



# Utility Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

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## Call to Order

## Roll Call

## Notice of Open Meeting

## Approval of Agenda

## Public Comment

## Closed Session

1. Convene to closed session under section 19.85(1) **(c)** Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility to discuss the compensation of the Business Manager and banked vacation benefits for two employees.

## Reconvene to Open Session

## Consent Agenda

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 7, 2024
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 21, 2024
4. Electrical Outage: November 16, 2024 - 210 Dix Street.  
Electrical Outage: December 18, 2024 - Water Street Substation #1  
Water Outage: December 28, 2024 - South Water Street  
Water Outage: December 30, 2024 - Maple Ave  
Water Outage: January 7, 2025 - Faith Drive & Faith Lutheran Church Lot Entrance
5. December 2024 - Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report - Discussion/Approval  
January 2025 - Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report - Discussion/Approval

## Unfinished Business

6. Hourly Wage Corrections to 2025 Budget for Electrical Utility Staff

## New Business

7. Resolution # 1-2025 Emergency Declaration for Water Plant #1 Repairs
8. Task Order 2024-CU03R Wastewater Treatment Facility BioSolids Upgrade Design Services - 2026 Project
9. Task Order – Ruekert-Mielke 2025 WQT Services

- [10.](#) Columbus Wastewater Utilities 2025 Rate Case Study
- [11.](#) Approval of Rhyme Printer Leasing Contract for Wastewater and Utilities Offices
- [12.](#) Approval of Rhyme Managed IT Contract for Columbus Utilities
- 13. Consider and take possible action on the compensation of the Business Manager.
- 14. Consider and take possible action on banked vacation benefits for two employees.

#### **Reports**

- [15.](#) Directors Report
- [16.](#) MEUW - December 2024 Live Lines
- [17.](#) MEUW - January 2025 Live Lines
- [18.](#) Commendation of Mutual Aide Letter and Memo from American Public Power Association

#### **Reports**

- 19. Emergency Funding - Water Plant #1
- 20. Funding Approval - Meister Park Forced Main Repair
- 21. Permission of Additional Bonding - Payment of Emergency Repairs to Water Plant #1

#### **Adjourn**

Special Joint Columbus Utility Commission & Columbus Common Council Meeting: February 4, 2025 7:45PM Council Chambers - City Hall; Following Common Council & COW Meetings.

Emergency Columbus Utilities Commission Meeting Following Joint Common Council& CUC Meeting: February 4, 2025 Council Chambers - City Hall

Next Columbus Utility Commission Meeting: February 20, 2025 6:00PM Council Chambers - City Hall

\*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.





## Special Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 07, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

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### Call to Order

Michael Thom called the meeting to order at 8:48 pm.

### Roll Call

PRESENT

Joe Hammer, Molly Finkler, Michael Thom, Reagan Rule, Brook Andler, and Sandy Curtis.

### Notice of Open Meeting

#### Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Hammer to postpone unfinished business until November 21, 2024, Seconded by Finkler.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### Consent Agenda

Motion made by Curtis, Seconded by Hammer.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

1. Approval of October 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

### New Business

6. Replacement of Park Ave Area Hydrants

Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Hammer.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

### Adjourn

Motion made by Finkler to adjourn at 8:52pm, Seconded by Hammer.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

Next Columbus Utilities Commission Meeting: November 21, 2024 6:00PM City Hall – Council Chambers



## Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

#### PRESENT

Joe Hammer  
Molly Finkler  
Michael Thom  
Reagan Rule  
Brook Andler  
Sandy Curtis

### Notice of Open Meeting

The meeting was posted in accordance to law.

### Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Hammer to approve the agenda with the removal of the minutes of November 7th from the consent agenda and have them on the December agenda, Seconded by Finkler.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

### Public Comment

Jack Sanderson spoke in favor of removing flouride from the water in Columbus and shared resources supporting his stance with the Commission.

### Consent Agenda

The minutes of November 7, 2024 were removed from the consent agenda.

Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Curtis.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Nov 7, 2024
2. Utility Outage Reports:
  - Electrical Outage: October 26, 2024 - 9:28AM.
3. Approve the Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report - Discussion/Approval

### Unfinished Business

4. Discussion and Approval of 2025 Electric Utility Operating Budget

Motion made by Hammer to approve the electric budget with the changes discussed, Seconded by Finkler.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

5. Discussion and Approval of 2025 Water Utility Operating Budget

Motion made by Hammer to approve the water utility budget, Seconded by Finkler.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

6. Discussion and Approval of 2025 Wastewater Utility Operating Budget

Motion made by Hammer to approve the Wastewater Utility budget, Seconded by Thom.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

7. Rental of John Deere 624P for 2025 and Purchase in 2026 via CIP for WWTP

Motion made by Thom to approve the rental for 2025 and purchase in 2026, Seconded by Finkler.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

### New Business

8. Annual Election of Commission Officers

Motion made by Hammer to nominate Michael Thom as President, Sandy Curtis as Vice President, and Brook Andler as Secretary, Seconded by Finkler.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

9. Approval to Purchase (6) PT's for Substation #4

Motion made by Thom to approve purchase in the amount of \$10,508.58, Seconded by Curtis.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

10. Authorization to withdraw funds from the Utility General Fund LGIP # 13 to pay off balance of Truck Loan with Farmer's and Merchants Bank per the payoff quote.

Motion made by Finkler to approve payoff per quote, Seconded by Thom.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

### Reports

11. MEUW - November Live Lines

### Adjourn

Motion made by Finkler to adjourn at 6:52pm, Seconded by Curtis.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

Next Columbus Utilities Commission Meeting: December 19, 2024 City Hall Council Chambers 105 N. Dickason Blvd

\*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.

These minutes are subject to approval at a future meeting.



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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**Item Title:** Electrical Outage November 16, 2024 - 210 Dix Street

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Interior wiring at a customer's building caused a circuit overload which caused a fuse to blow at 9:45AM on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The power was restored at 6:30PM on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 26 total customers were without power for a duration of 8 hours and 15 minutes.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Attached Outage Report

**Action Requested of Council:**

Information and Discussion. No Action Requested.

# COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

Item #4.

SUBSTATION 3 CIRCUIT # 302 DATE 11/16/2024  
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 3D 85 63  
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION 210 dix st.  
 REMARKS wiring inside of customer building is ~~faulty~~ / faulty  
and was causing fuses to short out / blow

## 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 9:45am ON 6:30pm

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers	Minutes Duration
<u>26</u>	<u>8h 15min</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 80T

## Transformer

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

## ROUTING (initial)

Responded By MM

Line Assisted By JH

Assisted By JB

Manager DH

Outage File



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

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**Item Title:** Electrical Outage December 18, 2024 – Water Street Substation #1

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

At 5:30 on December 18<sup>th</sup> a fuse door blew yet stayed intact. C phase was lost and picked it up with circuit 104 until further testing was performed. Power was restored at 8:45 55 customers were without power for 3 hours.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Attached Outage Report

**Action Requested of Council:**

Information and Discussion. No Action Requested.

## COLUMBUS WATER &amp; LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

Item #4.

SUBSTATION Sub 1 CIRCUIT # 103 DATE 12/18/2024LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 80-4E/49/72CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION Water StREMARKS Customer Door Fuse Door Blow but stayed intact. Lost C phase and picked it up with Circuit 104 until we could do further testingPART 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 23°  
 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 530 ON 845Number of Calls 1Number of  
CustomersMinutes  
Duration553 hrsTRANSFORMER 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 OPENEDDistributionMain Feeder

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

Targets \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Line

O.C.R. \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fuse \_\_\_\_\_ Size 200/120T

Transformer

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

ROUTING (initial)

Responded By Jeff Hecht  
Craig

Line Assisted By Dalton  
Mason

Assisted By Mike B

Manager \_\_\_\_\_

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



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

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**Item Title:** Water Outage December 28, 2024 South Water Street

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

A water line in the alley on South Water Street ruptured on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The break took crews roughly 8 hours to repair and caused an estimated water loss of 75,000 gallons.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. N/A

**Action Requested of Council:**

Information and Discussion. No Action Requested.





## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

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**Item Title:** Water Outage December 30, 2024 Maple Ave

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

On December 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 the water main on Maple Ave East of Meister Dr ruptured. This main break took the Utilities Crew 8 hours to repair and caused an estimated water loss of 85,000 gallons.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. N/A

**Action Requested of Council:**

Information and Discussion. No Action Requested.



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

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**Item Title:** Water Outage January 7, 2025 Faith Drive & Faith Lutheran Church Lot Entrance

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

On January 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 the water main ruptured in the driveway to Faith Lutheran Church. The break was identified in the late afternoon and by the time Utilities could be marked the repairs began in the early evening. The repair took the Utilities Crew roughly 5 hours to complete and the estimated water loss is believed to be roughly 35,000 gallons.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. N/A

**Action Requested of Council:**

Information and Discussion. No Action Requested.

## 2024 AGENDA ITEM

Utility Commission Meeting Date: 12/19/2024

ITEM: Financial Reports

### 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.

# CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES

## TREASURER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2024

Item #5.

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 126,249.49
Receipts:	\$ 1,137,525.14
Interest Earned:	\$ 117.94
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 1,263,892.57</i>
Disbursements:	\$ (1,201,103.40)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 62,789.17</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:	\$ 427,331.84
Receipts:	\$ 15,500.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,618.68
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 444,450.52</i>
Disbursements: (F&M loan payoff)	\$ (104,733.93)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 339,716.59</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 337,872.09
Receipts:	\$ 30,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,396.56
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 369,268.65</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 369,268.65</b>

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

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 340,422.56
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 340,422.56</i>
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 2025 4.75%; \$170,211.28 Due December 2024 4.75%

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 143,297.05
Receipts:	\$ 3,321.80
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$ 555.44
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 147,174.29</i>
Disbursements:	\$ (2,615.34)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 144,558.95</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 850,512.50
Receipts:	\$ 5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 3,306.29
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 858,818.79</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 858,818.79</b>

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

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 223,214.05
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 863.83
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 224,077.88</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 224,077.88</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$1,106,318.13
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$4,281.41
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 1,110,599.54</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 1,110,599.54</b>

### WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 248,847.23
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 963.03
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 249,810.26</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 249,810.26</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 478,375.39
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,851.29
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 480,226.68</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 480,226.68</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 233,652.17
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$ 878.60
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 234,530.77</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 234,530.77</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>	<i>\$ 1,065,564.23</i>
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

Local Gov't. Investment Pool	4.72%	F&M Union Bank-Checking/Savings	0.5% / 0.75%
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS	4.75% to 5.20%		

COLUMBUS UTILITIES  
CASH DISBURSEMENTS REPORT  
NOVEMBER, 2024

**12-Dec-24**

Item #5.

DATE	CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
20-Nov 23961	Stuart C Irbv Co	VOIDED - (5) PAD-MT TRANSFORMERS, 4-POINT JUNCTION URD, OHIURD CONNECTORS, OVERHEAR & UNDERGROUND CONNECTORS, URD CONDUIT SPLICES (25),	(\$24,757.50)
20-Nov 23984	MADISON GRAPHICS CO	VOIDED - NEW LOGO FOR TRUCK	(\$5,200.00)
20-Nov 24012	1901 INC	THERMOSTAT REPLACEMENT	\$3,067.45
20-Nov 24013	A.C. ENGINEERING CO	SUB#4 PARTS, HOURS WORKED, MILES TRAVELED	\$36,746.13
20-Nov 24014	ACE HARDWARE	MILKHOUSE HEATER, BLADE EDER, CLOROZ, SUPER GLUE, DH CHARGER, CAULK, STELL WOOL PADS, WIRE CONNECTOR, SAUNDRY DTRGNT, PLIERS 9", WORK OF	\$1,116.01
20-Nov 24015	ALLMAX	WATER DEPT SOFTWARE YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION	\$2,730.00
20-Nov 24016	AMBLUSH PEST CONTROL LLC	SUBSTATION RODENT CONTROL #44	\$85.00
20-Nov 24017	ANTHONY DERR	MILEAGE FOR WWOA MEETING	\$110.52
20-Nov 24018	AQUA FIX	QWIK-ZYME D (3)	\$11,791.04
20-Nov 24019	B&M TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC	INSTALL 4 SAND FILTER RADAR SENSORS WI 37' CABLE, POWER SUPPLY	\$1,986.28
20-Nov 24020	BASSETT MECHANICAL	A/C UNIT, RECOVER REFRIGERANT, LEAK CHECK, REPAIR LEAK	\$1,504.10
20-Nov 24021	BENDA W/KNING & FEB	ASSIST IN MAKING WIRE CONNECTIONS AT SUBSTATION #4	\$780.00
20-Nov 24022	BORDER STATES ELECTRIC SUPPLY	SUBSTATION #4	\$10,648.15
20-Nov 24023	CHEMTRADE CHEMICALS	HYPER + ION 1997 HULK	\$24,678.00
20-Nov 24024	CHS BUILD MOTO	DONATION FOR CHS BUILD MOTO	\$500.00
20-Nov 24025	CHS DRAMA CLUB	DONATION CHS DRAMA CLUB	\$500.00
20-Nov 24026	CITIES & VILLAGES MUTUAL INSURANCE	TRAINING CLASSES	\$400.00
20-Nov 24027	CITY OF COLUMBUS	MONTHLY PILOT PAYMENT, SALARIES, PHONE USE REIMBURSEMENT, R&M INVOICES #152598 & 152595	\$58,760.81
20-Nov 24028	COLUMBUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	COLUMBUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DONATION	\$1,000.00
20-Nov 24029	COLUMBUS/FALL RIVER FOOD PANTRY	DONATION TO FOOD PANTRY	\$2,000.00
20-Nov 24030	COMMUNITY LUNCH FOR KIDS	DONATION 2024 COMMUNITY LUNCH FOR KIDS	\$500.00
20-Nov 24031	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	PE-DI 1001-11/30, DI REGENERATION CHARGE	\$196.00
20-Nov 24032	CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE	REPLACING BATTERY ON GENERATOR, REPLACE BLOCK HEATER, GENERATOR REPAIR, GENERATOR MAINTAINANCE	\$3,571.39
20-Nov 24033	DALTON HILEY	WORK BOOT REIMBURSEMENT	\$125.00
20-Nov 24034	DAVY LABORATORIES	TTM&M & HASS (30), RADIUM 226(30), RADIUM 226+228 (30), RADIUM 228 (30), NITRATE (10)	\$734.00
20-Nov 24035	DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	PUBLIC BENEFITS FY25 Q1	\$5,669.50
20-Nov 24036	DIGGERS HOTLINE	Localing Expenses	\$97.60
20-Nov 24037	DINGES FIRE COMPANY	DRAGER CALIBRATION/BUMP TEST (2) WASTEWATER, CALIBRATION/BUMP TEST ELECTRIC & WATER	\$285.00
20-Nov 24038	HISTORICAL SOCIETY	DONATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$1,000.00
20-Nov 24039	FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION	HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS	\$525.00
20-Nov 24040	FOREST LANDSCAPING	2024 MANHOLD REPAIR, LATERAL REPAIR 2024 NORTH WATER ST	\$12,745.00
20-Nov 24041	FOREST ELECTRICAL	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, DISTRIBUTION PLANNING & REGULATORY APPROVAL, SUB #3 HIGH SIDE PROTECTION DEVICE, SWITCHING OVERVIEW MAP FOR ARC G	\$6,027.50
20-Nov 24042	GRAINGER, INC	BALL VALVE UNION, SOCKET/FNPT, 1/2 IN MANUFACTURER (13)	\$755.39
20-Nov 24043	HACH COMPANY	SPECTROPHOTOMETER WITH RFID	\$841.00
20-Nov 24044	HAMMES FIRE & SAFETY	SERVICE CALL FOR RIVER RD, KIWANIS LIFT, WESTSIDE LIFT, HALL RD LIFT	\$284.00
20-Nov 24045	HAWKINS	WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS	\$769.06
20-Nov 24046	HYDROCORP	CROSS CONNECTION CNLT PROGRAM	\$929.00
20-Nov 24047	JACOB HOLBERT	PHONE ANSWERING SERVICE	\$190.65
20-Nov 24048	JAMES STADLER	FLORIDA HURRANCE SUPPLIES, MILEAGE TO DMV AND R&M WALKESHA OFFICE	\$138.42
20-Nov 24049	JEREMY ROLL	HANGING TAG EXPENSE	\$21.44
20-Nov 24051	KALEB & RACHEL VANDERWIEL	MILEAGE FOR WWOA MEETING, REIMBURSEMENT FOR SUSPENDED GROWTH PROCESSES	\$135.52
20-Nov 24052	KRAFT INCORPORATED	LAB SAMPLES SHIPPED TO NORTHERN LAKES	\$250.09
20-Nov 24053	KWIK TRIP INCORPORATED	ENERGY INCENTIVE-ENERGY EFFICIENT NEW CONSTRUCTION	\$16,653.93
20-Nov 24054	MADISON GRAPHICS CO	NEW LOGO FOR TRUCK	\$5,200.00
20-Nov 24055	MASON MOSHER	HURRICAN REIMBURSEMENT	\$130.02
20-Nov 24056	MERLE NOREN	VW ADVANCED CLASSES	\$50.00
20-Nov 24057	MID-STATE EQUIPMENT, INC	LAWN MOWER MAINTENANCE AND PARTS	\$91.84
20-Nov 24058	MIDWEST CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT	EMULSION POLYMER FEED SYSTEM RENTAL, SEPT 2024	\$350.00
20-Nov 24059	MIDWEST SALT	BULK SALT	\$3,447.06
20-Nov 24060	MUSSON BROTHERS, INC	COLUMBUS LATERAL LINING AND INVESTIGATION	\$13,500.00
20-Nov 24061	NAPA AUTO PARTS	PREM AW 68 HYD FLUID GAL, ANTIFREEZE (6), DIESEL FUEL COND 1 GAL	\$277.92
20-Nov 24062	NAPLETON FORD	ENERGY INCENTIVE LED LIGHTING UPGRADE	\$2,000.00
20-Nov 24063	NCENTERPRISES LLC	ENERGY INCENTIVE-LED LIGHTING UPGRADE	\$1,983.78
20-Nov 24064	NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIES	(1) SOLLUJET LOW FOAM, (2) NCL GLASS FILTERS, (2) BOD NUTRIENT	\$333.35
20-Nov 24065	NORTHERN LAKES SERVICE	2024 MONTHLYQUARTERLY WASTEWATER	\$408.65
20-Nov 24066	OPENPOINT	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION/CONCULTING	\$1,250.00
20-Nov 24067	PACKERLAND RENT-A-MAT	CLOTHS, MATS, MOPS, TOILET TISSUE	\$222.79
20-Nov 24068	PRAIRIE RIDGE HEALTH	PREEMPLOYMENT DRUG TESTING (MERLE NOREN)	\$27.00
20-Nov 24069	RESOURCE SOLUTIONS CORP	ELECTRONICS RECYCLING	\$40.00
20-Nov 24070	Ruekert & mietke inc	SCADA SUPPORT, COLLECTION SYSTEM SUPPORT, REPAIR FOR COLLECTION, WWTF WATER QUALITY TRADING, MEISTER LIFT STATION DESIGN, WTP NO 1 RESE	\$27,278.24
20-Nov 24071	SABEL MECHANICAL	REPAIRS ON THE MUFFIN MONSTER, SUPPLIED HOFFMAN HEATER, NEW VLS LIMIT SWITCH	\$4,651.22
20-Nov 24072	SALAMONE SUPPLIES	TRIFOLD PAPER TOWEL (2)	\$46.76
20-Nov 24073	ST VINCENT	ENERGY INCENTIVE-LED LIGHTING UPGRADE	\$2,000.00
20-Nov 24074	STUART IRBY	3-PH-MT TRANSFORMERS (1), FUSES UG (3), HOTSTICK OH, CUTTING JAW OH/JUG TOOL, UG CABLES	\$83,759.57
20-Nov 24075	STUART IRBY	(5) PAD-MT TRANSFORMERS, 4-POINT JUNCTION URD, OHIURD CONNECTORS, OVERHEAR & UNDERGROUND CONNECTORS, URD CONDUIT SPLICES (25), URD PAD	\$24,757.50
20-Nov 24076	SUPERIOR CHEMICAL	HANDY CUBE SENTER PULL BOX (5)	\$170.60
20-Nov 24077	USA BLUE BOOK	SPADNS REAGENT SOLUTION, REAGENT IRON FERROVER, HACH DPD	\$1,087.06
20-Nov 24078	USIC LOCATING SERVICES	Locating Expenses	\$1,864.23
20-Nov 24079	VC3, INC	NETWORK SECURITY/FIREWALL/LIC/SUB	\$266.50
20-Nov 24080	WI STATE LABORATORY OF HY	MONTHLY FLUORIDE TEST	\$29.00

20-Nov 24081	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		USEAGE CHARGES	\$89.07	
20-Nov 24082	WISEGUYS AUTO REPAIR		OIL CHANGE, TIRES, MOUNT, DISPOSAL, WHEEL ALIGNMENT 2016 FORD F250	\$785.40	
	SUBTOTAL		ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LIST APPROVED AT NOVEMBER MEETING	\$357,278.00	
	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank		NSF Fees	\$0.00	
01-Nov ACH	CWL Net Payroll		Net Payroll for 1st Payroll in November #21	\$51,701.53	
01-Nov ACH-3981	EFTPS		FICA/FED/MED Withholding Payroll #21	\$13,437.15	
01-Nov ACH-3982	WI Deferred Comp Board		Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #21	\$2,722.43	
01-Nov ACH-3983	Wisconsin Department of Revenue		State Withholding Payroll #21	\$1,298.46	
05-Nov ACH -3989	Payment Service Network		Customer Payment Fee	\$3,337.55	
05-Nov ACH-3988	BP		FUEL	\$1,084.62	
18-Nov ACH -3992	WE Energies		Natural Gas Service for Water Plant #2 & Natural Gas Service for CWL Admin Building	\$61.24	
18-Nov ACH -3993	WE Energies		\$53.90 TREATMENT PLANT	\$53.90	
18-Nov ACH-3994	WE Energies		WASTEWATER PUMP-STATION	\$10.21	
18-Nov ACH-3986	WE Energies		GENERATOR ON JAMES ST	\$10.90	
18-Nov ACH-3999	WE Energies		WESTSIDE SEWAGE ST	\$10.90	
14-Nov ACH-3990	FP MAILING SOLUTIONS		POSTAGE METER RENTAL	\$700.00	
12-Nov ACH-3991	US CELLULAR		CELL PHONE CHARGES FOR UTILITIES	\$381.97	
13-Nov ACH-4000	WI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE		SALES AND USE TAX	\$7,839.05	
21-Nov ACH -3997	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES		MUTUAL AID-FUEL, FOOD, LODING, TONER, WIPES, PAPERTOWEL, DUSTER CANS, EMAIL SUBS, MEISTER PARK LIFT STATION, SPLASHTOP WEB FOR WASTEWATER	\$7,418.42	
15-Nov ACH	CWL Net Payroll		Net Payroll for 1st Payroll in November #22	\$34,211.76	
15-Nov ACH-3986	EFTPS		FICA/FED/MED Withholding Payroll #22	\$11,963.97	
15-Nov ACH-3987	WI Deferred Comp Board		Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #22	\$1,666.81	
14-Nov ACH	Investment Pool		October Bond Interest Payment	\$30,000.00	
14-Nov ACH	Investment Pool		October Depreciation Payment	\$5,000.00	
14-Nov ACH	Investment Pool		Transfer into LGIP #13 General Fund	\$15,500.00	
25-Nov ACH-4005	Seera		Focus on energy payment	\$1,831.48	
21-Nov ACH -3995	Charter Communications		WASTEWATER SPECTRUM	\$119.98	
18-Nov ACH -4002	Charter Communications		Internet Service for Electric SCADA	\$119.98	
21-Nov ACH-4003	Charter Communications		INTERNET ADMIN BUILDING	\$89.99	
20-Nov ACH -4004	US Cellular		Cell Phone Charges WASTEWATER	\$92.22	
16-Nov ACH -3984	Brook Andler		Commission Salary for November	\$50.00	
16-Nov ACH -3985	Michael Thom		Commission Salary for November	\$50.00	
16-Nov ACH -3986	Regan Rule		Commission Salary for November	\$50.00	
16-Nov ACH -3987	Sandra Curtis		Commission Salary for November	\$50.00	
21-Nov ACH-3996	CINTAS		First Aid Supplies for November	\$58.67	
17-Nov ACH -4012	EFTPS		FICA/FED/MED Withholding Payroll #23	\$12,793.63	
17-Nov ACH -4013	WI Deferred Comp Board		Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #23	\$1,796.61	
18-Nov ACH -4014	Wisconsin Department of Revenue		State Withholding Payroll #23	\$3,612.84	
17-Nov ACH	CWL Net Payroll		Net Payroll for 2nd Payroll in November #23	\$35,902.28	
18-Nov ACH -4008	City of Columbus - Life		Employees Life Insurance - November	\$278.34	
18-Nov ACH -4007	City of Columbus - Health		Employees Health Insurance - November	\$17,068.75	
18-Nov ACH -4009	City of Columbus - Dental		Employees Dental Insurance - November	\$1,598.96	
18-Nov ACH -4010	City of Columbus - Vision		Employees Vision Insurance - November	\$144.80	
18-Nov ACH -4011	City of Columbus - Health Savings Account		Employees Health Savings Account Transfer - November	\$1,478.00	
18-Nov ACH -4011	City of Columbus - Retirement		Employees Retirement - November	\$23,597.60	
18-Nov ACH -4006	WPPI		Power bill for 10/12/2022-10/31/2022: NorthStar/ Dynamics; Electric/Water MDM Charges; Interface, Residential AMI Metering Project; Loan Rmnt	\$443,592.43	
29-Nov ACH -4001	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank		E3P Fees/ Wire Fees	\$166.90	
30-Nov ACH	E3P Transfer		E3P correction from Oct	\$3,321.80	
25-Nov ACH	E3P		E3P	\$2,615.34	
	SUBTOTAL			\$739,091.47	

## 2025 AGENDA ITEM

Utility Commission Meeting Date: 1/23/2025

ITEM: Financial Reports

### 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.

# CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES

## TREASURER'S REPORT - DECEMBER 2024

Item #5.

