



# Utility Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

---

## Call to Order

## Roll Call

## Notice of Open Meeting

## Approval of Agenda

## Public Comment

## Consent Agenda

- [1.](#) Approval of February 19th, 2026, Utility Commission Minutes.
- [2.](#) Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report.
- [3.](#) Outage Report.

## New Business

- [4.](#) Consider and take possible action on the approval of the revised Utility Director job description.
- [5.](#) Consider and take action on the creation of an assistant Utility Director and approval of the job description.

## Reports

- [6.](#) Director's Report Outline.
- [7.](#) March 2026 Live Lines.

## Adjourn

\*A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.



## Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

---

### Call to Order

President Michael Thom called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### Roll Call

The following members were present: Michael Thom, Joe Hammer, Reagan Rule, Brook Andler, Molly Finkler, Sandy Curtis, and Jack Sanderson.

### Notice of Open Meeting

The meeting was noted as posted.

### Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Hammer, seconded by Finkler, to approve the agenda. The motion was carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### Public Comment

Jack Sanderson read a thank-you letter from the Historical Society regarding a donation that the Utility made to the museum fund.

### Consent Agenda

Motion made by Curtis, seconded by Hammer to approve the consent agenda. Motion was carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

1. Approval of January 22, 2026 Utility Commission Minutes.
2. Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report.
3. Outage Report.

### Unfinished Business

#### New Business

4. Recognizing Jake Boness for completion of the Electric Line worker Apprenticeship Program.  
Jake Boness graduated from the MEUW lineman apprentice program. Dalton Hiley, Lead Lineman presented Jake with a plaque in recognition of his completion of the four-year program.
5. Approval of prime contractor, Wondra Construction Inc., for the Heritage Way Water Main Extension contract in the amount of \$320,501.50.

Motion made by Hammer, seconded by Finkler, to award bid to Wondra Construction in the amount of \$320,501.50. The motion was carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

### Reports

6. February 2026 Utilities Department Report.

Randy Myrum, Utilities Director, provided the Director's report highlighting the work of the utility crews.

7. February 2026 Live Lines.

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Finkler, seconded by Curtis to adjourn at 6:20 pm.

\*A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.



Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

---

**Item Title:** Consider and take action on Financial Reports.

**Submitted By:** Michelle Kaltenberg, Business Manager

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Included in the Financial Reports are the Treasurer's Report and the Cash Disbursements Report.

The Accounts Payable Report will be sent via email on the Wednesday before the Commission meeting.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Treasurer's Report
2. The Cash Disbursements Report

**Action Requested of Commission:**

1. Review and approve the Cash Disbursements Report and the Accounts Payable Report.

COLUMBUS UTILITIES  
CASH DISBURSEMENTS REPORT  
FEBRUARY, 2026

10-Mar-26

DATE	CHECK NO	NAME	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
19-Feb	24820	ADVANCED CHEMICAL SYSTEM	\$700.00	QUARTERLY BILLING CHEMICAL SERVICE AGREEMENT
19-Feb	24821	AERZEN	\$256.51	TRANSDUCERS
19-Feb	24822	ALTEC INDUSTRIES, INC.	\$287.46	PACKOUT TOOL BOX, PACKOUT TOOL BOX KNEELING PAD
19-Feb	24823	AMARIL UNIFORM COMPANY	\$163.21	FR CLOTHES FOR DALTON
19-Feb	24824	AMBUSH PEST CONTROL LLC	\$120.00	ADMIN BLDG RODENT CONTROL, SUBSTATION RODENT CONTROL
19-Feb	24825	BASSETT MECHANICAL	\$3,075.00	LABOR TO REPLACE AN INDUCER MOTER AND PRESSURE SWITCH
19-Feb	24826	BORDER STATES ELECTRIC SUPPLY	\$55,711.26	HOSITAL PRIMARY METERING CABINET, TRANSFORMER REPAIR
19-Feb	24827	BURKE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	\$523.44	GO LIGHT, GT LED HYBRID, 12V, PERM MOUNT, WIRELESS REMOTE
19-Feb	24828	CJ KAVON COMPANY	\$12,265.00	HYDRANT & VALVE PROPOSAL
19-Feb	24829	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$0.00	VOIDED
19-Feb	24830	CHEMTRADE CHEMICALS	\$14,746.00	HYPER +ION (40400)
19-Feb	24831	CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$74,488.88	MONTHLY PILOT PAYMENT, SALARIES, PHONE REIMBURSEMENT, RUEKERT & MILEKE INV #161633
19-Feb	24832	COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL	\$150.00	MUSICAL SPONSORSHIP 2026
19-Feb	24833	COLWIS LLC	\$10,000.00	2025 WATER QUALITY TRADING
19-Feb	24834	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	\$211.00	PE-DI RENT 2/1-2/28, DI REGENERATION CHARGE
19-Feb	24835	CURTIS STIBB	\$15,818.75	2025 WATER QUALITY TRADING
19-Feb	24836	DAVY LABORATORIES	\$200.00	SDWA LEAD/COPPER (20), SDWA LEAD/COPPER (20)
19-Feb	24837	DIGGERS HOTLINE, INC	\$200.15	LOCATING EXP. EMAIL FEE'S JANUARY 2026
19-Feb	24838	FOREST LANDSCAPING	\$9,124.50	WATER MAIN BREAK LUDDINGTON STREET 1/6 AND 1/7/2026
19-Feb	24839	FORSTER ELECTRICAL	\$26,551.25	SUBSTATION #2 UPGRADE, CA APPLICATION, CIRCUIT TIE UPGRADES ON PARK AVE/LUDINGTON, SUBSTATION #3 &#4 UPGRADES, SCADA COMMUNICATION TROU
19-Feb	24840	GLS UTILITY LLC	\$1,341.37	GLS LOCATING PRIVATE UTILITIES LOCATED 950 MAPLE AVE, 900 AVALON RD, & 345 N WATER ST
19-Feb	24841	HAWKINS, INC	\$2,487.74	WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS
19-Feb	24842	HYDROCORP, LLC	\$980.00	CROSS CONNECTION CNTRL PROGRAM
19-Feb	24843	ICS MEDICAL ANSWERING SERVICE	\$229.56	PHONE ANSWERING SERVICE
19-Feb	24844	INFOSEND	\$1,888.59	UTILITY BILL PRINTING AND MAILING
19-Feb	24845	JEFF HECHT JR	\$80.00	REIMBURSEMENT CLASSES LA CROSSE FEB 26
19-Feb	24846	JEREMY ROLL	\$409.75	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE 2026
19-Feb	24847	L, CUBED ANAYTICS	\$1,470.00	OPENPOINT WORK ORDER
19-Feb	24848	MASON MOSHER	\$493.36	MASON CLASSES IN LA CROSSE REIMBURSEMENT, MASON APPRENETICESHIP
19-Feb	24849	MAUNLEIN LANDSCAPING	\$3,506.81	HIGH SCHOOL/PARK LANDSCAPING
19-Feb	24850	MEUW	\$18,485.88	REGIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL FEE, 2026 JOB TRAINING, & SAFETY PROGRAM FEES (4) LINEWORKERS, APPARATUS WORKSHOP FEBRUAR
19-Feb	24851	MIDWEST CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT	\$3,823.00	(3) DRUMS POLYMER
19-Feb	24852	MIDWEST SALT	\$3,528.82	BULK SALT
19-Feb	24853	NAPA AUTO PARTS	\$211.64	BATTERY ACCESSORIES TRUCK #32, VACTOR TRUCK OIL, VACTOR TRUCK GREASE CART, UTV OIL
19-Feb	24854	NATHAN ROBERTS	\$2,847.97	REFUND FOR ELCTRIC SERVICE 3 PHASE ADDITION
19-Feb	24855	NCL OF WISCONSIN, INC	\$457.92	DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING MATERIALS
19-Feb	24856	NICOLE RENKAS	\$101.50	MILEAGE FOR MEUW ACCOUNTING
19-Feb	24857	NIEMANN FOODS, INC (ACE HARDWARD)	\$521.02	MAX POWER CAR WASH 100OZ, WOOD SCREWS, PACKOUT TOOL BOX, CONN BUTT, BRACE, WORKGLOVES, BAIT STATION REFILL, BUST BRUSH
19-Feb	24858	OPENPOINT	\$3,910.00	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION/CONSULTING
19-Feb	24859	PACKERLAND RENT-A-MAT, INC	\$119.33	URINAL REFILLS, MATS
19-Feb	24860	PHYLLAS & DAVID FARBER	\$30.10	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
19-Feb	24861	PYRAMID TELEPHONE & SECURITY	\$725.00	CAMERA SYSTEM ANNUAL MAINTENANCE
19-Feb	24862	RUEKERT & MIELKE, INC	\$60,985.04	WATER PLANT 3 PRELIMINARY SITING STUDY, 5 YEAR SEWER TELEVISIONING PROGRAM, WATER QUALITY TRADING ASSISTANCE, GENERAL SERVICES-SEWER, 2025
19-Feb	24863	ST JEROMES SCHOOL	\$500.00	2026 PANCAKE BREAKFAST
19-Feb	24864	SUPERIOR CHEMICAL, LLC	\$107.40	MUTIFOLD PREM TAD WHITE (1), BLK LNR (1)
19-Feb	24865	USA BLUEBOOK	\$136.37	DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING TESTING
19-Feb	24866	USIC LOCATING SERVICES, INC	\$699.65	LOCATING EXPENSES
19-Feb	24867	UTILITY SALES & SERVICE	\$360.37	TRUCK #26 SHEAVE ROPE ALUM 5"DX2"W TMD
19-Feb	24868	VC3, INC	\$296.32	NETWORK SECURITY/FIREWALL LIC/SUB
19-Feb	24869	WI State Laboratory of Hygene	\$31.00	FLUORIDE TEST
19-Feb	24870	WISCONSIN CONFERENCE OF SD	\$20,000.00	2025 WASTER QUALITY TRADING
19-Feb	24871	WISEGUYS AUTO REPAIR	\$57.50	TRUCK #32 OIL CHANGE & FILTER, GENERAL INSPECTION, ROTATE TIRES
19-Feb	24872	WRWA	\$430.00	WRWA CONFERENCE JAKE T & CRAIG S 2026
19-Feb	24873	PUBLIC SERVICE COMM OF WI	\$1,176.08	APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT UPGRADES AND REPLACE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.
		SUBTOTAL	\$356,821.50	<b>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LIST APPROVED AT FEBRUARY MEETING</b>
01-Feb	ACH	FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION BANK	\$138.30	ACH FEES
03-Feb	ACH-4660	BP	\$924.13	FUEL
03-Feb	ACH-4663	PAYMENT SERVICE NETWORK	\$3,316.50	CUSTOMER PAYMENT FEE
20-Feb	ACH-4667	CHARTER	\$100.00	INTERNET SERVICE FOR CWL ADMIN BLDG
18-Feb	ACH-4678	CHARTER	\$119.99	INTERNET SERVICE FOR ELECTRIC SCADA
18-Feb	ACH-4679	CHARTER	\$130.00	WASTEWATER SPECTRUM
09-Feb	ACH-4662	FP MAILING SOLUTIONS	\$800.00	POSTAGE
18-Feb	ACH-4669	FP MAILING SOLUTIONS	\$81.18	POSTAGE METER RENTAL
18-Feb	ACH-4664	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$288.89	PRINTER AGREEMENT
18-Feb	ACH-4665	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$2,631.53	IT AGREEMENT
26-Feb	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL	\$30,000.00	JANUARY BOND INTEREST PAYMENT
26-Feb	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL	\$5,000.00	JANUARY DEPRECIATION PAYMENT
26-Feb	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL	\$15,500.00	TRANSFER INTO LGIP #13 - UTILITY GENERAL FUND
07-Feb	ACH	CWL NET PAYROLL	\$34,681.90	NET PAYROLL FOR 1ST PAYROLL IN FEBRUARY #3
07-Feb	ACH-4635	EFTPS (EL FED TAX PYMNT SYS)	\$11,056.00	FICA/MED/FED WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #3
07-Feb	ACH-4637	WI DEFERRED COMP BOARD	\$1,439.91	PAYROLL DEFERRAL BILLING FOR PAYROLL #3
07-Feb	ACH-4638	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$1,742.06	STATE WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #3
07-Feb	ACH-4635	NORTH SHORE BANK	\$300.00	PAYROLL DEFERRAL COMP NORTHSHORE #3
20-Feb	ACH-4668	WE ENERGIES	\$183.58	NATURAL GAS SERVICE WATER PLANT #2 AND WESTSIDE SEWAGE LIFT

20-Feb	ACH-4672	WE ENERGIES	\$1,613.43	NATURAL GAS SERVICE ADMIN BUILDING
20-Feb	ACH-4674	WE ENERGIES	\$18.61	WATERLOO ST LIFT STATION
20-Feb	ACH-4676	WE ENERGIES	\$19.94	119 MIDDLETON ST LIFT STATION
20-Feb	ACH-4677	WE ENERGIES	\$1,479.84	TREATMENT PLANT
20-Feb	ACH-4675	WE ENERGIES	\$18.61	GENERATOR ON JAMES
20-Feb	ACH-4673	WE ENERGIES	\$15.14	WASTEWATER PUMP STATION
18-Feb	ACH-4671	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$9,484.79	JANUARY SALES/USE TAX
18-Feb	ACH-4670	WI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$50.00	STATE WITHHOLDING STATE JAN 2026
18-Feb	ACH-4680	CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY	\$58.98	FIRST AID SUPPLIES FOR FEB
19-Feb	ACH-4654	Brook Andler	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
19-Feb	ACH-4655	Jack Sanderson	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
19-Feb	ACH-4656	Michael Thom	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
19-Feb	ACH-4657	Regan Rule	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
19-Feb	ACH-4658	Sandra Curtis	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
19-Feb	ACH-4659	SEERA	\$1,892.77	JANUARY 2026 FOCUS ON ENERGY PAYMENT
21-Feb	ACH	CWL NET PAYROLL	\$35,696.62	NET PAYROLL FOR 2ND PAYROLL IN FEBRUARY #4
20-Feb	ACH-4639	CITY OF COLUMBUS-AFLAC	\$82.42	AFLAC TRANSFER FOR FEBRUARY
20-Feb	ACH-4640	CITY OF COLUMBUS - RETIREMENT	\$15,337.68	RETIREMENT FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR FEBRUARY
20-Feb	ACH-4641	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH INS	\$26,848.76	DEAN CARE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR FEBRUARY
20-Feb	ACH-4642	CITY OF COLUMBUS - LIFE	\$544.31	LIFE INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES FEBRUARY
20-Feb	ACH-4643	CITY OF COLUMBUS - DENTAL INS	\$1,564.78	DENTAL INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR FEBRUARY
20-Feb	ACH-4644	CITY OF COLUMBUS - VISION INS	\$179.46	VISION INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR FEBRUARY
20-Feb	ACH-4645	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH SAVINGS	\$2,838.82	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT TRANSFER FOR FEBRUARY
20-Feb	ACH-4646	CITY OF COLUMBUS-LTD	\$348.06	LTD INTERNAL TRANSFER BETWEEN CITY
20-Feb	ACH-4647	CITY OF COLUMBUS-ASSURITY	\$643.44	ASSURITY TRANSFER FOR FEBRUARY
20-Feb	ACH-4648	CITY OF COLUMBUS-CHAMP PLAN	\$5,741.60	CHAMP PLAN TRANSFER FOR FEBRUARY
20-Feb	ACH-4649	CITY OF COLUMBUS-CHAMP BENEFIT	(\$4,661.60)	CHAMP BENEFIT TRANSFER FOR FEBRUARY
17-Feb	ACH-4095	EFTPS (EL FED TAX PYMNT SYS)	\$11,846.14	FICA/MED/FED WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #4
17-Feb	ACH-4097	WI DEFERRED COMP BOARD	\$1,728.93	PAYROLL DEFERRAL BILLING FOR PAYROLL #4
17-Feb	ACH-4098	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$1,873.11	STATE WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #4
17-Feb	ACH-4096	NORTH SHORE BANK	\$300.00	PAYROLL DEFERRAL COMP NORTHSORE #4
20-Feb	ACH-4661	ELAN FINANCIAL	\$4,256.78	LOADING FOR MEUW CONFERENCE-DALTON & JAKE B. APPRENTICESHIP LODING MOSHER, TAX FORMS, FOLDERS, BINDERS, EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION, SAW KIT, UTV D
28-Feb	ACH-4666	WPPI	\$534,062.24	POWER BILL January, AMI IMPLEMENTATION & NORTHSTAR MDM INTERFACE, RESIDENTIAL AMI METERING PROJECT; LOAN REPMT
28-Feb	ACH	FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION BANK	\$0.00	NSF FEES
		SUBTOTAL	\$762,567.61	

TOTAL \$1,119,389.11 APPROVED BY:

DATE:

**CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES  
TREASURER'S REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026**

Item #2.

