



Utility Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 18, 2025 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 August 21, 2025 Utility Commission minutes.
2. Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report.
3. Outage Report.

New Business

4. Presentation of 2024 Columbus Utilities Audit.
5. Consider and take action to direct staff to upgrade computers, SCADA software, HACH WIMS server plus Job Cal, licensing and services provided by Ruekert and Mielke.
6. Discussion of the 10-year capital improvement program.

Reports

7. September 2025 Utilities Department Report
8. September 2025 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

Item #1.

Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

Sandy Curtis called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Joe Hammer, Molly Finkler, Brook Andler and Sandy Curtis. Regan Rule, Jack Sanderson and Michael Thom were excused from attending the meeting.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Finkler, seconded by Hammer, to approve the consent agenda, which included the minutes of July 24, 2025, the Utility Department's Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report, and the Outage Report. Motion carried on a 4-0 roll call vote.

1. Approval of July 24, 2025 Utility Commission Meeting Minutes.
2. Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report.
3. Outage Report.

New Business

4. Consider and provide direction related to the Bio Solids Handling project at the Wastewater Treatment plant.

Motion made by Finkler, seconded by Curtis to approve option number two to provide the Shincii dryer in addition to current design and approach. Motion was carried on a 4-0 roll call vote.

Reports

It was shared that the MEUW District Dinner will be in Hartford on September 23rd.

5. August 2025 Utilities Department Report
6. August 2025 Live Lines

Adjourn

Motion made by Finkler, seconded by Hammer to adjourn at 6:36 pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

*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.

Please note that these minutes are subject to approval at a future meeting.

2025 AGENDA ITEM

Utility Commission Meeting Date: 9/18/2025

ITEM: 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 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
AUGUST, 2025

	CHECK			
DATE	NO	NAME	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
21-Aug	24503	4 CONTROL, INC	\$ 486.38	HERBICIDE APPLICATION 8/13/2025 BRUSH CONTROL
21-Aug	24504	A.C. ENGINEERING CO.	\$ 1,467.10	NITROGEN LEAK INVESTIGATION SUB 3
21-Aug	24505	ALLMAX	\$ 3,003.00	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE & SUPPORT PROGRAM SUBSCRIPTION FOR OPERATION
21-Aug	24506	AMBUSH PEST CONTROL, LLC	\$ 120.00	ADMIN BLDG RODEN CONTROL
21-Aug	24507	ANTHONY DERR	\$ 79.80	MILEAGLE FOR WASTEWATER COURSE
21-Aug	24508	AQUAFIX	\$ 641.37	BUG ON A ROPE SR (CASE OF 4)
21-Aug	24509	BAKER TILLY US, LLP	\$ 3,867.00	2024 AUDIT SERVICES
21-Aug	24510	BASSETT MECHANICAL	\$ 753.00	MONTHLY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT AUGUST 2025
21-Aug	24511	BOARDMAN & CLARK LLP	\$ 95.00	AUDIT LETTER
21-Aug	24512	BORDER STATES ELECTRIC	\$ 276.27	GROUND GLOVES, HOT STICK WIPES
21-Aug	24513	BROZEK & O'BRIEN EXCAVATING	\$ 510.00	DELIVERED LINCHK TICKET 658913, 658918, 658930, 658928
21-Aug	24514	CARDINAL EMBROIDERY	\$ 127.00	MERLE'S CLOTHING ALLOWANCE
21-Aug	24515	CHEMTRADE CHEMICALS	\$ 13,873.40	HYPER +ION 1997 HULK
21-Aug	24516	CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$ 60,204.57	MONTHLY PILOT PAYMENT, SALARIES, PHONE REIMBURSEMENT, LRS INVOICE, BOARDMANCLARK INVOICE
21-Aug	24517	CORE & MAIN LP	\$ 658.64	LATERAL REPAIRS, REPAIR BAND INVENTORY TO REPLACE USED BAND, CURB BOX PLUGS
21-Aug	24518	CTW CORPORATION	\$ 425.00	WELL #1 PUMP SERVICE
21-Aug	24519	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	\$ 233.00	PE-DI RENT 8/1-8/31, DI REGENERATION CHARGE
21-Aug	24520	DAVY LABORATORIES	\$ 450.00	9-SDWA LEAD/COPPER (20)
21-Aug	24521	DIGGERS HOTLINE	\$ 171.70	LOCATING EXPENSES
21-Aug	24522	DUFFY FLEET SERVICES	\$ 701.77	WATER PUMP LEAKING 2006 INTERNATIONAL
21-Aug	24523	ENVIROTECH EQUIPMENT	\$ 488.28	JETTER TRUCK, FIBERGLASS POLES, LONG HOSE GRABBER
21-Aug	24524	FLEXSAFEUSA	\$ 1,153.22	FLEX-SAFE BARRICADE, SIDEWALK CLOSED SIGN
21-Aug	24525	FOREST LANDSCAPING	\$ 25,950.00	STREET CONSTRUCTION PROJECT (LUDINGTON/HWY73)
21-Aug	24526	FORSTER ELECTRICAL	\$ 14,076.89	KESTREL 3 SUBDIVISION, DISTRIBUTION PLANNING & REGULATORY APPROVAL, SUBSTATION #1 RETIREMENT, SUB 4 ADAMS COLUMBIA COORDINATION
21-Aug	24527	HAMMES FIRE & SAFETY	\$ 394.00	ANNUAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTIONS
21-Aug	24528	HAWKINS, INC	\$ 3,990.28	WASTEWATER CHEMICALS, WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS
21-Aug	24529	HYDROCORP, LLC	\$ 1,960.00	CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM
21-Aug	24530	ICS MEDICAL ANSWERING SERVICE	\$ 198.01	PHONE ANSWERING SERVICE
21-Aug	24531	INFOSEND, INC	\$ 1,820.75	UTILITY BILL PRINTING AND MAILING, BILL INSERTS
21-Aug	24532	KATZE ELECTRIC	\$ 1,364.20	STORM DAMAGE AT 121 N WATER ST COLUMBUS WI
21-Aug	24533	KURITA TONKA WATER	\$ 200.58	DIFFUSER STONE
21-Aug	24534	KURZ INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS	\$ 2,517.96	WALL MOUNT, KEYPAD W/ BLUETOOTH, CONTROL PANEL MOUNTING
21-Aug	24535	LINCK AGGREGATES, INC	\$ 50.00	LOAD 3/8 RDG WEST 7/25 RESTOCK PILE
21-Aug	24536	MADISON GRAPHICS CO	\$ 263.75	DIGGER #25 REFLECTIVE UNIT NUMBERS DECALS
21-Aug	24537	MEUW	\$ 690.00	LEADING THROUGH COLLABORATION TANNER AND HILEY, WARNING & HOLDING CARD
21-Aug	24538	MID-STATE EQUIPMENT, INC	\$ 127.93	ZERO TURN BELT, SLUDGE TRUCK BRG&HSG
21-Aug	24539	MIDWEST SALT	\$ 3,260.18	BULK SALT
21-Aug	24540	NAPA AUTO PARTS	\$ -	VOIDED
21-Aug	24541	NCL OF WISCONSIN, INC	\$ 561.07	WASTEWATER DAILY TESTING MATERIAL
21-Aug	24542	NCLED	\$ 8,432.25	LIGHTING UPGRADED TO LED, MIDDLE SCHOOL LED UPGRADE
21-Aug	24543	NIEMANN FOODS, INC	\$ 693.98	STORAGE TOTE, DUPLEX RECEPTACLE, SPARTK PLUG, OIL, FASTENERS, SHIPPING WATER SAMPLES, PAINTING OF HYDRANTS, FASTENERS, SOCKET EXTENDER
21-Aug	24544	NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIES	\$ 653.71	DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING MATERIALS
21-Aug	24545	NORTHEAST WISCONSIN TECH	\$ 447.14	APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL HILEY AND BONESS
21-Aug	24546	ODD FELLOWS TRI COUNTY	\$ 250.00	ODDTOBER FEST DONATION
21-Aug	24547	OPENPOINT	\$ 1,250.00	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION
21-Aug	24548	PACKERLAND RENT-A-MAT, INC	\$ 119.33	URINAL REFILLS, MATS