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 62,789.17
Receipts:	\$ 2,419,267.61
Interest Earned:	\$ 201.61
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 2,482,258.39</i>
Disbursements:	\$ (2,277,397.99)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 204,860.40</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:	\$ 339,716.59
Receipts: (returned w/d made 11/25/24)	\$ 120,233.93
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,467.24
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 461,417.76</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 461,417.76</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 369,268.65
Receipts:	\$ 30,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,485.80
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 400,754.45</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 400,754.45</b>

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

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 340,422.56
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 340,422.56</i>
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 2025 4.75%; \$170,211.28 Due December 2025 4.75%

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 144,558.95
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 144,558.95</i>
Disbursements:	\$ (20,951.81)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 123,607.14</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 858,818.79
Receipts:	\$ 5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 3,239.49
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 867,058.28</i>
Disbursements:	\$ (36,150.00)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 830,908.28</b>

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

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 224,077.88
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 874.12
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 224,952.00</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 224,952.00</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$1,110,599.54
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$4,332.40
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 1,114,931.94</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 1,114,931.94</b>

### WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 249,810.26
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 974.50
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 250,784.76</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 250,784.76</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 480,226.68
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,873.34
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 482,100.02</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 482,100.02</b>

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 234,530.77
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 234,530.77</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 234,530.77</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>	<i>\$ 1,065,564.23</i>
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

Local Gov't. Investment Pool	4.61%	F&M Union Bank-Checking/Savings	0.5% / 0.75%
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS	4.75% to 5.20%		



COLUMBUS UTILITIES  
CASH DISBURSEMENTS REPORT  
DECEMBER, 2024

DATE		CHECK NO.	NAME	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	14112255
19-Dec	24083	A.C. ENGINEERING		\$740.75	SUB 4 REPAIRS	
19-Dec	24084	ACE HARDWARE		\$348.16	SCH 40 SCRUBBER, MOUNTING TAPE, CEMENT PVC, CLAMPS, EXTN CORDS, SPOT LIGHTS, SHIPPING WATER SAMPLES	
19-Dec	24085	AMBUSH PEST CONTROL		\$95.00	SUBSTATION RODEN CONTROL #4	
19-Dec	24086	B&M TECHNICAL SERVICES		\$9,700.36	REMOVAL, REBUILDING AND RE-INSTALLATION OF PUMP	
19-Dec	24087	BLUME & SONS LLC		\$107.07	Refund over Paid Utilities	
19-Dec	24089	CITIES & VILLAGES MUTUAL IN		\$200.00	TRAINING CLASSES	
19-Dec	24090	CITY OF COLUMBUS		\$260,190.62	MONTHLY PILOT PAYMENT, SALARIES, FOREST LANDSCAPING REQUEST, REUKERT & MIELKE INV 153736, 154117, 154412, PHONE CHARGES, LRS, HP PRO NOTEBOOK	
19-Dec	24091	COLVIS LLC		\$10,000.00	WATER QUALITY TRADING	
19-Dec	24092	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING		\$9,899.00	PE-DI 12/01-12/31, DI REGENERATION CHARGE	
19-Dec	24093	CURTIS STIBB		\$166.10	SCHOOL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT	
19-Dec	24094	DALTON HILEY		\$65.60	LOCATING EXPENSES	
19-Dec	24095	DIGGERS HOTLINE, INC		\$609,995.25	HYDRANT REPLACEMENT & REPLACE VALVE BOX, MEISTER PARK & WATERLOO STREET LIFT STATION UPGRADES	
19-Dec	24096	FOREST LANDSCAPING & CON		\$2,146.25	SUB 4 TRANSFORMER DAMAGE, SUB #3 HIGH SIDE PROTECTION DEVICE, DISTRIBUTION PLANNING & REGULATORY APPROVAL	
19-Dec	24097	FORESTER ELECTRICAL ENGIN		\$762.87	FLUORESCENT BALLAST, 2-WAY BALL VALVE, CAP, COPPER TUBE, Y STRAIGHT	
19-Dec	24098	GRAINGER, INC		\$12,020.00	COLLECTION PROJECT	
19-Dec	24099	GREAT LAKES TV SEAL		\$2,010.00	AVEVA CUSTOMER FIRST SUPPORT RENEWAL DEC 2024-DEC 2025	
19-Dec	24100	GS SYSTEMS, INC		\$1,728.51	WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS	
19-Dec	24101	HAWKINS, INC		\$929.00	Cross Connections Control Pgm	
19-Dec	24102	HYDRO CORP INC		\$238.25	PHONE ANSWERING SERVICE	
19-Dec	24103	ICS Medical Answering Service, LLC		\$1,830.80	Utility Bill Printing & Mailing, WCO.1123.STMT.001	
19-Dec	24104	INFOSEND, INC		\$493.18	CLAM C-890 THERMAL HUB ICE SHELTER	
19-Dec	24105	JACOB HOLBERT		\$125.00	SAFETY BOOT REIMBURSEMENT	
19-Dec	24106	JAKE BONES		\$439.77	AIR FILTER SPF 80-100	
19-Dec	24107	JC CROSS CO		\$127.30	MILEAGE FOR TEST IN PLOVER	
19-Dec	24108	JEREMY ROLL		\$11.08	LAB SAMPLES SHIPPED TO HACH COMPANY	
19-Dec	24109	KRAFT INCORPORATED		\$32.68	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES	
19-Dec	24111	LEE MCKINLEY -TRASK		\$0.00	VOIDED	
19-Dec	24112	LEE MECHANICAL		\$3,027.00	VAC TRUCK	
19-Dec	24113	MACQUEEN		\$372.13	MASON APPRENTICESHIP	
19-Dec	24114	MASON MOSHER		\$114.97	CLOTHES REIMBURSEMENT	
19-Dec	24115	MERLE NOREN		\$260.20	PRESS BELT CLEANER	
19-Dec	24116	MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH		\$446.56	BOCAT RENTAL CHAINSAW PARTS, CHAIN SAW SHARPENING	
19-Dec	24117	MID-STATE EQUIPMENT, INC		\$4,466.50	DRUMS POLYMER SYSTEM RENTAL MONTHLY	
19-Dec	24118	MIDWEST CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT		\$3,458.74	BULK SALT	
19-Dec	24119	MIDWEST SALT		\$560.00	U-GUARD ADAPTER BOOT	
19-Dec	24120	MILLENNIUM		\$44.84	BOAT TRAILER GRS CART, WINDSHIELD WASH	
19-Dec	24121	NAPA		\$602.06	PEIPET, SEROLOGICAL STD TIP, HIGH RANGE COD VIALS, TYPE A-E GLASS FIBER FILTERS	
19-Dec	24122	NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIES		\$1,250.00	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION/CONCILING	
19-Dec	24123	OPEN POINT		\$142.71	CLOTHS, MATS, MOPS, TOILET TISSUE	
19-Dec	24124	PACKERLAND RENT-MAT, INC		\$31.28	REQUEST TO UPDATE STREET LIGHTING TERRIFF	
19-Dec	24125	PUBLIC SERVICE COMM OF WI		\$627.00	PHONE/VOICEMAIL ANNUAL MAINT	
19-Dec	24127	PYRAMID TELEPHONE & SECURITY		\$300.00	CONCRETE CURB ON RICHMOND ST FOR HYDRANT REPLACEMENTS	
19-Dec	24128	RENNHACK CONSTRUCTION		\$30,440.78	SEWER UTILITY SERVICE, WWTF WATER QUALITY TRADING, MEISTER LIFT STATION DESIGN, WWTF BIOSOLIDS DRYING STUDY, SANITARY SEWER RATE STUDY, GIS	
19-Dec	24129	RUEKERT & MIELKER, INC		\$16,560.00	11/13 14 LOADS TO LOWE FOR WASTEWATER	
19-Dec	24130	SABEL MECHANICAL		\$779.71	LAG SCREW, TRIPLEX SPLICERS	
19-Dec	24131	STUART IRBY CO		\$102.73	AERO FRESH COUNTRY ROADS (1 CASE)	
19-Dec	24132	SUPERIOR CHEMICAL, LLC		\$3,034.77	LOCATING EXPENSES	
19-Dec	24133	USIC LOCATING		\$266.50	NETWORK SECURITY/FIREWALL LIC/SUB	
19-Dec	24134	VC3, INC		\$1,035.00	LAB NUTRIENTS, B NAD NUTRIENTS A, BOD/COD/COD CERT, FLUORIDE TEST	
19-Dec	24135	WI STATE LABORATORY OF HY		\$20,000.00	2024 WATER QUALITY TRADING	
19-Dec	24136	WISCONSIN CONFERENCE OF		\$136.85	USEAGE CHARGES	
19-Dec	24137	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24138	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24139	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24140	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24141	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24142	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24143	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24144	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24145	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24146	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24147	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24148	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24149	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24150	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24151	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24152	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24153	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24154	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24155	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24156	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24157	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24158	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24159	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
19-Dec	24160	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS		\$1,012,489.03	NSF FEES	
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09-Dec	ACH -4016	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$1,833.11	STATE WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #25	
09-Dec	ACH -4017	WI DEFERRED COMP BOARD	\$1,700.63	PAYROLL DEFERRAL BILLING FOR PAYROLL #25	
17-Dec	ACH -4031	WE ENERGIES	\$165.36	TREATMENT PLANT	
20-Dec	ACH -4039	WE ENERGIES	\$48.93	NATURAL GAS SERVICE - WATER PLANT	
20-Dec	ACH -4035	WE ENERGIES	\$10.08	GENERATOR ON JAMES ST.	
20-Dec	ACH -4037	WE ENERGIES	\$9.24	WASTEWATER PUMP STATION	
20-Dec	ACH -4046	WE ENERGIES	\$10.98	WE ENERGIES	
20-Dec	ACH -4042	WE ENERGIES	\$422.49	NATURAL GAS SERVICE ADMIN BUILDING	
20-Dec	ACH -4038	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$9,384.67	VOIDED	
20-Dec	ACH -4043	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$9,384.67	PROMOTIONAL ITEMS, PUBLIC POWER WEEK PRIZES, LADDER, SHOP SUPPLIES, CALENDARS, WRENCHES, SHEVLING, EMAIL SUBS, RECHARGEABLE BATTERY	
19-Dec	ACH -4025	KWIK TRIP	\$54.00	FUEL	
19-Dec	ACH -4024	CINTAS	\$48.62	FIRST AID SUPPLIES	
30-Dec	ACH -4032	WPPI	\$46,973.31	POWER BILL 11/17/24 TO 11/30/24, NORTHSTAR DYNAMICS, ELE & WTR MDM CHARGES; AMI METERING PROJECT; LOAN PAYMENT	
29-Dec	ACH -4026	CITY OF COLUMBUS - LIFE	\$348.52	LIFE INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES DECEMBER	
29-Dec	ACH -4025	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH INS	\$17,588.75	DEAN CARE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR DECEMBER	
29-Dec	ACH -4027	CITY OF COLUMBUS - DENTAL INS	\$1,098.96	DENTAL INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR DECEMBER	
29-Dec	ACH -4028	CITY OF COLUMBUS - VISION INS	\$144.80	VISION INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR DECEMBER	
29-Dec	ACH -4029	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH SAVINGS	\$1,618.00	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT TRANSFER FOR DECEMBER	
29-Dec	ACH -4024	CITY OF COLUMBUS - RETIREMENT	\$14,478.58	RETIREMENT FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR DECEMBER	
27-Dec	ACH	CWL NET PAYROLL	\$35,188.21	NET PAYROLL FOR 2ND PAYROLL IN DECEMBER	
29-Dec	ACH -3628	IRS US TAX PAYMENT	\$13,184.54	FICAMEDIF WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #26	
27-Dec	ACH -4032	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$2,007.76	STATE WITHHOLDING PAYROLL #26	
27-Dec	ACH -4031	WI DEFERRED COMP BOARD	\$1,699.99	PAYROLL DEFERRAL BILLING FOR PAYROLL #26	
20-Dec	ACH -4023	Seera	\$1,849.98	FOCUS ON ENERGY PAYMENT	
		FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION BANK	\$226.20	ACH & Wire FEES	
			\$500,000.00	Bond Repayment	
			\$104,733.93	LGIP repayment for truck payoff	
		SUBTOTAL	\$1,264,898.96		
		TOTAL	\$2,277,397.99	APPROVED BY:	
			\$10,164.67	DATE:	



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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**Item Title:** Hourly Wage Corrections to 2025 Budget for Electrical Utility Staff

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

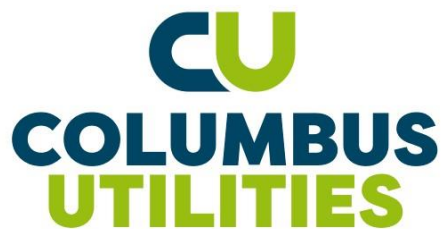
During the November 21, 2024 Commission Meeting it was noted that there was an error in regards to the current 2024 wages for all Electrical Utilities Employees. It was requested that the correct wages be placed in the budget for reference and that the 2025 wages be reflective of the corrected 2024 wages. The adjustments were made and the budget was also corrected.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Electrical Utility Hourly Wage Correction

**Action Requested of Council:**

Review and Approval of corrected wages



Shared strength through  WPPI Energy

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Columbus, WI 53925  
Email: [jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com](mailto:jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com)

People You Know ... Service You Trust, Since 1896

Phone (920)623-5912

FAX (920) 623-5923

[www.columbusutilitieswi.com](http://www.columbusutilitieswi.com)

### 2025 Electrical Utility Staff Hourly Wages:

Lead Lineman (Foreman) –	2024: \$53.55	2025: \$55.16
Lineman (Journeyman) –	2024: \$51.78	2025: \$53.33
Lineman (Apprentice) –	2024: \$41.42	2025: 1/1/25 \$42.66 6/1/25 \$45.33 12/1/25 \$48.00

Wage Increase represents a 3% increase in 2025 from 2024.

Lineman Apprentice will begin 2025 at 80% of Journeyman Rate, reach 85% in June, and 90% in December.



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

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**Item Title:** Resolution # 1-2025 Emergency Declaration for Water Plant #1 Repairs

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Water Plant #1 has had complete failure of the softening system leaving the plant out of service. At this time the community is running off of Plant #2 and will need to do so until repairs can be made for Plant #1. This resolution allows for immediate and swift response for the Utility and Engineers to align components and labor to make the repairs swiftly. The resolution also provides directives to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that we acknowledge the compromised position our communities water supply is now in, as well as providing precedent that immediate actions are needed to address the possible public safety concerns we have with our lack of available potable water.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Resolution #1-2025 Drafted by Paul A. Johnson Columbus City Attorney.

**Action Requested of Council:**

Request Immediate Approval of Proposed Resolution.

**RESOLUTION # 1-2025****RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

The City of Columbus Utility Commission does hereby resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, The City of Columbus Utility Commission (Commission) is responsible for maintaining the equipment and infrastructure in order to provide water services to the residents of the City of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, part of the equipment and infrastructure under the Control of the Commission is Water Plant #1; and

WHEREAS, Water Plant #1 recently experienced serious malfunctions to the valves which are necessary to keep Water Plant #1 working properly;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to immediately begin and complete the repairs of the valves and these repairs can only be completed by a very limited number of vendors and with very specialized replacement parts; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, sitting as the equivalent of the Board of Public Works as identified in the statute, believes it necessary to declare an emergency in order to immediately complete the repairs necessary to Water Plant #1 in order to get the Plant up and running in order to provide water service to the citizens of Columbus.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 62.15(1b), in order to protect the public health and welfare of the citizens of Columbus and to preserve its infrastructure, the Columbus Utility Commission declares an emergency which shall remain in effect until the necessary repairs are made to Water Plant #1 or this Resolution is cancelled by action of the Common Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Water Utility may undertake the necessary repairs and obtain the required parts to complete the parts without having to go through the formal bidding process as set forth in section 62.15, Stats.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City of Columbus Utility Commission does hereby authorize and direct the President of the Commission to execute this Resolution immediately.

This Resolution approved by the City of Columbus Utility Commission this \_\_\_\_ day of January 2025.

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Michael Thom

President, City of Columbus Utility Commission



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

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**Item Title:** Task Order 2024-CU03R Wastewater Treatment Facility BioSolids Upgrade Design Services - 2026 Project

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

### Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

Review and discussion of proposed BioSolids Upgrade to the Wastewater Treatment Facility in 2026. This Task Order replaces the Task Order which was created for Design Services of the BioSolids Dryer Project that was previously proposed for the Wastewater Utility. Design and planning was provided in the 2025 Capital Plan, payment will be allocated via Bonding.

This Proposal will replace the former Dryer project with an overall upgrade to the biosolids processing at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will replace all outdated and worn equipment with a more modern and Operator Friendly process that will increase reliability and quality control of our facility biosolids.

The Task Order is being Presented to you By Dave Arnott, PE – Ruekert- Mielke

### List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

1. Task Order 2024-CU03R Wastewater Treatment Facility Biosolids Upgrade Design Services

### Action Requested of Council:

Review and Discuss; Approve of Task Order

## TASK ORDER

Item #8.

This is Task Order No. 2024-CU03R,  
consisting of 7 pages  
Wastewater Treatment Facility Biosolids  
Dewatering and Handling System Upgrade  
Design Services

### Task Order

In accordance with Paragraph 1.1 of the Master Professional Service Agreement between Columbus Utilities (CU) and Ruekert & Mielke, Inc. (R/M) for Professional Services – Task Order Edition, dated March 20, 2019 ("Agreement"), CU and R/M agree as follows:

#### 1. Specific Project Data

A. This Task Order replaces Task Order 2024-CU03 with updates requested by Columbus Utilities.

Background - The purpose of this project is for the design and bidding of improvements to the Columbus Utilities Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) biosolids dewatering and handling system as recommended by the previous study approved by the WDNR. The WWTF presently uses a belt filter press located in the upper level of the Solids Building, to dewater the liquid biosolids stored in the existing aerobic digester/thickener from approximately 2.5% solids to a solids cake. The belt filter press achieves 14% solids in the biosolids cake it produces. It is recognized that the press is at the end of its service life.

The cake from the belt filter press is stored in the existing Biosolids Storage Building which was constructed in 1996. With biosolids cake of only 14% solids, approximately one week after placement in the building, the cake slumps down and becomes gelatinous in consistency. With this consistency, it cannot be stored more than 2.5 feet high. This greatly reduces the effective storage volume of the building. Presently, the facility struggles to meet the 180-day storage requirement in Wisconsin Administrative Code (WAC).

In 2023, Columbus Utilities (CU) completed a Biosolids Study recommending the addition of a volute press and dryer to upgrade its biosolids dewatering and management process. In addition, CU pilot tested the recommended equipment from the study during a three-week period in the summer of 2023. The equipment performed well, and it met expectations defined in the study. The City also coordinated with area farmers to share with them the plan for the new equipment and the biosolids product from the pilot exercise. The farmers reacted positively to receiving a dryer product from the City. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) approved the Biosolids Study in November of 2023.

In early 2024 CU determined that a dryer was no longer needed in the short term and that the dryer could be deferred to a future project if needed. CU conducted a pilot study introducing an enzyme in the biosolids digester/thickener upstream of the belt filter press dewatering process. The results of the study indicated that the solids content from the digester/thickener and from the belt press could be marginally improved with the enzyme and providing a decrease in the volume of solids.

Recently, CU analyzed the type of dewatering equipment recommended in the original study and pilot tested in 2023. Two other different types of biosolids dewatering equipment were considered. CU reviewed equipment proposals and attended presentations prepared by the equipment manufacturers representatives. At the end of the process, the original biosolids dewatering device – the volute press was confirmed as the desired dewatering equipment largely due to its the built-in redundancy and expandability.

In addition, CU is adding several components to the design.

CU would like to replace the existing biosolids transfer pumps from the aerobic digester/thickener. The pumps are at the end of their service life.

CU would like to add an external piping connection between the north and south tanks of the aerobic digester/thickener structure. A return pipe from the belt press back to the aerobic digester/thickener structure will also be provided. With these additions, biosolids can be continually recirculated through the structure when the new volute press is not in operation.



## TASK ORDER

Item #8.

A biosolids collection container will be purchased as part of the project. The collection container would be in the existing Solids Building to collect the biosolids in cake form as they are discharged from the dewatering operation. The container would then be transported to the Biosolids Storage Building for unloading. The container allows cake to be staked in an appropriate 8 ft. x 8 ft. x 8 ft. cubed arrangement. It allows water to drain through the walls and floor of the structure while the solids are retained.

CU has requested the project includes a used front-end loader. This will be used to help transport the cake and stack the cake in the biosolids storage building. Presently a truck is used. The truck is at the end of service life.

Several updates will be made to the Biosolids Storage Building. A new overhead and service door will be provided, ventilation will be improved, lighting will be improved, a heat lamp may be installed, and solar panels will be installed on the south portion of the roof to offset some energy use. These improvements will help with the cake biosolids drying. A new steel roof will be provided for the Biosolids Storage Building. The building is due for a new roof as the existing shingles are well over 20 years old. The steel roof will negate any future roof maintenance under the proposed solar panels.

A dry polymer/bentonite blend will be investigated for backup use at the volute press. The primary system will be the liquid polymer system that comes from the manufacturer. R/M will design the system with assistance from CU who has previous experience with this system. This system would supplement the standard wet polymer make-down equipment that would be provided with the volute press equipment.

B. This Task Order is for the design and public bidding services of the WWTF Biosolids Dewatering and Handling System Upgrade project. The recommended plan from the Biosolids Study will be implemented without the dryer and include some of the recent changes requested from CU. Our scope includes preparing detailed plans and specifications, obtaining regulatory approvals, administering public bidding services, and writing a Letter of Recommendation for the lowest responsive bidder. The plans and specifications will include the requirements for architectural, mechanical, structural, electrical, and control disciplines. The project also includes application to the WDNr Clean Water Fund program for a low-interest rate loan and potential principal forgiveness. Our detailed Scope of Services is included below.

### 2. Scope of Services for R/M

A. The Scope of Services are as follows:

- 1) Meet with the Utility in-person to confirm design requirements and project approach. Conduct detailed site inspection. Organize notes and photographs.
- 2) Survey the area in the vicinity of the new biosolids piping.
- 3) Conduct environmental screening.
- 4) Conduct preliminary design (30%) for equipment sizing. Use facilities modifications study as a reference.
- 5) Conduct preliminary design for electrical distribution system.
- 6) Conduct preliminary design for incorporation of controls, automation, and SCADA.
- 7) Organize drawing sheets.
- 8) Drafting Site Plan, Structural, Architectural, Mechanical, and Electrical sheets for preliminary design. Include demolition sheets.
- 9) Meet with Utility in-person to discuss predesign drawings.
- 10) Conduct intermediate and final design for site plan.
- 11) Conduct intermediate and final design for structural components of building modifications. Coordinate with subconsultant.
- 12) Conduct intermediate and final design for mechanical components.
- 13) Develop equipment identification system.
- 14) Conduct intermediate and final design for electrical distribution system.
- 15) Conduct intermediate and final design for incorporation of controls, automation, and SCADA.
- 16) Conduct intermediate and final design for plumbing.
- 17) Conduct intermediate and final drafting for site plan.

Page 2 of 5 Pages

(Attachment 1 - Task Order Form)

## TASK ORDER

Item #8.

- 18) Conduct intermediate and final drafting for structural components.
- 19) Conduct intermediate and final drafting for mechanical components.
- 20) Conduct intermediate and final drafting for electrical distribution system.
- 21) Conduct intermediate and final drafting of controls, automation, and SCADA.
- 22) Write technical specifications.
- 23) Submit Biosolids Storage Building solar panel design to Plan Commission. Coordinate to achieve approval. Design new steel roof.
- 24) Coordinate with subconsultant for structural review for solar panels.
- 25) Have review meetings with Utility at 60% and 90% completion.
- 26) Incorporate Utility comments at 60% and 90% completion.
- 27) Develop Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost.
- 28) Write WDNR submittal design report, complete WDNR forms, and submit project approval package to the WDNR. Coordinate with WDNR on change of approved plan to install a dryer.
- 29) Complete application for WDNR Clean Water Fund Program (CWF).
- 30) Answer questions and address comments from the WDNR. Achieve WDNR approval for project.
- 31) Write front end of project manual including contract, insurance, and bidding requirements. Project manual will be in format of Engineer's Joint Contract Documents Committee.
- 32) Conduct QA/QC.
- 33) Make final design changes.
- 34) Assemble drawings and specifications for public bidding. Upload to Quest.
- 35) Answer bidder questions.
- 36) Issue needed addenda.
- 37) Attend bid opening.
- 38) Review bids for accuracy.
- 39) Write Letter of Recommendation and Notice of Award.
- 40) Coordinate WDNR CWF Loan Closing and Financial Agreement.

### 3. Columbus Utilities Responsibilities

The CU shall have those responsibilities as set forth in Section II of the Agreement, subject to the following:

- A. Answer design question.
- B. Attend design review meetings.
- C. Provide design review comments.
- D. Attend Bid Opening.

### 4. Items Excluded

The following items are excluded from the Scope of Services:

- A. Anything not specifically identified in the Scope of Services above.
- B. Permit fees.
- C. CWFL Loan administration (to be completed in construction services scope).
- D. Additional meetings not listed in scope.
- E. Redesign or add of services.
- F. Change of conditions from information known at time of this Task Order.
- G. Contract execution with the low bidder (to be done in a subsequent phase).
- H. Construction services (to be done in a subsequent phase).

## TASK ORDER

Item #8.

### 5. Times for Rendering Services

Schedules are subject to change due to activities beyond the control of R/M. In general, the tentative schedule is as follows:

- A. Start design– December 20, 2024.
- B. Submit plans and specifications and the CWF package to the WDNR – August 30, 2025.
- C. Receive WDNR approval of project – November 30, 2025 (Estimated).
- D. Complete public bidding – December 31, 2025.

