**Community Stakeholder Board Proposal**

Submitted by Ryan Madden, Lisa Tyson & Michael Menser

September 21, 2023

**Community Stakeholder Board (CSB) Proposal for LIPA Commission**

The CSB is a 25 member board of diverse stakeholders that represent the LIPA service territory geographically and demographically, as well as in terms of different interests and expertise. The CSB will make sure the new fully public utility is directly accountable to the ratepayers and their communities and that these constituencies have input on major decisions of the utility. The purpose of the CSB is to present the vision of the ratepayers and their communities to the Governance Board. It would support decisions around long-term energy planning help monitor the utility’s budget, have input on rates and rate structures, seek out or conduct research to address community priorities, and make proposals to the Governance Board that reflect the diverse needs and interests of the stakeholders of the service territory, especially with respect to the goals of affordability, renewable energy, resilience, and reliability. It would also work to make sure that the new utility meets the goals of the CLCPA in a manner that is both just and timely. It would create renewable energy campaigns which would be brought back to their communities and as well as act as community liaisons during storms and power outages. The CSB would work with DPS-LI to set the appropriate metrics for monitoring of the utility. Lastly, the CSB will have the power to approve rate hikes and/or modifications to the rate structure and shut offs.

Composition and Structure of the CSB:

* All CSB members must be ratepayers that live within the LIPA service area. The CSB will be made up of members from diverse sectors and backgrounds with proper geographic diversity and stakeholder representation including social justice, environmental, Indigenous Nations, business, faith-based, labor, local government, economic development, energy, low and fixed income, members of Disadvantaged Communities, consumer, civic, and school districts.
* The CSB will meet as a whole monthly, and committees will meet twice a month.
* CSB members will have a minimum time commitment of 20 hours a month.
* The CSB will have an annual budget of at least 3 million dollars, which will cover all the expenses incurred in order to carry out CSB functions. It will include any and all staff expenses. Funds would come from the current DPS–LI budget or appropriations in the NYS budget.
* Each member will be compensated for their work via a flat fee for the amount of hours they actually work each month.
* The entire CSB membership elects the CSB Chair, who also Chairs the Governance Committee and is a member of the Governance Board of the utility; each remaining committee appoints their own Chair.
* Each CSB member must be on at least one committee, but on no more than 3; each committee shall be composed of a minimum of five members.
* CSB member terms are four years long; CSB members may only serve for two terms, which do not have to be consecutive.
* The CSB will have 5 committees:
	+ **Leadership**: oversees, onboards, and supports the members of the CSB and the committees; it presents the CSB agenda to the utility Governance Board each month and supports the Chair of the CSB in their role on the Governance Board.
	+ **Monitoring**: monitors the budget and works with DPS-LI to evaluate utility services, operations, and programs, helping to make recommendations to the new Governance Board.
	+ **Planning**: leads the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process, Utility 2.0 process, disaster preparation and emergency response planning, meeting CLCPA mandates, and other statewide goals; works with the Community Engagement Committee to bring in community stakeholders.
	+ **Community Engagement**: conducts education campaigns about the energy system, utility operations, local and state regulations and goals, programs and services offered by the utility; hosts and supports ratepayer and community initiatives regarding, for example, retrofits and conservation, renewable energy adoption and siting; serves as a resource to communities during storms and other emergencies.
	+ **Research**: brings together existing research relevant for informed decision making regarding the above; conducts research projects of importance to stakeholders and their communities, including the creation and evaluation of renewable energy initiatives and incentive programs; supports the Community Engagement and Monitoring committees.

Appointments Process:

We propose that the current Commission on the Future of LIPA, working with the Advisory Committee, with support from consultants with relevant expertise, create the founding CSB during the transition period from the current third-party management model to the fully public model. To accomplish this task, the Commission would be further resourced to survey and engage stakeholders across the territory. Once created, the CSB would be tasked with determining the mechanisms for future appointments, in dialogue with the new Governance Board.

To ensure orderly succession and that there are experienced CSB members at the start, the Commission will appoint 8 members to a two year term, 8 to a three year term, and 9 to a four year term.