2020 and March 2021 when a full year of data under the new ownership is not available within the period from April 2017 to March 2020, would cover cases like this one. A similar case with someone who has not a full year of data as of March 2021 would be still using previous owner data. Thoughts on this?

2) **Propane Use Shifting (new and conversion to heat pump) Incentives:** Discussion

Several Board members have asked Planning committee to look into ways to encourage propane shifting toward electricity use. The difficulty resides in avoiding different rate structures as these would create unfair situations. One solution proposed would be to have submeters for specific uses, such as heat pump for heating or hot water. However, this would be cumbersome to manage, including the likely need to enter units to read such meters. This would create inequity with people who are already all electric and would end up like a permanent subsidy to one class of customers.

Instead, a rebate system could be used. Such system is widely used by utilities to encourage energy efficiency and is an accepted method to encourage electrification.

Which methods should the district use to encourage electrification?

3) **Public Good Charges Fund Use:** Discussion & possible action

The ordinance includes a Public Good Charge of 2.85% of the usage fee. Assuming a slight increase of KWH usage due to the lower electricity usage rate (22cents a KWH), the PGC funds should have K\$40 or more by the end of the current FY. District has wide latitude on how these funds should be used for Low-Income program, Energy Efficiency, Conservation and R&D.

- Low-income programs have already been implemented by IOUs and could serve as a model. For example, PG&E CARE program subsidize (20% discount) electricity for people earning less than specific amount or already participating in public assistance program. See the link following for details on this: https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/save-energy-money/help-paying-your-bill/longer-term-assistance/care/program-guidelines.page#qualifying

While the community average customers would not qualify, a few people residing in Kirkwood, most fulltime resident, could. This may include some employees that reside in Kirkwood. Instead of discarding such concept because few people would qualify, like it has been stated previously, we actually should implement such program because it would not be expensive, while aiding significantly a few low-income customers.

- Energy Efficiency programs are also typical to be offered by utilities (see example: <https://www.tdpud.org/customer-service/ways-to-save/appliance-rebates>). Some have advocated instead to use funds to improve EE district operations, such as reducing distribution losses or else. Would that be in the spirit of the statute, as PGC funds are typically used for the public efficiency, not the utility own efficiency? How would this PGC funds be used? Should heat pump rebate (both for water and space heating) be considered instead of a discounted rate for all electric (new or conversion) customers?
- Conservation program such as building efficiency and window replacement (see example: <https://www.tdpud.org/customer-service/ways-to-save/residential-efficiency-programs>). Should the district devise such programs?
- R&D program could offer some subsidies to a few projects to demonstrate feasibility of air heat pump in KW, for example. Should the district devise some such pilot projects?

4) EV Charging: Discussion & possible action.

Here is a comment copied from the unofficial Kirkwood Facebook page on EV charging: “I would love to see some action from KMPUD. At the last study session though it seemed they’re at the point of considering coming up with a plan by which they could formulate a plan.”

I think we can agree that Kirkwood valley is behind the curve on deploying EV charging infrastructure. With the lower usage rate starting August 1st, economics for EV charging have dramatically improved.

- Vail 7 EV chargers are down to 3 until more break. They are planning to rent the space to an outsider company that would fully manage EV charging and charge for the usage. It sounds good except it was supposed to be operational end of may but nothing appears to be happening. Greg, any news?
- Tesla supercharger site seems on hold, with no known reasons. After paying a deposit for the project, they are not responding to district inquiries. News anybody?
- Several HOAs could be good matches to deploy EV charging sites. What can the district do to help the HOAs? Available capacity, connection fees, technical or other support, etc... ?
- Should the district deploy and manage public EV charging? Where? Which providers (ChargePoint, EVgo, EVbox, Volta, else...) should the district approach? Level 2 or Level 3 (supercharger)? How fast should the district move? Can PGC funds be used to deploy EV charging? Grants?