### 6. Payments to R/M

- A. The CU shall pay R/M for services rendered on a Lump Sum Basis as follows:

Category of Services	Estimate of Compensation for Services
Completion of Design and Bidding Services	\$229,319.00
TOTAL =	\$229,319.00

- B. The terms of payment are set forth in Section III and Exhibit A of the Agreement.
- C. Detailed breakdown of hours for the WWTF Biosolids Upgrade project is attached as Exhibit B.

### 7. Subconsultants

- A. R/M proposes to use a subconsultant for structural, plumbing, HVAC, and solar system design services.

**TASK ORDER**

Item #8.

TASK ORDER NO. 2024-CU03R  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
BIOSOLIDS DEWATERING AND HANDLING SYSTEM UPGRADE DESIGN SERVICES  
Between Columbus Utilities  
and  
Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.  
Dated December 2, 2024

Terms and Conditions: Execution of this Task Order by Columbus Utilities and R/M shall make it subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement (as modified above), which Agreement is incorporated by this reference. R/M is authorized to begin performance upon its receipt of a copy of this Task Order signed by Columbus Utilities.

The Effective Date of this Task Order is December 19, 2024.

OWNER:

Columbus Utilities

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ENGINEER:

Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.

Signature: Jason P. Lietha  
Digitally signed by Jason P. Lietha  
Date: 2024.12.02  
10:58:57 -06'00'

Name: Jason P. Lietha, P.E.

Title: Vice President

Date: December 2, 2024

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE FOR TASK ORDER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: David W. Arnott, P.E.

Title: Team Leader/Senior Project Manager

Address: W233 N2080 Ridgeview Parkway

Waukesha, WI 53188

Email: darnott@ruekert-mielke.com

Phone: 262-953-3080

PROFESSIONAL FEE ESTIMATE

DATE: 10/29/2024

PREPARED BY: DWA

Exhibit B

COST BREAKDOWN

SCOPE OF SERVICES	2024 Hourly Rate	\$227	\$206	\$206	\$171	\$160	\$149	\$133	\$97	TOTAL HRS	TOTAL LABOR COST
	Position	E7	E6	E6	EC 2/Envir	E3	ET3	Survey	AA		
	Initials	DWA	DJH/ADB	EAW/DCB	BAG	EJB	WCB				
Biosolids Upgrade Design and Bidding Services											
1	Meet with Utility in-person to confirm design requirements and project approach. Conduct detailed site inspection. Organize notes and photographs.	8	8	8		8				32	\$6,392
2	Survey the area in the vicinity of the new biosolids piping.					2		20		22	\$2,980
3	Conduct environmental screening.				8					8	\$1,368
4	Conduct preliminary design (30%) for equipment sizing. Use facilities modifications study as a reference.	2	4			4				10	\$1,918
5	Conduct preliminary design for electrical distribution system.		6	10						16	\$3,296
6	Conduct preliminary design for incorporation of controls, automation and SCADA.	4	5	25						34	\$7,088
7	Organize drawing sheets.	3	3	3			15			24	\$4,152
8	Drafting Site Plan, Structural, Architectural, Mechanical, and Electrical sheets for preliminary design. Include demolition sheets.	4	4	6			30			44	\$7,438
9	Meet with Utility in-person to discuss predesign drawings.	6								6	\$1,362
10	Conduct intermediate and final design for site plan.									0	\$0
11	Conduct intermediate and final design for structural components of building modifications. Coordinate with subconsultant.	2	4			8				14	\$2,558
12	Conduct intermediate and final design for mechanical components.	6	25			30				61	\$11,312
13	Develop equipment identification system		4			4				8	\$1,464
14	Conduct intermediate and final design for electrical distribution system.		3	25						28	\$5,768
15	Conduct intermediate and final design for incorporation of controls, automation, and SCADA.		4	30						34	\$7,004
16	Conduct intermediate and final design for plumbing.		2			4				6	\$1,052
17	Conduct intermediate and final drafting for site plan.		2			2	4			8	\$1,328
18	Conduct intermediate and final drafting for structural components.		2			3	12			17	\$2,680
19	Conduct intermediate and final drafting for mechanical components.	2	4			4	40			50	\$7,878
20	Conduct intermediate and final drafting for electrical distribution system.		2	6			28			36	\$5,820
21	Conduct intermediate and final drafting of controls, automation and SCADA.		2	4			16			22	\$3,620
22	Write technical specifications.	2	20	35		30			35	122	\$19,979
23	Submit Biosolids Building solar design to Utility Plan Commission. Coordinate to achieve approval.	1	2			8	3		3	17	\$2,657
24	Coordinate with subconsultant for structural review for solar panels. Design new steel roof.	1	2	6						9	\$1,875
25	Have review meetings with Utility at 60% and 90% completion. Meetings in-person for Waukesha staff and remote for Green Bay staff.	12	8	8						28	\$6,020
26	Incorporate Utility comments at 60% and 90% completion.	2	10	6		8	10		6	42	\$7,102
27	Develop Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost.	3	4	10		20				37	\$6,765
28	Write WDNR submittal design report, complete WDNR forms and submit project approval package to the WDNR. Coordinate with WDNR on change of approved plan to install a dryer.		6	3		10			2	21	\$3,648
29	Complete application for WDNR Clean Water Fund Program (CWF).	5			25	25				55	\$9,410
30	Answer questions and address comments from the WDNR. Achieve WDNR approval for project.	1	3	3		6	4		3	20	\$3,310

PROFESSIONAL FEE ESTIMATE  
DATE: 10/29/2024  
PREPARED BY: DWA

Exhibit B  
COST BREAKDOWN

SCOPE OF SERVICES	2024 Hourly Rate	\$227	\$206	\$206	\$171	\$160	\$149	\$133	\$97	TOTAL HRS	TOTAL LABOR COST
	Position	E7	E6	E6	EC 2/Envir	E3	ET3	Survey	AA		
	Initials	DWA	DJH/ADB	EAW/DCB	BAG	EJB	WCB				
Biosolids Upgrade Design and Bidding Services											
31	Write front end of project manual including contract, insurance, and bidding requirements. Project manual will be in format of Engineer's Joint Contract Documents Committee.	3	6			20			14	43	\$6,475
32	Conduct QA/QC.	13	7	4			8		4	36	\$6,797
33	Make final design changes.	2	4	4		4	8		4	26	\$4,322
34	Assemble drawings and specifications for public bidding. Upload to Quest.								4	4	\$388
35	Answer bidder questions.		3	3		6			3	15	\$2,487
36	Issue needed addenda.		8	6		6	6		4	30	\$5,126
37	Attend bid opening.	3								3	\$681
38	Review bids for accuracy.	1								1	\$227
39	Write Letter of Recommendation and Notice of Award.					2			1	3	\$417
40	Coordinate WDNR CWF Loan Closing and Financial Agreement.	4			10					14	\$2,618
41	Administration										\$27,000
	Sum	90	167	205	43	214	184	20	83	1006	\$203,782
	Reimbursables										
	Printing/Copying	\$1,800									
	Mileage	\$600									
	Subconsultant - Strass McGuire (Solar Installation).	\$2,512									
	Subconsultant - Axiom (Structural and HVAC)	\$11,000									
	Subconsultant - Arch Solar	\$9,625									
	Total Fee	\$229,319									



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

---

**Item Title:** Task Order – Ruekert-Mielke 2025 WQT Services

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

2025 is Columbus Wastewater Utilities year to renew its Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources WPDES Permit. This is our Operating Permit. As part of that permit our Phosphorus Trading Program has had some updated that were unexpected until our initial submission of our WPDES Permit for “Initial Review.” A meeting was scheduled with Dave Arnott, PE and Jordan Main of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and it was determined that our past practices are no longer permitted with the updated permit requirements.

Ruekert-Mielke requested that a Task Order be created to assist Columbus Wastewater Utility with the required work to maintain our WQT program as well as assist in finalizing the WPDES Permit.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Attached is the Meeting Minutes of the Discussion between Dave Arnott and Jordan Main.
2. Completed Task Order for Review and Approval

**Action Requested of Council:**

Review Provided Documents, Approve Payment for the proposed Task Order.

## Water Quality Trading Meeting With WDNR

January 7, 2025, Virtual Through Teams

### Dave Arnott Meeting Notes

#### Attendees:

Jordan Main, WDNR, Wastewater Compliance and City Contact

Betseyjo Howe, WDNR, Permit Drafter

Matt Claucherty, WDNR Trading and Adaptive Mgt. Specialist

Dave Arnott, R/M

- Peter Gallun was sick today and could not attend.

1. An updated Water Quality Trading (WQT) Plan is required. The Plan will be very similar to the original plan. It should be a new standalone plan. Need to add paragraph about the new for the program and the amount of credits used from the program based on past WWTF effluent quality (this will be all summarized in past Annual Reports). The tense of the program should be updated (e.g. practices *will be* installed to practices *are* currently installed). There was some inconsistency of naming of practices and projects in the 2023 Annual Report. That should be addressed.

2. Updated soil samples are needed for areas in the Water Quality Trading Plan that are still in production where nutrients are being applied. The new soil samples are used to rerun the SNAP PLUS modeling. We need soil samples from Stibb and Rhodes. For Stibb, we need them for the cover crop areas, not the buffer areas. Stibb is required per NR 151 and the Nutrient Mgt. Plan (NMP) to have soil samples every 4 years so he should have those already. For WI Academy, we need updated soil samples for the fields that are protected by the buffers. For Cowlis, we need updated soil samples for the fields that are protected by the buffers. Matt C. was not sure about if WI Academy and Cowlis have an active NMP. They may or may not have recent samples. Soil samples are not required for fields that are in conservation cover.

3. SNAP PLUS has to be rerun with the soil sample phosphorus information. For fields in conservation cover or are not actively farmed, updated SNAP PLUS sampling is not required. The WDNR has the SNAP PLUS files if we need them. Note R/M uses a subconsultant for SNAP PLUS modeling.

4. The updated soil samples and modeling was not in the WPDES permit. The WDNR shared a Word document with these requirements from guidance.

5. The Delivery Factor must be accounted for in the trade ratio for the updated WQT Plan. The original plan had a factor of 1. This is due based on updated WQT guidance from WDNR. The Delivery Factor must be calculated based on the SPARROW methodology. Betseyjo can help with this calculation.



6. The interim credits will not be going away after 5 years. They are now extended for 10 years. Matt said that we should check the date each practice was installed and add on 10 years to memorialize this milestone.

7. Jordan said that the WDNR is open to a time extension beyond 1/31/2025 for the updated WQT Plan. R/M to give this some thought and then propose a time. The WDNR wants the revised to include all needed elements and would not want this to go back and forth a lot with resubmittals.

This is Task Order No. 2025-01,  
consisting of 4 pages.  
Columbus Utilities  
*2025 Columbus Utilities Water Quality  
Trading Assistance*

## Task Order

In accordance with Paragraph 1.1 of the Master Professional Service Agreement between the Columbus Utilities (Utilities) and Ruekert & Mielke, Inc. (R/M) for Professional Services – Task Order Edition, dated March 19, 2019 ("Agreement"), City and R/M agree as follows:

### 1. Specific Project Data

The purpose of this project is to coordinate annual management practice maintenance for the three landowner agreements described in the Utility's Water Quality Trading (WQT) program in 2025. All three landowners have signed agreements on costs and implementation practices. All management practices specified in these agreements were implemented in 2020. The cover crops require annual coordination with Columbia County since they will be planted in different fields each year.

The three landowner agreements involve the Utility purchasing phosphorus credits through the WQT program developed with the assistance of Columbia County and approved by WDNR in 2020. The WQT is being implemented, along with minor changes at the WWTF, to comply with stricter effluent phosphorus requirements needed in 2021 as part of the new WWTF permit.

This task order includes ongoing coordination with Columbia County and the Utility regarding practice maintenance, reporting, and approval in 2025. This Task Order includes up to twenty-four (24) hours of meetings, email correspondence, and phone calls with Columbia County in 2025.

The three landowner projects are listed below:

- A. Project No. 1 is the coordination for the Utility to buy credits from the WI Conference Water Quality Trading Project.
- B. Project No. 2 is the coordination for the Utility to buy credits from the Rhodes Bake-N-Serv Water Quality Trading Project.
- C. Project No. 3 is the coordination for the Utility to buy credits from the Stibb Farms Water Quality Trading Project.

This Task Order will include up to sixteen (16) hours of time for the preparation and submittal of the 2024 Annual Water Quality Trading Report required by Section 5.2 of the Utility's WPDES Permit No. WI-0021008 (report is due in early 2025). This report will include the number of pollutant reduction credits used per month from the previous year, the source of the credits as detailed in the WQT plan, a summary of the annual inspections for management practices, and identification of any noncompliance with the permit. This Annual Report must also demonstrate the continued need for the program and summarize the compliance record of the Utility.

Additionally, this task order will include an update to the WQT Plan with submittal and approval by the WDNR. This is required since the Utility will be starting a new permit term in 2025. R/M will coordinate with Columbia County to obtain more recent soil samples for the fields that in in production and to run an updated SNAP PLUS model using the updated soil samples. The Utility has an agreement with Columbia County for these trading support services. The WQT Plan will have a new trade ratio with a new value for the Delivery Factor in accordance with new WDNR guidance that was finalized since the original WQT was approved in 2020.

### 2. Scope of Services for R/M

- A. Coordination with Columbia County and the Utility regarding practice maintenance and approval for management practices implemented in 2020, that do not require annual implementation. This will include up to three (3) total meetings, (one (1)

meeting for each project), as well as phone calls and email correspondence with the Utility, the County, and the landowners.

- B. Coordination with Columbia County and the Utility regarding implementation, management, and approval for those management practices which do require annual implementation (i.e., cover crops). This will include one (1) meeting, as well as phone calls and email correspondence with the Utility, the County, and the landowner.
- C. Preparation of the 2024 Annual Water Quality Trading Report (due in early 2025) and submittal to WDNR, including any necessary coordination with WDNR.
- D. Write an updated WQT Plan. Coordinate with Columbia County for updated soil samples on select fields and for the County to re-run the SNAP PLUS model. Determine a new trade ratio using a new Delivery Factor. Submit the plan to the WDNR and receive approval.

### 3. **Utility's Responsibilities**

The Utility shall have those responsibilities as set forth in Section II of the Agreement, subject to the following:

- A. Attend landowner meetings.
- B. Attend internal Utility meetings, participate in conference calls, and provide feedback on landowner agreements.
- C. Approve pay requests after inspection and confirmation of practices by County.

### 4. **Items Excluded**

The following items are excluded from the Scope of Services.

- A. WWTF WQT:
  - 1. Agreement revisions or amendments to landowner agreements.
  - 2. Obtaining new WQT projects.
  - 3. Landowner meetings not specifically listed above in the scope of services.
  - 4. Additional meetings, email correspondence, and phone calls with Columbia County beyond hours included in the scope of services.
  - 5. Site visits for official confirmation of WQT practices.
  - 6. Future work associated with WQT practice coordination or implementation after 2025.
  - 7. SNAP PLUS modeling needed for WQT Plan. To be done by Columbia County with separate fee arrangement between County and Utility.

### 5. **Times for Rendering Services**

Schedules are subject to change due to activities beyond the control of R/M. In general, the tentative schedule is as follows:

- A. Coordination of WQT Practice Maintenance, Implementation, and Approval — Spring through Winter, 2025.
- B. Update of WQT Plan with submittal and approval by WDNR – March 31, 2025.

6. **Payments to R/M**

A. Utility shall pay R/M for services rendered as follows:

<b>Category of Services</b>	<b>Compensation Method</b>	<b>Estimate of Compensation for Services</b>
Coordination with County for Practice Maintenance and Approval for 3 Landowners	Hourly	\$3,075
Prepare and Submit 2024 Annual Water Quality Trading Report	Hourly	\$2,012
Prepare and Submit Updated Water Quality Trading Plan as Required By WDNR	Hourly	\$3,244
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,331</b>

B. Detailed breakdown of Hours for the WWTF WQT Programs is attached as Exhibit B.

C. The terms of payment are set forth in Section III and Exhibit A of the Agreement.

TASK ORDER

Item #9.

TASK ORDER NO. 2025-01  
2025 COLUMBUS UTILITIES WATER QUALITY TRADING ASSISTANCE  
Between Columbus Utilities  
and  
Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.  
Dated January 17, 2025

Terms and Conditions: Execution of this Task Order by Utility and R/M shall make it subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement (as modified above), which Agreement is incorporated by this reference. R/M is authorized to begin performance upon its receipt of a copy of this Task Order signed by Utility.

The Effective Date of this Task Order is January 23, 2025.

OWNER:

Columbus Utilities

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ENGINEER:

Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.

Jason P.  
Lietha

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Jason P. Lietha, P.E.

Title: Senior Vice President

Date: January 17, 2025

Digitally signed by Jason  
P. Lietha  
Date: 2025.01.17  
12:34:26 -06'00'

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE FOR TASK ORDER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Jason P. Lietha, P.E.

Title: Senior Vice President

Address: 4630 S. Biltmore Lane

Madison, WI 53718

Email: [jlietha@ruekert-mielke.com](mailto:jlietha@ruekert-mielke.com)

Phone: 608-819-2600



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

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**Item Title:** Columbus Wastewater Utilities 2025 Rate Case Study

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Detailed Breakdown of the Wastewater Utility Rate Case that was prepared by Bridgot Gysbers of Ruekert-Mielke. Ms. Gysbers is present to provide a presentation on the Rate Case as well as answer any questions the Commission may have on the results of the Rate Case. The Study provided two Alternatives which were previously provided to Commissioners for review. The Presentation will provide insights into the multiple alternatives that were worked through in regards to the Wastewater Capital Plan to reduce the required increases while trying to prioritize the necessities based on highest risk in the Utility.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. R-M Rate Case Study Document
2. Alternative #1 (Previously Provided)
3. Alternative #2 (Previously Provided)
4. Alternative #3 (Provided Separately)
5. Alternative #4 (Provided Separately)
6. R-M Rate Case Presentation (Provided Separately)

**Action Requested of Council:**

Review and Discussion with Ms. Gysbers of R-M on the rate case. Provide approval to move forward with proposed rate case adjustments effective February 24, 2025.

# Sewer Rate Study



## 2025 Columbus Sanitary Sewer Rate Study *January 2025*

**PREPARED FOR:**  
**City of Columbus**  
105 N. Dickason Boulevard  
Columbus, WI 53925

**PREPARED BY:**  
**Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.**  
4630 S. Biltmore Lane  
Madison, WI 53718

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## SEWER RATE STUDY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

**Background** – The City of Columbus Sewer Utility (Utility) furnishes sanitary sewer service to over 2,300 customers, along with service to the Village of Fall River, Elba Sanitary District 1, and waste haulers. The Utility is responsible for the capital cost and the operation and maintenance cost and activities involving the sanitary sewer collection system, lift stations and wastewater treatment plant.

**Purpose** – The purpose of this study is to review and either confirm or recommend changes to the Utility's sewer rates. The City of Columbus sewer utility has seen increased operation and maintenance expenses since its last sewer update in 2018. Beyond the operation and maintenance cost increases, the utility also has numerous capital projects planned over the upcoming years. To provide funding for the necessary expenditures, a rate increase is needed to achieve a sustainable financial position. This report and the accompanying schedules describe the Utility's 2025 revenue requirement and proposed sewer rates. Overall revenue for 2025 from sewer rates needs to increase by \$900,000 or 56 percent of revenue at present rates.

#### KEY FINDINGS

**Revenue Requirements and Projected Rates:** This study proposes fixed and volume rate changes for 2025 based on revenue and cash-flow needs projected in the 2024 City budget process. The sewer cost of service study is newly designed to provide a simple model that can easily be updated. It maintains historical rate practices.

**Revenues vs Debt Service:** Current sewer revenues are insufficient to meet the rising debt service obligations. Due to recent projects, debt service costs have increased to \$628,129 for 2024, with a projected additional increase of over \$150,000 in 2025 resulting from upcoming capital improvement projects. Similar increases in debt service are anticipated annually as more capital improvement projects are taken on. Additionally, combined residential and commercial revenue for 2024 is nearly 13% lower than in 2023, further underscoring the need for a review of the revenue structure.

**Alternative Solutions:** Four alternative solutions have been developed for the City to address the rate case, each presenting a unique approach to achieving the necessary revenue increases. While all alternatives require rate adjustments, they differ in how the increases are distributed among customer groups and the extent to which the capital improvement plan influences the adjustments. Notably, the proposed increases are designed to ensure a uniform impact on all customers. A detailed comparison of individual customer impacts for each alternative is available later in the study, as outlined in Table 5.

#### RATE STUDY METHODOLOGY ALTERNATIVE 1

The City of Columbus has seen increased debt since its last rate update in 2018, and its budget projects a significant cash flow shortfall, resulting in a forecast negative cash balance for the sanitary sewer utility fund by the end of 2024. This study proposes a rate increase in 2025 to help it to achieve a sustainable financial position. Our rate model approach consists of six primary components along with the 2024 budget and budget summary. Each component is structured to ensure a balanced rate study. The key elements of the model are outlined below:

## Revenue Requirements

The starting point of our model is a balance sheet summarizing the City's 2024 budgeted financials. Table 1 offers context and data for other parts of the model, including projected revenue and expenditures for the current year. It is a foundation for determining the necessity of a rate study, which is to provide for cash flows that enable your utility to pay for current operational and maintenance expenses along with principal and interest payments for capital projects. Table 1 below shows the budgeted income and cash flow for 2024. The utility is forecast to lose almost \$615,129 in cash this year in 2024. With no increase the city cash reserve would be depleted by 2026 without including planned debt service from future capital improvement projects.

Table 1

### Revenue Requirement

Income		Cash	
<b>Revenue</b>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2024	\$ 1,891,525
2024 Budgeted Revenue	\$ 1,628,106		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	Operating Income (Loss)	(487,011)
		Depreciation	406,843
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenses</b>		Interest Income	93,000
		Debt Service	(628,129)
Operation	1,708,274	<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>(615,297)</b>
Depreciation	406,843		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,115,117</b>	Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>		
<b>Other Revenue (Expenses)</b>		Projected Income (Loss)	\$ 2,174,000
Interest Income	93,000	Projected Cash Flow	\$ (615,297)
Other Revenues	3,196,940	Projected Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
Debt Principal	(430,727)		
Debt Interest	(197,402)		
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(800)		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,661,011</b>	Cash Flow as % of Annual O&M	-29%
<b>Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>	Cash Balance as % of Annual O&M	60%

## Fixed & Volume Cost for 2024

Table 2 presents the City's estimated fixed charges for 2024. The fixed charges were set at the current debt service and the remainder of costs were variable (volume) charges.

Table 2

### Fixed and Variable Costs

<b>Adjustment (Fixed Portion Moved to Variable) =</b>		<b>0%</b>	
<b>Fixed</b>	<b>Unadjusted</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjusted</b>
Debt Service	628,129	-	628,129
<b>Subtotal Fixed</b>	<b>628,129</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>628,129</b>
<b>Variable</b>	<b>999,977</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>999,977</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>		<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>

### Fixed Meter Charges for 2025

Table 3 adjusts the monthly fixed meter charges until the total annual fixed revenue for 2023 aligns with the 2025 projected debt service. The projected debt service considers existing and projected debt from capital improvement projects. Our calculations indicate an increase of 56% in proposed rates per meter size to meet the City's anticipated fixed costs. The total annual revenue from proposed meter charges of \$767,168 aligns closely with the 2025 projected debt service of \$782,611.

**Table 3**

#### **Fixed Charges**

##### **Monthly Fixed Charges**

Meter Size	Proposed	Current	Percent Change
5/8" \$	<b>26.68</b> \$	17.10	56.0%
3/4" \$	<b>26.68</b> \$	17.10	56.0%
1" \$	<b>35.88</b> \$	23.00	56.0%
1 1/2" \$	<b>51.48</b> \$	33.00	56.0%
2" \$	<b>68.64</b> \$	44.00	56.0%
3" \$	<b>110.76</b> \$	71.00	56.0%
4" \$	<b>171.60</b> \$	110.00	56.0%

##### **Revenue from Proposed Meter Charges**

Meter Size	Meter Count	Monthly	Annual
5/8"	10	\$ 267	\$ 3,201
3/4"	2,162	\$ 57,674	\$ 692,082
1"	59	\$ 2,117	\$ 25,403
1 1/2"	25	\$ 1,287	\$ 15,444
2"	18	\$ 1,236	\$ 14,826
3"	6	\$ 665	\$ 7,975
4"	4	\$ 686	\$ 8,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>\$ 63,931</b>	<b>\$ 767,168</b>

## Volume Charges for 2025

### 4.1 Fall River Volume Charge:

For Table 4.1 we took the 2024 Fall River budgeted revenue and increased it by 40%, which is \$196,000. We took this and divided it by the volume provided to us to get Fall Rivers proposed rate.

**Table 4.1**

Fall River Volume Charges		
Fall River Budgeted Valume Revenue 2024	\$	140,000.00
Fall River Budgeted Valume Revenue 2025	\$	196,000.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		8960771.11
Rate per 100 Cubic Feet		
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2.19</b>
Current	\$	1.49
Change	\$	0.70
Change		46.8%

### 4.2 Elba Volume Charge

Similarly, to Fall River in Table 4.2 we took the 2024 Elba budgeted revenue and increased it by 40%, which is \$18,662. We took this and divided it by the volume provided to us to get Elba's proposed rate.

**Table 4.2**

Elba Volume Charges		
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$	13,330.00
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$	18,662.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		661680.85
Rate per 100 Cubic Feet		
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2.82</b>
Current	\$	1.70
Change	\$	1.12
Change		65.9%

#### 4.3 Waste Haulers Volume Charge

Table 4.3 calculates the total projected revenue for waste haulers. Assumptions that were made beyond what was discussed with the Utility are outlined below for clarity.

- Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck.
- Assumption that the TSS test will not be done for low strength holding tank waste.
- Assumption that 5% of septage waste trucks will receive the TSS test.
- Assumption that 10% of trucks will receive Ortho P, TKN, or TSS multiplier.