**GENERAL FUND (commingled cash) - ACCOUNT #1310**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ (208,972.03)
Receipts:	\$ 1,030,646.07
Interest Earned:	\$ 112.27
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 821,786.31
Disbursements:	\$ (1,119,389.11)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ (297,602.80)</u>

*NOTE: Conventional utility accounting standards recommend a balance equal to two month's expenses - approx. \$1,400,000 (LGIP & Checking).*

**UTILITY GENERAL FUND - LGIP #13 - ACCOUNT #1314**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 490,899.95
Receipts:	\$ 15,500.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,399.59
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 507,799.54
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 507,799.54</u>

**MRB PRINCIPAL & INTEREST - LGIP #5 - ACCOUNT #1255**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 478,380.17
Receipts:	\$ 30,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,372.94
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 509,753.11
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 509,753.11</u>

*NOTE: Transfers are made monthly to accrue sufficient funds to make May 1 and November 1 principal & interest payments.*

**SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #4 - SEWER UTILITY GENERAL FUNDS**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 1,258.78
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 3.56
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,262.34
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 1,262.34</u>

**SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #11 - COLLECTION MAIN - REPLACEMENT**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 896,026.23
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 2,537.47
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 898,563.70
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 898,563.70</u>

**WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 162,434.37
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 460.00
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 162,894.37
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 162,894.37</u>

**CW&L RESERVE FUND - F&M - ACCOUNT #1251**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 340,422.56
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 340,422.56
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 340,422.56</u>

*F&M Bank/CDAR 52 Week Certificate of Deposit: \$170,211.28 Due June 2026 4.40%; \$170,211.28 Due December 2026 4.25%*

**E-3-P ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM - F&M - ACCOUNT #1313**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 138,801.39
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned ( <i>pd semi-annually May/Nov</i> ):	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 138,801.39
Disbursements:	\$ (1,394.11)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 137,407.28</u>

**CW&L DEPRECIATION - LGIP #6 - ACCOUNT #1266**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 595,157.14
Receipts:	\$ 5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,688.47
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 601,845.61
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 601,845.61</u>

*NOTE: Bond covenants require a "depreciation fund" with recommended balance of \$300,000 to cover plant renewals and replacements.*

**SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #8 - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 504,750.15
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,429.41
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 506,179.56
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 506,179.56</u>

**SEWER UTILITY - F&M SAVINGS - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 236,293.05
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned ( <i>pd semi-annually May/Nov</i> ):	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 236,293.05
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 236,293.05</u>

**WWTP FALL RIVER RESTRICTED REPLACEMENT FUNDS - F&M CDARS**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 1,065,564.23
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,065,564.23
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<u>\$ 1,065,564.23</u>

*F&M Bank/CDAR (2) - Interest paid out and deposited to Checking*

F&M Union Bank-Checking/Savings	0.4% / 0.75%	Local Gov't. Investment Pool	3.69%
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS	3.95%-4.40%		



Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

---

**Item Title:** Consider and take action on Financial Reports.

**Submitted By:** Michelle Kaltenberg, Business Manager

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Included in the Financial Reports are the Treasurer’s Report and the Cash Disbursements Report.

The Accounts Payable Report will be sent via email on the Wednesday before the Commission meeting.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Treasurer’s Report
2. The Cash Disbursements Report

**Action Requested of Commission:**

1. Review and approve the Cash Disbursements Report and the Accounts Payable Report.

COLUMBUS UTILITIES  
CASH DISBURSEMENTS REPORT  
MARCH, 2026

09-Apr-26

DATE	CHECK NO	NAME	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
19-Mar	24874	AERZEN	\$908.91	AIR FILTER CARTIDGES (3)
19-Mar	24875	ALEXANDER MOECKLER	\$250.00	EV INCENTIVE
19-Mar	24876	ALFA LAVAL	\$9,563.37	SEAM WIRE, BLADES, SCRAPER
19-Mar	24877	AMBUSH PEST CONTROL LLC	\$120.00	SUBSTATION RODENT CONTROL #4, ADMIN BLDG RODENT CONTROL
19-Mar	24878	ANTHONY DERR	\$658.03	BOOT REIMBURSEMENT, CLASSES FOR GROUNDWATER, IRON REMOVAL, ZEOLITE SOFTENING, WATER WORKS CERT TRAINING, MILEAGE
19-Mar	24879	BAKER TILLY	\$30,699.15	2025 AUDIT SERVICES
19-Mar	24880	BASSETT MECHANICALS	\$4,880.00	SEMI ANNUAL BILLING PROFESSIONAL MAINTENACE AGREEMENT 2026
19-Mar	24881	BOND TRUST SERVICES CORP	\$566,151.25	PRINCIPAL PAYMENT SERIES 2016 A, 2017C, 2020A, INTEREST PAYMENTS, BOND PAYING AGENT FEE
19-Mar	24882	BORDER STATES ELECTRIC	\$442.29	STERLING SR LOCK W/O KEYS
19-Mar	24883	C&M HYDRAULIC TOOL SUPPLY	\$1,939.92	STRAP HOIST (6) TRUCK #22 & #28
19-Mar	24884	CARDINAL EMBROIDERY	\$118.00	EMBROIDERY LOGO/NAME-JAKE AND JEFF
19-Mar	24885	CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$396,341.14	MONTHLY PILOT PAYMENT, SALARIES, PHONE REIMBURSEMENT, GFL, RUEKERT & MILEKE INV #161974, BOND TRUST INV 102629 & 102625, COBRA ADMIN FEE'S 2025
19-Mar	24886	COLUMBUS 4TH OF JULY ORGANIZATION	\$1,000.00	AD OF COLUMBUS 4TH OF JULY/LIBERTY BELL SPONSOR
19-Mar	24887	COLUMBUS AREA HISTORICAL	\$2,000.00	LED TRACK FIXTURES (35)
19-Mar	24888	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	\$66.00	PE-DI RENT 3/1-3/31/2026, DI REGENERATION CHARGE
19-Mar	24889	DREXEL BUILDING SUPPLY INC	\$66.66	PLYWOOD (2)
19-Mar	24890	ELECTRICAL TESTING LABORATORY	\$706.46	TESTING GLOVES/SLEEVES
19-Mar	24891	FORSTER ELECTRICAL	\$10,794.25	SUBSTATION #2 UPGRADE, CA APPLICATION, CIRCUIT TIE UPGRADES ON PARK AVE/LUDINGTON, SUBSTATION #3 UPGRADES, #4 UPGRADES, REDEPLOYMENT OF STEP TIE TRANSFORMERS
19-Mar	24892	GRAINGER, INC.	\$51.20	SUPP PROTECTOR (1)
19-Mar	24893	HAWKINS	\$2,942.62	WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS
19-Mar	24894	HYDROCORP	\$980.00	CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM
19-Mar	24895	ICS MEDICAL ANSWERING SERVICE	\$364.75	PHONE ANSWERING SERVICE
19-Mar	24896	INDUSTRIAL CHEM LABS	\$587.26	LIFT STATION DEGREASER
19-Mar	24897	INFOSEND, INC	\$1,901.18	UTILITY BILL PRINTING AND MAILING, BLOOD DRIVE BILL INSERT
19-Mar	24898	J&R UNDERGROUND, LLC	\$9,924.64	812 WARNER ST PROJECT, BORE DUCTS, PARIAL ROCK ADDER
19-Mar	24899	L. CUBED ANALYTICS	\$210.00	YEAR END WORK ORDERS IN OPENPOINT
19-Mar	24900	M.J. ELECTRIC, LLC	\$4,543.75	WO/22002 TRANSRUPTER SUB 3
19-Mar	24901	MASON MOSHER	\$29.01	LUNCH FOR CLASS IN WAUPUN
19-Mar	24902	MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH	\$522.01	Z-TREME SEWER SOLVENT 50LB
19-Mar	24903	MID-STATE EQUIPMENT	\$140.42	FITTING & 3/4"HYD HOSE
19-Mar	24904	NAPA AUTO PARTS	\$125.97	HI POWER IND V-BELT (3)
19-Mar	24905	ACE HARDWARE (NIEMANN FOODS)	\$715.18	MISC FASTENERS, CLOTH LINE, SEARCH LIGHT, MAGNETIC, WIRE, BRACE, WORK GLOVES, BULBS LED, SCREWDRIVER
19-Mar	24906	OPENPOINT	\$1,250.00	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION
19-Mar	24907	PACKERLAND RENT-A-MAT	\$119.33	URINAL REFILLS, MATS
19-Mar	24908	PETER GALLUN	\$253.12	MILAGE TO MWVVO EXPO 26 & WASTEWATER OPERATION SANITARY SEWAGE
19-Mar	24909	PUBLIC SERVICE COMM OF WI	\$3,580.57	APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT UPGRADES AN DREPLACE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, TO CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER PLANT NO 2.
19-Mar	24910	RUEKERT & MIELKE, INC	\$35,462.24	2025 WWTF PERMIT RENEWAL SERVICES, 2026 GIS ANNUAL SERVICES, WATER UTILITY SERVICE, WWTF SCADA COMPUTER UPGRADES, WWTF BIOSOLIDS DRY STUDY, WATER QUALITY
19-Mar	24911	SPEE-DEE	\$39.78	SHIPPING SAMPLES TO LAB
19-Mar	24912	STUART IRBY	\$5,910.10	CONNECTOR COVERS, STREET LIGHT WIRE 1000FT (2000), MINOR MATERIAL, SECONDARY PEDESTAL
19-Mar	24913	SUPERIOR CHEMICAL , LLC	\$184.82	MULTIFOLD PREM TAD WHIE(2), MEGA WIPES CLEANER/DISINFECT (1)
19-Mar	24914	USA BLUEBOOK	\$649.26	DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING
19-Mar	24915	USIC LOCATING SERVICES	\$834.40	LOCATING EXPENSES
19-Mar	24916	VC3, INC	\$296.32	NETWORK SECURITY/FIREWALL LIC/SUB
19-Mar	24917	WI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$0.00	VOIDED
19-Mar	24918	WI STATE LABORATORY OF HYGENE	\$31.00	FLURIDE TEST
19-Mar	24919	WRWA	\$505.00	CHARTER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
		SUBTOTAL	\$1,098,859.36	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LIST APPROVED AT MARCH MEETING
01-Mar	ACH	FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION BANK	\$25.00	NSF FEES
10-Mar	ACH-4706	WEX BANK	\$446.82	FUEL
03-Mar	ACH-4703	PAYMENT SERVICE NETWORK	\$2,614.25	CUSTOMER PAYMENT FEE
18-Mar	ACH 4701	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$100.00	INTERNET SERVICE FOR CWL ADMIN BUILDING
18-Mar	ACH-4709	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$119.99	INTERNET SERVICE FOR ELECTRIC SCADA
18-Mar	ACH-4711	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$135.00	WASTEWATER SPECTRUM
18-Mar	ACH-4704	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$324.77	PRINTER AGREEMENT
18-Mar	ACH-4712	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$2,631.53	IT AGREEMENT
23-Mar	ACH-4719	FP MAILING SOLUTIONS	\$81.18	POSTAGE METER RENTAL
25-Mar	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL	\$30,000.00	FEBRUARY BOND INTEREST PAYMENT
25-Mar	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL	\$5,000.00	FEBRUARY DEPRECIATION PAYMENT
25-Mar	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL	\$15,500.00	TRANSFER INTO LGIP #13 - UTILITY GENERAL FUND
26-Mar	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL	\$15,460.00	TRANSFER INTO LGIP #9-UTILITY GENERAL FUND
07-Mar	ACH	CWL NET PAYROLL	\$35,816.75	NET PAYROLL FOR 1ST PAYROLL IN MARCH #5
07-Mar	ACH 4121	EFTPS (EL FED TAX PYMNT SYS)	\$11,696.84	FICA/MED/FED WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #5
07-Mar	ACH 4123	WI DEFERRED COMP BOARD	\$1,954.48	PAYROLL DEFERRAL BILLING FOR PAYROLL #5
07-Mar	ACH 4124	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$1,786.20	STATE WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #5
07-Mar	ACH 4122	NORTHSHORE BANK	\$300.00	DEFERRED COMP PAYROLL #5
19-Mar	ACH 4681	Brook Andler	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
19-Mar	ACH 4682	Jack Sanderson	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
19-Mar	ACH 4683	Michael Thom	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH

19-Mar	ACH 4684	Regan Rule	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
19-Mar	ACH 4685	Sandra Curtis	\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
18-Mar	ACH-4713	WE ENERGIES	\$16.13	WASTEWATER PUMP STATION
18-Mar	ACH-4715	WE ENERGIES	\$26.79	119 MIDDLETON ST LIFT STATION
18-Mar	ACH-4705	WE ENERGIES	\$4,267.33	TREATMENT PLANT
18-Mar	ACH-4721	WE ENERGIES	\$139.87	NATURAL GAS SERVICE WATER PLANT #2
18-Mar	ACH-4710	WE ENERGIES	\$22.24	WESTSIDE SEWAGE LIFT
18-Mar	ACH-4717	WE ENERGIES	\$1,916.66	NATURAL GAS SERVICE ADMIN BUILDING
18-Mar	ACH-4714	WE ENERGIES	\$20.67	WATERLOO ST LIFT STATION
18-Mar	ACH-4716	WE ENERGIES	\$26.79	GENERATOR ON JAMES ST
12-Mar	ACH-4707	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$9,863.20	February Sales/Use Tax
20-Mar	ACH 4702	CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY	\$57.03	FIRST AID SUPPLIES FOR MARCH
23-Mar	ACH-4720	KWIK TRIP	\$78.85	FUEL
21-Mar	ACH	CWL NET PAYROLL	\$35,954.27	NET PAYROLL FOR 2ND PAYROLL IN MARCH #6
21-Mar	ACH-4686	CITY OF COLUMBUS-AFLAC	\$82.42	AFLAC FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH
21-Mar	ACH-4687	CITY OF COLUMBUS - RETIREMENT	\$15,769.62	RETIREMENT FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH
21-Mar	ACH-4688	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH INS	\$26,848.76	DEAN CARE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH
21-Mar	ACH-4690	CITY OF COLUMBUS - DENTAL INS	\$1,564.76	DENTAL INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH
21-Mar	ACH-4691	CITY OF COLUMBUS - VISION INS	\$179.46	VISION INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH
21-Mar	ACH-4692	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH SAVINGS	\$2,838.82	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT TRANSFER FOR MARCH
21-Mar	ACH-4689	CITY OF COLUMBUS - LIFE	\$544.31	LIFE INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES MARCH
21-Mar	ACH-4694	CITY OF COLUMBUS-ASSURITY	\$883.98	ASSURITY TRANSFER FOR MARCH
21-Mar	ACH-4695	CITY OF COLUMBUS-CHAMP PLAN	\$6,889.92	CHAMP PLAN TRANSFER FOR MARCH
21-Mar	ACH-4696	CITY OF COLUMBUS-CHAMP BENEFIT	(\$5,593.92)	CHAMP BENEFIT TRANSFER FOR MARCH
21-Mar	ACH 4697	EFTPS (EL FED TAX PYMNT SYS)	\$11,759.27	FICA/MED/FED WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #6
21-Mar	ACH 4700	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$1,882.99	STATE WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #6
21-Mar	ACH 4699	WI DEFERRED COMP BOARD	\$1,702.46	PAYROLL DEFERRAL BILLING FOR PAYROLL #6
21-Mar	ACH 4698	NORTHSHORE BANK	\$300.00	DEFERRED COMP PAYROLL #6
22-Mar	ACH-4693	CITY OF COLUMBUS-LTD	\$348.06	LONG TERM DISABILITY #6
25-Mar	ACH-4722	SEERA	\$1,889.63	FOCUS ON ENERGY PAYMENT
30-Mar	ACH-4708	WPPI	\$570,840.43	POWER BILL FEB, SHARED METER TECH, WAN, ASSESSMENT, CYBER SECURITY, MDM CHARGES, GIS SERVICE & NORTHSTAR , RETAIL BILLING LOAN REPMT
23-Mar	ACH-4718	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$4,227.88	LODGING & EXPENSES APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL & WORKSHOP, REGISTRATION FOR WRWA CONFERENCE, WIRE TOOL W/ HANDLE, WORKWEAR
28-Mar	ACH	E3P TRANSFER	\$1,660.89	E3P TRANSFER
31-Mar	ACH	FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION BANK	\$148.90	ACH FEES/WIRE FEES
		SUBTOTAL	\$821,401.28	

TOTAL \$1,920,260.64 APPROVED BY:

DATE:

**CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES  
TREASURER'S REPORT - MARCH 2026**

Item #2.