21-Aug	24549	RUEKERT & MIELKE, INC	\$ 14,480.42	2025 SITE SELECTION STUDY FOR NEW WATER FACILITY, 5-YEAR SEWER TELEVISIONING PROGRAM, WATER SCADA SERVICE WORK, WWTF BIOSOLIDS DRY STUDY
21-Aug	24550	SABEL MECHANICAL	\$ 18,265.00	HAUL SLUDGE 45 LOADS AT 18 YDS
21-Aug	24551	TRANSFLUID SERVICES, INC	\$ 20,100.00	SUB #3 OIL PROCESSING AND RE-GASKETING OIL UNIT
21-Aug	24552	TRI COUNTY PAVING, INC	\$ 12,765.60	PATCHES FOR WATER MAIN BREAKS
21-Aug	24553	USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 495.54	DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING MATERIALS
21-Aug	24554	USIC LOCATING SERVICES, INC	\$ 3,696.20	LOCATING EXPENSES
21-Aug	24555	VC3, INC	\$ 289.34	NETWORK SECURITY/FIREWALL LIC/SUB
21-Aug	24556	WI DNR	\$ 250.00	2025 WATER USE FEES, WATER PLANT #1-EAST
21-Aug	24557	WI STATE LABORATORY OF HYGENE	\$ 162.00	OFF SCHEDULE EVENT RAPID RESPONSE JULY, FLUORIDE TES
21-Aug	24558	WISCONSIN BACKFLOW TESTING	\$ 780.50	ANNUAL BACKFLOW INSPECT TEST, FEES, REPAIR LABOR, REPLACEMENT
21-Aug	24559	WISCEGUYS AUTO REPAIR, LLC	\$ 1,315.60	TRUCK #21 WATER
21-Aug	24560	NAPA AUTO PARTS	\$ 434.96	PREMIUM HYDRAULIC OIL & GREASE, BELT FILTER PRESS, HYDRALIC PUMP OIL
		SUBTOTAL	\$ 232,092.67	
1-Aug	ACH	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank	\$ 10.00	NSF Fees
5-Aug	ACH-4353	BP	\$ 920.76	FUEL
5-Aug	ACH -4355	Payment Service Network	\$ 3,284.05	Customer Payment Fee
18-Aug	ACH-4359	Charter Communications	\$ 100.00	Internet Admin Building
20-Aug	ACH-4366	Charter Communications	\$ 130.00	WASTEWATER SPRECTRUM
18-Aug	ACH-4363	Charter Communications	\$ 119.99	Internet Service for Electric SCADA
7-Aug	ACH -4373	Us Cellular	\$ 37.64	Cell Phone Charges
14-Aug	ACH	Investment Pool	\$ 30,000.00	July Bond Interest Payment
14-Aug	ACH	Investment Pool	\$ 5,000.00	July Depreciation Payment
14-Aug	ACH	Investment Pool	\$ 15,500.00	Transfer into LGIP #13 General Fund
8-Aug	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$ 31,812.66	Net Payroll for 1st Payroll in August #16
8-Aug	ACH -4335	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$ 1,672.13	State Withholding Payroll #16
8-Aug	ACH -3889	EFTPS	\$ 11,333.72	FICA/MED/FED Withholding Payroll #16
8-Aug	ACH-4333	NORTH SHORE BANK	\$ 300.00	PAYROLL DEFRRAL NORTHSHORE PAYROLL #16
8-Aug	ACH -4334	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$ 1,763.72	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #16
19-Aug	ACH -4367	WE Energies	\$ 29.25	Natural Gas Service for CWL Admin Building
19-Aug	ACH -4368	WE Energies	\$ 18.36	Natural Gas Service for Water Plant #2
19-Aug	ACH-4362	WE Energies	\$ 12.97	WESTSIDE SEWAGE LIFT
19-Aug	ACH-4356	WE Energies	\$ 13.86	GENERATOR ON JAMES ST
19-Aug	ACH-4370	WE Energies	\$ 11.24	WASTEWATER PUMP STATION
19-Aug	ACH-4365	WE Energies	\$ 12.97	WATERLOO ST LIFT STATION
19-Aug	ACH-4369	WE Energies	\$ 46.13	TREATMENT PLANT
19-Aug	ACH-4371	WE Energies	\$ 12.97	119 MIDDLETON ST LIFT STATION
25-Aug	ACH-4372	SEERA	\$ 1,914.57	FOCUS ON ENERGY PAYMENT
12-Aug	ACH-4357	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$ 28,748.37	July Sales and Use Tax
21-Aug	ACH -4348	BROOK ANDLER	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for August
21-Aug	ACH -4349	JACK SANDERSON	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for August
21-Aug	ACH -4350	MICHAEL THOM	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for August
21-Aug	ACH -4351	REGAN RULE	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for August
21-Aug	ACH -4352	SANDRA CURTIS	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for August
22-Aug	ACH -4360	Cintas	\$ 57.36	First Aid Supplies for August
20-Aug	ACH-4361	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$ 2,665.00	IT AGREEMENT
20-Aug	ACH-4364	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$ 317.78	PRINTER AGREEMENT
22-Aug	ACH -4347	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$ 1,743.12	State Withholding Payroll #17
22-Aug	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$ 31,525.59	Net Payroll for 2nd Payroll in July #17
22-Aug	ACH-4345	NORTH SHORE BANK	\$ 300.00	PAYROLL DEFRRAL NORTHSHORE PAYROLL #17
22-Aug	ACH -4344	EFTPS	\$ 11,597.14	FICA/FED/MED Withholding Payroll #17
22-Aug	ACH -4346	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$ 1,797.03	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #17
22-Aug	ACH-4336	City of Columbus-AFLAC	\$ 104.06	Employees Aflac-August

22-Aug	ACH-4337	City of Columbus - Retirement	\$ 13,144.66	Employees Retirement - August
22-Aug	ACH-4338	City of Columbus - Health	\$ 19,308.06	Employees Health Insurance - August
22-Aug	ACH-4339	City of Columbus - Life	\$ 350.31	Employees Life Insurance - August
22-Aug	ACH-4340	City of Columbus - Dental	\$ 1,231.52	Employees Dental Insurance - August
22-Aug	ACH-4341	City of Columbus - Vision	\$ 151.20	Employees Vision Insurance - August
22-Aug	ACH-4342	City of Columbus - Health Savings Account	\$ 2,262.00	Employees Health Savings Account Transfer - August
22-Aug	ACH-4343	City of Columbus - LTD	\$ 311.60	Employees LTD-August
28-Aug	ACH -4358	WPPI	\$ 735,249.47	Power bill for 7/1/2025-7/31/2025, NorthStar/ Dynamics; Electric/Water MDM Charges; Interface, Residential AMI Metering, GIS SERVICE. LOAN
22-Aug	ACH-4354	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$ 4,453.36	WASHING MACHINE, FLOOR SCRUBBER, PAPER, EMAIL SUBS, EASEMENT SEARCH, FILE FOLDERS, WRWA EXPO REGISTRATION JAKE & CRAIG, SUB STATION LIGHTS
29-Aug	ACH	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank	\$ 318.00	ACH Fees
		SUBTOTAL	\$ 959,942.62	
		TOTAL	\$ 1,192,035.29	APPROVED BY:

CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES
TREASURER'S REPORT - August 2025

Item #2.

GENERAL FUND (commingled cash) - ACCOUNT #1310

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	517,965.70
Receipts:	\$	1,299,910.06
Interest Earned:	\$	217.82
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	1,818,093.58
Disbursements:	\$	(1,192,006.40)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	626,087.18
<i>NOTE: Conventional utility accounting standards recommend a balance equal to two month's expenses - approx. \$1,400,000 (LGIP & Checking).</i>		

UTILITY GENERAL FUND - LGIP #13 - ACCOUNT #1314

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	526,761.62
Receipts:	\$	15,500.00
Interest Earned:	\$	1,851.92
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	544,113.54
Disbursements:	\$	(45,926.25)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	498,187.29

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	290,733.63
Receipts:	\$	30,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$	1,087.34
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	321,820.97
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	321,820.97
<i>NOTE: Transfers are made monthly to accrue sufficient funds to make May 1 and November 1 principal & interest payments.</i>		

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #4 - SEWER UTILITY GENERAL FUNDS

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	1,233.20
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	4.57
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	1,237.77
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	1,237.77

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #11 - COLLECTION MAIN - REPLACEMENT

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	1,007,029.60
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	3,729.03
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	1,010,758.63
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	1,010,758.63

WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	159,134.16
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	589.27
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	159,723.43
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	159,723.43

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:	\$	340,422.56
<i>F&M Bank/CDAR 52 Week Certificate of Deposit: \$170,211.28 Due June 2026 4.75%; \$170,211.28 Due December 2026 4.75%</i>		

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	136,791.24
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$	-
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	136,791.24
Disbursements:	\$	(6,696.36)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	130,094.88

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	553,410.66
Receipts:	\$	5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$	2,051.07
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	560,461.73
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	560,461.73
<i>NOTE: Bond covenants require a "depreciation fund" with recommended balance of \$300,000 to cover plant renewals and replacements.</i>		

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #8 - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	494,495.02
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	1,831.12
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	496,326.14
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	496,326.14

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	235,407.85
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$	-
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$	235,407.85
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	235,407.85

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:	\$	1,065,564.23

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

F&M Union Bank-Checking/Savings	0.5% / 0.75%	Local Gov't. Investment Pool	4.36%
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS	4.5% to 4.75%		



Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Item #4.

Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Item Title: 2024 Columbus Utilities Audit Report Presentation

Submitted By: Michelle Kaltenberg, Business Manager & Dalton Hiley, Lead Lineman

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

Jodi Dobson, CPA Partner from Baker Tilly, Presenting 2024 Columbus Utilities Audit Report.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

N/A

Action Requested of Commission:

Discussion



Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Item Title: Consider and take action to direct staff to upgrade computers, SCADA software, Hach WIMS server plus Job Cal, licensing and services provided by Ruekert and Mielke.

Submitted By: Peter Gallun, Lead Wastewater Operator & Dalton Hiley, Lead Lineman

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

The Wastewater Treatment Plant needs to upgrade their current computers and SCADA system due to the current status being computers are over five years old and they are being unresponsive and unreliable on a daily basis. There is no support for the Hach WIMS or the Job Cal. SCADA will no longer be supported in the coming months

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

Rhyme Managed IT-Quote for hardware, professional services and installation \$7,898.00
 Ruekert and Mielke-Estimated cost for set up, configuration and installation of software \$8,900.00
 Not listed but estimate included in email-AVEVA InTouch SCADA software support & licenses \$2,300.00
 Aquatic Informatics-Quote for software and licenses \$6,408.87

Action Requested of Commission:

Consider and take action to direct staff to upgrade computers, SCADA software, Hach WIMS server plus Job Cal, licensing and services provided by Ruekert and Mielke not to exceed \$27,000.00 due to the fact that two of the items are estimates.