At proposed rates, a total revenue from waste haulers of roughly 200,000 is projected for 2025. This is about a 100 percent increase from the 2024 budget of 100,000 for waste haulers. There is no real data from the Utility to back up the assumptions made above. With that being said, until real data can be recorded, the below revenues are mere estimates and are subjected to volatility.

Table 4.3

##### Waste Haulers Volume Charges

Holding Tank Waste	2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	3005192
Assumption on Number of Trucks	667
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$25.00
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$141,829.80
<b>Septage Waste</b>	<b>2025</b>
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	600000
Assumption on Number of Trucks	133
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
High Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$50.00
Industrial Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$100.00
Assumption on Total Extra Charges For Industrial (Ortho P, TKN, and TSS Multipliers)	\$900.00
Assumption on Percentage of Septage High Strength	50.00%
Assumption on Percentage of Septage Industrial	50.00%
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$59,299.75
<b>Total Revenue from Waste Haulers</b>	<b>\$201,129.55</b>

#### 4.4 Columbus Volume Charge

With fixed charges, Fall River, Elba, and waste hauler volume charges addressed, Table 4.4 focuses on determining volume-based charges related to variable costs for Columbus in 2025. Using the total 2025 revenue requirement from the five-year forecast, we subtract the projected revenue from fixed charges, Fall River volume charge, Elba volume charge, waste haulers volume charge, and the 2024 budgeted yearly sewer fees and connection fees. The estimated volume is based on 2022 data from sewer users and flows provided to us, 2022 was chosen as a conservative estimate for 2025 as it was the lowest annual flow from last three years. This results in a proposed rate are per 100 cubic feet as shown.

Remaining Vairable Cost	
Total 2025 Rev Requirement	\$2,539,845
<b>Deductions</b>	
Fixed Revenue From Meter Charges	\$767,168
Fall River Volume Charge	\$196,000
Elba Volume Charge	\$18,662
Waste Haulers Total Volume Charge	\$201,130
Sewer Fees From Budget	\$66,000
Sewer Connection Fees From Budget	\$5,000
Total Remaining	\$1,285,885

**Table 4.4**

Columbus Volume Charges		
Remaining Variable Cost	\$	1,285,885
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)*		14,700,303
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>		
Proposed	\$	8.75
Current	\$	6.34
Change	\$	2.41
Change		38.0%

## Customer Analysis

This analysis below in Table 5 presents sample bills to illustrate typical charges for customers. Currently, the demand increments are based on estimated average values, not specific to Columbus. To produce customer-specific examples, additional data would be necessary to evaluate on a per customer basis.

**Table 5**

**Customer Bill Analysis**

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
Residential Rates						
No Consumption	3/4"	-	\$ 17.10	\$ 26.68	\$ 9.58	56%
Small Residential	3/4"	2	\$ 29.81	\$ 44.22	\$ 14.41	48%
Average Residential	3/4"	4	\$ 42.53	\$ 61.77	\$ 19.24	45%
Large Residential	3/4"	7	\$ 59.48	\$ 85.16	\$ 25.68	43%
Large Residential	3/4"	11	\$ 84.90	\$ 120.25	\$ 35.35	42%
Large Residential	3/4"	13	\$ 101.85	\$ 143.65	\$ 41.79	41%
No Consumption	1"	-	\$ 23.00	\$ 35.88	\$ 12.88	56%
Small Residential	1"	2	\$ 35.71	\$ 53.43	\$ 17.71	50%
Average Residential	1"	4	\$ 48.43	\$ 70.97	\$ 22.55	47%
Large Residential	1"	7	\$ 65.38	\$ 94.37	\$ 28.99	44%
Large Residential	1"	11	\$ 90.80	\$ 129.46	\$ 38.65	43%
Large Residential	1"	13	\$ 107.75	\$ 152.85	\$ 45.10	42%

Table 5 (continued)

Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Non-Residential Rates</b>						
Multi-family	2"	53	\$ 383.02	\$ 536.52	\$ 153.51	40%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 595.01	\$ 169.62	40%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 595.01	\$ 169.62	40%
Commercial	1 1/2"	17	\$ 138.94	\$ 197.69	\$ 58.75	42%
Commercial	1 1/2"	23	\$ 181.32	\$ 256.18	\$ 74.86	41%
Commercial	2"	33	\$ 255.88	\$ 361.07	\$ 105.18	41%
Commercial	3"	40	\$ 325.26	\$ 461.67	\$ 136.41	42%
Public Authority	2"	67	\$ 467.77	\$ 653.49	\$ 185.73	40%
Public Authority	3"	67	\$ 494.77	\$ 695.61	\$ 200.85	41%

### Five-Year Forecast

The five-year forecast in Table 6 projects the rate adjustments required annually to maintain a near-zero to slightly positive cash flow. The rest of the model is built around these increases. Part of this increases stems from capital improvement projects, which elevate fixed costs due to associated debt, thus increasing the required fixed income. The rest of the required income will be made up of the variable volume charges. We also assumed a year-after-year increase of 7% for operation expenses and 3% for depreciation. The overall revenue increase is shown in red, and the updated capital improvement plan is in yellow.



Table 6 -- Increases Every Second Year

	5 Year Forecast				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Required Revenue Increase*</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 2,539,845	\$ 2,844,626	\$ 3,498,890	\$ 3,778,801
Operation	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1,708,274	1,827,853	1,955,803	2,092,709	2,239,198
Other O&M	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Subtotal Expenses	2,115,117	2,246,901	2,387,422	2,537,277	2,697,104
Operating Income (Loss)	(487,011)	292,943	457,204	961,613	1,081,697
Cash Adjustments					
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Interest Income	93,000	77,891	78,065	78,190	78,126
Debt Service	(628,129)	(782,611)	(961,688)	(1,487,024)	(1,599,757)
Transfer to Equipment Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Cash Flow	\$ (615,297)	\$ 7,272	\$ 5,201	\$ (2,653)	\$ 17,972
End-of-year Cash Balance	\$ 1,276,228	\$ 1,283,500	\$ 1,288,701	\$ 1,286,048	\$ 1,304,020
Cash Reserve as % O&M	60%	57%	54%	51%	48%

\* Required Revenue Increase from Fall River, Elba, Waste Haulers, Columbus Volume Charges and Columbus

Debt Service	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Existing	\$ (628,129)	(622,644)	(626,778)	(546,528)	(511,500)
Forecast	\$ -	\$ (159,967)	\$ (334,910)	\$ (940,496)	\$ (1,088,257)
Total	\$ (628,129)	\$ (782,611)	\$ (961,688)	\$ (1,487,024)	\$ (1,599,757)
Capital Improvement Plan	2,174,000	2,377,536	8,230,116	2,008,116	4,468,116

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) provides guidance for utilities for cash balances. Although the AWWA does not offer a one-size-fits-all cash-reserve number for all utilities, it does list a full year's worth of operating expenses as a suitable general target.

Ruekert & Mielke (R/M) recommends a target cash balance for the City of 50 percent or more of its annual operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses. Because the City does maintain its own wastewater treatment facility, it does need a large cash balance compared to other utilities. The cash balance can be used as the sanitary sewer utility fund for other needs, such as emergency main replacements, unexpected shortfalls in revenue, and any other unforeseen issues. The proposed increases would enable the Utility to achieve this recommended target cash balance.

Expenses and/or revenues may differ significantly from the forecast. The Utility should revisit this forecast each year and adjust its planning as needed.

## RATE STUDY METHODOLOGY ALTERNATIVE 2

Alternative 2 was created for the City to evaluate the impact if the Village of Fall River and the Town of Elba were assigned a comparable volume charge rate to Columbus. For this alternative study, only Schedule 4 (Volume Charges for 2025) and Schedule 5 (Customer Analysis) were modified, as shown below. All other schedules remain unchanged.

To develop this alternative, we calculated the additional revenue Fall River and Elba would need to generate if Columbus maintained its current rate of \$6.34 per 100 cubic feet. This analysis resulted in proposed volume charge rates of \$5.90 per 100 cubic feet for both Fall River and Elba. Additional details on these proposed rates are provided in the schedules below.

### Volume Charges for 2025

#### 4.1 Fall River Volume Charge:

For Table 4.1, the budgeted revenue for Fall River is disregarded. Instead, the projected revenue is calculated based on Fall River's provided volume and our determined rate of \$5.90 per 100 cubic feet. This calculation results in a total projected revenue of \$528,686 for Fall River, reflecting a 195% increase compared to the current rate being charged.

**Table 4.1**

Fall River Volume Charges		
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$	140,000.00
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$	196,000.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		8960771.11
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>		
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5.90</b>
Current	\$	1.49
Change	\$	4.41
Change		296.0%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates		\$528,685.50

#### 4.2 Elba Volume Charge

Similarly, to Fall River in Table 4.2, the budgeted revenue for Elba is disregarded. Instead, the projected revenue is calculated based on Elba's provided volume and our determined rate of \$5.90 per 100 cubic feet. This calculation results in a total projected revenue of \$39,039 for Elba, reflecting a 144% increase compared to the assumed current rate being charged. Based off data provided, it is unclear what volume rate is currently being charged to Elba, \$2.42 per 100 cubic feet is the rate proposed in the 2022 rate study.

**Table 4.2**

<b>Elba Volume Charges</b>		
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$	13,330.00
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$	18,662.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		661680.85
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>		
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5.90</b>
Current	\$	1.70
Change	\$	4.20
Change		247.1%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates		\$39,039.17

#### 4.3 Waste Haulers Volume Charge

This table remains the same as Alternative 1.

Table 4.3 calculates the total projected revenue for waste haulers. Assumptions that were made beyond what was discussed with the City are outlined below for clarity.

- Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck.
- Assumption that the TSS test will not be done for low strength holding tank waste.
- Assumption that 5% of septage waste trucks will receive the TSS test.
- Assumption that 10% of trucks will receive Ortho P, TKN, or TSS multiplier.

At proposed rates, a total revenue from waste haulers of roughly 200,000 is projected for 2025. This is about a 100 percent increase from the 2024 budget of 100,000 for waste haulers. There is no real data from the City to back up the assumptions made above. With that being said, until real data can be recorded, the below revenues are mere estimates and are subjected to volatility.

Table 4.3

Waste Haulers Volume Charges

Holding Tank Waste	2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	3005192
Assumption on Number of Trucks	667
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$25.00
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$141,829.80
<b>Septage Waste</b>	<b>2025</b>
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	600000
Assumption on Number of Trucks	133
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
High Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$50.00
Industrial Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$100.00
Assumption on Total Extra Charges For Industrial (Ortho P, TKN, and TSS Multipliers)	\$900.00
Assumption on Percentage of Septage High Strength	50.00%
Assumption on Percentage of Septage Industrial	50.00%
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$59,299.75
<b>Total Revenue from Waste Haulers</b>	<b>\$201,129.55</b>

#### 4.4 Columbus Volume Charge

With fixed charges, Fall River, Elba, and waste hauler volume charges addressed, Table 4.4 focuses on determining volume-based charges related to variable costs for Columbus in 2025. Using the total 2025 revenue requirement from the five-year forecast, we subtract the projected revenue from fixed charges, Fall River volume charge, Elba volume charge, waste haulers volume charge, and the 2024 budgeted yearly sewer fees and connection fees. The estimated volume is based on 2022 data from sewer users and flows provided to us, 2022 was chosen as a conservative estimate for 2025 as it was the lowest annual flow from last three years. This results

in a proposed rate are per 100 cubic feet as shown. As shown on the next page, by raising Fall River and Elba rates to \$5.90 per 100 cubic feet, Columbus proposed rate for this alternate solution remains close to their current rate. Meaning no volume-based rate increase for Columbus residents would be necessary.

<b>Remaining Vairable Cost</b>	
Total 2025 Rev Requirement	\$2,539,845
<b>Deductions</b>	
Fixed Revenue From Meter Charges	\$767,168
Fall River Volume Charge	\$528,685
Elba Volume Charge	\$39,039
Waste Haulers Total Volume Charge	\$201,130
Sewer Fees From Budget	\$66,000
Sewer Connection Fees From Budget	\$5,000
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>\$932,822</b>

**Table 4.4**

<b>Columbus Volume Charges</b>	
Remaining Variable Cost	\$ 932,822
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)*	14,700,303
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$ 6.35</b>
Current	\$ 6.34
Change	\$ 0.01
Change	0.2%

#### Customer Analysis

The analysis in Table 5 presents sample bills to illustrate typical charges for customers with Alternative 2 rate structure. Currently, the demand increments are based on estimated average values, not specific to Columbus. To produce customer-specific examples, additional data would be necessary to evaluate on a per customer basis.

Table 5

Customer Bill Analysis

Customer Type	Meter Size	Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)	Bill with Current Rates	Bill with Proposed Rates	Increase
<b>Residential Rates</b>					
No Consumption	3/4"	-	\$ 17.10	\$ 26.68	\$ 9.58 56%
Small Residential	3/4"	2	\$ 29.81	\$ 39.41	\$ 9.60 32%
Average Residential	3/4"	4	\$ 42.53	\$ 52.14	\$ 9.62 23%
Large Residential	3/4"	7	\$ 59.48	\$ 69.12	\$ 9.64 16%
Large Residential	3/4"	11	\$ 84.90	\$ 94.59	\$ 9.68 11%
Large Residential	3/4"	13	\$ 101.85	\$ 111.56	\$ 9.71 10%
No Consumption	1"	-	\$ 23.00	\$ 35.88	\$ 12.88 56%
Small Residential	1"	2	\$ 35.71	\$ 48.61	\$ 12.90 36%
Average Residential	1"	4	\$ 48.43	\$ 61.35	\$ 12.92 27%
Large Residential	1"	7	\$ 65.38	\$ 78.32	\$ 12.95 20%
Large Residential	1"	11	\$ 90.80	\$ 103.79	\$ 12.99 14%
Large Residential	1"	13	\$ 107.75	\$ 120.77	\$ 13.01 12%

Table 5 (continued)

Customer Bill Analysis

Customer Type	Meter Size	Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)	Bill with Current Rates	Bill with Proposed Rates	Increase
<b>Non-Residential Rates</b>					
Multi-family	2"	53	\$ 383.02	\$ 408.19	\$ 25.17 7%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 450.63	\$ 25.24 6%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 450.63	\$ 25.24 6%
Commercial	1 1/2"	17	\$ 138.94	\$ 157.59	\$ 18.65 13%
Commercial	1 1/2"	23	\$ 181.32	\$ 200.03	\$ 18.71 10%
Commercial	2"	33	\$ 255.88	\$ 280.86	\$ 24.97 10%
Commercial	3"	40	\$ 325.26	\$ 365.42	\$ 40.16 12%
Public Authority	2"	67	\$ 467.77	\$ 493.08	\$ 25.31 5%
Public Authority	3"	67	\$ 494.77	\$ 535.20	\$ 40.43 8%

Expenses and/or revenues may differ significantly from the forecast. The Village should revisit this forecast each year and adjust its planning as needed.

### RATE STUDY METHODOLOGY ALTERNATIVE 3

Alternative 3 was developed to assess the impact of adopting a different capital improvement plan over the next five years. This update does not affect the 2025 rate increase, as the increase is allocated to cover existing debt incurred by 2024 or earlier. However, changes to the capital improvement plan influence projections beyond 2025, as shown in the five-year forecast table below.

## Five-Year Forecast

The five-year forecast in Table 6 projects the rate adjustments required annually to maintain a near-zero to slightly positive cash flow. The rest of the model is built around these increases. Part of this increases stems from capital improvement projects, which elevate fixed costs due to associated debt, thus increasing the required fixed income. The rest of the required income will be made up of the variable volume charges. We also assumed a year-after-year increase of 7% for operation expenses and 3% for depreciation. The overall revenue increase is shown in red and the updated capital improvement plan is in yellow.

Table 6 -- Increases Every Second Year

	5 Year Forecast				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Required Revenue Increase*</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 2,539,845	\$ 2,997,017	\$ 3,416,599	\$ 3,689,927
Operation	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1,708,274	1,827,853	1,955,803	2,092,709	2,239,198
Other O&M	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Subtotal Expenses	2,115,117	2,246,901	2,387,422	2,537,277	2,697,104
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>292,943</b>	<b>609,594</b>	<b>879,322</b>	<b>992,823</b>
<b>Cash Adjustments</b>					
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Interest Income	93,000	77,891	78,065	78,383	78,552
Debt Service	(628,129)	(782,611)	(1,106,055)	(1,395,216)	(1,513,783)
Transfer to Equipment Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$ (615,297)</b>	<b>\$ 7,272</b>	<b>\$ 13,224</b>	<b>\$ 7,057</b>	<b>\$ 15,498</b>
<b>End-of-year Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>	<b>\$ 1,283,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,296,724</b>	<b>\$ 1,303,782</b>	<b>\$ 1,319,279</b>
<b>Cash Reserve as % O&amp;M</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>

\* Required Revenue Increase from Fall River, Elba, Waste Haulers, Columbus Volume Charges and Columbus Fixed Charge.

<b>Debt Service</b>	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Existing	\$ (628,129)	(622,644)	(626,778)	(546,528)	(511,500)
Forecast	\$ -	\$ (159,967)	\$ (479,277)	\$ (848,687)	\$ (1,002,282)
Total	\$ (628,129)	\$ (782,611)	\$ (1,106,055)	\$ (1,395,216)	\$ (1,513,783)
<b>Capital Improvement Plan</b>	<b>2,174,000</b>	<b>4,339,536</b>	<b>5,020,404</b>	<b>2,087,404</b>	<b>4,510,500</b>

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) provides guidance for utilities for cash balances. Although the AWWA does not offer a one-size-fits-all cash-reserve number for all utilities, it does list a full year's worth of operating expenses as a suitable general target.

Ruekert & Mielke (R/M) recommends a target cash balance for the City of 50 percent or more of its annual operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses. Because the City does maintain its own wastewater treatment facility, it does need a large cash balance compared to other utilities. The cash balance can be used as the sanitary sewer utility fund for other needs, such as emergency main

replacements, unexpected shortfalls in revenue, and any other unforeseen issues. The proposed increases would enable the Utility to achieve this recommended target cash balance.

Expenses and/or revenues may differ significantly from the forecast. The Utility should revisit this forecast each year and adjust its planning as needed.

#### RATE STUDY METHODOLOGY ALTERNATIVE 4

Alternative 4 was developed to help the city assess the potential impact of reducing capital improvement projects to \$1 million per year and lowering the cash reserve as a percentage of operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses to 20%. The 5-year forecast table below illustrates the projected total required revenue increases year-over-year if these changes were implemented. It is important to note that R/M is not aware of the city's specific requirements for maintaining cash reserves as a percentage of O&M. Additional input from city staff may be necessary to confirm if the proposed reserve level aligns with city policies or financial guidelines.

#### Five-Year Forecast

If the City wishes to further explore Alternative 4, we would develop a detailed model based on these assumptions. For the 5-year forecast presented in the table below, we assumed annual increases of 7% for operating expenses and 3% for depreciation. The overall revenue increases are highlighted in red, while the updated capital improvement plan is marked in yellow.

**Table 6 – Increases Every Second Year**

		5 Year Forecast				
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Required Revenue Increase*</b>		<b>0%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>15%</b>
Revenue	\$	1,628,106	\$ 2,035,132	\$ 2,442,158	\$ 2,930,590	\$ 3,370,178
Operation		-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation		1,708,274	1,827,853	1,955,803	2,092,709	2,239,198
Other O&M		406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Subtotal Expenses		2,115,117	2,246,901	2,387,422	2,537,277	2,697,104
Operating Income (Loss)		(487,011)	(211,769)	54,736	393,313	673,075
<b>Cash Adjustments</b>						
Depreciation		406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Interest Income		93,000	77,891	65,952	58,560	59,586
Debt Service		(628,129)	(782,611)	(860,326)	(853,658)	(892,212)
Transfer to Equipment Reserve		-	-	-	-	-
Cash Flow	\$	(615,297)	\$ (497,441)	\$ (308,018)	\$ 42,783	\$ 298,354
End-of-year Cash Balance	\$	1,276,228	\$ 778,787	\$ 470,769	\$ 513,552	\$ 811,906
Cash Reserve as % O&M		60%	35%	20%	20%	30%

\* Required Revenue Increase from Fall River, Elba, Waste Haulers, Columbus Volume Charges and Columbus Fixed Charge.

Debt Service	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Existing	\$ (628,129)	(622,644)	(626,778)	(546,528)	(511,500)
Forecast	\$ -	\$ (159,967)	\$ (233,548)	\$ (307,130)	\$ (380,712)
Total	\$ (628,129)	\$ (782,611)	\$ (860,326)	\$ (853,658)	\$ (892,212)
Capital Improvement Plan	2,174,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000



The American Water Works Association (AWWA) provides guidance for utilities for cash balances. Although the AWWA does not offer a one-size-fits-all cash-reserve number for all utilities, it does list a full year's worth of operating expenses as a suitable general target.

Ruekert & Mielke (R/M) recommends a target cash balance for the City of 50 percent or more of its annual operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses. Because the City does maintain its own wastewater treatment facility, it does need a large cash balance compared to other utilities. The cash balance can be used as the sanitary sewer utility fund for other needs, such as emergency main replacements, unexpected shortfalls in revenue, and any other unforeseen issues. The proposed increases would enable the Utility to achieve this recommended target cash balance.

Expenses and/or revenues may differ significantly from the forecast. The Utility should revisit this forecast each year and adjust its planning as needed.

### NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES RATES

This is a table comparing City of Columbus's proposed 2025 rates to its neighboring municipalities. All fixed and volume rates are taken directly from the respective municipalities website.

Meter Size	Beaver Dam	Marshall	Waterloo	Portage	Proposed Columbus	Average *
5/8"	\$ 28.35	\$ 12.48	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.44	\$ 26.68	\$ 17.57
3/4"	\$ 38.35	\$ 12.48	\$ 15.00	-	\$ 26.68	\$ 21.94
1"	\$ 43.05	\$ 21.84	\$ 35.05	\$ 33.75	\$ 35.88	\$ 33.42
1 1/2"	\$ 96.60	\$ 37.60	\$ 68.46	\$ 62.50	\$ 51.48	\$ 66.29
2"	\$ 165.90	\$ 56.30	\$ 108.57	\$ 81.25	\$ 68.64	\$ 103.01
3"	\$ 263.55	\$ 100.90	\$ 202.13	\$ 145.00	\$ 110.76	\$ 177.90
4"	\$ 508.20	-	\$ 335.79	\$ 237.50	\$ 171.60	\$ 360.50

\* Average is taken of Beaver Dam, Marshall, Waterloo, and Portage.

	Beaver Dam	Marshall	Waterloo	Portage	Proposed Columbus Alternative 1	Proposed Columbus Alternative 2
Volume Charge (\$ per 100 cubic feet)	\$ 2.71	\$ 10.49	\$ 12.75	\$ 5.63	\$ 8.75	\$ 6.34

### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

R/M evaluated four alternatives based on feedback received from the Utility.

Alternative 1, R/M increased the volume charge rate per 100 cubic feet for the Village of Fall River from \$1.49 to \$2.19, and from \$1.70 to \$2.82 for Elba Sanitary District. This rate increase aligns with the Utility's revenue budget for Fall River and Elba. Even with the proposed volume charge increases in alternative 1, Fall River and Elba are still paying a significantly lower volume charge than Columbus rate payers (\$8.75).

Alternative 2 provides a volume-based rate structure for Fall River, Elba that is closer to volume charges being made by Columbus Rate Payers. The Utility in this alternative is still receiving an increase in fixed meter charges, whereas Columbus volume rates stayed the same. The proposed rate structure for both Fall River and Elba should be lower than the Utility as Columbus is paying for operation and maintenance expenses for their collection system. This rate structure appears the most just and reasonable.

Alternative 3 was developed to evaluate the potential impact of updating the capital improvement plan. The City provided a revised capital improvement plan, which has a minimal effect compared to alternative 1 and 2 on the overall required revenue increase over the next few years. Notably, the 56% increase in

2025 would still be necessary to maintain adequate cash reserves. This model does not present a significant improvement compared to Alternatives 1 or 2 and would yield similar outcomes in terms of required revenue increases.

Alternative 4 was developed as an experimental model to demonstrate the potential impact of reducing the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget to \$1 million annually for the next four years and lowering cash reserves to 20% of operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses. While this structure would likely be more favorable for the City's customers, its feasibility may be limited from the City's perspective.

Additional information would be needed for R/M to look further into this model:

The City's requirements for maintaining cash reserves as a percentage of O&M.

The maximum viable reduction to the CIP budget for the next few years.

This data will be essential for determining whether Alternative 4 is a realistic and sustainable option.

The Utility provided R/M with a proposed rate structure and septage volumes that are anticipated to be charged to waste haulers in 2025. R/M incorporated that into both models with the assumptions made (described above). This new rate structure will help reduce the impact of the rate increase for the Utility, Village of Fall River, and Elba Sanitary District. The estimates in the data provided for waste haulers presented a challenge in this study by not being able to calculate an accurate revenue estimate. The estimates we used in this model reflect R/M's best efforts based on the information that is available. To enhance the accuracy of future rate studies, data related to waste haulers should begin to be recorded as soon as possible.



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

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**Item Title:** Approval of Rhyme Printer Leasing Contract for Wastewater and Utilities Offices

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Approval of the contract with Rhyme to replace the Utility Office printer which is discontinued with a new printer, and provide a printer for the Wastewater Facility so that they have access to various size pages, color printing, scanning, and etc. The contract will be for 60 months, the monthly payment for both printers and the maintenance plan will be \$314.46/month. Rhyme will cover the first three months lease payments totaling \$690.27.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Rhyme Proposal
2. CPI Agreement
3. Maintenance Agreement

**Action Requested of Council:**

Review, Discussion, and approval of the Leasing Program and Maintenance Agreement with Rhyme.



PREPARED FOR: COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT

# PROPOSED SOLUTION

BUSINESS GROWTH PLAN



## PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

**Throughout our proposal Rhyme will address the following Print Management Objectives:**

- ✓ Provide premium customer service and implementation assistance through dedicated account management and technical support.
- ✓ Implement an Auto-Toner Program for all locations of business.
- ✓ Maximize your investment in fleet technology by managing and optimizing standardization, operating costs, business productivity, and environmental impact.
- ✓ Contract with one local partner that provides all hardware, service, and support.