**GENERAL FUND (commingled cash) - ACCOUNT #1310**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ (297,602.80)
Receipts:	\$ 1,091,631.03
Interest Earned:	\$ 100.87
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 794,129.10
Disbursements:	\$ (1,920,260.64)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ (1,126,131.54)</b>

*NOTE: Conventional utility accounting standards recommend a balance equal to two month's expenses - approx. \$1,400,000 (LGIP & Checking).*

**UTILITY GENERAL FUND - LGIP #13 - ACCOUNT #1314**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 507,799.54
Receipts:	\$ 15,500.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,602.59
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 524,902.13
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 524,902.13</b>

**MRB PRINCIPAL & INTEREST - LGIP #5 - ACCOUNT #1255**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 509,753.11
Receipts:	\$ 30,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,620.42
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 541,373.53
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 541,373.53</b>

*NOTE: Transfers are made monthly to accrue sufficient funds to make May 1 and November 1 principal & interest payments.*

**SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #4 - SEWER UTILITY GENERAL FUNDS**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 1,262.34
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 3.95
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,266.29
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 1,266.29</b>

**SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #11 - COLLECTION MAIN - REPLACEMENT**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$898,563.70
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$2,813.66
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 901,377.36
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 901,377.36</b>

**WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 162,894.37
Receipts:	\$ 15,460.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 522.56
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 178,876.93
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 178,876.93</b>

**CW&L RESERVE FUND - F&M - ACCOUNT #1251**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 340,422.56
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 340,422.56
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 340,422.56</b>

*F&M Bank/CDAR 52 Week Certificate of Deposit: \$170,211.28 Due June 2026 4.40%; \$170,211.28 Due December 2026 4.25%*

**E-3-P ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM - F&M - ACCOUNT #1313**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 137,407.28
Receipts:	\$ 1,660.89
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 139,068.17
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 139,068.17</b>

**CW&L DEPRECIATION - LGIP #6 - ACCOUNT #1266**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 601,845.61
Receipts:	\$ 5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,888.59
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 608,734.20
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 608,734.20</b>

*NOTE: Bond covenants require a "depreciation fund" with recommended balance of \$300,000 to cover plant renewals and replacements.*

**SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #8 - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 506,179.56
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,584.99
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 507,764.55
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 507,764.55</b>

**SEWER UTILITY - F&M SAVINGS - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 236,293.05
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 236,293.05
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 236,293.05</b>

**WWTP FALL RIVER RESTRICTED REPLACEMENT FUNDS - F&M CDARS**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 1,065,564.23
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,065,564.23
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 1,065,564.23</b>

*F&M Bank/CDAR (2) - Interest paid out and deposited to Checking*

F&M Union Bank-Checking/Savings	0.4% / 0.75%	Local Gov't. Investment Pool	3.69%
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS	3.90%-4.40%		

**COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT**

SUBSTATION Sub 1 CIRCUIT # 103 DATE 2 / 24 / 2026

Item #3.

LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER \_\_\_\_\_

CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION 4E/78169 4E/78169

REMARKS House fire caused service wires to melt that feed neighbors house

**PART THAT FAILED**

- None
- Numerous
- 2 Other-note in remarks
- 3 Transmission equipment
- 4 Substation equipment
- O.H. DISTRIBUTION**
- 10 Anchor or guy
- 11 Arrester
- 12 Conductor – Primary
- 13 “ Secondary
- 14 Connector
- 21 Insulator
- 24 Metering equipment
- 25 Pole
- 26 Recloser
- 27 Riser or Jumper
- 28 Splice
- 29 Switch - GOAB
- 30 “ - Disc.
- 31 Cutout - Fused
- 32 Transformer – Line
- 33 Transformer – Potential
- U.G. DISTRIBUTION**
- 50 Arrester
- 51 Conductor – Primary
- 52 “ - Secondary
- 53 Connector – Bolted
- 54 “ - Comp.
- 55 “ - Elbow
- 56 “ - Splice
- 59 Terminator
- 60 Transformer – Pad Mount
- 61 Transformer – Bayonet Fuse
- 62 Metering Equipment

**CAUSE**

- 0 Unknown
- 1 Loss of supply
- 2 Operating error
- 3 Circuit overload
- 4 Mis-coordination
- 5 Faulty installation
- 6 Lightning
- 7 Wind
- 8 Ice
- 9 Cold weather
- 10 Hot Weather
- 11 Moisture
- 12 Contamination
- 13 Fire
- 14 Extreme storm

**FOREIGN OBJECTS**

- 20 Vehicles
- 22 Trees – tore down
- 23 Trees – shorted
- 24 Animals
- 25 Birds
- 26 Underground dig in
- 27 Vandalism
- 28 Other

**EQUIPMENT**

- 30 Manufacturing defect
- 31 Equipment overload
- 32 Electrical failure
- 33 Worn out

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF ~~8:00am~~ ON 8:50am  
5:00am

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers	Minutes Duration
<u>1</u>	<u>3hr 50min</u>

**TRANSFORMER FAILURE**

CWL# \_\_\_\_\_ KVA \_\_\_\_\_

MFG \_\_\_\_\_ AGE (est) \_\_\_\_\_

Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

Arrester ON / OFF Tank (circle one)

**ARRESTOR FAILURE**

MFR \_\_\_\_\_ Porc Polymer  
Riser Line Transformer  
(circle all that apply)

**DEVICE THAT OPENED**

Distribution  
Main Feeder

Breaker \_\_\_\_\_ Counter \_\_\_\_\_

Targets \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch Line**

O.C.R. \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
Fuse \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

**Transformer**

Fuse \_\_\_\_\_ Transf. Size \_\_\_\_\_

**ROUTING (initial)**

Responded By MM

Line Assisted By JB

Assisted By JH

Manager DH

Outage File \_\_\_\_\_

**WEATHER**

- 1 Normal
- 2 Wind
- 3 Thunderstorm
- 4 Rain
- 5 Rain and wind
- 6 Fog
- 7 Ice
- 8 Ice and wind
- 9 Snow
- 10 Extreme cold
- 11 Extreme heat
- 12 Extreme storm

**COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT**

SUBSTATION 3      CIRCUIT # 302      DATE 4 14 126      Item #3.  
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 3D/86/63, 3D/85/63, 3D/30/7A  
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION Kwik trip  
 REMARKS Bushing inside of fuse enclosure failed and caused Primary voltage on A phase to fault to ground and blow multiple line fuses

**PART THAT FAILED**

- 0 None
- 1 Numerous
- 2 Other-note in remarks
- 3 Transmission equipment
- 4 Substation equipment
- O.H. DISTRIBUTION**
- 10 Anchor or guy
- 11 Arrester
- 12 Conductor - Primary
- 13 " - Secondary
- 14 Connector
- 21 Insulator
- 24 Metering equipment
- 25 Pole
- 26 Recloser
- 27 Riser or Jumper
- 28 Splice
- 29 Switch - GOAB
- 30 " - Disc.
- 31 Cutout      Fused
- 32 Transformer - Line
- 33 Transformer - Potential
- U.G. DISTRIBUTION**
- 50 Arrester
- 51 Conductor - Primary
- 52 " - Secondary
- 53 Connector - Bolted
- 54 " - Comp.
- 55 " - Elbow
- 56 " - Splice
- 59 Terminator
- 60 Transformer - Pad Mount
- 61 Transformer - Bayonet Fuse
- 62 Metering Equipment
- WEATHER**
- 1 Normal
- 2 Wind
- 3 Thunderstorm
- 4 Rain
- 5 Rain and wind
- 6 Fog
- 7 Ice
- 8 Ice and wind
- 9 Snow
- 10 Extreme cold
- 11 Extreme heat
- 12 Extreme storm

**CAUSE**

- 0 Unknown
- 1 Loss of supply
- 2 Operating error
- 3 Circuit overload
- 4 Mis-coordination
- 5 Faulty installation
- 6 Lightning
- 7 Wind
- 8 Ice
- 9 Cold weather
- 10 Hot Weather
- 11 Moisture
- 12 Contamination
- 13 Fire
- 14 Extreme storm

**FOREIGN OBJECTS**

- 20. Vehicles
- 22 Trees - tore down
- 23 Trees - shorted
- 24 Animals
- 25 Birds
- 26 Underground dig in
- 27 Vandalism
- 28 Other

**EQUIPMENT**

- 30 Manufacturing defect
- 31 Equipment overload
- 32 Electrical failure
- 33 Worn out

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF 2:44 am ~~4:44 am~~

Number of Calls 1 ~~8:30 am~~

Number of Customers	Minutes Duration
<u>15</u>	<del>9h 45 min</del>
_____	<u>5 h 45 min</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

**TRANSFORMER FAILURE**

CWL# \_\_\_\_\_ KVA \_\_\_\_\_  
 MFG \_\_\_\_\_ AGE (est) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serial # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arrester ON / OFF Tank (circle one)

**ARRESTOR FAILURE**

MFR \_\_\_\_\_ Porc Polymer  
 Riser Line Transformer  
 (circle all that apply)

**DEVICE THAT OPENED**

**Distribution**  
**Main Feeder**

Breaker 302 Counter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Targets \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch Line**  
 O.C.R. \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fuse 30/30/7A Size 80amp

**Transformer**

Fuse \_\_\_\_\_ Transf. Size \_\_\_\_\_

**ROUTING (initial)**

Responded By MM  
 Line Assisted By JH  
 Assisted By JB  
 Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
 Outage File \_\_\_\_\_

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Public Works Utilities Director  
 Department: Columbus Utilities  
 Date:  
 FLSA: Exempt  
 Wage Range:  
 Approved:

### GENERAL PURPOSE

This position is responsible for the general administration, planning, development, direction, and day-to-day operations of Columbus Department of Public Works and Utilities to include Streets, Parks, Cemetery, Water, Electric and Wastewater. The responsibilities will be mostly managerial and administrative; however, the Director must be prepared to perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled work for the operation and maintenance of the streets, heavy equipment, parks, and facilities.

### SUPERVISION RECEIVED

This appointed position works under the supervision of the City Administrator.

### SUPERVISION EXERCISED

Provides direct supervision to Columbus Department of Public Works and Utilities staff; assigns, directs and evaluates their performance. Makes effective recommendations regarding salary increases, promotions, hiring and terminations.

Complete staff reviews.

Initiate disciplinary procedures.

Participate in any Department interviews.

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Holds primary responsibility for all aspects of utility operations, administration, financial oversight, and planning:
  - Operation and maintenance
  - Planning and development
  - Policy development and implementation
  - Budget oversight
  - Financial strategy
  - Personnel management
  - Facilitation of Utility Commission oversight and governance
  - Community relations
- Oversee day-to-day operations including operation, construction, maintenance and repair of the electric, water, and the wastewater systems.

- Coordinates and directs work activities and schedules of Public Works staff required to maintain city buildings, motor equipment, grounds, parks, forestry, turf management, Udey dam, recreation facilities, athletic fields, aquatic center, Hillside Cemetery, stormwater management and facilities, traffic control devices, sidewalks, bridges, and streets, including snow and ice removal
- Work collaboratively with other city departments and department personnel to achieve productivity targets and to meet established City policies, objectives, and goals.
- Provide responsible staff assistance to the City Administrator; conduct a variety of organizational studies, investigations, and operational studies; recommend modifications to programs, policies, and procedures as appropriate.
- Be an active participant in all Department Head and Utility Commission meetings, and attend Common Council and other city meetings as required.
- Attends various community and intergovernmental meetings as City representative to obtain/share information, explain policies and goals, and gain cooperation and support.
- Assures all work is carried out within budget; monitors revenues and expenditures to assure sound fiscal control and maximum cost-efficiency; prepares annual budget requests.
- Works in partnership to consult in the review of all private project development plans to ensure adequate infrastructure planning and compliance of plans to construction standards for all related infrastructure development, including wastewater and water connections.
- Select, train, motivate, and evaluate personnel; provide or coordinate staff training: work with employees to correct deficiencies; implement discipline and termination procedures.
- Produce required regulatory reports and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, laws codes, and enforcement actions.
- Ensure that a safe work environment is maintained by monitoring and enforcing proper equipment checks, workplace safety and situational awareness among staff.
- Respond to and resolve difficult and sensitive citizen inquiries and complaints.
- Serves as staff liaison to the cemetery board and beautification committee.
- Creates and adheres to vehicle maintenance schedule for city fleet. Ensures maintenance of an accurate inventory system of all Utilities and Public Works parts, tools, materials, and equipment. Maintains informed replacement schedule based on this inventory.
- Perform related duties as required.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

*Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:*

- Bachelor's degree in:
  - Engineering, Public or Business Administration, or other related field
  - **or** equivalent experience.
- Five (5) years of municipal public works experience and five (5) years of progressively responsible utility experience preferred.
- Minimum three (3) years supervisory experience required.
- Strong leadership, communication, project management, regulatory compliance, and safety oversight skills required.
- Highly responsible professional able to manage multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective and positive working relationships and communicate effectively with other city employees, City Council, and the public.
- Experience to interpret and apply federal, state, and local policies, laws, and regulations.
- Ability to ensure compliance with city and department safety rules and regulations including training per Federal (OSHA) and State (DSPA) regulations.
- Lead and motivate with integrity and honesty at all times.

### **PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

*The conditions herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential job functions.*

**Environment:** Work is performed primarily in a standard office setting. Exposure to extreme hot or cold temperatures.

**Physical:** Primary functions require sufficient physical ability and mobility to work in an office setting; to stand or sit for prolonged periods of time; to occasionally stoop, bend, kneel, crouch, reach, and twist; to lift, carry, push, and/or pull light to moderate amounts of weight; to operate office equipment requiring repetitive and movement and fine coordination including use of a computer keyboard; and to verbally communicate to exchange information.