City of Columbus Waste Water

Quote #SP000876 v1

Prepared For:

City of Columbus Administration

Matt Amundson
 105 N Dickason Blvd.
 Columbus, WI 53925

P: (920) 623-6058

E: mamundson@columbuswi.gov

Prepared by:

Portage

Sue Pilz
 N6832 Hwy 51 South
 Portage, WI 53901

P:

E: spilz@rhymebiz.com

Date Issued:

08.19.2025

Expires:

09.26.2025

Summary

This proposal replaces the following:

1. 4 new computers for the Waste Water Treatment plant (Lab Computer and Primary Scada Computer, then two computers for everyday use connected to the domain)
2. 2 new monitors quoted both 24" and 27" monitors.
3. Segregating the SCADA computers from the primary network.
4. Working with Dave Beyer at Ruekert Mielke on security hardening for the SCADA workstations.

Products

* Contains Optional Items

Description	Price	Qty	Ext. Price
HP Elite Mini 800 G9 Desktop Computer - Intel Core i5 14th Gen i5-14500T - vPro Technology - 32 GB - 512 GB SSD - Desktop Mini - Smart Buy - Intel Q670 Chip - Windows 11 Pro - Intel UHD Graphics 770 DDR5 SDRAM - English Keyboard - IEEE 802.11ax - 90 W	\$1,419.00	4	\$5,676.00
HP P22h G5 22" Class Full HD LCD Monitor - 16:9 - Black - 21.5" Viewable - In-plane Switching (IPS) Technology - Edge LED Backlight - 1920 x 1080 - 16.7 Million Colors - 250 Nit - 5 ms - 75 Hz Refresh Rate - Speakers - HDMI - VGA - DisplayPort	\$209.00	2*	\$418.00
HP E27 G5 27" Class Full HD LCD Monitor - 16:9 - Black, Silver - 27" Viewable - In-plane Switching (IPS) Technology - LED Backlight - 1920 x 1080 - 16.7 Million Colors - 300 Nit - 5 ms - 75 Hz Refresh Rate - HDMI - DisplayPort - USB Hub	\$304.00	2*	\$608.00
* Optional Subtotal:			\$1,026.00
Subtotal:			\$5,676.00

Professional Services

Description	Price	Qty	Ext. Price
Installation of new desktop or laptop including installation and configuration of applications, peripheral devices and data transfer from existing computer.	\$299.00	4	\$1,196.00
Subtotal:			\$1,196.00

Quote Summary

	Amount
Products	\$5,676.00

GREEN BAY | JANESVILLE | LA CROSSE | MADISON | MILWAUKEE | OSHKOSH
 PORTAGE | RICHLAND CENTER | ROCKFORD | SHEBOYGAN | WAUSAU



Quote Summary		Amount
Professional Services		\$1,196.00
Subtotal:		\$6,872.00
Estimated Tax:		\$343.60
Total:		\$7,215.60

*Optional Expenses		One-Time
Products		\$1,026.00
Optional Subtotal:		\$1,026.00

1/2 down required upfront. Remaining half due upon equipment delivery. Taxes, shipping, handling and other fees may apply. Pricing may change on backordered items. We reserve the right to cancel orders arising from pricing or other errors. 3% Processing fee added to all credit card payments. ACH and Debit options available at <https://www.rhymebiz.com/MakePayment>

Acceptance

Portage

City of Columbus Administration

Sue Pilz

Signature / Name

08/19/2025

Date

Matt Amundson

Signature / Name

Initials

Date



Peter Gallun

From: David Beyer Jr. <DBeyer@ruekert-mielke.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:38 PM
To: Peter Gallun
Cc: David Arnott; Jason Lietha; Michelle Kaltenberg
Subject: RE: City of Columbus - Wastewater plant SCADA computer upgrades

Hi Peter,

I believe that we have all your software accounted for to proceed with upgrades.
 Here is a summary:

1. AVEVA InTouch SCADA software. Two licenses: Currently on support. Annual support agreement expires on 12/22/2025. A renewal notice will be sent out in a few weeks.
 Estimated cost will be approximately \$2,300.00
2. Hach WIMS server, interface and three clients, and Job Cal: Currently not on support. Quote provided by Aquatic Informatics for \$6,408.87
3. New SCADA computers provided by Rhyme. Chris Wilkum provided a quote on 8/12/25. He provided several options for you to consider.

Ruekert and Mielke appreciates the opportunity to provide a cost estimate to provide SCADA software configuration services for two new SCADA computers at the wastewater treatment plant.

Our proposed scope of services includes:

1. Setup and configuration of two new workstation computers for SCADA. The computer hardware will be provided by Rhyme.
2. Installation of current AVEVA InTouch and peripheral software applications for SCADA on two computers.
3. Installation of Hach WIMS Server and client on the primary SCADA computer, and Hach WIMS client on the secondary SCADA computer and on Peter Gallun's workstation.
4. Installation of Job CAL work order software application on one computer of the Utility's choosing.
5. Conversion and migration of all SCADA applications to the new computers. (InTouch, Hach WIMS, Job Cal)
6. Coordination with Rhyme for SCADA workstation network integration, SCADA remote access, system backups and security configurations.

Exclusions:

1. Computer hardware. This will be provided by Rhyme. Chris Wilkum provided a quote on 8/12/25. He provided several options for you to consider.
2. Software license and support fees. (AVEVA InTouch , Hach WIMS, WIMS Job Cal. These will be paid by the Utility)
3. General use computer setup or configuration. This will be provided by Rhyme.

We propose to provide these services on a time and materials basis for an estimated cost of \$8,900.00.

We are happy to discuss any of these details with you at your convenience.



WIMS Platform



WIMS Rio



WIMS Premier



Item #5.



WATERTRAX



LINKO



TOKAY

Quote 00023299

Details:

Created On: 14 Aug 2025
Expires On: 31 Oct 2025

Prepared For:

Peter Gallun
pgallun@columbusutilitieswi.com
City of Columbus, WI

Submitted By:

Courtney Kocel
(970) 413-4193
courtney.kocel@aquaticinformatics.com



WIMS Platform



WIMS Rio



WIMS Premier



Item #5.



WATERTRAX



LINKO



TOKAY

Quote Summary

This quote reflects the pricing for WIMS + JOBCal Support and Reinstatement.

Product	Sales Price	Term	Qty	Total Price
DMWIMS-REENROLL WIMS Software Support Re-Enrollment Fee <i>One-time re-activation fee.</i>	\$0.00	12mos	1.0	\$0.00
DMWIMS-SPTINT WIMS Basic Support, Interfaces <i>Annual Software Support and Maintenance for WIMS Interfaces. Cost is based on the number of WIMS Interfaces to external systems.</i>	\$816.82	12mos	1.0	\$816.82
DMWIMS-SPT-MU WIMS Base SPT MU, 1USER, 1FACIL <i>Annual Software Support and Maintenance for WIMS Classic. Support for multi-user license and cost is based on the core user and facility using the system.</i>	\$1,193.81	12mos	1.0	\$1,193.81
WM-MU-CONUSR WIMS CONCURRENT USER LICENSE <i>WIMS concurrent user license.</i>	\$1,445.14	12mos	2.0	\$2,890.27
CMJOB-SPTJPLUS JOBCal Plus Basic Support <i>Renewal Basic Support JobCal - Includes access to Support Portal, updates to software and 800 phone support.</i>	\$1,507.97	12mos	1.0	\$1,507.97

Summary of Products & Services

Software Licenses (One-Time License Fees): \$2,890.27 USD

Professional Services (One-Time Service Fees): \$0.00 USD

Recurring Annual Fees (SaaS & SMA): \$3,518.60 USD

GRAND TOTAL: \$6,408.87 USD

All prices are quoted exclusive of taxes.



WIMS Platform



WIMS Rio



WIMS Premier



Item #5.



WATERTRAX



LINKO



TOKAY

Order Details

To proceed with a purchase, please sign this quote (preferably via DocuSign) and provide us with a Purchase Order (PO) so we can process your order and provide you with payment instructions. Please email your Purchase Order to courtney.kocel@aquaticinformatics.com and please reference quote **00023299**.

Courtney Kocel
(970) 413-4193
courtney.kocel@aquaticinformatics.com

Aquatic Informatics Inc.
5600 Lindbergh Dr
Loveland, CO 80538
FEIN: 47-2917533

Terms and Conditions

By signing this quote, you are agreeing to the Aquatic Informatics' Terms and Conditions (located at <https://aquaticinformatics.com/terms-conditions/>) and online Service Offering and Service Level Agreement (see links below). This agreement is made between the customer named above ("Subscriber") and Aquatic Informatics Inc., having an address at 5600 Lindbergh Dr, Loveland, CO 80538 ("Provider"), and sets forth the terms and conditions on which Aquatic Informatics will supply Products and Services to the customer.