Sincerely,

**Barry Blankenberg**

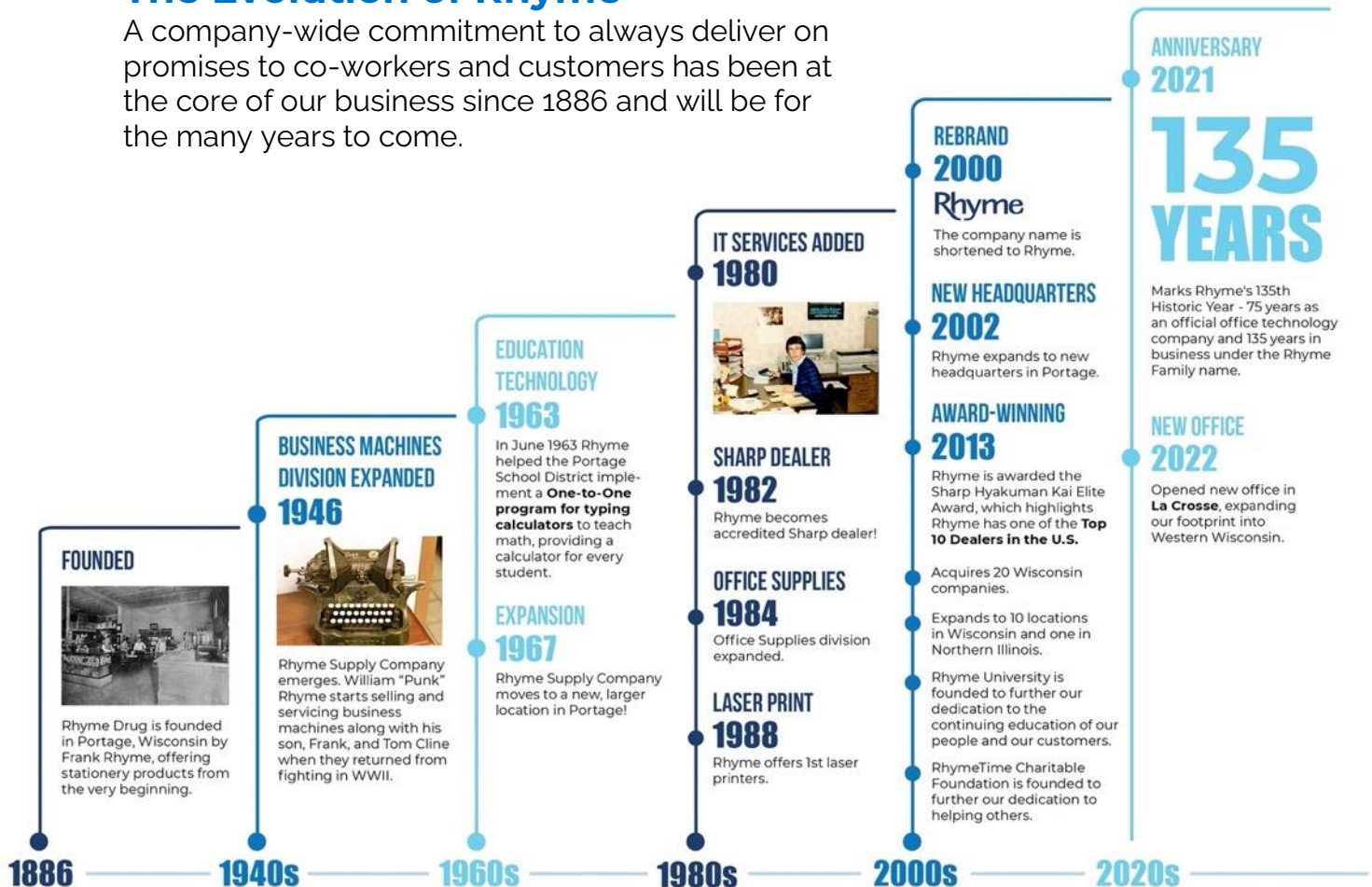
Client Manager  
Rhyme

**P** (800) 362-4333  
**E** info@rhymebiz.com  
www.rhymebiz.com

# RHYME HISTORY

## The Evolution of Rhyme

A company-wide commitment to always deliver on promises to co-workers and customers has been at the core of our business since 1886 and will be for the many years to come.



Rhyme is a business founded on integrity and a commitment to always deliver on its promises, to co-workers and our customers. This company wide commitment has been at the core of our business for 135 years and will continue for the next 135. We are committed to making our communities better through quality service to the people we serve, and charitable work through volunteering and donations.

**We understand the importance of providing an enjoyable customer experience each and every time.**

# ABOUT RHYME

## Midwest Footprint

Rhyme is conveniently located throughout Wisconsin and Illinois, with 11 local offices to serve our clients.



## National Major Account Program (NMAP)

Rhyme can provide your company with nationwide coverage across the United States. With our local and national partnership, you will get the best of both worlds.

- ✓ A single point of contact for all your purchasing and service needs
- ✓ 24/7 online fleet management access
- ✓ Custom billing based on your company's needs
- ✓ Much more

Rhyme goes above and beyond to ensure your interactions with our delivery, administrative, service, sales and management teams are satisfactory.

## RHYME VALUES

### ● INTEGRITY

DO THE RIGHT THING NO MATTER WHAT.

### ● TEAM PLAYER

LIFT EACH OTHER UP.

### ● EXCELLENCE

BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU DO AND BE THE BEST AT IT.

### ● GROWTH DRIVEN

SET HIGH STANDARDS AND RAISE THEM HIGHER.

### ● COMPASSIONATE

CARE FOR PEOPLE AND OUR COMMUNITIES.



# RHYME TIME

Every year Rhyme awards scholarships to students affected by cancer. The reason we chose **Rhyme "Time"** is because time is our most valued asset, and we cherish the time we've been given to help others.



**Rhyme donates time, money, and resources** to organizations like the United Way and many of their agencies (YWCA, Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters), and countless other local non-profits, so you can feel good that a portion of your purchase goes back to the community.

## CHARITABLE CONTRUBUTIONS

### Lee Lake Polar Plunge

22 Years involved & over \$400K Raised.

### Product Donations

Tech, Furniture & Supplies donated to non-profits.

### Employee Volunteering

Countless hours volunteered at events.

Our annual fundraiser, the Steve Ennis Memorial Golf Classic, raises funds for the Rhyme Time Scholarship Charitable Foundation. In honor of two men who always represented hard work, determination, optimism, and **"making every day count"**.

Rhyme  
Time

**\$105,000**  
AWARDED TO GRADUATING  
SENIORS AFFECTED  
BY CANCER

**81**  
SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN IN  
13-YEARS



# OUR OFFERINGS



## MANAGED PRINT

### Xerox Accredited Partner

Optimize your printing resources, regardless of manufacturer and reduce your operating costs—cost-per-print, routine maintenance, and service—by up to 30%.



## MANAGED IT

### Rhyme Managed IT Services

Managing your own in-house staff can be costly. Rhyme Managed IT eliminates the need to have an IT person on staff – we are your IT support. Call us for a free assessment today!



## DOCUMENT IMAGING

### Devices You Can Count On

Rhyme has partnered with **HP, KIP, Kyocera, Lexmark, Sharp,** and **Xerox** to provide our customers with the highest level of service and support. Rhyme offers a variety of products for government agencies, healthcare facilities and educational institutions.



## CLOUD TELECOM

### Cloud-based Business Phone Systems

Rhyme offers a cloud-based communications solution that combines the benefits of an On-Premise phone system with the technology features of the Cloud, designed to tackle the ever-changing business world.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES



### Custom Furniture

- Choose from over 4,500 items with next-day delivery
- Special orders available
- Affordable & on-time delivery and installation.



### Janitorial & Sanitation

- Air Cleaners & Fans
- Humidifiers & Heaters
- First Aid & Health Supplies
- Personal Hygiene Products
- Floor & Carpet Care
- Hardware Tools & Accessories



### Office Products

- 400+ Industry's Top Manufacturers
- Everyday Low Prices
- Fast & Accurate Delivery
- Convenient ordering supplies all with one vendor!



### Break Room Supplies

- Over 6,500 products!
- Coffee & Filters
- Towel Dispensers & Tissue Paper
- Beverages & Beverage Dispensers
- Cutlery

# HOW WE WORK



## CLIENT PROFILE

We spend unlimited time developing an understanding of your organization's goals and processes to work towards a solution for your business.



## COLLABORATE

We collaborate and co-author a solution at multiple meetings – we work to leverage your current investment by enhancing what is already working well for you.



## PRESENT BUSINESS PLAN

We present our findings and want your feedback – it doesn't have to be right the first time – Any changes will be made so the final plan is exactly what you want.



## IMPLEMENTATION

We will always create a plan so that day-of install is seamless and smooth. We ensure everything is as promised and the results are exactly what you intended.



## CONTINUOUS TRAINING

We offer everything from basic overviews to advanced functionality trainings, putting the necessary knowledge and power in everyday users' hands.



## FOLLOW-UP/IMPROVE

90 days after the install we send out a survey for you to grade our performance. After that, we have an open line of communication to improve all aspects of the relationship.



## CLIENT REVIEW

We schedule regular client reviews – monthly, quarterly, annually – whatever works best for you. This proactive approach ensures optimal performance for your business.

# AUTO TONER REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM

A two-way communication between your equipment and our customer service team.



- ✓ Eliminate excess in-house supply inventory.
- ✓ Reduce time and effort. You're busy as is. Why should you have to worry about your printers running out of toner?
- ✓ It's easy to implement. We start shipping when your printer lets us know it's ready!
- ✓ It's flexible. It can work with multiple manufacturers and models.
- ✓ No contracts required – You can start this service anytime!

## PROACTIVE SERVICE

We use software that allows our machines to communicate with our Dispatching team 24/7 allowing us to dispatch service calls proactively rather than waiting for you to call us.

Once our technicians are onsite, they are to never worry about parts costs, their main goal is to fix the issue the first time and also do complete preventative maintenance checks and parts replacements while they are there, maximizing uptime and performance.

## STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

We are very careful about who we choose to partner with, and only work with those who provide the necessary resources to allow us to provide top-level support. Rhyme has partnered with Sharp for over 35 years and are recognized as one of their Hyakuman Kai Elite Providers (Top 10 in the nation).

# CURRENT STATE OVERVIEW

Location	Current Model
Main Copier	Kyocera 3551 (Discontinued 9/01/2016)

## PROPOSED SOLUTION

Model	QTY	Description
Sharp BP70C31 (Utilities)	1	31 ppm Color/Mono MFP (Print, Copy, Scan, eGoldfax) 4-550 sheet paper trays, 100 sheet multi-purpose tray, 300 sheet dual scan document feeder, 50 sheet stapling inner finisher, 3 hole punch, walk up sensor, built in OCR, WIFI
Sharp BP70C31 (Wastewater)	1	31 ppm Color/Mono MFP (Print, Copy, Scan, eGoldfax) 2-550 sheet paper trays, 100 sheet multi-purpose tray, 300 sheet dual scan document feeder, walk up sensor, built in OCR, WIFI
60 Month Lease Cost:		\$115.36
(Utilities)		
60 Month Lease Cost:		\$114.73
(Wastewater)		
Monthly Maintenance Cost:		\$58.80
Total Monthly Spend:		\$314.46

### Rhyme to Cover First 3 Lease Payments- Value of \$690.27

Monthly payment includes 2,000 mono & 1,000 color pages, equipment, service, and supplies, (excluding paper and staples) Overage Billed Quartlery

**Rental Term (Months):** 60 Muni

Mono Overage Rates: \$0.0069

Color Overage Rates: \$0.045

### ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICING

**Our all-inclusive plans include the following at no additional cost:**

- ✓ Help Desk & End-User Training
- ✓ Delivery & Installation
- ✓ Service & Toner Package

# SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Rhyme has been recognized as a AAA Platinum Level Service Provider. This program recognizes service organizations for exceeding performance benchmarks and implementing industry best practices. We are among only 19 of 550 total dealers who have earned the AAA distinction.

## ■ Commitment To Training

- All Rhyme technicians are required to go direct to manufacturer training facilities around the country to get their training and certification before they service a machine.
- Achievement of Gold Level Certification for all technicians in your organization
- Minimum of two (2) Technicians certified on all current models for each sales office
- Minimum of one (1) each of the following: CompTIA PDI+ and CompTIA Net+ certified technicians

## ■ Service Level Agreements

- Maximum of four (4) Hour On-site Response Time for down equipment
- Next-day Loaner machines in the event of catastrophic failures
- Follow all Preventative Maintenance guidelines
- Practice written Total Call procedures to maximize mean copies between visits

**Our department's average tenure with Rhyme is over seven years and average tenure within this industry is over 20 years.**

## ■ Third Party Validation

- We validate our excellence by contracting a 3rd party company to benchmark all our service data against the top dealers in the United States every month. Rhyme has consistently ranked in the top 10, and #1 in the key categories of: first call efficiency (FCE) and copies/prints between service calls.

## ■ Customer Centric

- We bonus our people according to how well your machines are running to make sure you're getting what you pay for and more. We are proud to have a customer-focused service department that provides years of worry-free productivity.

# 93.3% 2021 NET PROMOTER SCORE

Here at Rhyme, we have a system that allows us to capture feedback after every service call. We use the Net Promoter Score (NPS) system to measure client satisfaction.





# RHYME DEVICE MANAGEMENT (RDM)

RDM simplifies meter collection, billing, supplies, and service delivery, enabling an exceptional customer service experience.

Rhyme utilizes a secure, cloud-based proactive supplies and service platform to drive organizational efficiency. With total control of your fleet, together we can reach new levels of business growth.

## SUPPLIES

- ✓ Eliminate excess in-house supply with just-in-time inventory.
- ✓ Reduce time and effort. You're busy as it is.
- ✓ It's easy to implement. We start shipping when your printer lets us know it's ready!
- ✓ It's flexible. It can work with multiple manufacturers and models, no problem.

## SERVICE

- ✓ Receive alerts on error and maintenance codes.
- ✓ Identify required parts for onsite service call.
- ✓ Access to device webpage to review data and adjust settings if needed.
- ✓ Assists with call avoidance.
- ✓ Increased first call efficiency.
- ✓ Firmware updates are monitored.

Our solution allows us to manage all manufacturers, over 25,000 different models in fact, so if you have a diverse print fleet, we can manage it. Our Hub is a powerful tool, offering data collection, supply triggered alerts, automated supplies fulfilment, and comprehensive reporting in real-time.





# THANK YOU

**REACH NEW HEIGHTS IN  
YOUR BUSINESS**

## Rhyme

11 Locations Across Wisconsin  
and Illinois

**P:** (800) 362-4333  
**E:** [info@rhymebiz.com](mailto:info@rhymebiz.com)

[www.rhymebiz.com](http://www.rhymebiz.com)



## COST PER IMAGE AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT NO.: 3104358

**CUSTOMER** ("YOU" OR "YOUR")FULL LEGAL NAME: **Columbus Utilities**ADDRESS: **950 Maple Ave Columbus, WI 53925-1064****EQUIPMENT AND PAYMENT TERMS**☐ SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE

TYPE, MAKE, MODEL NUMBER, SERIAL NUMBER, AND INCLUDED ACCESSORIES	NOT FINANCED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT	BEGINNING METER READING		MONTHLY IMAGE ALLOWANCE		EXCESS PER IMAGE CHARGE (PLUS TAX)	
		B&W	COLOR	B&W	COLOR	B&W	COLOR
<b>2 Sharp BP-70C31 MFPs</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	<input type="checkbox"/>						
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	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	<input type="checkbox"/>						
TOTAL CONSOLIDATED MONTHLY IMAGE ALLOWANCE AND EXCESS PER IMAGE CHARGES (IF CONSOLIDATED)				<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>.0069</b>	<b>.045</b>

EQUIPMENT LOCATION: **As Stated Above**METER FREQUENCY: **Quarterly**TERM IN MONTHS: **60**MONTHLY BASE PAYMENT AMOUNT\*: **\$288.89** (\*PLUS TAX)PURCHASE OPTION\*: **Fair Market Value****CONTRACT**

THIS AGREEMENT IS NON-CANCELABLE AND IRREVOCABLE. IT CANNOT BE TERMINATED. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING. YOU AGREE THAT THIS AGREEMENT AND ANY CLAIM RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE INTERNAL LAWS OF THE STATE IN WHICH OUR (OR, IF WE ASSIGN THIS AGREEMENT, OUR ASSIGNEE'S) PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS LOCATED AND ANY DISPUTE CONCERNING THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE ADJUDICATED IN A FEDERAL OR STATE COURT IN SUCH STATE. YOU HEREBY CONSENT TO PERSONAL JURISDICTION AND VENUE IN SUCH COURTS AND WAIVE TRANSFER OF VENUE. EACH PARTY WAIVES ANY RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL.

**CUSTOMER'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**

BY SIGNING THIS PAGE, YOU REPRESENT TO US THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED AND READ THE ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPEARING ON THE SECOND PAGE OF THIS TWO-PAGE AGREEMENT. THIS AGREEMENT IS BINDING UPON OUR ACCEPTANCE HEREOF.

(As Stated Above)

X

CUSTOMER

SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME &amp; TITLE

DATE

**OWNER** ("WE", "US", "OUR")**Rhyme Business Products**

OWNER

SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME &amp; TITLE

DATE



## ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Item #11.

**AGREEMENT.** You want us to now provide you the equipment and/or software referenced herein, excluding equipment marked as not financed under this Agreement ("Equipment") and you unconditionally agree to pay us the amounts payable under the terms of this agreement ("Agreement") each period by the due date. This Agreement is binding upon our acceptance hereof and will begin on the date the Equipment is delivered to you or any later date we designate. We may charge you a one-time origination fee of \$125.00. If we do not receive by the due date, at the remittance address indicated on your invoice, any amount payable to us, you will pay a late charge equal to: 1) the greater of ten (10) cents for each dollar overdue or twenty-six dollars (\$26.00); or 2) the highest lawful charge, if less.

**NET AGREEMENT. THIS AGREEMENT IS NON-CANCELABLE FOR THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT TERM. YOU AGREE THAT YOU ARE UNCONDITIONALLY OBLIGATED TO PAY ALL AMOUNTS DUE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT FOR THE ENTIRE TERM. YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED TO REDUCE OR SET-OFF AGAINST AMOUNTS DUE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT FOR ANY REASON.**

**IMAGE CHARGES AND OVERAGES.** You are entitled to make the total number of images shown under Image Allowance (or Total Consolidated Image Allowance, if applicable) each period during the term of this Agreement. If you make more than the allowed images in any period, you will pay us an additional amount equal to the number of the excess images made during such period multiplied by the applicable Excess Per Image Charge. Regardless of the number of images made in any period, you will never pay less than the Base Payment Amount. You agree to provide us with the actual meter readings on any business day as designated by us, provided that we may estimate the number of images used if such meter readings are not received within five days after being requested. We will adjust the estimated charge for excess images upon receipt of actual meter readings. After the end of the first year of this Agreement and not more than once each successive twelve-month period thereafter, the Base Payment Amount and the Excess Per Image Charges (and, at our election, the Base Payment Amount and Excess Per Image Charges under any subsequent agreements between you and us that incorporate the terms hereof) may be increased by a maximum of 10% of the then existing payment or charge. Images made on equipment marked as not financed under this Agreement will be included in determining your image and overage charges.

**EQUIPMENT USE.** You will keep the Equipment in good working order, use it for business purposes only and not modify or move it from its initial location without our consent. You agree that you will not take the Equipment out of service and have a third party pay (or provide funds to pay) the amounts due hereunder. You will comply with all laws, ordinances, regulations, requirements and rules relating to the use and operation of the Equipment.

**SERVICES/SUPPLIES.** If we have entered into a separate arrangement with you for maintenance, service, supplies, etc. with respect to the Equipment, payments under this Agreement may include amounts owed under that arrangement, which amounts may be invoiced as one payment for your convenience. You agree that you will look solely to us for performance under any such arrangement and for the delivery of any applicable supplies.

**SOFTWARE/DATA.** Except as provided in this paragraph, references to "Equipment" include any software referenced above or installed on the Equipment. We do not own the software and cannot transfer any interest in it to you. We are not responsible for the software or the obligations of you or the licensor under any license agreement. You are solely responsible for protecting and removing any confidential data/images stored on the Equipment prior to its return for any reason.

**LIMITATION OF WARRANTIES. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT WE HAVE PROVIDED YOU A WARRANTY IN WRITING, WE MAKE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU CHOSE ANY/ALL THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS BASED ON YOUR JUDGMENT. YOU MAY CONTACT US OR THE MANUFACTURER FOR A STATEMENT OF THE WARRANTIES, IF ANY, THAT THE MANUFACTURER IS PROVIDING. WE ASSIGN TO YOU ANY WARRANTIES GIVEN TO US.**

**ASSIGNMENT.** You may not sell, assign, or sublease the Equipment or this Agreement without our written consent. We may sell or assign this Agreement and our rights in the Equipment, in whole or in part, to a third party without notice to you. You agree that if we do so, our assignee will have our assigned rights under this Agreement but none of our obligations and will not be subject to any claim, defense, or set-off that may be assertable against us or anyone else. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if we sell or assign this Agreement or our rights in the Equipment, we will retain our obligations under the Agreement.

**LOSS OR DAMAGE.** You are responsible for any damage to or loss of the Equipment. No such loss or damage will relieve you from your payment obligations hereunder. Except for claims, losses, or damages caused by our gross negligence or willful misconduct, you agree to indemnify us and our assignee, if applicable, against any claims, losses, or damages, including attorney fees, in any way relating to the Equipment or data stored on it. This indemnity will survive the expiration of this Agreement. In no event will we be liable for any consequential or indirect damages.

**INSURANCE.** You agree to maintain commercial general liability insurance acceptable to us. You also agree to: 1) keep the Equipment fully insured against loss at its replacement cost, with us named as loss payee; and 2) provide proof of insurance satisfactory to us no later than 30 days following the commencement of this Agreement, and thereafter upon our written request. If you fail to maintain property loss insurance satisfactory to us and/or you fail to timely provide proof of such insurance, we have the option, but not the obligation, to secure property loss insurance on the Equipment from a carrier of our choosing in such forms and amounts as we deem reasonable to protect our interests. If we secure insurance on the Equipment, we will not name you as an insured party, your interests may not be fully protected, and you will reimburse us the premium which may be higher than the premium you would pay if you obtained insurance, and which may result in a profit to us through an investment in reinsurance. If you are current in all of your obligations under the Agreement at the time of loss, any insurance proceeds received will be applied, at our option, to repair or replace the Equipment, or to pay us the remaining payments due or to become due under this Agreement, plus our booked residual, both discounted at 3% per annum.

**TAXES.** We own the Equipment. You will pay when due, either directly or by reimbursing us, all taxes and fees relating to the Equipment and this Agreement. Sales or use tax due upfront will be payable over the term with a finance charge.

**END OF TERM.** At the end of the term of this Agreement (or any renewal term) (the "End Date"), this Agreement will renew month to month unless a) we receive written notice from you, at least 30 days prior to the End Date, of your intent to return the Equipment, and b) you timely return the Equipment to the location designated by us, at your expense. If a Purchase Option is indicated above and you are not in default on the End Date, you may purchase the Equipment from us "AS IS" for the Purchase Option price. If the returned Equipment is not immediately available for use by another without need of repair, you will reimburse us for all repair costs. You cannot pay off this Agreement or return the Equipment prior to the End Date without our consent. If we consent, we may charge you, in addition to other amounts owed, an early termination fee equal to 5% of the price of the Equipment.

**DEFAULT/REMEDIES.** If a payment becomes 10+ days past due, or if you otherwise breach this Agreement, you will be in default, and we may require that you return the Equipment to us at your expense and pay us: 1) all past due amounts and 2) all remaining payments for the unexpired term, plus our booked residual, discounted at 3% per annum; and we may disable or repossess the Equipment and use all other legal remedies available to us. You agree to pay all costs and expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) we incur in any dispute with you related to this Agreement. You agree to pay us interest on all past due amounts at the rate of 1.5% per month, or at the highest rate allowed by applicable law, if less.

**UCC.** If we assign rights in this Agreement for financing purposes, you agree that this Agreement, in the hands of our assignee, is, or shall be treated as, a "Finance Lease" as that term is defined in Article 2A of the Uniform Commercial Code ("UCC"). You agree to forgo the rights and remedies provided under sections 507-522 of Article 2A of the UCC.

**MISCELLANEOUS.** This Agreement is the entire agreement between you and us relating to our providing and your use of the Equipment and supersedes any prior representations or agreements, including any purchase orders. Amounts payable under this Agreement may include a profit to us. The parties agree that the original hereof for enforcement and perfection purposes, and the sole "record" constituting "chattel paper" under the UCC, is either (a) the paper copy hereof bearing (i) the original or a copy of either your manual signature or an electronically applied indication of your intent to enter into this Agreement, and (ii) our original manual signature or (b) the copy of this Agreement executed by the parties and controlled by us or our assignee or custodian in accordance with the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act or any similar state laws based on the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act and other applicable law as electronic chattel paper under the UCC. Upon execution, the parties agree to be bound to the terms hereof regardless of the medium or format in which this Agreement is maintained or controlled. If any provision of this Agreement is unenforceable, the other provisions herein shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent permitted by law. You authorize us to either insert or correct the Agreement number, serial numbers, model numbers, beginning date, and signature date. All other modifications to the Agreement must be in writing signed by each party.