**SELECTION GUIDELINES**

Formal application, rating of education and experience; oral interview and reference check; job related tests may be required.

The duties listed above are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

This job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.

I acknowledge that I have read the job description for my employment position with the City of Columbus and I certify that I can perform these functions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Name – *Please print*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Class Title: Utilities Assistant Director

Department: Utilities

Location: Utilities Dept.

Date:

### **GENERAL PURPOSE**

The Utilities Assistant Director is a key position, responsible for supporting the director in the effective oversight of administrative, technical and operational functions of Utilities Public Works Departments. This role involves managing daily activities, coordinating capital projects, and supporting infrastructure planning across Water, Wastewater, Sanitation, and Electrical Systems. This may also include oversight of Public Works as needed. The successful candidate will demonstrate expertise in public utilities management, possess technical knowledge and communicate effectively. They must be capable of navigating complex regulatory, operational and personal matters.

### **SUPERVISION RECEIVED**

Works under the general supervision of the Public Works Utilities Director.

### **SUPERVISION EXERCISED**

Serve as acting Public Works Utilities Director when assigned.

Assist in any transitional leadership roles when assigned.

Will assist in planning, directing, coordinating, and reviewing the work plan for Utility staff; assign work activities, projects, and programs; review and evaluate work products, methods, and procedures; meet with staff to identify and resolve problems.

Participate in any Department interviews.

Complete staff reviews.

Initiate disciplinary procedures.

### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Oversee utility operations to ensure reliable, safe, and efficient service delivery.
- Assist in coordinating maintenance, repairs, and system improvements.
- Monitor system performance, safety practices, and operational standards.
- Respond to utility service interruptions and emergencies as needed.
- Assist in planning, design, and implementation of capital improvement projects.
- Ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, including DNR, EPA, and PSC requirements.

- Assist with preparation and submittal of required reports, permits, and filings.
- Assist in annual budget preparation.
- Support water quality, wastewater treatment, environmental protection, and safety programs.
- Respond to customer inquiries, complaints, and service issues.
- Provide information to residents, developers, and businesses regarding utility services.
- Assist with public meetings, Utility Commission meetings, and presentations.
- Maintain positive relationships with elected officials, staff, and the public.

### **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES**

- Knowledge of municipal utility operations and public works principles.
- Familiarity with Wisconsin DNR, EPA, and PSC regulations.
- Ability to read and interpret engineering plans, specifications, and technical reports.
- Strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills.
- Budgeting, financial management, and analytical abilities.
- Proficiency with computers, Microsoft Office, utility software, and record-keeping systems.
- Ability to respond effectively to emergencies and prioritize multiple tasks.

### **TOOLS & EQUIPMENT USED**

Any and all systems related to Water, Wastewater and Electric operations.

### **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE GUIDELINES**

*Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:*

- Completion of a standard high school program (basic math, reading, etc.) or equivalent.
- Three (3) years' experience within a Utilities- related Field
- Two (2) years supervisory experience within a Utilities-related field
- Knowledge of First Aid and CPR
- Valid Wisconsin Commercial Driver's License - class A.

### **PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

*The conditions herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential job functions.*

Environment: Exposure to extremes of temperatures, other outdoor conditions and noxious fumes and odors when maintaining City equipment or property and performing other required activities.

Physical: While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to walk; use hands and fingers to handle or feel objects, tools or controls; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; and talk and hear. The employee is occasionally required to stand, sit, and reach with hands and arms. Utilities employees have contact with the public and therefore are required to maintain a professional appearance. Uniforms shall be clean and neat at the beginning of each workday. The physical demands described here are representatives of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions





## Director's Report Outline

Randall Myrum – Utility Director

Electric Department:

- New Service Construction
- System Repairs

Water Department:

- Chemical Building Maintenance
- System Maintenance

Sanitary Department:

- Plant Maintenance
- Valve replacements
- Valve Repairs

Project Updates:

- Heritage Way Water Main Project.

# LIVELines

Volume 75, Issue 3 • March 2026

## Utility leaders “rally” in nation’s capital

**P**ublic power leaders from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C., in late February for the annual Legislative Rally organized by the American Public Power Association (APPA). More than 60 people representing nearly 25 Wisconsin municipalities registered to attend this year’s gathering.

Travel disruptions caused by winter weather prevented some from making the trip, while others joined more than 600 fellow mayors, alders, commissioners, general managers, and utility employees. Rally attendees took part in group meetings to educate federal lawmakers about the work their utilities do to support thriving communities. Discussions also centered on APPA’s policy priorities, including affordability, energy permitting reform, and support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), among other key topics.

Meetings took place Feb. 24 and 25 inside the U.S. Capitol complex and in nearby

congressional office buildings. Those attending from Wisconsin met with six of the state’s eight Members of Congress and their staff. Fresh off President Donald Trump’s Feb. 24 State of the Union address, the group met separately with U.S. Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin the following morning and heard firsthand from the Senators about their views of the administration’s policy priorities.

“Lawmakers always enjoy hearing from their constituents, and the APPA Rally is a great opportunity to have focused discussions about issues that matter to municipal utilities,” said MEUW President and CEO Tim Heinrich. “I am proud to say that Wisconsin always has an impressive turnout, and the level of engagement makes a real difference in APPA’s efforts to influence legislators.”

*Continued on page 2*

More photos from the Rally on page 2.



Members of the Wisconsin delegation posed for a group shot inside the U.S. Capitol.

## Data shows municipal utility residential rates are lowest in Wisconsin

As energy costs capture headlines and state and federal politicians debate affordability in general, statewide data reveals residential public power customers in Wisconsin benefit from electric rates that compare favorably to those of other utilities. Comprehensive analysis shows, on average, residential customers served by the state’s 81 municipal electric utilities pay the lowest per-kilowatt-hour rates in Wisconsin. Municipal utilities represent approximately 10% of Wisconsin’s total residential electricity sales, with investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives selling the remainder. *Full story on page 3.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MEUW plans Utility Governance Roundtable in response to feedback  
**Page 4**

Annual Conference has something for everyone  
**Page 5**

Wisconsin Utility News Digest  
**Page 6**

Community Spotlight on Sturgeon Bay  
**Pages 8-10**

Calendar of Events  
**Page 12**

Equipment For Sale — **Page 12**

Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin’s mission is to **strengthen and unify community-owned utilities**. Since 1928, MEUW has been the trade association for Wisconsin’s 81 public power communities and is affiliated with the American Public Power Association (APPA) — [www.publicpower.org](http://www.publicpower.org)

# Scenes from the 2026 APPA Legislative Rally in Washington



Public power leaders from Wisconsin took part in events surrounding the annual APPA Rally in late February. (1) MEUW Director of Legislative and Regulatory Relations Tyler Vorpapel talked through logistics during MEUW's Rally Kickoff held Feb. 22 at the Black Finn Pub; (2) Municipal leaders posed for a photo at the U.S. Capitol; among those present were Hustisford Village President Joshua Prescher, and Mayors Todd Coppernoll of Richland Center, Steven Stocker of Sun Prairie, Joe Hammer of Columbus, Dale Oppermann of Jefferson, Rohn Bishop of Waupun, Ann Groves Lloyd of Lodi, Danny Helgerson of Westby; (3) Mark Herter of New London and Tony Penterman of Kaukauna; (4) Marshfield Utilities officials met with Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-Wis. 7th); (5) Leaders from Evansville, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, as well as WPPI Energy and MEUW met with Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis. 2nd); (6) MEUW members representing Kaukauna, New London, and Sturgeon Bay met with Rep. Tony Wied (R-Wis. 8th); (7) Sen. Ron Johnson addressed the group inside a meeting room at the U.S. Capitol; and (8) Sen. Tammy Baldwin took questions from the audience inside a Senate hearing room at the Dirksen Office Building.

*Continued from page 1*

APPA stages the rally every year to advocate for public power utilities and provide a forum to engage legislators and policymakers about topics important to municipal power companies. Wisconsin's delegation — which also includes representatives of WPPI Energy and Great Lakes Utilities — is typically among the largest from any state to participate.

Aside from meetings with legislators and their staff, the Rally also features topical breakout sessions and the APPA Legislative and Regulatory Luncheon. This year's program featured a presentation from Nathan Gonzales, Editor and Publisher at Inside Elections, on the federal political environment and the issues shaping public policy.

▶ The 2027 Rally is set for March 1–3. ●



**TJADER & HIGHSTROM UTILITY SERVICES**



Aerial & Underground Power  
 541 Industrial Blvd  
 New Richmond, WI 54017  
 P: 651-269-1690  
 E: carl.moll@tjaderandhighstrom.com  
 W: www.tjaderandhighstrom.com

**BoardmanClark**

*Municipal Utility Counsel*

ENERGY • TELECOMMUNICATIONS • WATER & WASTEWATER  
 ENVIRONMENTAL • CELL TOWER LEASES • LABOR & EMPLOYMENT  
 LAND USE • POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT • GREEN STRATEGIES

MADISON WI | (608) 257-9521 | BOARDMANCLARK.COM

 **"Like" MEUW on Facebook** @MunicipalElectricUtilitiesofWisconsin

## Statewide data shows municipal utilities deliver lowest average residential electric rates

Contributed by WPPI Energy staff

Statewide data confirms what many local municipal utility leaders already understand: Wisconsin's not-for-profit municipal utilities remain competitive on electric costs.

### Wisconsin's lowest average residential electric rates

Based on publicly reported retail sales and revenue for 2024, the most recent year for which full data has been published, municipal electric utilities in Wisconsin compare favorably to other utilities in the state.

As shown in the chart at right, on a statewide aggregate basis, on average, residential customers served by Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities pay the lowest per-kilowatt-hour (kWh) rates in the state. Municipal utilities represent about 10% of Wisconsin's total residential electricity sales, and the remaining 90% of statewide residential sales occur at higher average per-kWh rates.

The comparison includes every major retail utility category in Wisconsin: investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives. Across those groups, municipal utilities show the lowest average residential rate on a statewide, load-weighted basis.

Commercial and industrial (C&I) data points in the same direction. On a statewide, load-weighted basis, approximately 66% of Wisconsin's C&I sales occur at higher average per-kWh rates than municipal utilities charge.

### Expanding on previous analysis

During his nearly 20 years at WPPI Energy, Director of Rates and Contracts Peter Shatrawka has routinely delivered competitive analyses covering WPPI's 41 Wisconsin member utilities using publicly available reporting from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. For MEUW's purposes,

the same approach has been applied statewide to include all 81 Wisconsin municipal utilities.

Dividing total reported revenue by total kilowatt-hour sales for each customer class produces an average per-kWh cost that reflects what customers actually paid over the course of the year and gives municipal leaders, policymakers, and regulators a reliable basis for comparison.

### What the numbers mean

Competitive performance does not happen by accident. Wisconsin's municipal utilities operate on a not-for-profit basis. Financial decisions are made locally and long-term investments are evaluated with community impact in mind. The Public Power model includes a built-in focus on managing costs responsibly over time.

Wisconsin electric utilities also face growing capital demands, rising infrastructure costs and changing market conditions. At the same time, customers expect clearer communication and greater transparency. Maintaining competitive performance in that environment requires steady planning and financial discipline.

### Communicating the value of public power

Electric costs remain a visible issue in many communities. When questions arise about how a local utility compares, statewide benchmarks provide perspective.

"Customers expect their local utility to manage costs carefully and to com-

Wisconsin Residential Electric Rates and Load Share (2024)

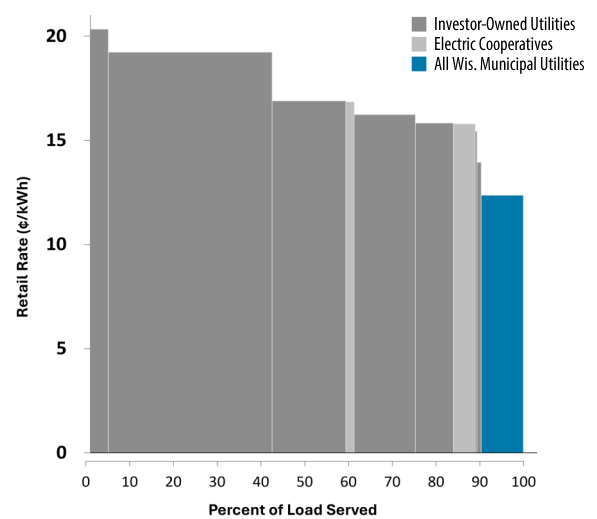


Figure 1. Residential Service Comparison

On average, residential customers served by Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities pay the lowest per-kilowatt-hour rates in the state. Municipal utilities represent approximately 10% of Wisconsin's total residential electricity sales; the remaining roughly 90% of statewide residential sales are served at higher average per-kilowatt-hour rates.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Form 861 and Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Annual Reports. Figures reflect 2024 total revenues divided by total kilowatt-hours sold for each customer class, based on utilities with publicly reported data. Percentages reflect statewide residential electricity sales.

“communicate clearly about performance,” said Jake Oelke, Senior Vice President of Member Relations, Communications and Services at WPPI. “Statewide data shows Wisconsin's municipal utilities compare favorably, and that gives local officials credible information to support conversations about electric costs.”

Oelke notes that a growing number of municipal utilities are incorporating similar comparisons into bill inserts and other community outreach efforts. Clear, consistent data helps ground those conversations in facts.

**The Bottom Line:** Wisconsin's not-for-profit municipal utilities continue to deliver competitive electric service as industry conditions evolve. Statewide data supports that conclusion. ●

# Inside 725 Insights from the MEUW Office



By Tim Heinrich,  
President and CEO

Feedback is a gift. I believe that. Like many of you, I receive any number of “presents” on any given day. Some of the gifts come from my wife or my daughters or even in the form of a middle finger from a perfect stranger on the highway. I’ve learned to filter the feedback and can generally accept there’s probably at least a kernel of truth in the “gifts” I receive. As you might expect, I get all sorts of feedback from our members about the work MEUW does (or doesn’t do). I really do enjoy hearing from the people we’re privileged to serve. In fact, I think it should be called “feed-forward” because the constructive input and new ideas are an opportunity to do even better moving ahead.

We collect formal and informal feedback from our members all the time. Whether it’s a post-event survey, discussions at committee and Board meetings, or through one-on-one interactions, every one of those gifts is helpful to us.

One recurring theme over the years has been the need for MEUW to do more to engage with the folks who govern their municipal utilities. Elected officials and those appointed as utility commissioners play a critical role, and many of our stakeholders think MEUW could do more to help them. I had a chance to visit with a number of these like-minded individuals during the APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C. I learned about some of the local challenges they face and how support from MEUW can help them to make more informed decisions to improve their local utility. The gift of such feedback over the years led us to organize the upcoming **Utility Governance Roundtable** session planned in conjunction with the 96th Annual Conference happening in May.

Recognizing that many of these individuals have difficulty getting away for education and networking, we’ve tried to build a program that fits nicely alongside other worthwhile events. The program is designed to bring municipal leaders together for a practical, peer-driven discussion on the fundamentals of utility governance, including regulatory considerations, rate setting, and a plain-language overview of municipal utility finances. We’ve designed it for both new and experienced officials, with the opportunity to get real-world insights, shared experiences, and leading practices that strengthen oversight and support reliable, financially sustainable utility operations.

From feedback I receive, I know our utilities share *LIVE LINES* in the packet of materials distributed prior to Commission meetings. I hope those reading this will accept the invitation and plan to join us in Sun Prairie on Wednesday, May 13, beginning at noon. Full details about the program are available [here](#).