All Aquatic Informatics Software (exceptions noted below):

- [SaaS: Services Offering and Service Level Agreement](https://aquaticinformatics.com/saas-service-offering/)
<https://aquaticinformatics.com/saas-service-offering/>
- [On-Premise: Software License Agreement](https://aquaticinformatics.com/on-premise-software/)
<https://aquaticinformatics.com/on-premise-software/>

Exceptions:

- [WIMS Online: WIMS Online Services Offering and Service Level Agreement](https://aquaticinformatics.com/wims-online-saas/)
<https://aquaticinformatics.com/wims-online-saas/>
- [WIMS On-Premise: WIMS On-Premise Software License Agreement](https://aquaticinformatics.com/wims-on-premise/)
<https://aquaticinformatics.com/wims-on-premise/>



Electronic Acceptance

Expiration Date: Must be signed by 31 Oct 2025

Subscriber: City of Columbus, Wisconsin

Subscriber Signature:

Per:

Name: Peter Gallun

Title:

Date:

Subscriber Details:

Phone:

Email: Peter Gallun <pgallun@columbusutilitieswi.com>

Provider: Aquatic Informatics

Provider Signature:

Per:

Name:

Title:

Date:



2026 Budget - Capital Projects and Additions

September 11, 2025

Sewer Utility Needs for FY 2026

Item	Cost	Comments	Funding
1 2026 Street Projects	\$ 358,700.00	School Street 2026	Borrowing
2 Collection System Work	\$ 450,000.00	Repair work on 20% of collection system; jetting, televising, lining, grout work, etc.	Borrowing
3 Sand Filter Rehab	\$ 60,000.00	Isolation Valves, Sand Replacement, other repair work/engineering	Borrowing
4 Biosolids Handling/Project Design/Planning	\$ 298,115.00	Engineering and design portion of project to begin construction in 2027	Borrowing
5 Effluent Sampling/Metering	\$ 135,000.00	New Sample location and sampling process needed for Effluent Samples/Metering	Borrowing
6 PLC/Fiber Installation Upgrade	\$ 75,000.00	City Wide Install of updated comms cable.	Borrowing
7 Scum Pumps & Flanges	\$ 50,000.00	Replacement of all scum/sump pumps in WWTP and flanges that are worn including piping.	Borrowing
9 Birdsey Lift Station	\$ 75,000.00	PLC/SCADA control Panel	Borrowing
10 Hughes (James St) Lift Station	\$ 75,000.00	Replace Forcemain at Hughes (James St) Lift Station	Revenues
11 2026 Dodge 3500 Super Crew Truck	\$ 55,000.00	Replace 2012 Chevy Pickup	Revenues
12 Equipment for Lift Stations	\$ 50,000.00	Portable Generator and Trailer for Emergencies	Revenues
13 Tools	\$ 15,000.00	Outfit the Hoist Truck	Revenues
14 Blower Filter Intakes	\$ 13,000.00	Replace Intake Filter Housings for Blowers	Revenues
15 Equipment for Collection Systems	\$ 10,000.00	Hot Water Pressure Washer for Pump Maintenance	Revenues
16 Belts and Seam Wire	\$ 8,425.00	Spare Parts on Hand for Gravity Belt Filter Press	Revenues
17 Facility	\$ 5,000.00	Replace Splitter Box Screens	Revenues
Borrowing Total	\$ 1,501,815.00		
Revenue Total	\$ 231,425.00		
SUB TOTAL	\$ 1,733,240.00		

Water Utility Needs for FY 2026

Item	Cost	Comments	Funding
1 2026 Street Projects	\$ 652,920.00	2026 School Street	Borrowing
2 WP#2 Softener Reconditioning & Repainting	\$ 617,000.00	Recondition the Zeolite Softeners & Repaint the interior of the Vessels	Borrowing
3 WP #2 MCC Replacement	\$ 286,200.00	MCC Electrical Buckets and Panel Replacement	Borrowing
4 PLC/Fiber Installation Upgrade	\$ 50,000.00	City Wide Install of updated comms cable.	Borrowing
5 SCADA Upgrade	\$ 34,600.00	SCADA Upgrade-Computer/Software Upgrade	Borrowing
6 Plant #3 Land Search	\$ 40,000.00	Plant #3 Land Search Engineering and Testing	Revenues
7 WP#2 Dehumidifier 1 of 4 Replacement	\$ 22,000.00	Dehumidifier #1	Revenues
8 Meter Test Bench	\$ 55,655.00	Water Meter Test Bench with Plumbing	Revenues
9 2026 Dodge 3500 Super Crew Truck	\$ 31,285.00	Replacement for Truck #23-1/2 Electric and 1/2 Water	Revenues
10 Equipment	\$ 15,714.00	Leak Detector/Listening Device	Revenues
11 2026 UTV	\$ 15,000.00	New 2026 UTV with Sprayer	Revenues
12 Equipment	\$ 9,000.00	Replacement for 2006 Husler Lawnmower	Revenues
13 Facility Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	Sealcoat parking Lot- 1/2 Electric and 1/2 Water	Revenues
14 Testing Equipment/Tools	\$ 5,500.00	Hach DR 99, Cutoff Saw	Revenues
Borrowing Total	\$ 1,702,720.00		
Revenue Total	\$ 137,154.00		
SUB TOTAL	\$ 1,839,874.00		

Electric Utility Needs for FY 2026

Item	Cost	Comments	Funding
1 Complete 4.16kV conversion	\$ 970,000.00	Covert the remainder of the 4.16kV to 12.47kV via contract and done before failure of Substation #1.	Borrowing
2 Transformers (Stock/hospital Project/APC)	\$ 601,000.00	Purchased for Hospital project and APC as well as inventory needs in our yard.	Borrowing
3 Citrcuit 202/302	\$ 361,000.00	Circuit tie to 203/302	Borrowing
4 Hospital Expansion Project Equipent Order	\$ 320,000.00	Equipment needed to perform hospital work in 2026.	Borrowing
5 Circuit 403	\$ 62,000.00	Reroute Circuit 403	Borrowing
6 PLC/Fiber Installation Upgrade	\$ 50,000.00	City Wide Install of updated comms cable.	Borrowing
7 Decommission Substation #1	\$ 10,000.00	Turn Off and scrap Substation #1. Scrap value may be less than disposal costs.	Revenues
8 Reconnect Padmount Step-Down	\$ 10,000.00	Unit on Ludington & HWY 89 should be reconnected so it is ready to serve load	Revenues
9 2026 Dodge 3500 Super Crew Truck	\$ 31,285.00	Replacement for Truck #23-1/2 Electric and 1/2 Water	Revenues
10 2026 UTV	\$ 15,000.00	New 2026 UTV with Sprayer	Revenues
11 Equipment	\$ 15,000.00	Thumper (Uderground Fault Locator	Revenues
12 Trailer	\$ 14,839.64	Refurbish the Double Axel Reel Trailer	Revenues
13 Equipment	\$ 9,000.00	Replacement for 2006 Husler Lawnmower	Revenues
14 Overhead & Underground Line Tools	\$ 8,844.00	Cable Cutter, (2) 6 Ton Cut/Crimp Tools	Revenues
15 Facility Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	Sealcoat parking Lot-1/2 Electric and 1/2 Water	Revenues
16 Overhead Equipment	\$ 3,500.00	Hot Arm Refurbishment	Revenues
17 Tools	\$ 2,761.00	Hammer Drill, Fish Tape, Brush Cutter, Light Tower	Revenues
Borrowing Total	\$ 2,384,000.00		
Revnue Total	\$ 105,229.64		
SUB TOTAL	\$ 2,489,229.64		
Borrowing Total	\$ 5,588,535.00		
Revnue Total	\$ 473,808.64		
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 6,062,343.64		

Utilities		Year*	Purchase/Rplcmnt	Cost	Notes	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Item #6.
Vehicles - Water & Electric	2026		Dodge F350 Truck	\$62,590		\$0	\$62,590	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2028		International HV Bucket Truck	\$375,000		\$0	\$0	\$375,000	\$0	\$0	
	2029		International Dump Truck	\$280,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$280,000	\$0	
						\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
				Grand Total - 10 yr	\$717,590	\$0	\$62,590	\$375,000	\$280,000	\$0	
Electric Utility	2026		Reconnect Padmount Step-down	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026		Complete 4.16kV Conversion	\$3,170,000		\$970,000	\$2,200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026		Decommission Sub #1	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026		Hospital Project	\$320,000		\$320,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026		Circuit 403 Reroute	\$62,000		\$62,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026		Circuit Tie to 202/302	\$361,000		\$361,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2028		Increase Substation #2 Transformer	\$2,562,000		\$0	\$0	\$2,562,000	\$0	\$0	
	2026		American Packaging Transformer	\$51,000		\$51,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026		Transformers (Inventory & Projects)	\$550,000		\$550,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026		Fiber Installation	\$50,000		\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026		School Street Project		Amount unknown	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
				Grand Total - 10 yr	\$7,146,000	\$2,384,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,562,000	\$0	\$0	
Water Utility	2026		Brookside Street Recon	\$340,000		\$340,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Street Replacement	2026		West School Street Recon	\$652,920		\$652,920	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2027		Church/Legion/Udey/E Prairie/Richmond	\$278,699		\$0	\$278,699	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2028		W Prairie	\$776,623		\$0	\$0	\$776,623	\$0	\$0	
	2029		Parkview	\$545,123		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$545,123	\$0	
	2030		W Harrison & S Main	\$1,026,196		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,026,196	
	2031		W Fountain & Selden	\$743,507		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2032		Sunset, Chapin & Turner	\$1,128,911		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2033		Greenview & Parkview	\$789,634		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2034		N Spring & S Spring	\$977,838		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2035		N Dickason	\$350,926		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2036		Sturges & Brevity	\$327,834		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