### APPLICABLE TO GOVERNMENT ENTITIES ONLY

You hereby represent and warrant to us that as of the date of the Agreement: (a) the individual who executed the Agreement had full power and authority to execute the Agreement on your behalf; (b) all required procedures necessary to make the Agreement a legal and binding obligation against you have been followed; (c) the Equipment will be operated and controlled by you and will be used for essential government purposes for the entire term of the Agreement; (d) that all payments due and payable for the current fiscal year are within the current budget and are within an available, unexhausted, and unencumbered appropriation; (e) you intend to pay all amounts payable under the terms of the Agreement when due, if funds are legally available to do so; (f) your obligations to remit amounts under the Agreement constitute a current expense and not a debt under applicable state law; (g) no provision of the Agreement constitutes a pledge of your tax or general revenues; and (h) you will comply with any applicable information reporting requirements of the tax code, which may include 8038-G or 8038-GC Information Returns. If funds are not appropriated to pay amounts due under the Agreement for any future fiscal period, you shall have the right to return the Equipment and terminate the Agreement on the last day of the fiscal period for which funds were available, without penalty or additional expense to you (other than the expense of returning the Equipment to the location designated by us), provided that at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the fiscal period for which funds were not appropriated, your Chief Executive Officer (or Legal Counsel) delivers to us a certificate (or opinion) certifying that (a) you are a state or a fully constituted political subdivision or agency of the state in which you are located; (b) funds have not been appropriated for the applicable fiscal period to pay amounts due under the Agreement; (c) such non-appropriation did not result from any act or failure to act by you; and (d) you have exhausted all funds legally available for the payment of amounts due under the Agreement. You agree that this paragraph shall only apply if, and to the extent that, state law precludes you from entering into the Agreement if the Agreement constitutes a multi-year unconditional payment obligation.



## Maintenance Agreement

CUSTOMER INFORMATION										
Customer Number:	PT0642				Phone Number:	(920) 623-5912				
Company Name:	Columbus Water & Light Dept				Contact: Name:	Jacob Holbert				
Address:	950 MAPLE AVE									
City/State/Zip:	Columbus	WI	53925	Email:	<a href="mailto:jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com">jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com</a>					
Notes:										
SERVICE CONTRACT INFORMATION										
Base Billing Cycle:	Monthly					Monthly Base Amount:				
							\$58.80			
Excess Cycle:	Black:	Quarterly				Usage:	No			
	Color:	Quarterly				CPI:	Yes			
XEROX Direct MA:	No									
Start Date:	At Install:	Yes	Other Date:		Lease #:	3104358				
Includes:	Toner (Color & Black) Labor Parts									
Meter Collection Method:	Rhyme Device Management				Meter Read Contact Name:	Michele Kaltenberg				
					Meter Read Email:	<a href="mailto:mkaltenberg@columbuswaterandlight.com">mkaltenberg@columbuswaterandlight.com</a>				
Invoice Received by Email:	Yes				Invoice Contact Name:	Michele Kaltenberg				
					Invoice Email:	<a href="mailto:mkaltenberg@columbuswaterandlight.com">mkaltenberg@columbuswaterandlight.com</a>				
EQUIPMENT										
Serial #	ID	Model	Start B/W	B/W (Qty Incl)	B/W CPC (Rate Incl)	B/W Rate (Excess)	Start Color	Color (Qty Incl)	Color CPC (Rate Incl)	Color Rate (Excess)
		(2) Sharp BP70C31		2,000	\$ 0.0069	\$ 0.0069		1,000	\$ 0.045	\$ 0.045

Rhyme agrees with the undersigned customer ("Customer") to provide maintenance for the equipment and accessories described above ("Equipment"), subject to the terms and conditions set forth on the reverse of this agreement. Customer acknowledges that they have read and agree to the terms and conditions on the back.

Authorized Signature – Dealer

Title

Date

Authorized Signature – Client

Title

Date

### TERMS FOR MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

1. **TERMS & RENEWAL** - This Agreement is effective from the commencement date and shall continue for an initial minimum term of one (1) year. Thereafter, this Agreement shall automatically be renewed for successive one (1) year terms unless terminated sooner by either party on no less than sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other party. Rhyme reserves the right to cancel Agreement. The prices, terms and conditions for such successive term(s) shall be those in effect at the time of renewal, not to exceed 10% increase. Vendor will render initial billing in advance receipt of a signed copy of this Agreement. Terms are net thirty days. Alterations, attachments or specification changes may require an increase in maintenance rates. Early cancellations are non-refundable.

2. **NETWORKING SERVICES** - This Agreement does not include network services, such as installing or updating software, installing or updating print drivers, troubleshooting operating system configuration, cloud services like Gmail and M365, or network devices, such as network hubs, switches, routers and cabling. These services will be billed at the currently established hourly rate.

3. **DATA SECURITY** - This Agreement does not include the removal of the hard drive for data security purposes. Data security and hard drive removal options can be purchased separately from this Agreement. The client is responsible for the security of their data.

4. **DEVICE MONITORING** - Customer agrees to provide and maintain a compatible computer for a data collection agent (DCA) to provide automated meter reads and for the Auto Toner Replenishment Program (ATR). Customer also agrees to maintain communication between covered device(s) and DCA. If Customer doesn't provide or maintain computer, device and DCA communication, or, they stop using a covered device, they agree to a \$5.00 per device meter analysis fee, and Vendor is owed the monthly fees for the life of the outstanding contract based on the averages of the previous reported usages.

5. **SUPPLIES** - Any and all supplies, ie toner, ink, imaging units, staples, used in equipment covered by this maintenance Agreement must be acquired from or approved by Rhyme. Any supplies provided under the terms of this Agreement are the property of Rhyme. Unused supplies must be returned to Rhyme within 30 days of cancellation. Unreturned supplies will be billable to the customer. Any service necessitated by the use of unauthorized supplies will be billable to the customer. Vendor reserves the right to bill customer for lost supplies or excessive supply usage.

6. **AUTO TONER REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM** - Customer agrees to assign someone to act as the ATR contact who is responsible for allocating received toners to correct departments or equipment.

7. **PARTS REPLACEMENT** - Worn or damaged parts will be replaced at no additional charge providing that the damage is not caused by misuse or negligence on the part of the customer, its employees, agents, or third parties.

8. **ENGINEERING CHANGES** - where applicable engineering changes, which, in the Vendor's opinion, will improve the performance of the equipment, shall be installed at no additional charge.

9. **EMERGENCY SERVICE** shall be provided without additional charge during Vendor's normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) (Monday through Friday, except Holidays). Travel and labor time plus travel expenses will be charged at established hourly rates for service rendered at the customers request after Vendor's normal business hours. Service that is provided beyond normal business hours is subject to the availability of service personnel.

10. **LIABILITY** - Vendor shall not be responsible for failure to perform its maintenance obligation due to strikes, fire, flood and other causes beyond its control. Vendor shall not be responsible for any accidents to or caused by the equipment or machine. Vendor shall not be liable for service or parts in the instance where anyone other than the maintenance contractor herein or his agent has worked on the machine nor where the customer damages the machine due to negligence or misuse. Vendor not responsible for excessive color consumption from misconfigured print drivers or end user error. Vendor shall in no event be liable to customer or any other person for incidental or consequential damages which may arise as result of the performance of any obligation of its Agreement.

11. **LIMITATIONS** - Maintenance services shall not include electrical work external to the equipment, maintenance of accessories, attachments, equipment or devices unless specifically included on the face of this Agreement. Maintenance, repair and parts or device replacement shall not be covered under this Agreement if problems relating to or caused by: operating environment including electrical power, heating, air conditioning, and humidity which are not within Vendor or OEM specifications, equipment located in an unsuitable place of installation or an unsafe or hazardous environment as determined by Vendor or OEM, usage or media that is not within normal operator functions or equipment specification as described in Vendor or OEM publications, or if repair exceeds half the current value of replacement. Training and workflow analysis for production print devices is not included under this Agreement. Maintenance, support, and upgrades for software is not included under this Agreement.

12. **TAXES** - There shall be added to the maintenance charges (including any zone charges) amounts equal to any taxes, however designated, levied or based on such charges or on this Agreement or on the services rendering or parts supplied pursuant herein. Including state and local privilege or excise taxes or amounts in lieu thereof paid or payable by Vendor, in respect to the foregoing, exclusive however on taxes of net income.

13. **ACCEPTANCE** of this Agreement by Vendor is contingent upon a satisfactory credit report on the Customer, and (2) with regard to the dollar amounts and zone charges stated herein, the absence of any mathematical error or deviation from Vendors then current maintenance rates, and (3) receipt of the confirming copy of this Agreement signed and approved by the Vendor's Service Manager and authorized representative.

14. **WARRANTY** - (1) All parts furnished hereunder will be free of defects in material and workmanship at the time of installation. (2) There are no other warranties, expressed or implied, which extend beyond the face of this Agreement.

15. **OPTION** - When an option is installed in a customer's unit during the term of this Agreement the customer agrees to pay in full upon receipt of Vendors invoice, the scheduled installation and maintenance fee for said option. The maintenance fee will be prorated over the remaining months of the customers' maintenance Agreement.

16. **EQUIPMENT TRANSPORTATION** - Vendor is not liable for any shipping damages or loss of equipment in commercial transportation to or from Vendor's service location. Customer agrees to pay all commercial freight or transportation charges to and from Vendor's service location.

17. **COST PER IMAGE (CPI) AGREEMENTS** - When MA is part of CPI, the CPI contract terms and conditions supersede this contract. When CPI Lease ends the maintenance portion of the billing (renewal) will be direct billing from Rhyme versus Rhyme Leasing.



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

---

**Item Title:** Approval of Rhyme Managed IT Contract for Columbus Utilities

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Requesting approval of the Managed IT contract with Rhyme that will mirror the contract already in place with the City of Columbus. Rhyme will work with WPPI on what systems will be maintained and managed under the Rhyme Contract, as well as what will remain with WPPI. Any WPPI programs or software that needs modification to meet compliance with Rhyme systems will take place during the transition.

This will allow Utilities to access the Cloud based shared folders and drives that the city currently utilizes as well as transitioning all Utilities Computers/Clients over to Microsoft Office 365 and full integration with Microsoft Teams. The estimated contracted cost per month for the Utility will be no greater than \$2,700.00/month based on 15 clients and the two firewalls proposed.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Rhyme Managed IT Ballpark Estimate.

**Action Requested of Council:**

Review, Discussion, and Approval of the Rhyme Managed IT Contract.

## Managed IT Overview:

### User Support

- ✓ Unlimited Helpdesk Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
- ✓ Ticketing System
- ✓ Remote Desktop Sharing
- ✓ Escalated Onsite Services included

### Proactive Support

- ✓ 24x7x365 Network Monitoring
- ✓ Server Monitoring and Alerting
- ✓ Patch Management
- ✓ Disk Clean Ups
- ✓ Automated Ticket Generation & Escalation

### Professional Services

- ✓ Technology Consulting
- ✓ Technology Solution Engineering
- ✓ Project Management
- ✓ Quarterly Business Review
- ✓ Budgeting and Planning Assistance
- ✓ Rental Equipment

### Vendor Management

- ✓ Manage Technology Relationships
- ✓ Single Point-Of-Contact for Vendor Issues

### Security Management

- ✓ SentinelOne EDR
- ✓ SPAM Protection
- ✓ Intrusion Preventing and Detection
- ✓ Content Filtering & Reporting
- ✓ Secure VPN for remote users
- ✓ Email Filtering, Continuity, Archiving

### Backup & Disaster Recovery

- ✓ Fully Automated, no risk for human error
- ✓ Fully Managed and Monitored for failures
- ✓ Verified and Tested
- ✓ Replicated and Stored Offsite
- ✓ Quick Recovery through Virtualization
- ✓ Secure, Compliant and Physically Protected



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Item #12.

**Budgetary Estimate based on 15 users with a server environment. These services would mirror the services on the City's master agreement. They would also include renting two Meraki Firewalls (1 for Wastewater and 1 for the main Utilities office)**

\$2,700.00 per month



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type:** Utilities Commission

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2025

---

**Item Title:** Directors Report

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

### Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

- Substation #4 repairs have been completed and the Substation is back in normal operation.
- Substation #3 Transruptor is scheduled to begin 1/23/25, will be completed 2/21/25.
- Four fire hydrants were replaced in November due to them being inoperable or having broken valves.
- There have been three water main breaks due to the deep frost layer due to no snow cover.
- Water Plant #1 Softener System has failed, Emergency Declaration proposed.
- Wastewater Biosolids Land Application for fall was completed on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Waterloo Lift Station Capital Replacement is complete and the station is running in normal operation.
- Meister Park Lift Station work has been completed and is in full operation.
- Meister Park Sanitary Sewer Overflow caused by forced main rupture has been repaired, and the Wisconsin DNR has considered the matter closed.
- Wastewater Operators have rebuilt the Influent Grit Snail.
- Fireman's Park Soil Remediation Berm in Countryside Ford we will need to Landfill roughly 8 to 10 cubic yards. The remainder of the soil can be utilized by the Utility as fill due to our segregation and testing protocols that were utilized in the remediation efforts.
- Electrical Utility Linemen, Mayor Hammer, and myself attended the MEUW Technical Conference in Wisconsin Dells January 15-17<sup>th</sup>.
- Dalton Hiley is at Training this week Jake Boness will be at Training next week.
- Water and Wastewater Training and Conferences are being scheduled for all who can attend.

### Action Requested of Council:

Information and Discussion, No Requested Action.



# LIVELines

Volume 73, Issue 12 • December 2024

## Electric Operations Conference & Expo promises insights, networking

**E**xcitement is building for the 2025 Electric Operations Conference & Expo in the Wisconsin Dells!

When employees and leaders from Wisconsin municipal and cooperative electric utilities get together in January, they will be continuing a tradition that strengthens relationships and fosters information sharing to improve utility operations across the state.

MEUW and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) will hold the 2025 Electric Operations Conference & Expo at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells on Jan. 15, 16, and 17.

The event will kick off at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15, with general session presentations for both MEUW and WECA attendees. A Welcome Reception will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The program for Thursday, Jan. 16 includes general sessions, breakout presentations, and a lively keynote

presentation from Wisconsin legend, Green Bay Packers Hall of Famer Gilbert Brown.

New this year, there will be several “cohort” discussion sessions to enable attendees to participate in smaller group discussions on topics they find the most helpful and interesting. The program will be followed by the annual

banquet honoring graduating apprentices in line-work and electric metering. After breakfast on Friday, Jan. 17, MEUW will hold a Board of Directors’ meeting, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Thursday’s program will once again hold the vendor Expo for five hours, allowing exhibitors and attendees plenty of time to interact. The trade show will open at 9:30 a.m. and continue through 2:30 p.m. Attendees can choose to visit the Exhibit Hall or attend one or more of the breakout and cohort sessions.

### Electric Operations Conference & Expo

Jan. 15–17, 2025

[www.meuw.org/eoce](http://www.meuw.org/eoce)



Conference attendees will interact directly with more than 100 utility vendors and suppliers showcasing a range of equipment, tools, and services at Thursday’s Expo.

Another addition this year is the “Supplier Showcase Stage.” This elevated stage area inside the Exhibit Hall provides an opportunity for featured exhibitors to conduct a brief demonstration of their products or services for Expo attendees. There will be several demonstrations throughout the day.

*Continued on page 2*

## MEUW launching new customer service training in '25

Customer interactions happen in every role, whether it’s a formal part of your job, or a chance encounter in the grocery store. From Customer Service Representatives to engineers, office managers to lineworkers, effective customer service skills are essential.

Based on member feedback, MEUW is offering a new online series to strengthen those skills among municipal utility employees. Divided into six 90-minute modules, “The Power of One: Developing and Delivering

*Continued on page 2*

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As in years past, the event has three registration options for those who wish to attend all or only part of the three-day event.

The program is filled with topical presentations and educational sessions on a variety of subjects. Here's a sampling of who and what is on this year's agenda:

- Public Service Commissioner Marcus Hawkins, who will share his perspective on the current regulatory environment and Commission focus areas.
- Dave Krause, P. E., Design Manager at Electric Power Systems, will present on microgrids and grid resiliency, followed by a panel discussion around the importance role political advocacy plays for municipal utilities.
- Stuart Campbell, Director of Commercial Marketing and Strategic Relations for Irby Utilities, will present on hot topics and industry information of interest for electric utilities.
- Special Agent Amanda Knutson of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will discuss cybersecurity measures surrounding grid and infrastructure security.
- Mike Meyers from Diggers Hotline will provide an update on the recently formed Damage Prevention



Council of Wisconsin working to address the challenges of utility locates.

- Benjamin Bella, Safety and Compliance Coordinator for Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, will outline utilities' responsibilities concerning the safety of contractors.

Thursday's agenda will also feature three breakout sessions. In response to attendee feedback, each session will be presented twice to make it easier for participants not to miss a topic they want to learn about. Tom Dagenais, Director of System Planning at ATC, will provide updates on the company's recent activities and future plans. Another session will focus on using global navigational satellite technology to accurately locate utilities by representatives of Fabick Technology Services. The final session will feature Andy Heidtke and Mike Seifert from DOT to review standards and flagging and local nuances that impact the safety requirements.

Expo bingo will also be back in 2025, giving those who visit exhibitors the chance to win a wide variety of exhibitor-donated door prizes while also learning about their goods and services.

After lunch, the cohort discussion sessions will be held on multiple topics of shared interest, including mutual aid and facility construction

projects. These discussions will be member-led.

Thursday's program concludes with a keynote

"fireside chat" with Gilbert Brown. Fans will remember that he



**Brown**

played 125 games for the Green Bay Packers (from 1993–99 and 2001–03), including more than a dozen playoff games and a victory in Super Bowl XXXI in 1997.

Known for his positive personality, individual style, and bringing the best out of everyone around him, Gilbert is a true Wisconsin Legend. He founded the Gilbert

Brown Foundation and has donated funds to 140+ Wisconsin charities for youth. He also hosts several radio shows and podcasts. He will share his insights around teamwork, getting the best out of others, and the importance of community.

The Apprentice Graduation Banquet will take place Thursday evening and features a brief program to recognize the Class of 2024, who completed the lineworker and meter technician programs at Chippewa Valley Technical College and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. There is a separate registration and \$55 fee required to attend.

Full details are online at [www.meuw.org/eoce](http://www.meuw.org/eoce). ●

## Customer service training (continued from page 1)

Outstanding Customer Service" will feature live, interactive, virtual sessions focused on different aspects of and skills needed to deliver exceptional service to both internal and external customers. Topics will include:

- Recognizing different styles to understand what customers are communicating;
- Managing emotions during customer interactions;
- Understanding the impact of one person during moments of truth;
- Strategies of effective customer service, including phone, email, and text communications;
- Assisting customers during challenging interactions; and
- Conflict-resolution strategies

Sign up for a few classes, or attend all the classes in the series and receive a certificate of completion for your effort. No travel is required and the 90-minute timeframe also makes it easier to get away to participate.

The virtual training takes place on Thursdays from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. The 2025 training dates are: Jan. 23, Feb. 20, March 20, April 24, May 22, and June 19.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming modules — details and registration will be available soon. ●

## Seeking to connect directly with suppliers, MEUW moves on from WUSA relationship

The administrative relationship between MEUW and the Wisconsin Utility Suppliers Association (WUSA) is coming to an end as of Dec. 31, 2024. WUSA was originally formed more than a decade ago to promote a closer relationship between businesses that provide products and services to electric utilities by jointly staging trade shows, seminars, and social activities. The organization functions with a volunteer Board of Directors and for many years contracted with MEUW to collect membership dues and manage logistics for the annual Electric Operations Expo (formerly Joint Superintendents' Conference) and other events.

Recognizing the value of a direct connection with suppliers and utility partners, MEUW is expanding its Associate Membership program to provide more engagement opportunities between MEUW's member utilities and the companies that provide goods and services to the industry. The change is consistent with MEUW's long-term strategic plan to strengthen relationships with key stakeholders and is expected to bring about operational efficiencies and new non-dues-revenue opportunities.

There is no action required by current WUSA members. Those who have questions should contact **Jordan Rykal** of EMS Partners, Inc., current WUSA Board President, at (612) 986-6117 or [jordan.rykal@emspartnersinc.com](mailto:jordan.rykal@emspartnersinc.com). ●

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## Members' NEWS

**Emily Brown** has joined Waupun Utilities as a Customer Service Representative.

**Tim Reel** recently began working for Oconomowoc Utilities as Waste Water Treatment Plant Manager/Safety Director.

Waunakee Utilities recently announced two new hires: **Dick Neff** has joined as a Substation/Metering Technician and **Jamie Frederick** is the new Electric Superintendent. A Waunakee native, Jamie graduated from UW-Platteville and worked as an Engineering Supervisor for Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative after 10 years as a Distribution Planning Engineer with Madison Gas & Electric Co.

**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](mailto:news@meuw.org) to share your news.



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# Steve Zach set to retire at year-end

**L**ong-time Boardman and Clark attorney Steve Zach — a familiar name and face to many MEUW members — is retiring. A pillar of employment law for public power leaders, Steve's career has spanned decades, helping municipal utilities navigate complex employment law matters with both counsel and education.

Steve's journey in employment law began more than 20 years ago when he started



Attorney Steve Zach, shown here speaking at the 2020 Electric Operations Conference, was a frequent presenter at MEUW conferences and seminars and led a Management Training Program session for many years.

working with labor negotiations for utilities. As bargaining units gave way to broader employment concerns, Steve's reputation as an expert grew. He became a trusted advisor to utilities across the state, often speaking at MEUW conferences and offering insights on critical issues.

"Over 43 years, you can't help but accumulate stories," Steve shared, reflecting on the wealth of experiences he's encountered. "But one of the most memorable aspects has been the camaraderie at the MEUW conferences. It wasn't just about representing individual utilities — it was the connection, the collective energy, and the bond we shared."

Steve emphasized that the relationships he's built over the years with leaders, both at MEUW and within individual utilities, are among the most meaningful and enriching parts of his career.

As Steve prepares for retirement, he leaves the following advice for MEUW members: "I hope people don't take the organization for granted. The role it plays in public power across the state is crucial. It's important for members to appreciate the collective strength that the organization provides, and to continue to share the value of public power."

Looking ahead, Steve is excited to spend more time with his family — his three children and five grandchildren, who all live within 20 minutes of him. Travel with his wife, Patty, is also on the horizon. •

**Editor's note:** *We wish Steve all the best in this new phase of life and thank him for his dedication to public power and the people he's worked with over the decades.*

## Committees contribute to value and success of MEUW

Organizations are made up of people who give their time and talent to support the greater good. MEUW benefits from the volunteer leadership of many members who serve on standing committees of the Board of Directors. The committees meet regularly to provide support and direction to association programs and services. A full list of committees is [here](#).

Three individuals recently joined the MEUW Safety & Education Committee to fill vacancies on the 11-person committee. The newest members



are (top to bottom): **Aaron Hau**, Electric Meter Technician for Plymouth Utilities;



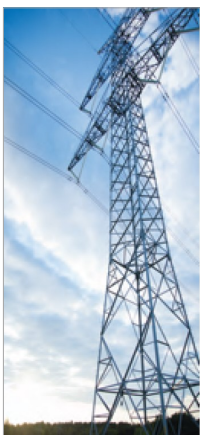
**Ryan Pelowski**, Lead Lineworker for Trempealeau Municipal Utilities, and



**Owen Vande Kolk**, Assistant Electric Superintendent for Waupun Utilities.

Together, they bring 57 years of collective utility experience to the work of the S&E Committee.

In addition, **Brian Dellemann** (Two Rivers) and **Dave Pahl** (Kaukauna) recently took on new roles, serving the Committee as Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively.



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# Apparatus Training Trailer: Hands-on education on wheels



For lineworkers across the state, training is a critical part of ensuring both safety and efficiency on the job. MEUW members know the value of high-quality, hands-on learning experiences. With this in mind, MEUW has rolled out an exciting new tool designed to enhance training opportunities for utilities and their workers.

## What is the Apparatus Training Trailer?

The Apparatus Training Trailer is a mobile, state-of-the-art “facility” designed to bring essential hands-on training directly to utility workers. It began as a simple 16-foot trailer with an overhead distribution system to help workers practice rubber-gloving and understand minimum approach distances. Over time, it has evolved to include a wealth of additional features designed to give workers an even deeper understanding of the equipment they work with daily. The trailer is a passion project for Electric Utility Safety and Training Coordinator Randy Larson, who joined MEUW in August 2018 and brought decades of experience as a lineworker apprentice instructor to the role. Larson

has a genuine hunger for safety and has always looked for innovative techniques to convey life-saving training material in a new way.

The trailer has grown in size and complexity, now featuring a 20-foot space equipped with both overhead and underground systems. This evolution allows for a broader range of training topics, including three-phase systems, fault isolation, and proper work procedures with insulated tools.

## Key Features and Training Focus

One of the most exciting additions to the training trailer is its focus on equipment that workers don’t typically get to work with but that can be dangerous if mis-handled. For example:

**Voltage Regulators:** The devices that control voltage on a distribution line are often dangerous if not handled properly. The trailer will include scenarios where workers practice safe switching procedures and experience

firsthand the consequences of mistakes. Participants will also get experience with different control panels and become familiar with their work procedures.

**Capacitors:** Fixed and switched capacitors are another area of focus. These components can be hazardous, especially when workers aren’t accustomed to working with them. The trailer will provide

hands-on experience with capacitance testing, proper work procedures, and safety protocols.

## Load Tap Changers (LTCs):

These devices adjust the voltage on transformers and understanding how they work is critical for maintaining a stable electrical system.

## Training Logistics and Versatility

One of the obvious standout features of the Apparatus Training Trailer is its mobility. Weighing in at around 5,000 pounds, the trailer can be easily transported to various utility sites, making it a flexible solution for year-round training.



**Overhead and Pad-Mounted Transformers:** The trailer will also provide training on single-phase transformers, including testing for output voltages and polarity checks, which is vital for paralleling and three-phase banking transformers.

The trailer is built to offer practical, scenario-based learning, emphasizing what workers should do—and just as importantly, what they shouldn’t do — when dealing with equipment like voltage regulators, capacitors, and transformers. By replicating real-world situations in a controlled environment, the trailer ensures that workers are well-prepared for the challenges they face on the job.

The goal is to keep workers engaged and trained, even in challenging weather conditions, such as during winter months. The trailer’s compact design allows it to be used in garages or other spaces that are out of the elements, ensuring that training doesn’t stop just because the weather turns cold.

