

**Propane Education & Research Council Meeting**  
**February 8, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

Chairman Stuart Weidie called the virtual meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. ET Feb. 8 and noted the presence of a quorum:

Kevin Cobb, Suburban Propane Partners LP (Eagle, ID)  
Chris DeFilippo, Superior Plus Energy (Wayne, PA) – Vice Chairman, Marketers  
Michael Dickinson, Williams (Tulsa, OK)  
Gary France, France Propane Service (Schofield, WI) — Secretary  
Mike Garcia, Targa Resources (Naperville, IL)  
Trent Hampton, Lakes Gas (Wyoming, MN)  
Michael Heim (Houston, TX)  
Chris Hill, Meritum Energy (San Antonio, TX)  
Jeff Kerns, ThompsonGas (Frederick, MD) — Treasurer  
Joe McGinn, Energy Transfer (Newtown Square, PA)  
Duncan McGinnis, Aux Sable (Morris, IL) — Vice Chairman, Producers  
Chris Nevils, DCP Midstream (Houston, TX)  
Warren Patterson, AmeriGas (King of Prussia, PA)  
John Powell, Crestwood Equity Partners LP (Kansas City, MO)  
Dan Richardson, Conger LP Gas (Tifton, GA)  
Mark Sutton (Wagoner, OK)  
Stuart Weidie, Blossman Gas (Swannanoa, NC) — Chairman  
Brian Wilkin, Enterprise Products Operating Co. (Houston, TX)  
Leslie Woodward, Fairview USA (Wheatfield, NY)

**Chairman's Report**

Mr. Weidie noted that Bill Briggs and Mark Donahue have resigned their council seats, which will be filled by the GPA Midstream Association.

He reported that PERC and National Propane Gas Association officers met to discuss the EPA Clean School Bus program, winter preparation/rail strike, and 2023 priorities and supplies.

**Executive Committee.** Mr. Weidie reported the committee met three times since the November council meeting. It approved \$150,000 for research by Penn State University into the conversion of methane to renewable propane via plasma-enhanced catalysts. The project was vetted through the Advisory Committee's Research and Technology Development Working Group. He said the committee discussed recent media coverage about PERC operations and the impact of natural gas stoves on indoor air quality. It also approved the use of state rebate funds for travel to the upcoming inaugural Leadership in Energy Ambassador education program for industry members to serve as ambassadors for propane in the national energy conversation.

**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

PERC President and CEO Tucker Perkins responded to several questions about a recent New York Times article, noting that the publication declined to publish written responses submitted by PERC challenging the accuracy of information and claims by the Energy and Policy Institute. PERC also has been responding to a host of recent media reports about the impact that natural gas stoves have on indoor air quality. The conflicting reports reflect inconclusive findings from multiple research groups. A final report from PERC-sponsored research by GTI Energy is still pending.

Perkins said the industry has responded well to winter demand and early concerns about a potential rail strike. In contrast, the electric grid has seen weather-related instability and more scrutiny around the environmental impacts of its production sources.

He noted that early returns on 2022 retail propane sales looking promising, and 2023 offers opportunities to displace diesel in power generation, traditional on- and off-road engines, and port applications.

### **Industry Relations Report**

Senior Vice-president of Industry Relations Bridget Kidd reviewed three funding requests. One is a new concept use of state rebate dollars to create internship programs; a second is to customize a consumer education campaign focused on local commercialization efforts. The third proposal adds funds to PERC's Technical School Grant Program.

Upon motions duly made and seconded, Council approved:

- [Docket 23834](#): 2023 Illinois PERC Intern Rebate Program, \$118,100
- [Docket 23876](#): 2023 Propane Energy Mix Campaign, \$100,000
- [Change Order Docket 23360](#): 2022 Workforce Outreach, \$90,000

### **Finance and Data Report**

Vice-president of Finance, Data & Technology Shawn Stack reviewed a breakdown of a funding request for market data and research program that supports PERC's core data and market research activities. Those include the annual sales report, forecast and state profiles.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, Council approved [Docket 23826](#): 2023 Market Data & Research Program, \$525,700

### **Industry and Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **New Business**

There was no new business.

The next Council meeting will be April 26 in Nashville, TN.

By unanimous consent, Council adjourned at 11:48 a.m. ET.