Utilities		Year*	Purchase/Rplcmnt	Cost	Notes	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Item #6.
Water Utility	2026	Plant #1 Softening Repair		\$120,000		\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Plant #2 Reliability	2026	Plant #2 Softener Reconditioning & Repainting		\$617,000	Recondition & Paint the water softeners	\$617,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Plant #2 Reliability	2026	Motor Control Center Replacement		\$286,200	MCC Electrical Buckets and Panel Replacements	\$286,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026	Dehumidifier 1 of 4 Replacement		\$22,000	Plant #2	\$22,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026	Investigation and Site Selection		\$40,000	Future Water Plant	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
SCADA	2026	SCADA Upgrade		\$34,600	Every 5 years it is upgraded	\$34,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026	Fiber Installation		\$50,000		\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Other		Annual Hydrant Replacement		\$315,750		\$0	\$155,250	\$160,500	\$0	\$0	
Plant #2 Reliability	2027	Plant #2 Booster Pump Replacements & Piping		\$250,000	3 pumps to be replaced does not include modifications or piping	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Plant #2 Reliability	2027	Plant #2 Well Pump Replacement		\$150,000		\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Plant #2 Reliability	2027	Plant #2 Piping Repaint		\$52,451	Repaint All piping	\$0	\$52,451	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2027	Dehumidifier 1 of 4 Replacement		\$22,660	Plant #2	\$0	\$22,660	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2027	Land Acquisition		\$275,000	Future Water Plant	\$0	\$275,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Looping Project	2027	Brookside to Heritage Water Main Ext		\$571,320		\$0	\$571,320	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2028	Dehumidifier 1 of 4 Replacement		\$23,340	Plant #2	\$0	\$0	\$23,340	\$0	\$0	
	2029	Dehumidifier 1 of 4 Replacement		\$24,040	Plant #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,040	\$0	
	2026	Water Meter Bench Testers		\$55,655	Used to test water meters for accuracy and wear	\$55,655	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2032	Iron Filter Automated Backwash		\$318,270	Plant #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2032	Bidding and Engineering of Backwash		\$66,950	Iron Filter Plant #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2029	Storage Dive and Inspection Res #2		\$4,000	Plant #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	
		Well Rehabilitation Plant #2		\$74,117	Well #4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2026	Design and Bidding		\$625,475	Future Water Plant	\$625,475	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2031	Water Main and Utilities		\$731,581	Future Water Plant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2031	New Water Plant and Well		\$8,701,442	Future Water Plant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2035	Storage Tank #2 Site Selection		\$515,000	Selection and Purchase Tower #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	2030	Tower Drive Tower Repaint & Inspection		\$417,918	Tower Drive - sand blast & repaint \$1.2 mil	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$417,918	
Distribution System	2027	Install water main extending from Heritage Way east to existing 10-inch diameter water main just we		\$747,760	\$571,350 for 2025 prices	\$0	\$747,760	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Distribution System		Install water main in future right-of-way from Farnham St. to River Rd.		\$494,106		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Distribution System		Install water main extending southwest on Western Ave. (approximately 800 feet of 12-inch diameter)		\$248,775		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Distribution System		Install water main between Maple Ave and Fuller St, future right-of-way north of Fuller St. and future		\$523,616		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Distribution System		Install water main in utility easement between Fuller St and Park Ave. (approximately 2,500 feet of 10		\$728,467		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Looping Project		USH 151 Loop		\$937,500		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Other		Meadow Lane Water Extension		\$55,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Unknown		Engineering - Design and Bidding		\$272,503	Plant #1 Rehab-Not needed if Plant #3 is built	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Unknown		Reconditioning per (2023 Memo)		\$2,888,083	Plant #1 Rehab-Not needed if Plant #3 is built	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Unknown		Well #2 Reconditioning (2023 Memo)		\$63,934	Plant #1 Rehab-Not needed if Plant #3 is built	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
						\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Grand Total - 10 yr				\$29,262,724		\$2,843,850	\$2,503,140	\$960,463	\$573,163	\$1,444,114	
				\$21,782,863							

Legend:

Yellow-Funding from Revenues

Blue-Need more information

Green-Costs updated

Pink-Working on more accurate costs

Utilities

Year*

Purchase/Rplcmnt

Cost

Notes

2026

2027

2028

2029

2030

Waste Water

Vehicles	2026	Wastewater Utility Box Pickup	\$75,000		\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2026	Wastewater Biosolids/Dump Truck		Replace 1984 IH Truck	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Street Replacement	2026	W School	\$358,700		\$358,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2027	Church/Udey/E Prairie/Richmond	\$205,505		\$0	\$205,505	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2028	W Prairie	\$382,275		\$0	\$0	\$382,275	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2029	Parkview	\$375,666		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$375,666	\$0	\$0
	2030	W Harrison & S Main	\$563,108		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$563,108	\$0
	2031	W Fountain & Selden	\$391,018		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2032	Sunset, Chapin & Turner	\$689,100		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2033	Greenview & Parkview	\$444,254		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2034	N Spring & S Spring	\$580,001		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2035	N Dickason	\$202,926		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2036	Sturges & Brevity	\$219,638		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Collection System	2028	Comprehensive Study on FOG	\$100,000		\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
2026		Sampling Equipment	\$100,000	Equipment purchase	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pump Station/Forcemain	'26-'30	Contracted Jetting/Televising/Repairs	\$1,650,000	20% per year ongoing annual operating costs (RM)	\$450,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
	2029	Birdsey Lift Station (Control Panel)	\$75,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0
	2030	Hughes Lift Station Forcemain Replacemen	\$75,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0
	2031	West Side Lift Station	\$100,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2032	Kiwanis Lift Station	\$170,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	28-29	Transit Lift Station	\$1,205,100	30% added to \$927,000	\$0	\$0	\$622,000	\$583,100	\$0	\$0
	2034	Commercial Lift Station	\$160,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2035	Hughes Lift Station Replacement	\$190,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
					\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Raw Wastewater Building	2026	Scum Pumps & Flanges	\$50,000		\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2026	Rehab/Rebuild of Sand Filter System	\$65,000	\$65K recommendation from R&M. (Bids)	\$65,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2026	Effluent Sampling System	\$135,000	Per DNR, in the future.	\$135,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2026	PLC/Fiber Installation Upgrade	\$75,000		\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	26-27	Biosolids Handling Project	\$3,987,610		\$298,115	\$3,689,495	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2026	Chem Scan System & Phos Chemical Remo	\$100,000		\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2027	Primary Treatemtn/Head Works	\$97,000	partial replacement/repairs every 2 years	\$0	\$97,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2028	Mixed Liquor Ditch Aeration	\$50,000		\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2031	Rebuild of Clarifier #1	\$1,500,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2033	Rebuild of Clarifier #2	\$1,500,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2035	Build of New Clarifier #3	\$4,000,000	Potential 2 year project	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	2030	Removing Chemical Disinfection	\$2,100,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,100,000
		Building Roof Replacement		Working on getting quotes for 2027 budget						
		Mill and Repave Parking Lot		Working on getting quotes for 2027 budget						
		Replace Doors and Frames Throughout		Working on getting quotes for 2027 budget						
					\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grand Total - 10 yr					\$21,971,901	\$1,706,815	\$4,142,000	\$1,304,275	\$1,183,766	\$2,888,108

Utilities Department Report

Electric Department:

- Reconstructions of aged overhead infrastructure
- Constructed new 3 phase service for GD Roberts
- J&R Underground beginning boring project for hospital expansion
- Setting temporary lift poles for new hospital driveway
- Mason and Dalton at apprenticeship school
- Finishing correcting SCADA connectivity issues for substations two and three
- Beginning new service planning for Zion Lutheran

Water Department:

- Collecting Lead and Copper bottles to customers to collect samples for DNR compliance
- Progressing with the Hydrant Flushing/ valve turning Program for the Season
- Attended the WRWA Outdoor Expo on 8/28
- Plant #3 Planning
- Brookside construction
- Working on CIP and Budgeting for 2026

Wastewater Department:

- DNR compliance inspection on 17 August went well. The DNR is just requesting two follow up items to include:
 1. A revised SOP for our Polymer addition.
 2. Flow meter inventory to include Influent, Effluent, side streams, blending and bypass to correct for losses or gains in reporting.
- Cleaning out Aeration Basin #3

MEUW

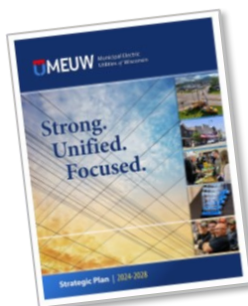
LIVELines

Volume 74, Issue 9 • September 2025

Strategy discussions are propelling MEUW into the future

Members of MEUW's Board of Directors and staff engaged in a one-day strategy session in August 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to review and update the association's long-term strategic plan. The process served to affirm MEUW's mission and priorities, and also helped to identify key areas of short-term focus. In the time since, two working groups have helped to spearhead efforts intended to strengthen the association's foundation and set a path for the future.

These working groups bring together board members, utility leaders, and MEUW staff to provide input, share perspectives, and advocate for actions that build a broader level of engagement to focus MEUW's efforts supporting Wisconsin's public power utilities.



A working group focused on **Member Engagement** is exploring ways to enhance the value of membership, foster stronger connections across communities, and ensure that MEUW's programs, services, and communications align with members' needs. The group is chaired by George Morrissey (Cuba City).