There are plenty of times when we don’t know what we don’t know. MEUW is fortunate to have an active and engaged group of individuals — through our Board of Directors and committees — who help our small staff execute on the association’s mission to “unify and strengthen” municipal utilities. With regular (and often unsolicited) feedback from those we serve, we can be more effective in delivering the services and providing the support that’s needed.

There’s no need for ribbons or bows, but the gift of your feedback is really vital to keeping MEUW moving forward and delivering for you. Thanks for your continuing support.

theinrich@meuw.org | (608) 478-0998

## Nominate individuals and groups for recognition

Each year, MEUW honors utility leaders and elected officials at a special awards ceremony held in conjunction with the Annual Conference. The association is currently accepting nominations to honor individuals in a variety of categories.

For 2026, the Awards Committee has created a new award designed to recognize a MEUW member utility that has demonstrated exceptional collaboration, partnership, and mutual support in advancing the goals of public power. The aptly-named Public Power Partnership Award highlights the spirit of cooperation that strengthens Wisconsin’s municipal utilities and exemplifies the values of shared expertise, resourcefulness, and community-minded service.

All nominations are submitted using a simple online form. Nominators share information about the person deserving recognition, and the Awards Committee determines the appropriate award category. Eligibility details and the nomination form are available at [www.MEUW.org/awards](http://www.MEUW.org/awards), with all submissions due Monday, March 30.

## MEUW Board of Directors elections coming soon

Nominations for individuals interested in serving a two-year term on the association’s Board of Directors will be accepted beginning March 23. Self-nominations are welcome. To be eligible, a nominee must be employed by a member utility. This year’s election will be for Directors and Alternate Directors in [even-numbered districts](#). Additional information is available at [meuw.org/elections](http://meuw.org/elections).

# LIVELines

Official monthly publication of **Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin, Inc.**, the statewide trade association representing the interests of Wisconsin's public power providers since 1928.

This e-newsletter is distributed to more than 1,200 utility professionals and leaders throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest on the first Tuesday of every month.

*LIVE LINES* has been published continuously for many decades and provides useful information, news on emerging utility issues and legislation, updates on events, training programs and member services, as well as engaging feature stories spotlighting utilities, communities, and leaders.

Reader comments and suggestions are welcome — send by email to [news@meuw.org](mailto:news@meuw.org)

## MEUW Office Staff

**Tim Heinrich**  
President and CEO

**Mike Czuprynko**  
Director of Safety Services  
and Operations

**Tyler Vorpapel**  
Director of Legislative  
and Regulatory Relations

**Sharon Wolf**  
Manager of Communications  
and Events

## MEUW Office

725 Lois Drive  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
(608) 837-2263  
[www.meuw.org](http://www.meuw.org)



An archive of past issues of *Live Lines* is available at [www.issuu.com/meuw](http://www.issuu.com/meuw)

## Annual Conference has something for everyone

**M**unicipal employees, elected officials, governing body members, and public power enthusiasts will gather in Madison and Sun Prairie for MEUW's 96th Annual Conference May 12–14. Stretched over three days, this year's event features a refreshed schedule designed to enhance member engagement. The schedule promises something for everyone, including education, networking, and information-sharing among utility professionals and industry partners.

Based on member feedback, MEUW is holding a “Day at the Capitol” on Tuesday, May 12, providing members the opportunity to share the public power story with lawmakers and hear from government affairs experts about policy activity at the federal and state level.



Events on Wednesday, May 13, include a golf outing at The Oaks Golf Course in near-by Cottage Grove. A special Utility Governance Roundtable session will take place between noon and 3 p.m. at the Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) facility. Later, SPU — this

year's host utility — will welcome attendees for a tour of its new 83,000-square-foot office, warehouse, and garage. In addition, MEUW is organizing a trade show to complement the traditional activities, offering utility suppliers and consultants a new opportunity to engage with MEUW mem-

bers in a casual setting. The trade show runs from 4–7 p.m. The conference Welcome Reception begins at 5 p.m.

The main program will happen on Thursday, May 14. The day begins with MEUW's Annual Business Meeting and includes a full program highlighting timely topics affecting municipal utilities, both locally and nationally. The agenda includes a mix of large-group general sessions designed to bring everyone together on broader issues, as well as small-format breakout sessions and cohort discussions to enable every attendee to get the most out of the conference. The Awards Ceremony will happen over lunch.

The conference program will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel Madison East (off both I-39/90/94 and Highway 151), which is the official lodging site.

Each of the three breakout sessions will be presented twice. The back-to-back 45-minute presentations will cover service territory issues, relocating utility facilities, and mutual aid. After lunch, small groups will gather to discuss one of three topics — the affordability of public power, cyber and physical security, and lineworker safety and education. The full program — including detailed descriptions of the topics planned for breakout and cohort sessions — is available at [www.meuw.org/96thagenda](http://www.meuw.org/96thagenda).

Thursday's program wraps up with a Keynote Address by legendary broadcaster Wayne Larrivee, the “Voice of the Green Bay Packers.” The Closing Reception will conclude at 7 p.m.

Conference registration is now open [here](#). An “early-bird” discount is available for registrations received on or before April 1. New this year, MEUW will award complimentary registration for the Annual Conference to an eligible policymaker — an elected official serving on a city council, village board, or commission of a Wisconsin public power community, or an elected or appointed member of a governing body with oversight of a Wisconsin municipal electric utility. Details about the registration grant program are provided [here](#). ●



**Larrivee**

## Municipal employees complete management training program

Six MEUW utility employees recently took the next step in their professional development journeys. Pictured at right are (back row,

from left): **Joe Vance** (Customer Service Manager, Marshfield Utilities), **John Giese** (Customer Account Specialist III, Marshfield), **Kamren Seefluth** (Utility Engineer, Marshfield), **Ryan Roehrborn**



(Electrical Operations Manager, Plymouth Utilities), **Ashley Kuechenmeister** (Accounting Assistant, Marshfield), and **Danielle Doelle** (Utility Clerk, Trempealeau Municipal Utilities), who were recognized at a recent training session.

Each of them has now completed MEUW's four-part Fundamentals of Municipal Utility training program. The series is designed to explain specifics that are relevant to public power utility employees and leaders, with an emphasis on detailing

## In case you missed it ...

### New Cyber/Physical Security working group seeks input from MEUW members

MEUW recently formed a new Cybersecurity/Physical Security working group to support Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities as they navigate evolving security risks. The group was formed at the suggestion of a member utility and is intended to be a peer-driven resource for MEUW members, particularly smaller utilities that may have limited staff, budgets, or technical capacity.

To help guide the effort and areas of focus, the group is seeking input through a [brief survey](#). Employees from member utilities are encouraged to take time to complete the survey and anonymously share cybersecurity and physical security topics. Those who may be interested in joining or learning more are encouraged to contact working group Chair [Don Krause](#) at Kaukauna Utilities or email the [MEUW office](#).

the "why" behind each of the topics. Municipal workers of all skill levels and backgrounds can benefit from the training, which provides a solid foundation for understanding the public power industry. To learn more, visit [meuw.org/dp](http://meuw.org/dp). ●

## Wisconsin UTILITY NEWS Digest

### Wisconsin lawmakers advance data center regulations

Wisconsin legislators have introduced several bills aimed at increasing oversight of large data centers amid concerns about energy demand, water use, and cost impacts. Lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle and in both the Assembly and State Senate have introduced bills to address constituent concerns. One proposal would require construction wage standards, sustainability measures, water-use regulations, new fees for large energy users, and expanded reporting. Another, already passed by the Assembly, would prohibit shifting infrastructure costs to other customers and mandate on-site renewable energy, closed-loop cooling, and water-use reporting. A third proposal would create a statewide planning authority, require 100% new renewable energy, and mandate local referendums. MEUW is monitoring all developments.

### City of Superior considering municipal ownership of utilities

Wisconsin Public Radio reported that a new study estimates it could cost the City of Superior \$300 million or more to acquire the electric, water, and gas systems currently operated by Superior Water, Light & Power (SWL&P). The analysis, commissioned by SWL&P, was released as the city awaits its own independent valuation. In 2024, the city began exploring a potential takeover of the state's only private water utility after SWL&P proposed a double-digit increase in water rates. Superior officials have since widened the scope of community discussion to include all utility types, including electric. State law allows municipalities to acquire a utility, but the sale would require approval from utility regulators. Prior to seeking regulatory approval, the city must first put a referendum before voters.

Superior Mayor Jim Paine called the estimates "significantly inflated" and accused the company of overstating costs to discourage a purchase. SWL&P officials disagree, arguing the findings show a takeover would place an unnecessary financial strain on residents.

The potential purchase would involve years of costly legal proceedings. Additional startup and transaction expenses, including legal fees and staffing, are estimated at \$84 million, with another \$3.1 million needed to separate systems shared with Minnesota Power.

Community reaction to the proposed buyout has been mixed. Some groups warn that the city could burden residents with unsustainable debt, while others — concerned about rising rates — support municipal ownership for greater accountability. Any acquisition would require voter approval via referendum before state regulators could consider the proposal.

# MEUW NEWS Monitor

## There's still time to register for upcoming Leadership Workshop

Investing in leadership development delivers measurable returns — stronger teams, better communication, improved operational efficiency, and more effective change management. MEUW's upcoming "Practical Leadership Strategies for Utility Managers" workshop is designed to provide practical tools that create real value for your organization. This two-day interactive Leadership Workshop will be led by two long-time utility industry leaders and focuses on communication, leadership skills, and managing change. Participants will learn strategies to build trust, communicate effectively, and strengthen team collaboration. Full details are [here](#). Join us March 12–13 at Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells.

## Don't miss the annual Foreman's Roundtable happening March 25

The third annual Foreman's Roundtable will take place on Wednesday, March 25, at Pin-Seekers in DeForest. This forum was created to support utility line crew leaders who often face similar challenges and can feel isolated in their roles. The event provides an opportunity to exchange ideas, learn from peers, and strengthen leadership and communication skills, with a particular emphasis on safety. Discussion topics are driven by those attending, so participants can take away as much as they put in. After the event, those in attendance can take part in an optional team build-

ing and networking activity at the hybrid golf facility. Learn more and register [here](#).

## Underground Facility Locator Workshop planned for spring

A one-day Underground Facility Locator Workshop will be offered on Wednesday, April 1, in Spooner. The workshop will include both classroom instruction and hands-on practice, covering information found in Units 1–3 of the National Utility Locating Contractors Association (NULCA) Professional Competency Standard including use of the transmitter and receiver. All learners will receive a certificate of completion. Registration is available [here](#).

## Workshop focused on collaboration planned for April 2

Truly collaborating is much more than working side-by-side with another person — it also involves using influence and persuasion to drive outcomes from a high-performance team. Being collaborative can help leaders get the most out of others. Registration is now open for "Leading Through Collaboration," a one-day training offered through MEUW's three-part Municipal Utility Leadership Certificate Program. Training will take place on Thursday, April 2, in Mauston. Registration and details are available [here](#). ●

## Make plans to join a Customer Service Roundtable

Member utilities will gather to exchange ideas and learn from one another about leading practices, service trends, and emerging issues affecting municipal electric utility customers. Everyone is welcome!

A member of MEUW's Accounting and Customer Service Committee moderates each session, which are sponsored by Focus on Energy. There is no cost to attend; lunch is provided. Roundtable dates and locations are:

- Wednesday, March 18: *Rice Lake*
- Thursday, March 19: *Wisconsin Dells*
- Wednesday, March 25: *Oconomowoc*
- Thursday, March 26: *Menasha*
- Wednesday, April 8: *Stoughton*
- Tuesday, April 14: *Merrillan*

Pre-registration is required. Sign up at [meuw.org/csr](http://meuw.org/csr) ●



MEUW is introducing a one-day pre-conference workshop on utility cost-of-service and rate design as part of this year's **Accounting and Customer Service Seminar**. Members have consistently expressed interest in a foundational session on electric rate setting, and this training is designed to meet that need. The full-day workshop will provide practical insights for municipal employees, as well as help local utility commissioners and governing body members gain a clearer understanding of the rate-making process. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Sept. 22, in Mauston (and stick around for the next day's seminar).

Your source for the most up-to-date information about MEUW news, training seminars and programs

[MEUW.org](http://MEUW.org)

# Sturgeon Bay Utilities supports a thriving waterfront community



By Karen Whitmer

A welcoming city at the entrance to destination Door County, Sturgeon Bay has grown from its modest maritime roots into a community shaped by tourism, shipbuilding, commercial fishing, and outdoor recreation. For 122 years, Sturgeon Bay Utilities (SBU) — the city's municipal utility — has supported that growth by providing reliable energy and water to homes, small businesses, and the industries that power the local economy. Its work helps ensure Sturgeon Bay remains both an inviting place to visit and a strong place to live and work.

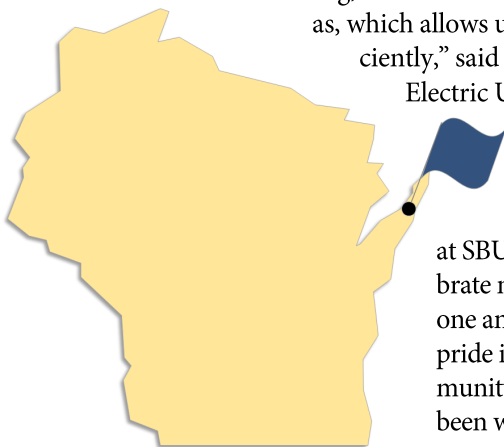
Roughly 10,000 people call Sturgeon Bay home year-round, a number that swells each summer as seasonal residents, boaters, and tourists arrive. SBU serves a wide range of customers, from permanent and seasonal households to local businesses and industrial facilities. The electric utility powers about 9,800 meters, with 35 percent residential, 38 percent commercial, and 27 percent industrial.



**Stawicki**

“We have a really balanced mix of customers,” said SBU General Manager Jim Stawicki. “That puts us in a good position to plan ahead and keep service affordable and reliable for everyone. As Sturgeon Bay grows — with new businesses and more housing, including affordable housing — we’re making sure the infrastructure is there to support it.”

SBU operates its electric, water, and wastewater utilities with a lean staff of 18, including seven lineworkers, with plans to add an eighth. Later this year, the electric utility expects to bring on an apprentice, continuing its long tradition of developing skilled, cross-trained personnel. “Our team is talented, hard-working, and trained across multiple areas, which allows us to operate efficiently,” said Jason Bieri, SBU’s Electric Utility Manager.

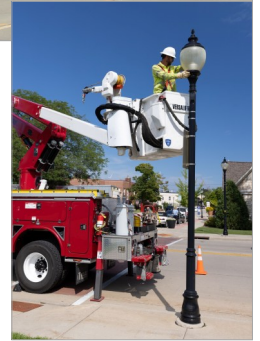


A strong family culture underscores the work at SBU. Employees celebrate milestones, support one another, and take pride in serving the community. Stawicki, who has been with SBU for 22

years, noted, “We’ve built a team that truly cares about each other — about the work we do and the people we work with. It’s not just a job; it’s a community within a community.” Bieri, with 25 years at SBU, is one of several long-tenured employees whose deep knowledge and dedication help keep operations running smoothly every day.



The historic Third Avenue district in downtown Sturgeon Bay is home to art galleries, specialty shops, and unique dining establishments along the waterfront. At right, SBU General Foreman Scott Hoffman works on a downtown streetlight, part of SBU’s commitment to delivering safe and reliable service to power a thriving community.



## From Waterfront Roots to a Thriving Hub

Sturgeon Bay is located at the southern end of Wisconsin’s “thumb” — the 90-mile Door Peninsula. The community developed along the bay from which it takes its name, historically known for its world-class fishery and thriving maritime activity.