Each of the trailer’s training stations is designed to take about 10 minutes, providing workers with a hands-on experience and a chance to rotate through eight or nine different stations. Whether learning to switch voltage regulators or troubleshoot transformers, trainees will leave with a deeper understanding of the equipment they interact with daily.

*Continued on page 6*



## 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)

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An archive of past issues  
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[www.issuu.com/meuw](http://www.issuu.com/meuw)

*Continued from page 5*

The trailer will begin its training schedule on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, at Kaukauna, followed by stops at Menasha, New London, and other utilities around the state. Hosting utilities will help prep the training stations, such as providing transformers and capacitors for testing. These collaborative efforts are crucial in ensuring that the trailer can deliver the most relevant and effective training possible.

### A Collaborative Effort Made Possible by Donations

The Apparatus Training Trailer owes much of its success to the generosity of MEUW members. Donations from utilities including New London, Menasha, Waupun, Dairyland Power, and others have allowed for the purchase of critical equipment. These donations were pivotal to keeping costs low, with less than \$100 spent on new equipment, as most of the materials have been donated.

Larson, who led the effort to assemble the trailer and build its functionality, is quick to express his gratitude for MEUW members' support: "I'm thankful to the membership and the Board of Directors for investing in this project," he said. "This equipment needs to be on the move, bringing valuable training to lineworkers everywhere."

The trailer also will be a critical training tool for future lineworkers at Moraine

Park Technical College (MPTC) in Beaver Dam. The equipment previously used for MEUW's underground trailer is being loaned to MPTC's Electrical Power Distribution lab, providing students with hands-on training in a controlled environment.

### The Future of Lineworker Training

The goal of the Apparatus Training Trailer is clear: To make training more accessible and practical for every lineworker in the state. With its combination of real-world scenarios, expert instruction, and mobile flexibility, this new training tool has the potential to transform the way municipal utilities approach workforce development.

As it continues its statewide tour, the training trailer is expected to visit utility safety meetings, serve as a pre-switching practice tool for substations, and become a vital part of the ongoing education for every MEUW member. In the coming years, it is hoped that the trailer will become a permanent fixture in training programs across Wisconsin, reaching every municipal utility and helping lineworkers sharpen their skills and knowledge.

With hands-on practice and real-world lessons, the Apparatus Training Trailer is setting a new standard for what lineworker education can and should be. MEUW's commitment to providing the highest-quality training is evident in this innovative new initiative, and it is sure to benefit lineworkers for years to come. ●

## Podcasts deliver news and insights to help explain, engage

Change is a constant in today's energy industry, and online podcasts have emerged as a tool to help public power leaders, customers, and other stakeholders stay informed about what they need to know. MEUW members may be particularly interested in two podcast series that are widely available:

- **"Public Power Now"** is produced by the American Public Power Association (APPA) to bring listeners the latest news and insights from key public power utility executives, power industry players, and APPA staff. A recent episode featured an interview with Kaukauna Utilities Commission Chair Lee Meyerhofer, who discussed the importance of governing board members' engagement. Listen to it [here](#).
- **"Electric Wire"** is produced by Customers First Coalition (CFC) as a tool to educate lawmakers, regulators, and the general public about emerging energy issues. MEUW is a founding member of CFC, which recently released the [50th edition of the podcast](#). ●

# Voters choose change: Coming soon to D.C. and Madison



Another long election season has come to an end here in Wisconsin. As life returns to normal, I wanted to share some observations from the election and what it

means for public power nationally and here in the state legislature.

Donald Trump won Wisconsin on his way to being only the second person in U.S. history to be elected to a second, non-consecutive term as president (the other being Grover Cleveland in 1892). Sen. Tammy Baldwin won a close reelection over challenger Eric Hovde, but nationally, Republicans were able to flip enough seats in other states to flip control of the U.S. Senate from Democrat to Republican in the upcoming Congress, 53 seats to 47 seats.

There was no change in house races in Wisconsin; all of Wisconsin's house members won their races, and Republican Tony Wied won the 8th Congressional District race in northeast Wisconsin to succeed former Congressman Mike Gallagher, who resigned his seat earlier this year. Because Gov. Tony Evers called a special election to run concurrently with the November election, Rep. Wied was sworn into congress after his election and will get a head start in the House. Nationally, Republicans will continue to control a majority of seats in Congress, but their margins have shrunk, and the House will now have one of the closest margins in history. As of my writing this, Republicans have won 220 seats in the house and Democrats have won 213 with three races that have yet to be called (218 seats is a majority in the House.)

This means that Republicans will have control over all three branches of government. However, because the Republican's majority margin in the House is so narrow, they will essentially need every House Republican to vote with the Republicans to be able to pass legislation. And because Republicans don't have a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate, most things will require support from 60 Senators to pass (one exception applies to budget bills, which require only a majority to pass in the Senate).

Closer to home in the Wisconsin Legislature, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court ordered new districts be drawn for the 2024 election, and those new

district lines were passed by the legislature and signed into law by Gov. Evers earlier this year. Those new district lines in the Assembly tend to favor Republicans, but by a more narrow margin. In the State Senate, Republicans hold an advantage right now because only half the Senate is up for election at a time, but in 2026 there is a chance that Democrats could take back control of the Wisconsin Senate.

Republicans currently hold a 64-35 vote majority in the State Assembly, and they will enter the 2025 legislative session with a 54-45 advantage. There will be 30 incoming freshmen in the 2025 legislative class, meaning there will be a large number of new faces and people to educate about public power. On the Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee, there will be at least four new members of the committee (assuming the number of committee members stays the same). Two Republicans, Rep. Warren Petryk (retired) and Rep. Loren Oldenburg (lost election), will need to be replaced,

as will two Democrats, Rep. Melissa Radcliff and Rep. Dora Drake (both elected to the State Senate).



In the State Senate, Republicans currently have a 22-11 super majority. As the 2025 session begins, their margin will shrink to an 18-15 majority, and if Democrats can pick up two seats in 2026, that majority would flip to Democrat control. Six first-time senators are joining the chamber (two of whom are moving over from the Assembly). We do not expect any changes to the Senate Utility and Technology Committee, as everyone currently serving either won re-election or did not have to run this cycle.

The bottom line: There are going to be a lot of new faces in the state legislature. I hope you make plans to attend MEUW's "Day at the Capitol" on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025 (2/5/25). Our goal is to have enough members attend so we can meet with all the freshmen legislators, in addition to our members' own representatives, to share our story and explain the advantages of public power. Look for full details on [MEUW's website](https://www.meuw.org) and make plans to join us!

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

## Who's new? Get to know our state lawmakers

Throughout 2025, *LIVE LINES* will have a regular feature about newly elected state lawmakers and those appointed to utility-related committees. Watch for the articles and get to know the legislators influencing utility policy.

### Shifting the Balance of Power 2025-26 Legislative Session

#### Wisconsin Assembly

**54**  
(was 64)

**45**  
(was 35)

#### State Senate

**18**  
(was 22)

**15**  
(was 11)

**Republican**

**Democrat**

# MEUW NEWS Monitor

## Attend Day at the Capitol to inform, educate

Join fellow members in Madison on Wednesday, Feb. 5 to help state legislators become more aware of municipal utilities and the advantages of public power. You'll be representing not only your public power community, but also the nearly 300,000 Wisconsinites who get their electricity from a community-owned utility. Full details are available [here](#). A room block is available for those who need lodging the night before. Details and registration are [here](#).

## Learn about the fundamentals of utility regulation, compliance and safety

As a highly regulated business, utilities must comply with dozens of operating rules to retain the "right to serve" electric customers. Part of MEUW's Fundamentals of Utility Management training program, this Regulation, Compliance & Safety class will explore the wide array of regulations, compliance, and safety rules every municipal utility leader must follow. The training is planned for Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, in Mauston. The one-day course explores the reasons behind the rules and provides insights to make compliance easier. An outline of the training topics, the instructors, and registration details are [here](#).

## Spread the word about MEUW's scholarship

MEUW proudly provides "Powering Futures" Scholarships to support students pursuing careers in electrical power distribution. Applications for this year's awards will be accepted Dec. 16, 2024 – Jan. 24, 2025. To be eligible, students must reside in a Wisconsin public power community and must be pursuing post-secondary education to become a Field Service Technician, Groundworker, Line-worker Apprentice, Electric Meter Technician, Substation Electrician Apprentice or Utility Technician. The full criteria and additional details are online at [www.meuw.org/scholarships](http://www.meuw.org/scholarships). Click [here](#) to find a customizable letter template you can send to your local high school principals and counselors to encourage applications.

## APPA Legislative Rally set for late February

The annual federal Legislative Rally to share the public power message and influence policy is set to take place Feb. 24–26, 2025, in Washington, D.C. Full details about the Rally are available on the American Public Power Association (APPA) website [here](#). Wisconsin typically has one of the largest delegations attending the Rally each year — if you have not attended before, please consider it.

## Federal permitting bill impacts public power

Certain provisions in S. 4753, the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 (EPRA), currently being considered by federal lawmakers are creating concerns for the American Public Power Association (APPA) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

APPA and NRECA have joined together to raise concerns about two specific provisions that would expand the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) over public power utilities, electric cooperatives, and federal Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs). Those parties are defined as "non-jurisdictional entities" in the Federal Power Act, and EPRA would require such entities to file a tariff to build a



transmission line designated as in the national interest by FERC, a requirement APPA and NRECA consider unnecessary and burdensome. EPRA would also require mandatory participation by public power in new interregional planning processes, which is in direct conflict with FERC Order No. 1000 that provides for voluntary participation. APPA argues that such a change intrudes on public power's

local decision-making authority and is likely to lead to higher electric rates.

While the EPRA bill will help to streamline certain federal permitting processes, APPA and NRECA have drafted an [amendment](#) to allow non-jurisdictional entities to maintain their existing level of FERC oversight. Public power leaders are encouraged to share [this letter](#) and the proposed amendment text with their federal lawmakers.

## APPA developing "blueprint" for using elective pay

APPA will receive funding from the Department of Energy to create "blueprints" to help develop projects that use elective pay energy tax credits.

The goal is a step-by-step review of project development — from assembling a project team to filing for elective pay once the project is in service.

The document is scheduled to be completed in May 2025, and will include input from experts in project development, tax law, accounting, and municipal finance. In addition, APPA has obtained commitments from public power utilities that have already gone through the elective pay process to "stress test" the document to ensure that it provides the breadth and depth of guidance needed.



## Friends of Public Power nearly met fundraising goal



Total raised:  
**\$18,950**

Through Friends of Public Power, the political action committee and conduit managed by MEUW, the association directs financial resources to support in-state legislative candidates who have signaled their support for public power and the electric-utility industry. Many of the same politicians have shown a willingness to listen to and learn about the issues that matter to MEUW members. As with other trade associations, political giving and developing good relationships with lawmakers is important to advocacy.

MEUW set a goal to raise \$20,000 for the 2023-24 election cycle. In total, \$18,950 was raised, with those funds then directed to both Republican and Democrat candidates in races for the Wisconsin Assembly and State Senate. ●

### MEUW Community Spotlight

The regular *LIVE LINES* feature focusing on the history and unique qualities of municipal electric utilities will return next month.

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## 2025 calendar is full of opportunities to learn and network with public power colleagues

MEUW will offer training programs, conferences, and events in 2025, including those listed here. Registration will typically open 90 days before each scheduled session. Visit [MEUW.org](https://www.meuw.org) for details. Contact [Sharon Wolf](#) with any questions.

Date *	Event	Location
Jan. 15–17	2025 Electric Operations Conference & Expo	Wisconsin Dells
Feb. 5	MEUW Day at the Capitol	Madison
Feb. 12	Regulation, Compliance & Safety	Mauston
Feb. 18–19	Apparatus Workshop	Eau Claire
March 19	Credit & Collections Seminar	Mauston
March 19	2nd Annual Foreman's Roundtable	Johnson Creek
April 2	Leading Through Coaching	Mauston
Apr 29–May 1	Underground School	Eau Claire
May 14–16	2025 Annual Conference and Golf Outing	La Crosse
June 4	Utility Planning & Risk Management	Mauston
Aug. 6	Leading Through Collaboration	Mauston
August and September	District Dinners	TBA
Sept. 24	Accounting and Customer Service Seminar	Mauston
Oct. 8	Communications & Project Management	Mauston
Dec. 3	Leading With Consistency	Mauston

\* Dates are subject to change; check "Calendar of Events" at [MEUW.org](https://www.meuw.org) for full details.

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# Associate Members support MEUW, member utilities

**H**aving easy access to a strong supplier network is vital to efficient utility operations. The businesses listed here have paid dues as Associate Members of MEUW in 2024. They provide goods and services to utilities in Wisconsin, and through their MEUW membership, these companies — and the individuals who represent them — support the association and its members. Many of these companies also provide sponsorship support that helps MEUW maintain reasonable registration fees for events like the annual Electric Operations Conference & Expo (*see story beginning on page one*). To learn more about any of these Associate Members, please click the company name and follow the link to their website, or check out MEUW's membership directory online [here](#). ●

<a href="#">3M</a>	<a href="#">ElectroTech, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Locators and Supplies, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">SCS Engineers</a>
<a href="#">4 Control Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Emerald Transformer</a>	<a href="#">Makovsky Brush Services LLC</a>	<a href="#">Sicuro</a>
<a href="#">A.C. Engineering Company</a>	<a href="#">EMS Partners</a>	<a href="#">MC Sales, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Siemens Ruggedcom</a>
<a href="#">Action Battery Wholesalers, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Energy Product Sales</a>	<a href="#">McWane Poles</a>	<a href="#">Speed Systems, Inc.</a>
<a href="#">A-Line E.D.S.</a>	<a href="#">EUDS Consulting</a>	<a href="#">Midwest Electrical Solutions</a>	<a href="#">STAR Energy Services, LLC</a>
<a href="#">Almetek Industries Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Evans, Lipka &amp; Associates</a>	<a href="#">Millennium</a>	<a href="#">Stark Tech</a>
<a href="#">Altec Industries, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Exacter, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Milwaukee Tool</a>	<a href="#">Stella-Jones</a>
<a href="#">American Padmount Systems</a>	<a href="#">Forster Engineering</a>	<a href="#">Mi-Tech Services, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Sterling Security Systems</a>
<a href="#">American Power and Communications Group</a>	<a href="#">Fresco</a>	<a href="#">MJ Electric</a>	(Engineering Unlimited)
<a href="#">Anderwylde LLC</a>	<a href="#">FS3 Inc.</a>	<a href="#">mPower Innovations</a>	<a href="#">Sterling Site Access Solutions LLC</a>
<a href="#">A-1 Power LLC</a>	<a href="#">G.E.T. Utility Sales Company</a>	<a href="#">Northeast Wisconsin Technical College</a>	<a href="#">Struxur</a>
<a href="#">A Star Electric</a>	<a href="#">Global Rental</a>	<a href="#">The Okonite Company</a>	(formerly Utility Sales Associates)
<a href="#">ATC</a>	(a division of Altec)	<a href="#">OpenPoint</a>	<a href="#">Subsurface Solutions</a>
<a href="#">Bashlin Industries</a>	<a href="#">H2 Future Power, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Osmose Utilities Services, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Sunbelt Solomon</a>
<a href="#">Bell Lumber and Pole</a>	(formerly Proven Power, Inc)	<a href="#">Pieperline (MP Systems, Inc.)</a>	<a href="#">Teel Plastics</a>
<a href="#">Border States Electric</a>	<a href="#">Haverstock, Koenig &amp; Associates</a>	<a href="#">Power Grid Products, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Terex Utilities</a>
<a href="#">CCI Systems, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">HDR, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Power Line Sentry</a>	<a href="#">TE/Raychem</a>
<a href="#">Clearline Innovation, LLC</a>	<a href="#">Hubbell Power Systems</a>	(The Sicame Group)	<a href="#">TESCO Metering</a>
<a href="#">C&amp;M Hydraulic Tool Supply, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Huskie Tools</a>	<a href="#">Powerside</a>	<a href="#">Test Right LLC</a>
<a href="#">Complete Recycling Services LLC</a>	<a href="#">Instruments and Technology</a>	<a href="#">Power System Engineering, Inc. (PSE)</a>	<a href="#">TJH2b Analytical Services</a>
<a href="#">Convergint</a>	<a href="#">Intermatic</a>	<a href="#">Primus Marketing</a>	<a href="#">TSTM Inc.</a>
<a href="#">Cooperative Response Center, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Interstate Power Systems</a>	<a href="#">Professional Computer Solutions</a>	<a href="#">T&amp;R Electric Supply Co.</a>
<a href="#">Cornell &amp; Associates, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Intren, LLC</a>	<a href="#">PUSH, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Utilitra</a>
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<a href="#">The Durham Company</a>	<a href="#">JJ Kane Auctioneers</a>	<a href="#">Reliable Equipment &amp; Service Co.</a>	<a href="#">Vannguard Utility Services, Inc.</a>
<a href="#">Eagle Eye Power Solutions</a>	<a href="#">Jolma Utilities LLC</a>	<a href="#">RESCO</a>	<a href="#">Vermeer Wisconsin</a>
<a href="#">Eaton</a>	<a href="#">J&amp;R Underground LLC</a>	<a href="#">Resilient Structures</a>	<a href="#">Verona Safety Supply, Inc.</a>
<a href="#">EIR Testing and Maintenance Co.</a>	<a href="#">K Fence, Inc. &amp; PRO Stapler, LLC</a>	<a href="#">Rouzer Group</a>	<a href="#">Weldy Lamont Group, Inc.</a>
<a href="#">Electrical Consultants, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Karcz Utility Services, LLC</a>	<a href="#">Ruekert &amp; Mielke, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">WESCO Distribution</a>
<a href="#">Electric Power Systems International Inc (EPS)</a>	<a href="#">KorTerra</a>	<a href="#">SATEC Global</a>	<a href="#">Wintroy Supply</a>
<a href="#">Electromark Company</a>	<a href="#">KW Associates</a>	<a href="#">S&amp;C Electric Company</a>	<a href="#">Youngstown Gloves</a>
	<a href="#">Laminated Wood Systems</a>		<a href="#">Zielies Tree Service</a>
	<a href="#">LF George, Inc.</a>		

# Munis contributing to success of Community Impact Pilot

**M**unicipal electric utilities are playing a pivotal role in the success of Focus on Energy's (Focus) Community Impact Pilot (Pilot), which provides a unique opportunity for deserving small businesses in select Wisconsin communities, to receive as much as \$30,000 toward energy-efficient upgrades such as LED lighting, HVAC equipment, and insulation.

Of the seven Wisconsin communities that have completed the Pilot since it began in 2023, two are served by public power utilities and a third recently launched in Black River Falls. In 2023 Focus on Energy brought the Pilot to Wisconsin Rapids and Menasha and partnered with Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting Commission (WW&LC) and Menasha Utilities to identify small businesses in their communities in need of energy saving improvements.



Seven small businesses in Menasha received funding through the Pilot, among them were Old Grog and St. Joseph's Food Program.

The historic Old Grog, a well-loved watering hole and eatery in Menasha, is housed in a building that is over 134 years old. The business was in desperate need of upgrades to its aged HVAC and water heating equipment. The Pilot helped fund a full replacement of a non-working furnace, replacing a weather-torn rooftop unit, a 37-year-old gas boiler, and two hot-water circulation pumps. The improvements not only preserved the charm of the Old Grog but are also projected to save nearly \$1,800 a year in energy costs. This work was featured in a recent Focus [blog](#).

Just down the road from Old Grog is St. Joseph's Food Program, a Menasha-based non-profit serving over 750 families and 1,300 students weekly with essential food services.

The Pilot funded improvements including energy-efficient refrigeration units, which are crucial for preserving perishable food items while minimizing energy consumption. The installation of LED lighting throughout the facility enhanced visibility and reduced energy use while providing a more comfortable environment for staff and volunteers. These upgrades are projected to save the non-profit over \$2,000 annually in energy costs, enabling St. Joseph's Food Program to allocate more resources toward their mission.

"[Focus on Energy] has so many great programs and the one here at St. Joe's was just a great example to help get them to be more sustainable and more energy efficient in the long run," said Menasha Utilities General Manager Melanie Krause.

Check out the [video](#), highlighting this effort.

Eleven small businesses in Wisconsin Rapids received



funding for energy-efficient upgrades through Focus' Pilot. Working closely with the WW&LC, the Pilot enabled local businesses such as Bring's Cycling & Fitness, Rapids Rental & Supply, and The Ridges Golf Course to improve the efficiency of their facilities.

"We focused on enhancing Bring's Cyclery to create a more aesthetically pleasing store for customers while reducing energy costs," said Shawn Reimer, Conservation Manager for WW&LC.

By installing energy-efficient LED lighting and removing unnecessary lighting bays, Bring's achieved savings of approximately 60,000 kWh annually, which is estimated to reduce their electric bills by 40-50% each month. You can learn more about Bring's up-

grades in the featured [video](#).

Another Wisconsin Rapids staple, The Ridges Golf Course, has been owned by the Goska

family for 30 years. The buildings on the stunning property needed upgrades, primarily with lighting that was inefficient and inconsistent. The Pilot allowed the Goskas to make improvements to indoor and outdoor lighting with LEDs, enhancing the aesthetics with modern fixtures and better luminance. The Ridges Golf Course is projected to exceed \$4,000 in energy bill savings annually. See more about this project in a video featured on Focus on Energy's [YouTube](#) channel.

By working together with utilities, Focus on Energy is better able to deliver meaningful results to small businesses that are so critical to the social and economic fabric of their communities. If your utility would like to nominate a community to participate in the Pilot for 2025, please complete the [online nomination form](#). Nominations are due Dec. 13, 2024. ●

## New EV charging station registration and excise tax rules take effect Jan. 1

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) recently shared [information](#) about the new electric vehicle charging station registration, excise tax, and sales tax exemption, effective Jan. 1, 2025. MEUW members or their partners may be required to register, file returns, and pay the excise tax.

More information is available in [Publication 305, Electric Vehicle Charging Tax Information](#). Contact the DOR directly at (608) 266-6701 or [DORExcise@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DORExcise@wisconsin.gov) if you have excise tax questions.

# Wisconsin UTILITY NEWS Digest

## PSC approves rate increases for investor-owned utilities

The three-person Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) on Nov. 7 approved rate increases for customers of We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service in 2025 and 2026. The decision came during a nearly eight-hour-long open meeting. More than 1,000 people had testified at public hearings or provided comments in the two rate proceedings.

The utilities, both owned by Milwaukee-based WEC Energy Group, had applied for the rate changes in April, and cited the need for improved line clearance to ensure reliability and construction costs

for renewable energy and natural gas facilities as drivers of the increases.

We Energies received approval for an overall increase of 8.79% over the next two years, which was roughly \$188 million less than the utility had requested. Residential customers will see a \$7.62 increase in monthly electric bills in 2025 and another \$9.73 increase in 2026. The PSC estimated the cumulative increase is 12.38% over two years.

Wisconsin Public Service Corp. received approval for an overall increase of 7.33% over the next two years, which was roughly \$134 million less than the utility had requested. Residential customers will see a \$7.11 increase in 2025

and another \$5.04 increase in 2026. The PSC estimated the cumulative increase is 11.52%.

Both utilities had asked regulators to increase their rates of return to 10% percent, but the Commission opted to keep both of them unchanged at 9.8%.

In an interview with Wisconsin Public Radio, Tom Content, Executive Director of Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin, said the PSC's decision was "business-as-usual" at a time when many consumers are struggling with utility bills. "This was a huge, missed opportunity," he said. "Customers have ... energy costs rising above inflation, and now they'll continue to ... for the next two years."

## 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](#). Here are some current opportunities available:

**City of Lake Mills** — [Electric Lineman](#)

**Village of New Glarus** — [Journey Line Worker](#)

**City of Evansville**  
[Journey Line Worker](#)  
[Apprentice Line Worker](#)

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



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# LIVELines

Volume 74, Issue 1 • January 2025

## MEUW “Day at the Capitol” is 2/5/25

**F**rom its inception, MEUW has been focused on presenting a “common voice” and advocating for Wisconsin’s municipal electric utilities. The state legislature is expected to reconvene at the Capitol in Madison mid-January—including many new and redistricted members—and will continue debate for several weeks. This is a great opportunity for MEUW and its members to visit with lawmakers to educate and inform them of the vital role played by public power utilities in our state.

To maximize this opportunity, MEUW is planning a “Day at the Capitol” on Wednesday, Feb. 5 (or 2/5/25 as an easy-to-remember date). All members are encouraged to join together in Madison to let our legislators know what’s important to municipal electric utilities. There is no cost to participate, and MEUW will coordinate the meetings.

This event is being organized to exclusively share the public

power story and to discuss matters of importance to municipal electric utilities. The Best Western Premier Park Hotel (formerly known as Inn



on the Park) will once again serve as our staging site for MEUW’s Day at the Capitol, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. After a brief informational session to review the issues and talking points, small groups will make their way across the street to the Capitol to visit Senate and Assembly offices for pre-arranged meetings with legislators and their staffs. The event wraps up with a group lunch and discussion back at the hotel.

While all municipal electric utility staff are welcome to attend, the visits will be especially valuable for mayors, city council members, utility commissioners and others

who have an interest in advocating for public power. Those who govern, lead, and work in municipal utilities are in the best position to talk to lawmakers about the impact their actions have at the local level. MEUW will arrange the meetings so registrants have a chance to meet with their own legislator and maximize the connections.

Don’t miss this great opportunity to network with others in Wisconsin’s public power community and help educate our legislative leaders about issues that matter to the industry and to our communities. Learn more and register at [MEUW.org](https://www.meuw.org). The registration deadline is Jan. 31. ●

## Start your year at EOCE25 in the Dells

There are still a few days left to register for the 2025 Electric Operations Conference & Expo, which will be held Jan. 15–17 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This annual conference attracts municipal and cooperative utility leaders and employees from throughout Wisconsin. More than 250 people have already registered to attend the event.

The event will kick off at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15, with general sessions for all registered attendees. A Welcome Reception will take place from 5:00–7:00 p.m.