Another group is driving efforts intent on **Expanding Advocacy** among MEUW members. The team, chaired by Troy Adams (Manitowoc), has focused on ways to increase members' involvement in MEUW's advocacy efforts, by providing members with information and tools to build their own utilities' presence and influence with policymakers, regulatory agencies, as well as other key stakeholders (see article on page 5 for recent examples).

Both groups have been meeting regularly and are making progress on specific initiatives. Early conversations have already generated ideas that will help MEUW provide greater support to members and position the organization for long-term impact.

Aside from the working groups, the Board approved plans designed to ensure the continuity of MEUW's operations in the event of turnover in key positions. The "succession" plans focus on the process to identify and select individuals to fill critical roles that include President and CEO and Electric Utility Safety and Training Coordinator. Each plan provides specifics about essential skill sets and core competencies required to effectively support MEUW's mission.

While significant progress has been made in the last year, the work is just getting started. The association's Strategic Plan is a "living document" that is designed to be regularly reviewed and adjusted to reflect the evolving needs of MEUW members and the industry. Ongoing engagement is critical to ensuring the long-term success of MEUW. The plan is available [here](#). ●

WPPI Energy marking 45 years of joint action

Faced with repeated wholesale rate increases from investor-owned utilities in the early 1970s, Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities came together to pursue power-supply independence. Their goal was to control costs through joint action — and that determination set the stage for what would become WPPI Energy.

In 1974, MEUW formed a Generation and Transmission (G&T) Committee to help make joint action a reality. Working with the Boardman & Clark law firm, the committee established Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. (WPPI), a nonprofit corporation created to advocate for legislation enabling any two

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the Community
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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

Continued from page 1

municipalities with electric utilities to form a new power supplier, known as a municipal electric company (MEC).

Momentum quickly built. In April 1976, WPPI hosted a pivotal meeting in the basement of a Sun Prairie supper club, laying the groundwork for passage of the joint-action bill. Within a year, the legislation passed with nearly unanimous lawmaker support. Joint action was alive and well in Wisconsin; the state's first MEC, the predecessor to what is today the Upper Midwest Municipal Energy Group (UMMEG), formed in 1978.

On Sept. 5, 1980, Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. SYSTEM was officially incorporated. More than 25 communities quickly joined, assigning their existing power supply contracts to the new entity and committing to a shared future. The organization grew steadily, acquiring ownership in power generation facilities across the Midwest and, in 1999, becoming the first transmission-dependent utility in the country to buy into the newly formed American Transmission Company, which today simply calls itself ATC.



Over the decades, WPPI continued to evolve. In 1990, its name was simplified to Wisconsin Public Power, Inc., and in 2008, reflecting its expansion into Iowa and Michigan, it became WPPI Energy. Today, 51 member-owners — including 41 in Wisconsin — work together to serve 200,000 homes and businesses in three states. Half of MEUW's member utilities are also WPPI members, and WPPI employees participate in MEUW events as Affiliate Members of the association.

Through the years, MEUW and WPPI have maintained a strong partnership to support Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities. Many of the same leaders who guided MEUW's advocacy in the 1970s are recognized in WPPI's Joint Action Hall of Fame. Recognizing the commonality of mission, MEUW and WPPI regularly collaborate on regulatory and legislative activities, including the annual legislative rally in Washington, D.C. organized by the American Public Power Association (APPA). Wisconsin is always well represented in visits with federal lawmakers, thanks in large part to WPPI's support as a strong advocate of public power. ●

Refreshed website now live!

Eagle-eyed MEUW members may have noticed things look a little different at www.meuw.org. MEUW recently debuted a refreshed website, including information presented in an easier-to-read font and enhanced views into events. The updated site also includes advertising spaces to enable MEUW Associate Members more opportunities to connect with utility members. More and more visitors are using their smartphone to access the site, so the content and navigation have been refreshed to be more mobile friendly. However, even with the new look, navigation and functionality should feel familiar. Check it out!

In July, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed legislation,



which Governor Tony Evers signed as 2025 Wisconsin Act 12. The law requires the state's Public Service Commission (PSC) to study and commission a nuclear power citing study. As part of the legislation, PSC could request from the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) an appropriation to complete the study and subsequent report. In late August, the JFC approved 13-0 a PSC request of a \$2 million supplemental appropriation to complete the required study. MEUW — along with WPPI Energy, Great Lakes Utilities, and the Upper Midwest Municipal Energy Group (UMMEG) — expressed support for the PSC appropriation request in a memo to members of the JFC. To learn more, contact MEUW's Tyler Vorpapel at (920) 265-7720.

Public Power Week is time to celebrate



The first full week in October is always a special time for MEUW and its member utilities — Public Power Week! Oct. 6–10 is a great time to celebrate what makes public power special — offering local control, not-for-profit, exceptionally reliable service to more than 300,000 customers across Wisconsin.

New for this year's events, American Public Power Association (APPA) has created a new [video](#) — "Public Power: 2,000 Utilities. One Purpose." The engaging animated short colorfully describes how the purpose of building strong communities unites public power utilities nationwide. Find the video on APPA's website [here](#).

Please share photos of what your utility is doing to celebrate Public Power Week. Send them to news@meuw.org or tag #MEUW in your social media posts. ●



MEUW NEWS Monitor

Don't miss the annual Accounting and Customer Service Seminar

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, municipal electric utility staff will gather from across the state to discuss accounting and customer service topics. Attendees receive updates on regulatory and legislative topics that affect their utilities and compare best practices to improve their operations. MEUW's Accounting and Customer Service Committee assists MEUW staff in putting together the day's program to address industry topics. Registration and the day's agenda are located [here](#).

Register for "District Dinners" planned across the state this fall

Getting members together for dinner and networking is a time-honored MEUW tradition, and registration is open for the 2025 District Dinners, which are now being held every other year. Eight dinners are planned across the state. MEUW members are encouraged to bring commission or council members and attend whichever scheduled dinner is most convenient (whether it is in their district or not). It's a great opportunity to connect with colleagues from the public power community and to hear the latest happenings with MEUW and the industry. There is no cost to attend, although pre-registration is required. Each dinner begins with a cash bar at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30, followed by a brief program. Full details are available [here](#).

Refine your communications and project-management skills

Mastering strategic communication and project management isn't just useful — it's the backbone of a thriving municipal utility. By completing a one-day training that is part of MEUW's [Fundamentals of Utility Leadership Management series](#), municipal utility professionals will equip themselves with essential communication and project-management skills to enhance operational success. Participants will learn to effectively plan and prioritize tasks, provide constructive feedback, and track projects to ensure nothing is overlooked.

The class emphasizes clear communication — both in giving directions and active listening — to foster meaningful feedback and understanding. Registration is now open for the Oct. 8 class [here](#).

December training focuses on consistency

MEUW's three-part Municipal Utility Leadership Certificate Program continues with another class later this year, "Leading with Consistency." The topic is being offered because consistency was identified as a critical competency for municipal utility leaders.

The one-day leadership development course focuses on why consistency is essential to being an effective utility leader. The training will be held Wednesday, Dec. 3, in Mauston. Participants will learn practical tactics they can apply to become a consistent leader and learn how consistency can inspire people to work toward a common goal. Click [here](#) for details.

Training offered through MEUW's Professional Development Program will continue in 2026. To learn more about the two training tracks available to municipal employees of all skill levels, visit meuw.org/pdp. Specific training dates for the new year are expected to be set no later than Oct. 1

Underground Facility Locator Workshop planned for spring

MEUW will once again offer an Underground Facility Locator Workshop in 2026. The workshop will be held April 1 in Spooner, and will cover information found in Units 1-3 of the National Utility Locating Contractors Association (NULCA) Professional Competency Standard including locating theory and use of the transmitter and receiver. The workshop will include both classroom instruction and hands-on practice locating, using a variety of techniques outside. All learners will receive a certificate documenting the training received. Mark your calendars — registration will open early next year. ●

Renowned safety speaker to share message at EOCE26

Planning is well underway for the 2026 Electric Operations Conference and Expo, which will be held Jan. 14 and 15 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Brandon Schroeder has been confirmed as a keynote speaker at the event. A journeyman electrician, Brandon's journey as a safety speaker began in 2012, following a life-altering workplace accident that nearly claimed his life. One decision to take a shortcut on the job changed everything.

You won't want to miss Brandon's inspirational story — or the rest of the programming, trade show, and networking opportunities. Mark your calendars to join your municipal utility colleagues and representatives of Wisconsin's electric cooperatives at EOCE26 — registration will open Oct. 15.

Start your week safely with **MEUW safety reminder emails**. Use the topics as discussion starters in meetings throughout the week. Always keep safety top-of-mind — sign up to have the safety reminders delivered to your in-box [here](#).

Municipal employees earn certificate for completing leadership program

Three MEUW members recently took the next step in their professional development journeys. Pictured below are: **Jake Tanner** (Columbus Utilities), **Scott Gald** (City Utilities of Richland Center), and **Dalton Hiley** (Columbus Utilities), who were recognized during a recent training session held in Mauston.



Each of them has now completed MEUW's three-part Municipal Utility Leadership Training program. The certificate program focuses on a set of core competencies essential to success as a leader in a municipal utility setting. Training is designed for new, emerging, and seasoned leaders, managers, and supervisors. To learn more about professional development opportunities, visit meuw.org/pdp.

Members' *NEWS*



Anthony Downing was recently selected as Director of Public Works for the City of Fennimore. He succeeds **Jordan Fritche**, who has moved to a Lineworker position. Downing has been with the City since 2022, and worked both in the Streets and Utility departments.