Nestled between Lake Michigan and Green Bay, the waterfront community was established in 1850 with one residence, and by 1862, its population had increased to over 200 individuals, supporting three active sawmills. Later in the 19th century, Sturgeon Bay became a regional center for limestone quarrying, shipping stone across the Great Lakes to help build harbors and piers.

The city’s defining transformation, however, came in 1881 with the completion of the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal. Cut through the peninsula after years of planning and debate, the canal provided a safer, more direct route to and from Lake Michigan, allowing vessels to bypass the notoriously dangerous *Porte des*

*Continued on page 9*

Continued from page 8



Shipbuilding is a cornerstone of the economy of Sturgeon Bay and has been for more than a century. The top photo offers a glimpse into the past, capturing the bustling shipyards that helped shape commerce on the Great Lakes. That same tradition continues today, as shown in the bottom image.

Wisconsin's "Shipbuilding Capital." This legacy is evident, as Stawicki pointed out, in SBU's largest electric customer: Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding, a facility belonging to a major Italian shipbuilder and one of only two such sites on the Great Lakes.

### Powering a Growing City

SBU delivers electricity not only to the city but also to the adjacent townships of Clay Banks, Nasewaupée, Sevastopol, and the Town of Sturgeon Bay, encompassing an expansive urban and rural service footprint. The utility operates and maintains over 260 miles of electric lines and four substations, capable of delivering more than 122 megawatts of energy throughout its complex territory.

Adding to the challenge, the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal divides the city into north and south sides, requiring two separate distribution systems. "We have two substations on each side," Bieri said. "Maintaining redundancy, coordinating load transfers, and monitoring voltage stability on both sides requires careful planning and a skilled staff."

Converting overhead lines to underground is another key priority, helping ensure reliable service in all kinds of weather. "It's an ongoing process that will take many years," Bieri added.

The crew is also busy installing infrastructure for new apartments, condos, and single-family homes. Although the city has long had a "grey" population, with many residents over 59, its

Morts, or "Death's Door," strait to the north. By shortening the distance between Green Bay and southern Lake Michigan ports by 50 to 75 miles, it quickly became a vital artery for regional commerce. The surge in maritime traffic spurred Sturgeon Bay's population growth and economic development.

The canal remains a vital part of shipping and commerce today, upholding Sturgeon Bay's reputation as

scenic surroundings, waterfront access, and employment opportunities are drawing in newcomers who live there year-round. Since 2019, the city has added more than 400 new residential units, with zoning changes encouraging more affordable housing.



"Every connection we make means more than just adding a meter," Bieri explained. "It's about helping the city expand and prosper while ensuring that everyone receives safe, dependable, and affordable service."

### Guiding Innovation and Collaboration

SBU has long been a steady leader in the municipal utility sector and is a founding member of both MEUW and WPPI Energy. Stawicki, known for his collaborative approach, inquisitive nature, and broad utility knowledge, currently serves as chair of WPPI Energy's Board of Directors. With over 20 years of service to the organization, he has represented Sturgeon Bay on the WPPI Board since 2004 and has been a member of its Executive Committee since 2006.

In this role, he helps guide WPPI's strategic direction to ensure it remains closely aligned with the needs of member utilities, while also providing SBU with early insight into emerging technologies and regional best practices.

"Through collaboration with other public power professionals via WPPI," Stawicki said, "SBU has been in a position to adopt



emerging technology early, such as advanced metering infrastructure, which ultimately helps strengthen our reliability, efficiency, and customer service."

Continued on page 10



The Sturgeon Bay Utilities team helps the community thrive.

Continued from page 9

### Commitment to Sustainability

The City of Sturgeon Bay and SBU continue to strengthen and expand their environmental initiatives. In 2023, the city joined Wisconsin's Green Tier Legacy Communities program, a voluntary DNR initiative recognizing local governments committed to going beyond basic environmental standards.

SBU offers customers the option to purchase renewable-energy blocks under WPPI's Choose Renewable program, which help fund additional investment and advancements in renewable energy opportunities across its membership. The utility also features "solar flairs" prominently displayed in front of its office, making sustainability a visible, community-centered priority. Stawicki noted, "While the solar array isn't a major source of energy, it stands out and serves as a reminder to Sturgeon Bay residents and visitors that our beautiful environment deserves protection."

As part of its broader sustainability efforts, the city is also working to establish a stormwater utility to better manage runoff and protect local waterways. While this initiative is separate from SBU's operations, the utility collaborates closely with city leadership to ensure infrastructure planning supports long-term community needs.

"Our focus is on delivering reliable, safe service for residents and businesses while helping the city grow responsibly," Stawicki said. "Providing essential utility services and supporting economic development — all while protecting Door County's natu-



To demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability, the City of Sturgeon Bay installed several Solar Flair™ photovoltaic systems as both functional infrastructure and educational tools to promote renewable energy awareness. Three flairs are located in front of the Sturgeon Bay Utilities headquarters. Pictured here is the "Constellation" Solar Flair near the planetarium at Crossroads at Big Creek, a local nature preserve.

ral resources — is simply good utility and city management."

### Festivals, Waterfront Life, and the Utility Behind It All

Sturgeon Bay's energy extends beyond its waterfront and maritime heritage. The city hosts numerous festivals and entertainment options throughout the year, including Steel Bridge Songfest, Harvest Fest, and the winter Fire and Ice Festival, which attracts thousands of visitors. Weekly Concerts in the Park, tall-ship visits, and programs at the Door County Maritime Museum celebrate the city's rich maritime history.

Sturgeon Bay features waterfront resorts like Stone Harbor, Bridgeport, Bayshore Inn, and Westwood Shores, as well as historic hotels like White Lace Inn. The

local dining scene ranges from Wisconsin supper clubs to upscale waterfront restaurants, many serving the region's signature fish boils — a quintessential Door County experience.

Stawicki, who has lived in Sturgeon Bay for over 35 years and jokes that he's "almost a native," prefers to stay out of the spotlight, letting the work of SBU and the community speak for itself. "This is a community with world-class entertainment and restaurants, vibrant arts, and a beautiful waterfront," he said. "It's a special place — and it's a privilege to live and work here."

And there's no question the community of Sturgeon Bay is stronger because of SBU. Behind the scenes, the utility steadily and quietly powers homes, businesses, and public spaces, keeping the area vibrant, strong, and welcoming for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. ●

*Karen Whitmer is a regular contributor to LIVE LINES; she is a freelance communicator based in the Fox Valley.*

*That's all Folks!*

This month's profile of Sturgeon Bay is the last in a series of **Community Spotlight** articles that began with a feature of the Village of La Farge in the August 2018 edition of *LIVE LINES*. Since then, MEUW has profiled all 81 cities and villages across Wisconsin that own and operate a municipal electric utility. Each of the articles is available in the archive of *LIVE LINES* accessible from MEUW.org. A listing of each community and the month it was featured is [here](#).



**FORSTER**  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Partnering with municipal utilities to offer full service electrical engineering **design and consulting.**

CONSULTING AND SYSTEM PLANNING  
SUBSTATION DESIGN | DISTRIBUTION LINE DESIGN  
GIS MAPPING | REMOTE SYSTEM MONITORING

550 N. Burr Oak Ave. Oregon, WI 53575 | 608.835.9009 | forstereng@forstereng.com | forstereng.com

## Wisconsinites received millions in rebates through IRA Home Energy Rebate Programs

Wisconsin closed 2025 on a strong note in its efforts to support residential energy efficiency. Since the launch of the first federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Energy Rebate program in 2024, residents across the state have received more than \$7 million in rebates for improvements that reduce energy use, boost comfort, and help lower energy costs.

Participation has been widespread, with projects completed in 67 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The broad geographic reach underscores the value these rebates provide for all types of households, whether owned or rented, in urban centers, rural communities, or anywhere in between.

Continuing into 2026, both rebate programs remain active, and with significant progress already achieved. This year offers even more opportunity for Wisconsin households to participate in the IRA Home Energy Rebate programs as the number of participating IRA Registered Contractors continues to grow. Funding continues under two distinct program tracks, each supporting different types of energy-saving improvements.

### Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES)

Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to launch their HOMES in August 2024. HOMES rewards whole-home energy savings. Rather than offering rebates based on specific equipment, this program provides incentives tied to achieving 20% or greater reduction in energy use achieved by the project. This approach requires an Energy Assessment and gives households the flexibility to pursue multiple upgrades at once and to take on deeper energy-efficiency improvements. Eligible projects include insulation upgrades, air sealing, heat pump heating and cooling systems, and heat pump water heaters.

More than 96% of HOMES rebates have been distributed to low-income Wisconsin residents, underscoring the program's

role in expanding access to meaningful energy-saving improvements. HOMES projects often align well with utility energy-efficiency goals, reducing both household expenses and strain on the electric grid.

### Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program (HEAR)

HEAR supports households choosing efficient, modern electric appliances and equipment. Rebates are available for:


- ENERGY STAR® cold-climate heat pumps;
- ENERGY STAR heat pump water heaters;
- ENERGY STAR heat pump clothes dryers;
- ENERGY STAR electric ranges and cooktops;
- Electrical panel and wiring upgrades; and/or
- Insulation and air sealing.

HEAR rebates can be accessed in two ways, either through installations completed by IRA Registered Contractors, or (for certain products) through purchases at retail stores. This makes the program accessible to households pursuing major system upgrades as well as those making smaller, incremental improvements.

The \$7 million milestone since August 2024 demonstrates strong public interest in making homes more energy-efficient, comfortable, and affordable to operate. Wisconsin's utilities are well positioned to maintain this momentum by continuing to share information about available rebates, encouraging residents to explore upgrade options, and helping direct customers to trusted contractors and retailers.

To explore available rebates, learn about eligible upgrades, or find an IRA Registered Contractor or participating retailer, visit [focusonenergy.com/home-energy-rebates](https://focusonenergy.com/home-energy-rebates).

*MEUW provides Focus on Energy the opportunity to regularly contribute content to LIVE LINES because of the organizations' shared support of municipal utilities.*



## Mutual Aid Hotline

# 1-844-MEUW-911

(1-844-638-9911)

When you need help, call MEUW – 24 hours a day, seven days a week – for help coordinating mutual aid assistance



We **connect buyers and sellers** on a global platform specializing in Construction Utility & Power Utility Equipment, Trucks and Fleet Vehicles

**Phil Stoegerer** | Senior Account Manager for Wisconsin | (262) 308-2554 | [phil@jjkane.com](mailto:phil@jjkane.com)

## Calendar of Events

- March 12-13 Workshop: “Practical Leadership Strategies for Utility Managers” — *Wisconsin Dells*
- March 18 CS\* Roundtable — *Rice Lake*
- March 19 CS\* Roundtable — *Wisconsin Dells*
- March 25 Foreman’s Roundtable — *DeForest*
- March 25 CS\* Roundtable — *Oconomowoc*
- March 26 CS\* Roundtable — *Menasha*
- April 1 Underground Locating — *Spooner*
- April 2 Municipal Utility Leadership Program: Leading with Collaboration — *Mauston*
- April 7 Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
- April 8 CS\* Roundtable — *Stoughton*
- April 14 CS\* Roundtable — *Merrillan*
- April 15 MEUW Board of Directors Meeting — *Wisconsin Dells*
- April 28-30 Overhead Workshop — *Eau Claire*
- May 5 Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
- May 12-14 96th Annual Conference — *Madison*
- May 13 Governance Roundtable — *Sun Prairie*
- May 14 MEUW Board of Directors and Annual Membership Meeting — *Madison*
- June 2 Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
- June 3 Fundamentals of Utility Management: Regulation, Compliance & Safety — *Mauston*

\* Customer Service



## LIVE Lines Classifieds

MEUW is pleased to promote job openings with its member utilities across Wisconsin. New positions are regularly added to our website — check them out [here](#) or use your smartphone to scan the QR code below. Here is a current opportunity available:

**City of Evansville** — [Electric Line Worker](#)

Review postings for application deadlines.

When your utility is hiring, be sure to email the job posting to [office@meuw.org](mailto:office@meuw.org).



## Spring Forward!

**Daylight Saving Time** begins on Sunday, March 8, at 2:00 a.m.

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.



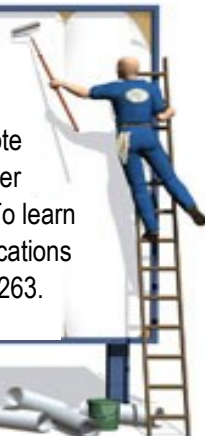
## Equipment For Sale

**Waukegan Utilities** is currently accepting bids for the sale of a substation transformer (ABB 14 MVA), voltage regulators (Siemens), and substation fusing. Bids will be accepted until noon on March 17. Contact Sam Trace at (608) 843-6235 for detailed information.

**Sturgeon Bay Utilities** is selling a 2003 55-foot Versa-lift bucket truck and other equipment. The full list of items for sale can be found [here](#). Contact Jason Bieri at (920) 746-5972 for additional information and photos.

## Your Ad Here!

If you know someone who should promote their business to [Wisconsin's](#) public power community, tell them about *LIVE LINES!* To learn more, call MEUW Manager of Communications and Events **Sharon Wolf** at (608) 837-2263.



## National Conference

June 26 — July 1, 2026  
Boston, Mass.



[www.public.power.org/national-conference](http://www.public.power.org/national-conference)



# LIVE Lines

Volume 75, Issue 4 • April 2026

## 96th Annual Conference events include first-time additions

This year's MEUW Annual Conference will bring members together to connect, collaborate, and celebrate in the Madison area. The events will take place May 12–14, offering attendees the chance to discuss as emerging trends influencing public power utilities, including national and local politics, the state of the transmission grid, innovations in electric systems, service territory extensions, relocating utilities for highway projects, as well as cyber and physical security awareness, among other important topics.

The conference will feature both large and small group presentations and discussions to give every participant a chance to ask questions and offer insights, whether from a large or small community, and regardless of role.

Based on member feedback and to maximize hosting the events in Madison, a “lobby day” is part of the schedule, enabling small-group meetings with state legislators and their staffs to advocate for public power priorities. The event schedule features a couple of first-time additions, including a roundtable discussion designed specifically for governing board members and a vendor trade show.

The three-day event schedule includes:

- A “Day at the Capitol” including meetings with state lawmakers and their staffs to share the interests and impacts of public power in Wisconsin. Pre-scheduled meetings will enable focused information-sharing in a positive and low-pressure setting to advocate for MEUW policy priorities.

- A four-person scramble-style golf outing at The Oaks Golf Course in nearby Cottage Grove. Registration includes a boxed lunch, drink tickets, and prize eligibility.
- A “Utility Governance Roundtable” designed for elected and appointed officials and utility leaders who want to govern more effectively in a rapidly changing utility environment.
- Tours of Sun Prairie Utilities’ new facilities, including the 83,000-square-foot office, warehouse, and garage.
- A trade show featuring a select group of MEUW Associate Members who will be on-hand to talk one-on-one with utility decision-makers and share what they have to offer.

*Continued on page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lawmakers wrap up  
2025-26 Legislative Session  
**Page 3**

“Don’t hesitate to reach out”  
isn’t a cliché — reach out!  
**Page 4**

MEUW News Monitor  
**Pages 6**

Wisconsin Utility  
News Digest  
**Page 8**

Classifieds — **Page 10**

## New article series focuses on products “Made With Public Power”

Municipal electric customers and their communities are deeply connected — growing, innovating, and succeeding together, powered by affordable and highly reliable power from a community-owned utility.

Focusing on that deep connection is the idea behind a new, periodic feature being launched in this month’s *LIVE LINES*. After completing

individual profiles of all 81 Wisconsin municipalities that own and operate a municipal electric company, MEUW is now turning attention to businesses that help drive local economies and strengthen the communities they call home.

Our first “Made With Public Power” article features Whisker, the innovative company behind the Litter-

Robot, which has made Juneau its production home. Whisker depends on the reliable power delivered by Juneau Utilities to keep its manufacturing running and its successful product line moving forward.

Know a customer that deserves the spotlight? We’d love to hear from you. Email [news@meuw.org](mailto:news@meuw.org) with your suggestion. ●

Continued from page 1

- A welcome reception at Sun Prairie Utilities, including food and beverages.
- Thursday's conference will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel Madison East, including breakfast, the MEUW Annual Business Meeting, and an awards luncheon to recognize individual and utility successes.
- A late-afternoon Keynote Address featuring legendary broadcaster Wayne Larivee sharing stories and reflecting on his long-time role as the "Voice of the Green Bay Packers."
- A closing reception at the DoubleTree, providing hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, and networking time to discuss the conference and more.

Starting for as little as \$100 for MEUW utility members, registration for the conference is flexible, enabling attendees to participate in as many or as few events that are relevant to their role. Participation in the golf outing is \$90 per person for utility members, and \$110 for Associate Members. The deadline to register is May 8. The DoubleTree Hotel Madison East is the official hotel for the event; rooms are available for a discounted group rate through April 17 (subject to availability).

Full details are available at [meuw.org/annualconference](https://meuw.org/annualconference). ●

Thursday morning's conference program includes back-to-back **Breakout Sessions** with each topic being presented twice to make it easier for attendees to choose without missing out:

- Service Territory Expansion and Protection
- Relocating Utilities for State Highway Projects
- Mutual Aid Lessons Learned and Process Review

**Cohort Discussions** — facilitated, participant-led, interactive roundtables allowing attendees to choose the topic that most interests them — are part of the conference agenda Thursday afternoon. There are three concurrent discussion groups:

- **The Affordability of Public Power** — Statewide data shows that residential public power customers in Wisconsin continue to benefit from electric rates that compare favorably to those of other utilities. As energy costs capture headlines, what strategies can municipal utilities use to effectively explain their cost advantages and help customers, regulators, and lawmakers understand the true affordability of public power?
- **Cyber and Physical Security** — Discussions will focus on MEUW's new member-led Cyber and Physical Security Working Group, what they're planning, and how they can best support member needs.

## Utility Governance Roundtable aims to strengthen oversight and leadership

Events for the Annual Conference include a first-ever Utility Governance Roundtable designed for elected and appointed officials and utility leaders who want to strengthen their oversight of community-owned electric utilities. As new technologies, evolving markets, and rising customer expectations reshape the electric industry, effective governance is more important than ever. This interactive session will bring Wisconsin municipal leaders together for a practical, peer-driven discussion on the fundamentals of public power governance, including regulatory considerations, rate setting, and a plain-language overview of municipal utility finances. The program is designed for both new and experienced officials and will highlight real-world insights and leading practices that support reliable, financially sustainable utility operations.

The roundtable will be led by Attorney **Richard Heine-mann** of Boardman and Clark and **Tim Herlitzka**, General Manager of Waunakee Utilities, and will include presentations along with facilitated small-group discussions. Participants will explore topics such as governance responsibilities, open meetings and records requirements, fiduciary duties, and financial tools utilities use to maintain stability in a changing energy landscape. This pre-conference workshop will take place Wednesday, May 13, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Sun Prairie Utilities, beginning with a casual lunch and concluding with a tour of the utility's new facility and a demonstration of its state-of-the-art Commission Meeting Room. Mayors, village presidents, council members, administrators, utility commissioners, and others involved in governing their local utility are encouraged to attend. Indicate your participation as part of your 2026 Annual Conference [registration](#).

*Elected officials and Utility Commissioners may be eligible for MEUW's **Policymaker Registration Grant Program**. Find out more [here](#).*

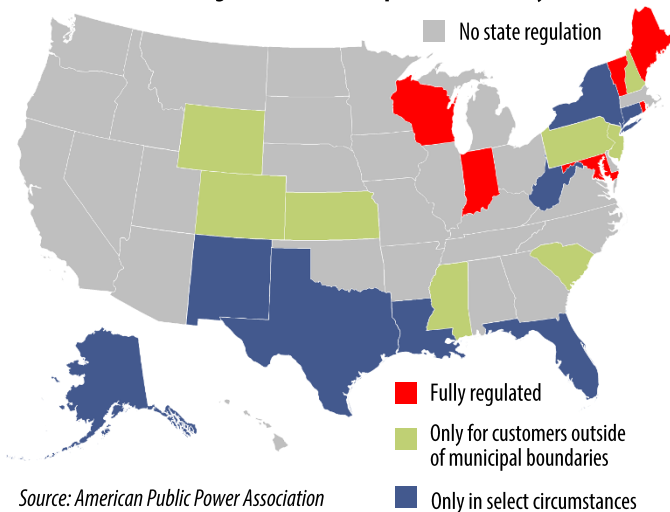
- **Lineworker Safety and Education** — Sustaining high levels of member satisfaction with the Job Training & Safety (JT&S) Program is a key priority for the MEUW Safety & Education Committee. Join the discussion to provide feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of the program and offer input to keep the training relevant, engaging, and valuable for lineworkers of all experience and skill levels. The new MEUW employees leading the JT&S instruction will participate and introduce themselves.

## Did you Know?

Wisconsin is one of only six states in the country with full state-level rate regulation of municipal electric utilities. Public utility commissions in Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island, and Vermont have

general authority to regulate rates charged by municipal electric utility rates in the same manner as investor-owned utilities, much like the statute-mandated oversight by the Public Service Commission (PSC) in Wisconsin. Sixteen other states exercise limited or conditional rate jurisdiction — most commonly when the municipal utility serves customers outside city limits, or rates differ between in-city and out-of-city customers. For example, Colorado, Kansas, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Wyoming regulate municipal rates only for service outside municipal boundaries. Alaska, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Texas, and West Virginia regulate rates only under specific conditions.

### State-level regulation of municipal electric utility rates



## Wisconsin Legislature wraps up 2025-26 session

By Tyler Vorpapel



The legislative session over the past two years proved a busy one for utilities. MEUW registered on 15 bills this session and monitored dozens more. Among the bills we supported were tax exemption for residential electric-vehicle charging, a nuclear power siting study, and creating a nuclear-power summit — all of which will be signed into law. Other bills we supported, including Right of First Refusal (ROFR) for transmission projects and a nuclear-generation tax credit, did not advance.

Bills we registered in opposition to included community solar expansion, which would have a negative effect on non-participating subscribers. Another bill sought to prohibit infrastructure from including equipment manufactured by a foreign adversary. While it initially focused on telecommunications infrastructure, the bill was amended to include utilities. MEUW was already engaged on this issue because existing FERC regulations already govern where utilities can source equipment, and this bill added another layer of bureaucracy. Neither of these bills became law.

Other bills that we monitored but did not take formal positions on included a Republican-led bill that would allow local governments the ability to preempt utility scale renewable projects, Democrat-led bills related to carbon-emission limits and renewable-energy goals, as well as budget proposals to fund the nuclear power siting study law.

One bill — AB 217 — passed and was signed into law by Gov. Tony Evers on April 3, increasing the thresholds local governments use for public notice and competitive bidding. Now Wisconsin Act 188 does the following:

- Raises local government public notice threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and the competitive bidding threshold from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for counties and municipalities;
- Extends existing exemptions for donated improvements to towns and counties, consistent with the exemption that currently applies to cities and villages; and
- Retains the existing public notice threshold and competitive bidding threshold for public highway projects. ●

**Tyler Vorpapel** is MEUW's Director of Legislative and Regulatory Relations. He can be reached at [tvorpapel@meuw.org](mailto:tvorpapel@meuw.org)



"Like" MEUW on Facebook

@MunicipalElectricUtilitiesofWisconsin

## BoardmanClark

### Municipal Utility Counsel

ENERGY • TELECOMMUNICATIONS • WATER & WASTEWATER  
ENVIRONMENTAL • CELL TOWER LEASES • LABOR & EMPLOYMENT  
LAND USE • POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT • GREEN STRATEGIES

MADISON WI | (608) 257-9521 | [BOARDMANCLARK.COM](http://BOARDMANCLARK.COM)

## Three more utilities earn “Reliable Public Power Provider” designation

Municipal electric companies in three Wisconsin communities are among 118 utilities nationwide honored in 2026 with the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for providing reliable and safe electric service. The 2026 designees are Evansville Water & Light (Gold), Menasha Utilities (Diamond), and Kaukauna Utilities (Diamond).

The RP3 designation, which lasts for three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. The process involves a rigorous online application, which is reviewed by a panel of national public power experts, who score based on the extent to which each utility meets program criteria — Diamond (98-100%); Platinum (90-97%); or Gold (80-89%).

The three utilities honored this year join 13 other Wisconsin utilities that achieved RP3 status in 2024 and 2025. They are: Cedarburg Light & Water ('25), Manitowoc Public Utilities ('24), Marshfield Utilities ('25), Plymouth Utilities ('25), City Utilities of Richland Center ('24), Rice Lake Utilities ('24), River Falls Municipal Utilities ('24), Stoughton Utilities ('25), Sun Prairie Utilities ('24), Two Rivers Utilities ('24), Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting Commission ('24), Waukegan Utilities ('23), and Waupun Utilities ('25). APPA reports more than 250 of the 2,000 public power utilities nationwide hold the prestigious RP3 designation. ●

### TJADER & HIGHSTROM UTILITY SERVICES



Aerial & Underground Power  
541 Industrial Blvd  
New Richmond, WI 54017  
P: 651-269-1690  
E: carl.moll@tjaderandhighstrom.com  
W: www.tjaderandhighstrom.com

## Don't hesitate to reach out to get clarity on regulatory rules

Municipal utility employees and the staff who regulate utilities at the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin share a common goal: delivering safe, affordable, and reliable energy. Achieving that goal requires navigating a myriad of regulations, safety standards, service rules, and technical requirements designed to protect customers and the electric grid. That complexity naturally raises questions. Those questions don't signal a problem — they show that someone is paying attention.



“Don't hesitate to reach out” is a phrase people hear often, but it's more than a polite closing. In public service, and especially in electric utility work, it's an intentional invitation to communicate early, openly, and productively.

Questions are a normal part of the process. People often hesitate because they worry their question is too minor, that they should already know the answer, or that raising a concern might slow things down. In reality, the opposite is usually true. Early communication helps prevent misunderstandings, clarify requirements upfront, reduce rework and delays, and build trust on all sides. Most challenges are far easier — and far less costly — to address before decisions are finalized or work is underway.

**Municipal employees are encouraged to get in touch with the Consumer Affairs Division at the PSC with questions.** There's no reason to hesitate asking for help. Reaching out allows PSC staff to explain requirements in plain language, share context, and identify workable options before problems develop. Simply put, a brief phone call or simple online inquiry can save significant time and uncertainty, replacing days or weeks of guessing, revising, or waiting.

It may seem cliché, but “don't hesitate” really means there are no bad questions. It's easy to feel like you should have all the answers. In reality, early inquiries make the regulatory process more efficient for everyone.

If you're unsure, need clarification, or just want to confirm the next step, contact Consumer Affairs at the PSC. To aid PSC tracking and ensure consistent response handling, complete a simple inquiry form online [here](#) (preferred). You can also call (608) 266-3766. Don't hesitate to reach out. ●

**Save the Date:** MEUW's Annual Accounting and Customer Service Seminar is Sept. 23 in Mauston

# LIVE Lines

Official monthly publication of **Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin, Inc.**, the statewide trade association representing the interests of Wisconsin’s public power providers since 1928.

This e-newsletter is distributed to more than 1,200 utility professionals and leaders throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest on the first Tuesday of every month.

*LIVE LINES* has been published continuously for many decades and provides useful information, news on emerging utility issues and legislation, updates on events, training programs and member services, as well as engaging feature stories spotlighting utilities, communities and leaders.

Reader comments and suggestions are welcome — send by email to [news@meuw.org](mailto:news@meuw.org)

## MEUW Office Staff

**Tim Heinrich**  
President and CEO

**Mike Czuprynko**  
Director of Safety Services and Operations

**Tyler Vorpapel**  
Director of Legislative and Regulatory Relations

**Sharon Wolf**  
Manager of Communications and Events

**MEUW Office**  
725 Lois Drive  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
(608) 837-2263  
[www.meuw.org](http://www.meuw.org)



An archive of past issues of *Live Lines* is available at [www.issuu.com/meuw](http://www.issuu.com/meuw)



**May 12-14, 2026** **Madison Sun Prairie** Presented by **JJ Kane AUCTIONS**

**Tuesday May 12**  
Day at the Capitol  
Legislative Roundtable

**Wednesday May 13**  
Golf Outing  
Utility Governance Roundtable  
Host Utility Tours  
Trade Show  
Welcome Reception

**Thursday May 14**  
Networking Breakfast  
MEUW Annual Business Meeting  
Conference Program  
Awards Luncheon  
Closing Reception

**MEUW’s Annual Conference provides a unique forum for networking, education, and information-sharing among municipal utility leaders and industry partners from around the state. The program structure enables attendees to get the most out of their time.**

- General sessions bring everyone together on broader subjects.
- Breakout sessions dive deeper into strategic priorities to help MEUW support its member utilities.
- Pre- and post-conference receptions and networking breaks allow attendees the chance to make and renew connections.



This year’s **Keynote Address** features legendary broadcaster **Wayne Larrivee**, the “Voice of the Green Bay Packers”

**Registration Fee:**  
\$325 for Full Access Pass  
(one- and two-day passes also available)  
*Registration deadline is Friday, May 8*

Register online at **MEUW.org**



Wednesday’s **Trade Show** — featuring more than two dozen exhibitors — and the **Conference Welcome Reception** will take place at Sun Prairie Utilities’ new 83,000-square-foot office, warehouse, and garage.

## Conference Program

**Thursday, May 14**  
*DoubleTree Hotel Madison East*

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Annual Business Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. Program Begins**
- 9:45 a.m. Networking Break
- 10:00 a.m. Breakout Session I
- 11:00 a.m. Breakout Session II
- 11:45 a.m. Awards Luncheon**
- 1:00 p.m. Program Continues
- 2:00 p.m. Afternoon General Session
- 2:45 p.m. Networking Break
- 3:00 p.m. Cohort Discussions
- 4:00 p.m. Keynote Presentation**
- 5 to 7 p.m. Post-Conference Networking Social

Visit the event website at [www.meuw.org/annualconference](http://www.meuw.org/annualconference) for a complete schedule of events

# MEUW NEWS Monitor

## New hires join MEUW Job Training & Safety Program



**Pasch**

MEUW has hired two highly experienced municipal utility journeyman linemen — Damian Pasch (Wonewoc) and John Salscheider (Oconto Falls) — as Electric Utility Safety and Training Coordinators to deliver MEUW's Job Training & Safety Program, which is primarily targeted at line-workers. The hirings come as the association prepares for Don Harnisch to begin a five-month leave of absence in April and for the retirement of Randy Larson on May 29. Full details are available [here](#).



**Salscheider**

Every year, MEUW collects information about the pay and perks provided to public power employees across the state. Instructions for completing the data-collection phase of this year's Wage & Benefits Survey were shared with key contacts at each utility in March. Full details, including a running list of who has responded, are available [here](#). As a reminder, only those utilities that provide information for the survey are able to receive the results. The deadline to respond is noon on Friday, April 17.

## Wage & Benefits Survey data collection happening now

MEUW and Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) are once again partnering to present the Overhead Workshop/Hotline School. This training offers an ideal setting for hands-on training both in the classroom and in the training

## Overhead Workshop/Hotline School set for April 28-30

building on the campus of CVTC. The workshop will be held April 28-30 in Eau Claire and will include a vendor trade show. Registration is \$195 per person. Information on planned topics can be found [here](#).