Also in Fennimore, **Brennan Udelhofen** has joined as an Apprentice Lineworker.

Send us your news! Tell MEUW about new hires, promotions, retirements, honors, and awards, so those tidbits can be shared in MEUW member communications. Simply send an email to news@meuw.org to share your news.



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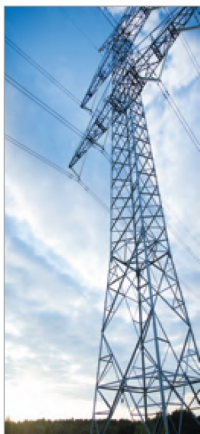


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Advocacy in Action: Simple connections, real impact

Advocacy helps protect and strengthen public power — and it doesn't always take years to see results. Recent experiences among MEUW members demonstrate how even simple conversations can create momentum and open doors.

From Talking Points to Policy:

Several years ago, Michael Avanzi (Kaukauna Utilities) attended the APPA Rally in Washington, D.C., where he raised supply chain challenges in a meeting with former Congressman Mike Gallagher. Not long after, Rep. Gallagher introduced legislation to address supply chain reform. That early conversation demonstrates how putting our top issues in front of policymakers can directly shape the bills that move forward.

Making Connections in Manitowoc:

When Gov. Tony Evers visited Manitowoc, he toured local facilities and spent meaningful time discussing the city's power plant and renewable fuel efforts. He even took fuel samples back to Madison and connected Manitowoc Public Utilities (MPU) with his Green Energy Committee. From there, MPU gained an ally working on their behalf — at no additional cost — to advance projects, access grant funding, and reduce landfill waste while keeping dollars in Wisconsin. The utility also built connections with the new Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. While the outcomes are still developing, the key takeaway is clear: relationships open doors to opportunities that wouldn't otherwise exist.

Accessing Needed Funding: Earlier this year, Kaukauna Utilities (KU) hosted Congressman Tony Wied (R-Wis. 8th), giving him a tour of their facilities, including the new water plant. He met with staff and commissioners, and afterward helped secure a \$1 million federal

appropriation for KU. He also gave Kaukauna Mayor Tony Penterman his personal cell phone number — demonstrating the lasting value of making those in-person connections.



Engaging State Leaders:

Bruce Gomm (Shawano Municipal Utilities) knows the importance of maintaining relationships with state leaders. When he reached out to Rep. Elijah Behnke (R-Town of Chase) to offer a tour, Behnke was grateful for the opportunity to see firsthand what the utility does. These kinds of proactive invitations make future policy discussions more productive and meaningful. (See article at right for another example.)

Showing Up Matters: At the APPA Policymakers Council in July, members met with U.S. Senator Ron Johnson and Representatives Glenn Grothman (R-Wis. 6th) and Tom Tiffany (R-Wis. 7th), among others. Some meetings were face-to-face, others with staff — but every conversation helped raise awareness of public power's priorities. MEUW and WPPI Energy also co-hosted a reception at the National Conference of State Legislators in Boston, connecting with policymakers from across the country.

Preparing for What's Ahead: With significant change underway at the federal level, members stressed the importance of staying informed about what new policies mean for public power, both the good and the bad. Efforts are underway to prepare a summary for members.

Looking ahead, we encourage every utility leader to find at least one opportunity to talk with a policymaker before November. These conversations don't have to be formal — sometimes they start with a tour, a townhall meeting, or simply an invitation to connect. Because when it comes to advocacy, relationships matter.

Building bridges in Trempealeau: A testament to advocacy

When the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) announced plans to close all three bridges connecting Trempealeau to La Crosse for up to two years, the impact would have been devastating. Emergency response times, local tourism, and the community's access to essential services were all at risk.



Recognizing the stakes, local leaders pushed back. **Isaac Pooler**, Village Administrator and Finance Director in

Trempealeau, first insisted that DOT hold a public meeting in Trempealeau (not in surrounding communities) where there was little awareness and engagement. After two years of persistence, that meeting finally happened, drawing record attendance. From there, the Village organized a coordinated advocacy effort: writing campaigns to legislators, a community webpage with contact information for representatives, and even a county resolution.

The result? DOT changed course and will now maintain traffic during bridge replacements, keeping critical pathways open for emergency and community traffic alike.

Every conversation strengthens public power — and as our members' stories show, those connections can lead to real results. If you have an experience, idea, or tip to share, we want to hear it! Please take a moment to answer a [few brief questions](#) to let us know what you are doing. ●

Jefferson welcomes big flavor — and new big customers



By Karen Whitmer

Situated conveniently between Madison and Milwaukee, the City of Jefferson has long been known for its small-town charm, scenic river views, and

strong sense of community.

A few years ago, the city embraced the tagline “We’re Going Outside” to highlight its natural beauty and active lifestyle. With the Rock River and the Glacial River Trail cutting through town, Jefferson offers more parks and green spaces than most cities its size — making it a destination for residents and visitors who love the outdoors.

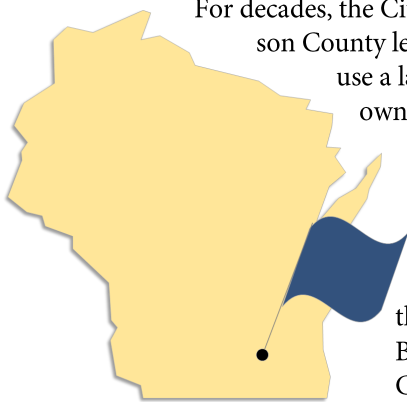
But Jefferson is more than a place to enjoy the outdoors — it’s also a community preparing for growth.

Home to about 8,000 residents, the city takes pride in operating its own electric, water, and wastewater utilities. The electric utility serves roughly 4,400 customers — including 84% residential — and is managed by the city’s Electric Utility Commission. A team of 10 full-time and two part-time employees maintains system reliability and supports the growing community’s needs.

“We know what we have is special,” said Sarah Hinze, Electric Utility Business Manager for Jefferson Utilities. “People from bigger cities keep moving here because we offer a quaint community with a small-town feel, yet residents can travel 45 minutes east or west to those bigger cities.”

While Jefferson remains close-knit, it is now positioning itself for a larger role in the region’s future — creating new demands and new opportunities for its utility systems.

Powering up for growth



For decades, the City of Jefferson and Jefferson County leaders debated how best to use a large tract of county-owned land along Highway 26.

The idea of a food and beverage hub had circulated since the 1990s, but in 2024 the vision finally came to life with the launch of the Food and Beverage (FAB) Innovation Campus.

By creating a dedicated industrial park, Jefferson is now attracting global food companies, encouraging investment, and diversifying the tax base. According to Hinze, it is also generating new jobs and opportunities for the community.

The Campus is strategically located on Jefferson’s south side, with easy rail and highway connections. Kikkoman Foods, Inc. was the first to commit, purchasing 100 acres of the 175-acre campus to build a \$560 million, 240,000-square-foot soy sauce facility. Groundbreaking took place in June 2024, instantly establishing the Tokyo-based company as the FAB’s anchor tenant. Just months later, Finnish food-tech startup



Called a “hidden gem in the Midwest,” the online travel blog WondrousDrifter.com says, “Jefferson has it all.”

Onego Bio signed on as the second tenant, announcing plans to break ground on a new \$195 million facility later this year—with more announcements expected soon.

“Just these two companies alone will bring an estimated additional 20 megawatts of power load to our utility,” Hinze noted. “That’s a big shift for a community utility—and it means new infrastructure and long-term planning to keep pace. We’ve been very busy laying the groundwork to make the FAB successful.”

Nick Baumann, Jefferson Utilities’ Electric Line Superintendent, added that the entire electric team has been working hard to meet this demand. “We are working around the clock to make sure the infrastructure is in place for Kikkoman and all potential new customers,” Baumann said. “The growth we’re seeing is exciting, but it also means planning carefully, upgrading our systems, and staying one step ahead so our customers continue to have the reliable, affordable service they count on.”

Continued on page 7

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Longtime partners in industry

The FAB isn't Jefferson's first experience with major industry. Its oldest and largest industrial partner is Nestlé Purina PetCare, which has operated in Jefferson since 1910. The plant produces some of Purina's most popular wet-pet-food brands, including Pro Plan, Fancy Feast, and Beneful IncrediBites. In April 2024, Purina announced a \$195 million expansion to boost production capacity by nearly 50% and add 100 new jobs.

Americold Logistics is another key player, operating a state-of-the-art cold storage facility in Jefferson. The company provides refrigerated warehousing and distribution services that keep perishable goods moving across the Midwest. Together, these businesses make Jefferson a quiet but powerful hub for food production and supply chain logistics.

Growth isn't limited to industry, either. Jefferson Utilities, a member of WPPI Energy, has been also busy installing new underground infrastructure to support residential development, including a 56-lot subdivision near the local golf course and three new 16-unit family housing projects. "As jobs expand, so do neighborhoods — and the City and Jefferson Utilities are planning ahead," Hinze said.

The spirit of Gemütlichkeit

Amid all this change, Jefferson hasn't lost sight of what makes it special. Known as the Gemütlichkeit City, it embraces a German word that translates loosely to warmth, friendliness, and good cheer. Each September, those qualities are on full display during Gemütlichkeit Days, a three-day festival filled with food, music, and dancing that draws visitors from across the region.



Jefferson also celebrates the diversity its industries bring. "We enjoy celebrating Fiesta Latina and this year the first Kik-

koman Family Picnic," Hinze said. "These have become community-wide events that all residents can enjoy."