**Make plans to attend Regulation, Compliance & Safety course in June**

## Make plans to attend Regulation, Compliance & Safety course in June

Utilities are highly regulated businesses, and there are more than 100 specific regulatory rules utilities must follow to retain the "right-to-serve" electric customers. And those utility-specific rules are on top of the labor laws and safety rules all companies have to comply with. The one-day training is part of MEUW's Fundamentals of Utility Management Series, and helps explain why the rules exist and how to navigate the complexities of compliance — skills fundamental to success as a utility manager. Led by John Andres, an expert on utility regulation, and Melissa Barnes, a seasoned Human Resources Manager, participants will walk away from this class with a greater understanding of utility regulations and how to comply. You won't want to miss this popular (and highly recommended) training to be held on Wednesday, June 3, in Mauston. Details are available [here](#).

## Nominations being accepted for MEUW Board of Directors

MEUW is currently accepting nominations for individuals interested in serving on the Board of Directors for a two-year term beginning May 14, 2026. The deadline for nominations is April 10. This year's election will be for Directors and Alternate Directors in [even-numbered districts](#). The voting will take place April 20 to May 6. Each member utility is entitled to a single vote for seats in their respective district. Full details available at [meuw.org/elections](http://meuw.org/elections).



**Katelyn Hall**, Accounting Supervisor at Manitowoc Public Utilities, was recognized at the April 2 MEUW training class for having completed the three-part Municipal Utility Leadership Certificate Program.

## Apply for new cybersecurity program from APPA

The American Public Power Association (APPA) just launched a new designation program designed to help public power utilities assess and strengthen the maturity of their cybersecurity programs. Applications are now open for the [Cybersecurity Accelerator Program \(CAP\)](#), which evaluates both the I.T. (information technology) and O.T. (operational technology) cybersecurity posture of a public power utility, as well as other policies and practices that support electric system and grid security. Applications are due by June 30; there is no fee to apply for the 2026 cycle.

MEUW members interested in applying are encouraged to consult with MEUW's Cyber/Physical Security Working Group, which is available to assist with the application process, or with other physical and cyber security questions or information. Contact the group's Chair [Don Krause](#) to learn more. ●

# The city of Juneau and Litter Robot are a “purr-fect” match



The 81 municipal electric utility companies operating in Wisconsin provide safe, affordable, and highly reliable energy to help local businesses thrive. From mom-and-pop shops on Main Street to large manufacturers in the community's industrial park and everything in between, each of these enterprises contributes to the quality of life and economic vitality of our state. This month, LIVE LINES is launching a periodic feature section to highlight products “Made with Public Power” and raise awareness of the diverse companies that operate in public power communities.

By Karen Whitmer

The City of Juneau is home to around 2,800 residents and is the county seat of Dodge County. One company in this beautiful area is playing a big



Whisker's impact goes far beyond operations — the company is deeply invested in the City of Juneau, giving back and helping ensure the long-term strength of the community. It's a true partnership built on shared success. Visitors are even greeted with a company-donated sign that says it all: “Welcome to Juneau, home of the Litter-Robot by Whisker.”

role in shaping the city's economic and energy landscape: Whisker, the maker of the Litter-Robot.

The Litter-Robot is a self-cleaning kitty litter box that automatically separates waste from clean litter and deposits it into a sealed drawer, keeping the box fresh without daily scooping — and saving pet owners time and trouble.

While the company is headquartered in Auburn Hills, Mich., where corporate leadership focuses on innovation and strategy, manufacturing and assembly take place in Juneau — linking this municipal utility community directly to pet-friendly households around the globe.

Inside a sprawling manufacturing facility on the edge of town, more than 300 employees assemble and ship the innovative globe-shaped devices throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. To date, Whisker has sold more than

1.5 million units, reflecting both strong demand and the scale of its operations.

Whisker's Juneau facility is the largest electric customer served by Juneau Utilities, with continuous production — from precision molding to electronics integration and



**whisker**

quality testing — creating a significant and consistent electrical load. Maintaining that level of service requires not only reliability, but close coordination and long-term planning.

That partnership has grown alongside the company. Over the past several years, Whisker has invested more than \$20 million in its Juneau facilities, including major expansions that added significant warehouse and production space. A multi-million-dollar project in 2022 nearly doubled the size of the site, increasing output and creating more local jobs. In 2024, Whisker acquired additional property adjacent to its existing plant, reinforcing its long-term commitment — and signaling continued load growth for the utility.

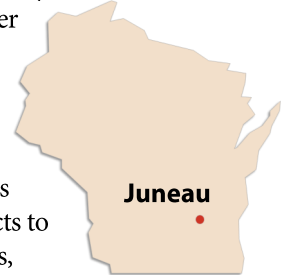
Beyond jobs and economic activity, Whisker has become part of Juneau's identity — recognized in town signage and community initiatives that celebrate the city as the “Home of the Litter-Robot.”

The company also demonstrates a strong commitment to giving back. Through its partnership with Best Friends Animal Society, Whisker covers adoption fees, donates products to shelters, and supports programs that help thousands of cats find homes. For families, it can mean welcoming a pet they might not otherwise afford; for shelter staff, it means cleaner, safer spaces and more time to focus on care.

Sustainability and innovation are central to Whisker's approach. Its Litter-Robot products include sensors that track litter usage and alert owners to potential health issues, while durable, plant-based materials reduce waste and emphasize efficiency.

As demonstrated by Whisker, innovation isn't limited to big cities or tech hubs — it often thrives in smaller communities, driven by strong partnerships and reliable infrastructure. Every Litter-Robot quietly at work in cat-lovers' homes was built in Juneau — made possible by the dependable utility and energy that keeps Whisker's facility running. ●

*Karen Whitmer is a regular contributor to LIVE LINES; she is a freelance communicator based in the Fox Valley.*



# Wisconsin UTILITY NEWS Digest

## Judge requires Alliant to refile heavily redacted rate application

After public criticism over extensive redactions, a Public Service Commission (PSC) administrative law judge in late February required Alliant Energy to submit a revised application for approval of a special contract rate to serve a data center in Beaver Dam. Alliant had originally filed the application on April 29, 2025, seeking approval within 90 days.

A PSC attorney acknowledged that staff initially failed to recognize how heavily redacted the filing was. Alliant's attorney indicated the redactions were necessary to secure the best deal for the customer while protecting confidential information.

The revised application identifies the customer as Degas LLC, an alias used by Meta — the parent company of Facebook and Instagram — before going public with the project in November 2025. Under the proposal, Alliant would supply up to 220 megawatts to the data center and could renegotiate rates after an initial 10-year term or shift the customer to a standard rate, pending regulatory approval.

PSC staff said the revisions were requested to improve public transparency. No decision date has been set.

## PSC approves two new solar projects in Columbia County

The three-person PSC on March 19 unanimously approved two new solar energy projects in Columbia County that are expected to help power large hyperscale data centers. The approval clears the way for Milwaukee-based We Energies' purchase of the Good Oak and Gristmill solar facilities, which together will generate

165 megawatts — enough electricity for roughly 50,000 homes — at a combined cost of \$360 million. We Energies will own 80% of both projects, with the remaining ownership shared by Madison Gas & Electric and Wisconsin Public Service Corp. Good Oak will cover 800 acres in the Town of Lewiston, while the smaller Gristmill project will be located in the Town of Columbus.

Construction of the solar facilities is expected to begin in 2026, with operations starting in 2028. About 70% of the power from the solar facilities is expected to supply power for data centers and serve customers such as Microsoft and Vantage. The approval comes at the same time regulators are considering a separate We Energies' application to establish a new electric rate for data centers.

## Investor-owned utilities ask to raise rates in 2027 and 2028

Two of the state's largest utility companies filed applications for nearly \$500 million in electric rate increases over the next two years. We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS), both owned by WEC Energy Group, have requested PSC approval to raise rates in 2027 and 2028.

We Energies wants a 4.7% increase to its base electric rates in 2027 and another 4.5% increase in 2028. WPS is seeking a base electric rate increase of 6.3% in 2027 and another 3.5% increase in 2028.

The companies say the rate increase will help cover the cost of bringing new solar, wind, battery storage, and natural gas projects online, as well as fund investments in tree trimming, burying power lines and replacing aging equipment.

## We Energies delays Oak Creek coal plant closure again

The state's largest utility says it's again delaying closure of two units at a 1960s-era coal-fired power plant in Oak Creek. In regulatory filings, We Energies said the utility is considering keeping the units operating into 2027. Originally slated to shut down in 2023, shuttering the aging units has been postponed multiple times to ensure reliability during peak demand, especially amid extreme winter cold and summer heat. We Energies says the extension is needed while it awaits approval of new natural gas plants intended to complement expanding wind and solar generation. Environmental advocates, including Clean Wisconsin, argue the delay prolongs pollution, harms nearby communities, lacks enforceable deadlines, and keeps ratepayers paying more for coal than renewables.

*Compiled from news reports in Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin State Journal, and WPR.org*

## Cold-weather moratorium on disconnects ends April 15

The annual winter moratorium from Nov. 1 to April 15 prohibits all utility providers from disconnecting residential heating services for nonpayment. Customers who are behind on their bills may be at risk of disconnection if payment arrangements are not established by April 15. Wisconsin is one of 39 states with set dates for cold-weather moratoriums. Three states have set dates only for high-temperature disconnections, while 10 have both low and high temperature-based moratoriums.



We **connect buyers and sellers** on a global platform specializing in Construction Utility & Power Utility Equipment, Trucks and Fleet Vehicles

**Phil Stoegerer** | Senior Account Manager for Wisconsin | (262) 308-2554 | phil@jjkane.com

# Energy-conservation competition empowers K-12 students

**W**ith the school year moving toward the final stretch, the Focus on Energy “Renew Our Schools” spring cohort is wrapping up another impactful season of student-driven energy savings across Wisconsin. Renew Our Schools is a hands-on energy conservation competition that empowers K–12 students to reduce electricity use in their school buildings while learning how energy management affects school budgets, sustainability goals, and community resources. Since Focus on Energy launched Renew Our Schools in the fall of 2022, 12 schools from public power communities have participated. By combining education with real-world action, the program helps schools lower operating costs while fostering long-lasting energy-saving habits.

This mix of new and returning schools continues to strengthen the program. As Heather Feigum, Program Manager for Focus on Energy, shared, “The mix of new and returning schools helps strengthen the competition. Renew Our Schools gives students a chance to understand their school in a whole new way.” By learning from past experience or starting fresh with new perspectives, students gain a deeper understanding of how their buildings use energy and how their actions can make a difference.



Last spring, McFarland High School secured its third win in the Alumni Category. Their efforts resulted in 7,632 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy savings and a 7.05% reduction in overall electricity use. First-time participant Golda Meir School took first place in 2025, reducing energy use by 7,589 kWh and achieving 5.40% total energy savings. Each winning school earned more than \$2,000 to reinvest in future energy efficiency projects. Across all 13 participating schools, the impact was substantial. Collectively, schools saved 89,244 kWh of electricity over the five-week competition and prevented an estimated 157,351 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.

As the Spring 2026 cohort concludes, results from this year’s competition will be scored, and winners will be announced in the coming weeks. Additional cohorts are currently planned for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 as Renew Our Schools continues to show that empowering students with data, tools, and support not only drives immediate energy savings, but also helps develop the next generation of informed, motivated energy leaders who understand how small actions can create lasting change. Schools interested in participating can learn more at [focusonenergy.com/renewourschools](https://focusonenergy.com/renewourschools). ●

Throughout the spring competition, students take on the role of energy leaders within their schools. Using real-time electricity data from eGauge energy monitoring systems, teams analyze when and where energy is being used and identify opportunities for improvement. Schools earn points by reducing electricity consumption, completing structured energy challenges, and engaging staff and peers in simple, no-cost actions such as turning off lights in unoccupied spaces, powering down unused electronics, and adjusting schedules for equipment use.

This spring’s cohort includes both novice and alumni schools, bringing together first-time participants and experienced competitors returning to build on past success. Participating schools include:

**Novice Cohort**

- Cornerstone Lutheran High School (Eau Claire)
- Gilman School District
- La Follette High School (Madison)
- Nekoosa High School

**Alumni Cohort**

- Mauston High School
- McFarland High School
- Northland Lutheran High School (Kronenwetter)
- School for Agricultural and Environmental Studies (Waupun)
- Story School (Milwaukee)


#PublicPower #MEUW #ThankALineman


## Searchable archive of helpful resources is just a click away

The Member Resource Center has been part of *MEUW.org* since the association’s redesigned website first launched 10 years ago. Recently we’ve been working to develop it as a more complete, central repository for documents to help maximize your utility’s membership, stay engaged, and access exclusive tools, documents, and support. Whether you are a newer municipal employee finding your footing or a long-term MEUW member looking for specific, updated information, we now

have “Member Resources” available through a link at the bottom of every page on *MEUW.org*. You’ll find a variety of useful items (some of which require a member login) accessible through an easy-to-use “keyword search.” And we’ll be adding new content all the time.

### Member Resources

Log-in to view our online archive of important documents and links. 

*LIVE LINES* is the principal communications tool MEUW uses to keep members informed about changes affecting municipal utilities. An archive of past issues of the monthly newsletter is available from the Resource Center. Periodically, *LIVE LINES* includes updates and refreshers on legal and regulatory items of interest to MEUW members (open meeting rules, for example). You can peruse the topics or use the keyword search to find a particular item of interest.

Over the years, various MEUW committees and working groups have collaborated to develop common templates to help member utilities operate more efficient. One example is work completed in 2020 to develop standardized pole-attachment agreements and a model ordinance municipalities could use in negotiations with small cell wireless providers. The materials have been on MEUW’s website since they were finalized, but they weren’t easy to find. These documents are an example of the resources we’re making more accessible.

— *Tim Heinrich, MEUW President and CEO*

## LIVE Lines Classifieds

MEUW is pleased to promote job openings with its member utilities across Wisconsin. New positions are regularly added to our website — check them out [here](#) or use your smartphone to scan the QR code below. Here are some current opportunities available:

**Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities** — [Lineworker](#)

### Waterloo Utilities

[Apprentice or Journeyman Electric Line Worker](#)

### Plymouth Utilities

[Apprentice/Journeyman Lineworker](#)



When your utility is hiring, be sure to email the job posting to [office@meuw.org](mailto:office@meuw.org).



MEUW is currently recruiting for a full-time **Regional Safety Manager** to support municipalities in south-central parts of Wisconsin. Full details about the role and how to apply are available [here](#).

## Spring Safety Tips

Spring is a great time to open windows, tackle home projects, and get back outdoors. It’s also a good reminder to take a few simple steps to keep your home safe as the seasons change.

- Inspect electrical cords and outdoor outlets. Winter weather can cause hidden damage. Replace frayed cords, avoid moisture near outlets, and use GFCI-protected outlets for outdoor equipment.
- Stretch, wear PPE, and work smart. Before yard work or cleanup, take a few minutes to stretch and warm up. Wear gloves, sturdy shoes, eye protection, and hearing protection when using tools. Always watch for overhead power lines.
- Prepare for spring storms. Test smoke detectors, review your emergency plan, and keep flashlights, batteries, and a first-aid kit handy in case of outages.



**FORSTER**  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Partnering with municipal utilities to offer full service electrical engineering design and consulting.

CONSULTING AND SYSTEM PLANNING  
SUBSTATION DESIGN | DISTRIBUTION LINE DESIGN  
GIS MAPPING | REMOTE SYSTEM MONITORING

550 N. Burr Oak Ave. Oregon, WI 53575 | 608.835.9009 | forstereng@forstereng.com | forstereng.com