At the center of town, the Rock River provides a natural gathering place. Early settlers built around the river for its power and water, but today it's also a recreational treasure — where residents boat, fish, and "float" on summer days.



The line crew at Jefferson Utilities includes (from left to right): Lead Lineman Nick Mueller, Electric Line Superintendent Nick Baumann, Apprentice Lineman Colton Schmidt, and Lineman Jacob Percival. Lineman Nick Ganser is not pictured.

In Jefferson, "floating" refers to hopping on an inner tube, kayak, or canoe and drifting down the Rock River to reach an event or gathering spot along the water.



Since the river runs through town — and past community parks, the fairgrounds, Goat Island, and even downtown—residents can literally float their way to concerts, festivals, and community celebrations.

"It's part of the town's outdoorsy, river-centered lifestyle and ties in nicely with our 'We're Going Outside' tagline," Hinze said.

Tradition also runs deep. Since the 1850s, the Jefferson County Fair has been the highlight of summer, turning the fairgrounds into the county's living room each July. From livestock shows and 4-H projects to concerts, carnival rides, and demolition derbies, the fair blends agricultural roots with modern entertainment.

"Jefferson is a special place," Hinze said. "We're close to big cities, but life here is comfortable and easygoing. The people are hardworking, genuine, and fun-loving. It's a great place to be, and Jefferson Utilities is proud to be a part of it all."

"That balance of economic ambition and everyday quality of life is what makes Jefferson stand out — not just as a place to do business, but as a community where people want to put down roots." ●

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

Get to know a little about some Wisconsin lawmakers



This regular feature helps readers get to know Wisconsin elected officials and better understand their views on policies that may impact municipal utilities.

Rep. Sortwell serves on Energy and Utilities Committee



Shae Sortwell (R-Two Rivers) has served as the representative for Wisconsin's 2nd Assembly

District since January 2019. This district includes areas within Manitowoc and Brown Counties.

Sortwell has been a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly's Energy and Utilities Committee since the 2023–2024 legislative session and will continue in this role for 2025–2026. He also serves as chair of the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform and vice-chair of the Assembly Committee on Government Operations, Accountability, and Transparency. He is also a member of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Insurance, and Sporting Heritage committees.

Born in Saratoga Springs, New York, Sortwell moved with his family to the Town of Gibson (in Manitowoc County) as a teenager, while his father was in the U.S. Navy. He attended the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, earning a bachelor's degree in public administration and political science in 2006. While in college, he was active in student government, participated in the College Republicans, and founded a pro-life student organization.

After graduating, Sortwell joined the U.S. Army Reserve in the Chemical Corps, serving for nearly 10 years and reaching the rank of sergeant before finishing his service in 2018. During this period, he also served in local government, including positions on the Green Bay City Council, as a town supervisor on the Gibson Town Board, and as a legislative aide to State Representative Chad Weininger.

Sortwell was elected to the Gibson Town Board of Supervisors in 2017 and to the State Assembly in 2018.

Outside of public office, Sortwell has worked as a truck driver. He currently lives in Gibson with his wife, Krista, and their six children. In his personal time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family.

Rep. McCarville brings utility work experience to new role representing 42nd District



Maureen McCarville (D-DeForest) began representing Wisconsin's 42nd Assem-

bly District in January 2025. Located in south-central Wisconsin, the district includes much of southern Columbia County, parts of northern Dane County, and communities such as Columbus, Lodi, DeForest, and Windsor.

Originally from Rockford, Ill., McCarville has lived in DeForest since the early 1980s. She earned a bachelor's degree from Upper Iowa University and spent more than a decade working in accounting at Madison Gas & Electric. Her dedication to service extends beyond her professional career — she served 10 years in the Wisconsin National Guard, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to public service.

McCarville's political career began locally, with a seat on the DeForest Village Board from 1999 to 2003, followed by service on the DeForest Police and Fire Commission from 2001 to 2012. In 2012, she was elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors for District 22, a role she continues to hold today.

At the state Capitol, McCarville serves on the Energy and Utilities Committee, the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, and the Assembly Committee on Rules. She co-authored Assembly Joint Resolution 70, which designated June 12, 2025, as Women Veterans Day in Wisconsin. According to her website, her legislative priorities focus on supporting working families, strengthening community safety, advancing women's healthcare, protecting water quality, and promoting regional economic growth.

Outside of public service, McCarville enjoys spending time with her large extended family and giving back through community events and volunteer work. She continues to reside in DeForest. ●

Share your input to help MEUW plan the next "Day at the Capitol" event

MEUW staff are putting together plans for 2026 events, including the 2026 Annual Conference (to be held in Madison May 13-15), and other advocacy events. Member feedback is always helpful in planning, so we invite you to take a few minutes share your thoughts and ideas by completing [this brief survey](#).



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Inflation Reduction Act rebate programs delivering big savings

This August marked one year since Wisconsin launched Home Energy Rebate programs funded by the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and delivered by Focus on Energy. The results have been impactful for residents, including customers served by municipal utilities. Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) have helped thousands of residents make energy-efficient upgrades while reducing their energy usage and improving home comfort.

Since the programs have been launched, municipal utility customers across Wisconsin have received over \$200,000 in rebates for energy-saving home improvements. Statewide, more than 2,000 households have benefited from the IRA Home Energy Rebate programs, receiving over \$3 million in total rebates. This includes both HOMES and HEAR participants, demonstrating growing awareness and demand for energy efficiency across communities.

HOMES, launched in August 2024, provides rebates to any resident for whole-home energy improvements that achieve at least 20% energy savings. These upgrades, such as insulation, air sealing, and high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, must be modeled through a home energy assessment and installed by an IRA Registered Contractor. HOMES is now piloting an expansion to include multifamily buildings to serve more diverse housing types and populations.

In December 2024, Wisconsin launched the HEAR program, available to low- and moderate-income households. HEAR provides rebates for qualified electric appliances and upgrades such as heat pump water heaters, induction stoves, and electric panel improvements. Eligible residents can receive up to \$14,000 in rebates to cover project costs, making beneficial home electrification more accessible than ever.

HEAR rebates require installation by an IRA Registered Contractor. However, starting later this year, eligible customers will be able to claim rebates by purchasing qualified products directly from participating retailers. This expansion will offer more flexibility and convenience for customers, especially those in rural areas that may have limited access to IRA Registered Contractors.

IRA Home Energy Rebate programs offer multiple benefits. They help reduce peak demand, improve grid reliability, and support local contractors and jobs. Utilities can play a key role in educating customers about rebate eligibility and assisting with recruitment of IRA Registered Contractors in their territories.

“The Home Energy Rebate Programs are a win, win, win for Wisconsin and we are excited to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the program launch,” said Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) Chairperson Summer Strand. “In the last year, Wisconsin households across the state have stepped up to utilize these rebates to save energy, save money, and support our workforce. Under Governor Evers’ leadership, significant progress has been made, but the work is far from over. Home energy rebates remain available. We encourage additional Wisconsin households to undertake energy efficient upgrades and reap the many benefits of the Home Energy Rebate Programs.”

The success of the Home Energy Rebate programs reflects a strong partnership between many stakeholders across Wisconsin including, the PSC, the Governor’s office, Focus on Energy, IRA Registered Contractors, utilities, and local governments and community-based organizations. As the programs continue to evolve, municipal utilities are well-positioned to help expand access, drive participation, and deliver lasting energy savings to their communities.

In addition to the IRA Home Energy Rebates, customers may be eligible for savings through other programs, including [Focus on Energy rebates and discounts](#), the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#), and [tax credits](#). Focus on Energy’s [Get Started](#) tool helps customers identify what programs they are eligible for and maximize savings. ●

Focus on Energy is a sponsor of MEUW’s **Accounting and Customer Service Seminar** on Sept. 24. The full agenda and registration information is available [here](#).

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



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Residential energy sales soon to be tax-exempt year-round

A new law signed in July makes residential electricity and natural gas usage exempt from the state sales tax year-round. Previously, energy usage was tax exempt only during the months of November through April, when home heating is considered an essential service. This change is expected to result in approximately \$178 million in savings statewide for utility customers over the next two years. The sales tax exemption takes effect Oct. 1.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) has provided guidance to implement the new exemption. DOR said the exemption is based on the bill date, not the usage or meter reading date. Electricity or natural gas is considered "sold" at the time of billing. This means:

- Bills issued before Oct. 1, 2025: Tax applies, even if some or all of the usage occurred in October.
- Bills issued on or after Oct. 1, 2025: Tax exemption applies, even if some of the usage occurred in September.
- Mid-month billing cycles (e.g., Sept. 15 – Oct. 15): If the bill is dated prior to Oct. 1, sales tax must still be charged on the entire billing period.

The interpretation is outlined in Wis. Stat. § 77.54(30)(b) and Wis. Adm. Code Tax 11.57(2)(n).

These rules also apply to any county's 0.5% sales tax.

This article originally appeared in the August 2025 LIVE LINES.

LIVELines 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:

Waunakee Utilities

[Lead Electric Line Worker](#)

Sun Prairie Utilities

[Customer Service Manager](#)

City of Rice Lake

[City Planner](#)

When your utility is hiring, be sure to email the job posting to office@meuw.org.



For Sale: New Holstein Utilities is selling a 2011 Ford F-750 with 55' Versalift boom that includes an inverter, outlets, bin storage, wire rack, and a jib crane on the bucket. Please contact **Mark Stephanie** at (920) 898-5776 if interested.



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