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Thursday's session will include an exploration of cyber and physical security measures around grid and infrastructure security, an update on the recently formed Damage Prevention Council of Wisconsin working to address the challenges of utility locates, and a review of utilities' responsibility around contractor safety. Attendees can select from three timely and topical breakout sessions — each of which will be offered twice — to allow participants the chance to choose more than one. The day will also feature several cohort discussions for attendees to choose from, talking with others who have similar needs and interests.

Thursday's trade show will feature 100+ vendors showcasing the latest products and services. A full listing of confirmed exhibitors is available [here](#).

Participants can also check out the trade show, where more than 100 utility suppliers will showcase their products and services, and be available to discuss the latest options. Select vendors will

provide brief product demonstrations throughout the day on the new "Supplier Showcase" stage in the Exhibition Hall.

Thursday's program concludes with a keynote presentation featuring a "fireside chat" with Green Bay Packers Hall of Famer Gilbert Brown, who will discuss the importance of teamwork, overcoming adversity, and community service. He will be available following the meeting to sign one autograph per person — bring your favorite Packer memorabilia or purchase one there (cash please) for Gilbert to sign.

On Thursday evening, more than 30 individuals who completed the requirements to become journeymen lineworkers will be honored at the annual graduation banquet.

EOCE25 is presented by EPS, the event's Diamond Level sponsor. Other major sponsors are HDR, Miron Construction, and Wesco Anixter. Full details and registration info are available at [meuw.org/eoce](http://meuw.org/eoce). ●

## Members' *NEWS*



**Mark Skubal**, Menasha Utilities' Senior Lineman, is retiring after 22 years with the utility. Mark served in the U.S. Army as a combat engineer prior to becoming a lineman. He began his utility career with the electric cooperative in Georgetown, Tenn., and after nine years moved to the Menasha area.

**Brenda Fenske** has joined Sun Prairie Utilities as Billing Coordinator.

**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](mailto:news@meuw.org) to share your news.



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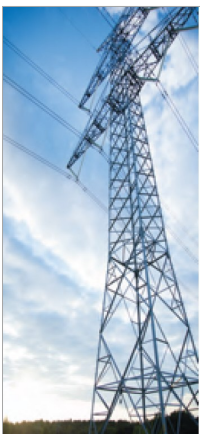
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# Reflecting on 2024 successes and a bright future for MEUW

By Nick Kumm, MEUW Board Chair

With the calendar now flipped to 2025, it's a great time to reflect on the busy and successful year MEUW had in 2024 and look ahead with optimism to the future. This year has been a testament to the dedication, hard work, and shared vision of the entire MEUW community. As the MEUW Board Chair since May, I continue to be impressed by everything our members and the association have accomplished together.

At the heart of MEUW's success is a strong foundation built on common values and mutual interests. I'd like to extend my deepest appreciation to my fellow Executive Committee members, the Board of Directors, and all the committee members who generously volunteer their time and talents. A special thanks goes to Tim Heinrich and the entire MEUW team for their exceptional communication and the invaluable services they provided during the year.

This year, MEUW has continued to deliver essential services and fostered growth within the industry. From the Electric Operations Conference & Expo in January to various workshops on line design and solar energy, MEUW has remained at the forefront of advancing knowledge and professional development. Our professional development, safety training, and roundtable events have provided members with tools and connections they need to succeed.

Here are just a few of the notable successes from 2024:

**Legislative Wins:** Three bills championed by MEUW were signed into law, marking significant legislative victories for municipal utilities. Through collaboration with the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association and others, a bill that

allows utility vehicles to display green warning lights when restoring power was passed. This new law will enhance safety for workers and drivers alike. Two Senate bills cleared the path for the development of a network of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across Wisconsin's highways and interstates. These new laws will allow Wisconsin to access nearly \$80 million in federal funding to help private businesses establish high-speed Level 3 charging stations. Additionally, these laws open doors for partnerships with businesses along highways to facilitate the installation of these essential charging stations.

**Mutual Aid Events:** MEUW coordinated mutual aid efforts in Wisconsin and Florida following severe storms. These events brought out the best in municipal utilities, showcasing their collaborative spirit and readiness to support one another during times of crisis.

**Safety Initiatives:** In 2024, two new safety-related offerings were introduced: monthly safety calls and emailed safety reminders. These initiatives aim to keep safety at the forefront of our work and ensure that all employees have access to the latest information and best practices in the industry.

**Professional Development:** Thirty-seven employees from member utilities completed one or both of MEUW's new professional development leadership series. This series provides valuable skills to foster leadership and growth within the utility sector.

After a memorable 95th anniversary celebration and a successful lobby day in 2023, MEUW continues to build momentum as it approaches its 100th year. During a recent strategic planning session, I had the privilege of observing the great teamwork and alignment across utilities of all sizes. As we define strategic

priorities for the future, it's clear that MEUW is poised to continue providing valuable resources and advocacy for municipal utilities in Wisconsin.

I'm deeply encouraged and proud to serve as Board Chair for such a forward-thinking and impactful organization. The teamwork and commitment from all involved are driving MEUW toward an even more prosperous future.

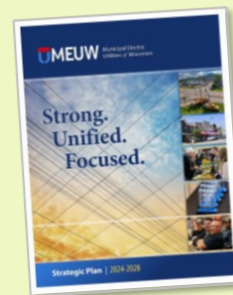
As we look ahead to the coming year, I'm confident that MEUW's direction will continue to benefit our members, helping them navigate the challenges of the utility industry and supporting the broader goal of delivering reliable, efficient, and innovative services to the communities we serve.

Here's to a successful 2024 and an even brighter future as we approach MEUW's centennial. Together, we will continue to build a legacy of excellence.

**Nick Kumm** is General Manager of Marshfield Utilities and Managing Director of Great Lakes Utilities. He currently serves as Chair of the MEUW Board of Directors.



Later this month, the MEUW Board of Directors is expected to endorse a refresh of the association's **long-term strategic plan**



that follows visioning work completed in 2024. The updated plan will include a new vision statement that reflects the next phase in

MEUW's history. Watch for full details in the February edition of *LIVE LINES*.

# Resolve to focus on professional development in 2025

Setting goals at the beginning of a new year is a time-honored tradition, and individuals today are just as interested in finding motivation and making a fresh start as those who made the first “New Year’s Resolutions” in ancient times. Whether or not you’ve already set goals for 2025, MEUW is offering training that will help you and your colleagues refresh your perspective, gain new skills, and advance your professional development in the year ahead.

## Discover how “The Power of One” can influence customer service

Customer interactions happen in every role, whether it’s a formal part of your job, or a chance encounter in the grocery store. From Customer Service Representatives to engineers, office managers to lineworkers, effective customer service skills are essential.

To help build customer interaction and communication skills, MEUW is pleased to be offering a new online series called “The Power of One.” Divided into six 90-minute modules, the series will fea-

ture live virtual sessions focused on different aspects of and skills needed for effective customer service.

Individuals can sign up for a few classes, or complete the series and earn a certificate of completion. You can also gather a small group at your location to participate together (smaller groups of four to six will work better due to the interactive nature of the classes.) No travel is required, and the 90-minute timeframe minimizes the time away. Volume pricing or a “try-then-buy” option are available. Full details and registration options are available [here](#).

## Stay ahead of the rules and learn the fundamentals of a well-run utility

The “right to serve” electric customers is a privilege municipal utilities can’t take for granted. Understanding the complexities of utility regulation and the variety of rules required to comply with state and federal safety and employment laws is essential to effectively managing a utility every day. As part of MEUW’s “Fundamentals of Utility

Management” training program, this one-day course explores the rules and regulations, the reasons many of those rules exist, and the risks and consequences when utilities fail to follow them. Participants will take away a deeper understanding of these important concepts and gain new insights to make compliance more efficient. The class will be held in Mauston on Feb. 12. An outline of the training topics, the instructors, and registration details are listed [here](#).

## Strengthen your leadership skills and learn about effective coaching

High-performing leaders develop the skill and emotional intelligence to coach others effectively. Knowing how and when to coach is an essential leadership quality, and good coaches recognize how self-awareness helps them to be more effective as a leader and serve as a role model for others. MEUW’s three-part Municipal Utility Leadership Certificate Program includes a course focused on coaching as a leadership skill. The class will be held April 2; full details [here](#). ●



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## 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)

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

## Eleven earn Municipal Leadership Certificate

**M**unicipal employees representing eight MEUW member utilities recently took the next step in their professional development journeys by completing MEUW's three-part Municipal Utility Leadership Certificate Program.

The series focuses on a set of core leadership competencies — including coaching, collaboration, and consistency — essential to success as a leader in a municipal utility setting. Training is designed for new, emerging, and seasoned leaders; managers; and supervisors. Municipal workers of all skill levels and backgrounds can benefit from the series. Participants will take away new skills and ideas that can be put into immediate use. The training is designed to facilitate networking and foster peer learning and support. To learn more about professional development opportunities, visit [meuw.org/pdp](http://meuw.org/pdp). •



Eleven municipal workers received certificates on Dec. 4 after completing MEUW's Municipal Leadership Certificate Program. Those honored include (from left): **Dustin Gruling**, Lead Lineman, **Jason Otto**, Lead Lineman, and **Lucas Caine**, Senior Engineer, all of Oconomowoc Utilities; **Jordan Peichel**, Utility Manager for Cumberland Municipal Utilities; **Katrien Rogers**, Customer Service Supervisor with Manitowoc Public Utilities; **Jason Sisel**, Journeyman Lineman with Two Rivers Utilities; **Nate Jicinsky**, Journeyman Lineman, and **Jason Kluess**, Senior Lineman, both with Menasha Utilities; **Michael Avanzi**, General Manager of Kaukauna Utilities; **Ryan Pelowski**, Lead Lineworker at Trempealeau Municipal Utilities; and **Isaac Pooler**, Administrator/Finance Director for the Village of Trempealeau.

**Did you know?** MEUW has negotiated discounts with two companies for safety equipment and products used by member utilities. To take advantage of exclusive MEUW pricing, follow these steps:

**Conney Safety Products** — Email [sales@conney.com](mailto:sales@conney.com)

The account name is under MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES, account #100343434. Make sure to use your credit card to purchase.

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Or contact Samie Gossfeld by phone at (608) 204-5955. Let him know you're a member of MEUW and which utility you're from to receive the discount.



# Stoughton: Focused on service to customers and community

## MEUW Community Spotlight

What do Norway, semi-trailers, coffee breaks, and green energy have in common?

Probably not a lot ... but they all hold a solid place in the history of Stoughton, Wisconsin.

Just 20 minutes southeast of Madison in Dane County, Stoughton is a vibrant, historic community with a population of about 13,000. The city owns and operates Stoughton Utilities, which provides electric, water, and wastewater services. The electric utility serves approximately 9,200 customers in Stoughton and throughout its expansive 50-square mile territory that extends into Rock County.

The City of Stoughton employs a team of 24 to operate all three utilities, including seven specifically dedicated to electric linework. Utilities Director Jill Weiss says the utility enjoys a good relationship with its customers, and the employees take extraordinary pride in serving Stoughton and other communities in need.

Stoughton was one of 22 Wisconsin municipal communities to answer the call to help restore power in Florida last October in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton.

Weiss is a certified professional engineer who joined Stoughton Utilities in 2019, bringing with her experiences working for municipals and a large investor-owned utility. She's the first woman to lead Stoughton Utilities and one of only two females leading public power utilities in Wisconsin. Having worked in the predominantly-male utility industry for her whole career, Weiss says she hardly notices those distinctions. "It's all I know, and I always feel welcomed and valued on the job," she said.

She sees the benefits of municipal utilities being directly accountable to the people in their communities.

"All utilities — whether they are municipal or investor-owned — have an interest in serving their customers to the best of their abilities," Weiss said. "But employees of municipal utilities such as ours bring a whole different level of ownership and pride to what they do." And Weiss finds that is a great way to

work. "The best part of Stoughton is its people," she said. "And I have the privilege of working with great people every day."

### History of Stoughton

Stoughton was founded in 1847 by Luke Stoughton, an English immigrant from Vermont, who named the town after himself.

Many Norwegian immigrants settled in the area during the 19th century, as Stoughton is situated on fertile ground surrounding the Yahara River, which made it attractive farmland. Tobacco was a particularly important crop.

The Village of Stoughton was incorporated in 1862 and became a city in 1882. Late in the 19th century, the community experienced rapid industrial growth with the establishment of various mills and factories, including the Stoughton Wagon Company. The city began operating its own electrical utility system to better meet the needs of all residents in 1891.

Fast forward, Stoughton has come a long way from tobacco and wagons, but it still celebrates its Norwegian heritage and traditions and maintains a beautiful historic downtown. Today it is home to a diverse range of businesses, and it attracts thousands of tourists every year.

### Utility Operations

Stoughton Utilities is governed by the seven-person Utilities Committee, which includes both citizens and council alderpersons. The electric utility is a member of WPPI Energy and offers energy efficiency programs, incentive rebates, and on-line customer tools. "We offer a variety of programs to serve a diverse range of customers," Weiss said.

One of the oldest and most well-known companies in town is semi-trailer manufacturer Stoughton Trailers. The company, which has been in business for more than 60 years, broke ground on a new headquarters in the far northwest corner of Stoughton last spring. The energy-efficient building is expected to be completed this fall.

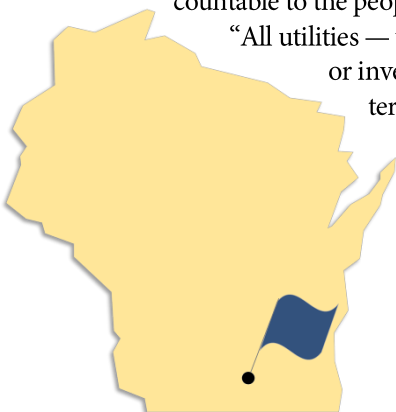
Emmi Roth, an industry-leading cheesemaker, constructed its new North American headquarters in Stoughton in 2023. The 158,000-square-foot building and operation, which includes



Along Main Street in Stoughton is the iconic clock tower on a historic landmark building, built in 1900, that houses City Hall and the Stoughton Opera House.



Weiss



*Continued on page 7*

*Continued from page 6*

both office space as well as a state-of-the-art conversion facility, brought about 125 new employees to Stoughton.

Uniroyal Engineered Products manufactures Naugahyde, a predominant brand in the vinyl-coated fabrics industry, in Stoughton. B&G Foods also has a plant in town that produces packaged foods such as Ortega Salsa and Taco Sauce and Cream of Wheat.

Other large customers include Zalk Joseph Fabricators, which specializes in providing fabricated steel products and services for the construction industry, and Colorcon, a company that designs and produces advanced coating systems for the pharmaceutical industry.

While Stoughton Utilities delivers reliability and support to keep business alive and vibrant in Stoughton, the utility is also focusing efforts on rural and agricultural customers. In fact, Weiss said Stoughton Utilities is currently working on several projects aimed at increasing reliability and improving service in more remote areas of its service territory.

“We are working on a large rural rebuild,” Weiss said. “We are also in process of looping our only radial-fed circuit, which is difficult because of our lakes and geography.” Weiss expects both efforts will take several years to complete.

### An Award-Winning Utility

For the last nine years, Stoughton Utilities has ranked among the top 10 utilities nationwide by the U.S.

Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the utility’s Green Power Participation Rate and Green Power Sales Rate.

According to Brandi Yungen, Education and Outreach Coordinator for Stoughton Utilities, these accolades reflect the community’s strong commitment to renewable energy. Yungen said the City Council recently approved the Sustainability Committee’s Sustainability Plan, which lays out initiatives to ensure a greener future for Stoughton residents. “Our community’s commitment to sustainability shows by the success of programs such as our Choose Renewable program,” Yungen said.

Last year, about four percent of Stoughton Utilities’ customers voluntarily participated in the Choose Renewable program, which allows customers to support clean energy by purchasing renewable energy blocks.

“The people of Stoughton continue to receive national attention when it comes to renewable energy,” said Weiss. “Stoughton Utilities, the City of Stoughton, and many smaller businesses and residential customers have chosen to participate. We hope



Helping to keep the lights on in Stoughton are (front, left to right): Michael Nawrocki, Andrew Ruder, Ryan Jefferson, Chad Mason, Paul Schmeling, Collin Cadotte, and Joe Adler (on the truck).

the program grows even bigger in the future.”

Stoughton Utilities was also one of only 20 public power utilities in the country to be recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA) with a Public Power Customer Satisfaction Award for providing excellent service to its community. The winners were determined through customer feedback surveys, which measured satisfaction in areas including customer service, communication, value, reliability, and outage response.

“We proudly serve the people of Stoughton,” said Weiss. “To be recognized for our dedication to customer service excellence is truly gratifying for our team, which works so hard every day.”

### Focused on the Community

Stoughton Utilities also has various community support programs, such as the RoundUP Program, which allows customers to round up their utility bills to the nearest dollar, with the extra funds supporting local non-profit organizations. The Stoughton Utility Committee decides where to direct funds each year.

“The program is still relatively small — with less than 500 participants — but we are able to support several very deserving non-profits organizations in Stoughton each year, which can make a big impact to a small city like ours,” Yungen said.

Additionally, Stoughton Utilities’ holiday light exchange has evolved over the years to become a way for the community to give back to the City of Stoughton’s Food Pantry during the holiday season, Yungen said. In the past, customers brought in their old incandescent lights and exchanged them for new, more energy efficient LED lights. “But people no longer have the old lights to trade in,” Yungen said. “Now if customers simply donate five non-perishable food items, they receive a string of new LED holiday lights. It’s a win-win for our community.”

*Continued on page 8*

# Wisconsin UTILITY NEWS Digest

## Regulators approve largest solar project in state history

The Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin has approved construction of a \$2 billion solar power project that could have more than 1,300 MW of generation capacity. The [Vista Sands Solar Project](#), sited on more than 6,000 acres in Portage County, was green-lighted by a unanimous vote of the PSC on Dec. 12.

Vista Sands would be more than four times the size of the state's largest current solar array, the 300-megawatt Badger Hollow Solar Park in the south-western part of the state. The first phase of that solar farm entered commercial operation in late 2021. Vista Sands also is expected to have 300 MW of battery energy storage.

The project, located near the towns of Plover and Grant in central Wisconsin, is being developed by Vista Sands Solar LLC, a subsidiary of Philadelphia, Penn.-based Doral Renewables. Con-



struction is expected to begin in 2026, with commercial operation expected in 2028 or 2029. Doral officials said they've had discussions with utilities that could buy power from the solar farm. Portage County is part of Wisconsin Public Service Corp.'s service territory; Wisconsin Power & Light (Alliant Energy) and some electric co-operatives also have customers in the region, according to the PSC.

Wisconsin Public Radio reported that Vista Sands also would bring more than \$6 million in annual utility aid payments to Portage County and other areas around the project. It is an agrivoltaic development, with Doral leasing the land from the owners, who are mostly farmers.

PSC Chair Summer Strand told Wisconsin Public Radio that, "This would be by far the largest solar project in the state of Wisconsin and one of the largest in the upper Midwest. This is one of the most beneficial and impactful renewable energy projects ever proposed in Wisconsin."

*Continued from page 7*

## A Destination to Visit

Stoughton's biggest event of the year is the Syttende Mai Festival, a vibrant celebration of Norwegian heritage. The weekend festival takes place every year around Norway's Constitution Day. This year's activities, which will include a parade, music, cultural demonstrations, and an arts and crafts fair, will begin on May 16, 2025.

On the third weekend in August, Stoughton has another big celebration — the Coffee Break Festival. Stoughton is often credited as the birthplace of the coffee break. The tradition is said to have started in the early 20th century when Nor-

wegian immigrants working in the town's tobacco warehouses would take regular breaks for coffee.

Another popular attraction is the spectacular Stoughton Opera House. The venue opened in 1901 but closed in the mid-20th century after falling into disrepair. It was restored and reopened in 2001, and now hosts more than 30,000 people annually for a variety of shows.

"Stoughton is such a friendly, close-knit community," Weiss said. "Many of our customers are also our friends and neighbors. There is much to see and do here ... it's a great place to be." ●

## Vote Solar appeal dismissed; request for declaratory ruling on third-party-financing ends

On Jan. 3, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals granted a motion by the Wisconsin Utilities Association (WUA) to dismiss Vote Solar's appeal of an April 2024 ruling in which a Circuit Court said the PSC incorrectly interpreted what constitutes a "public utility." The appellate court's action officially concludes a regulatory proceeding that dates back to May 2022 when the San Francisco, Calif.-based nonprofit advocacy group asked the PSC to issue a declaratory ruling about whether third-party financiers of solar installations should be regulated under Wisconsin law.

In September 2024, the PSC declined to issue such a ruling. WUA was joined by other utility stakeholders, including MEUW, in petitioning for judicial review of the matter, which was ultimately dismissed on the basis of "mootness."

## DOE announces grid R&D funding opportunities

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently released three Notices of Funding Opportunity, totaling nearly \$18.4 million, for programs to support research and development of electric grid technologies.

DOE said the programs will reduce the cost of high-voltage direct current circuit breakers, improve risk assessment and communication for grid operators, and ensure communities are ready to respond to unanticipated energy storage system failures. The three funding opportunities each have different application deadlines and specific funding criteria.

Full details are available on the [Fed-Connect](#) system that helps vendors and grant applicants find, respond to and win assistance funding.



# Wait and see after Dane County Judge's decision on Act 10

By Attorney Brian P. Goodman

**A**ct 10 (later amended by 2015 Act 55) was enacted and signed into law by Gov. Scott Walker in 2010. These laws severely limited collective bargaining for municipal bargaining units other than public safety employees (police and fire). Since that time, municipal bargaining for public employees other than police and fire personnel has somewhat disappeared, including for employees of municipal utilities.

On Dec. 2, 2024, a Dane County judge struck down portions of Act 10 and Act 55 for violating the equal protection guarantees in the Wisconsin Constitution. While Acts 10 and 55 limited the collective bargaining rights of most public employees, the collective bargaining rights of “general” employees were restricted more significantly than “public safety” employees. In July 2024, the same judge ruled there was no rational basis for classifying certain groups of employees as “general” employees rather than “public safety” employees.

This more recent decision is not easy to analyze. The most substantive part of the decision merely lists numerous provisions of Acts 10 and 55 that are struck down in their entirety, with no additional explanation. Reconciling all those struck sections and reverting the law back, in part, to its pre-Act 10 status is complicated. After initial review, public sector labor attorneys are finding inconsistencies and potentially unintended consequences from the decision striking down some provisions but not others.

**So what does this all mean?** For now, municipal utilities should wait and see if there are further legal developments regarding this decision. An appeal has already been filed. In addition, having already joined the suit early on to defend Acts 10 and 55, the state legislature has

now requested that the judge grant a stay of his decision pending that appeal. If granted, a stay would maintain the status quo of limited public collective bargaining until the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and/or the Wisconsin Supreme Court issues a final decision. That could take several months, or possibly more than a year.

While the decision continues to grab headlines, it raises more questions than it answers, such as:

- Is the decision retroactive to passage of Act 10? How would that even work given the changed circumstances over all these years? Would municipalities have to bargain contracts all the way back to their last post-Act 10 contract?
- How does the decision impact bargaining agreements that were already ratified by all the parties post-Act 10?
- 2011 Wisconsin Act 32 also modified collective bargaining rights for public employees, but the recent decision does not even discuss this law.
- Does the decision apply to any union or municipality that isn't a party to this case?
- Do the unions have the staff to broadly reorganize and bargain?
- The decision struck down the language in the laws regarding union dues deductions. Additionally, since the passage of Act 10, a U.S. Supreme Court case (*Janus*) has dramatically limited public sector unions from collecting dues from members of the bargaining unit who choose not to join the union. How might these decisions impact unions' ability to organize and bargain?
- The Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) is named as a party in the case. But even if WERC wanted to comply with the decision, does it have the capacity to implement the decision? Since Act 10's passage, the WERC staffing levels have dramatically decreased.

While the implications of the decision are potentially wide-ranging, how it will play out is less certain. Moreover, since the decision has been appealed and may be stayed, in reality, at least in the short term, not much is likely to change.

The constitutionality of Act 10 already has been litigated in a variety of state and federal courts since 2010. Shortly after its passage, another Dane County judge found the law unconstitutional, but was subsequently overturned on appeal. The constitutionality of Act 10 was also upheld by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. That history suggests that there is a reasonable basis to hold off on making major changes to a municipal utility's employment practices until there is more clarity.

Additionally, many, if not most, unions failed to recertify in the years following Act 10, making it less likely that there is a significant enough union presence within the municipal utility for a union to start pushing to negotiate more broadly in light of this decision.

The bottom line is that, for now, municipal utilities should tread carefully. Municipal utilities that start bargaining more broadly with unions might face problems down the line if the decision is overturned on appeal. Such bargaining might potentially be declared unlawful retroactively, leading to potential legal claims. If former bargaining units reach out to re-engage their status, or if you are currently engaged in post-Act 10 bargaining and are asked to bargain outside the restrictions of Acts 10 and 55, you should promptly contact your labor and employment counsel to help fashion the proper response. ●

**Brian P. Goodman** is an attorney with Boardman Clark law firm and is experienced in guiding public and private employers through challenging legal situations.



# Newcomers and veteran leaders to kick off new session



*The men and women who are elected to represent the people of Wisconsin are tasked with the responsibility of considering policy proposals that can have a lasting impact on the state. Lawmakers all across the political spectrum and from throughout Wisconsin serve on legislative committees, make decisions, and vote on bills affecting municipal electric utilities and the energy industry. This month, LIVE LINES is re-introducing a regular feature to help readers get to know our elected officials to understand their influence Wisconsin politics.*

## Alfheim takes seat in Wisconsin Senate



Kristin Alfheim (D) was elected in November to represent the 18th District in the Wisconsin

Senate. As a result of redistricting, most of the Fox Valley shifted from the 19th Senate District to the 18th.

A lifelong Wisconsin resident, Alfheim was born and raised on a beef farm in the town of Weston, where she says she learned the value of hard work. As a teenager, she took her first job at McDonald's, and she graduated from D.C. Everest Senior High School in 1989.

Alfheim then attended Northland College in Ashland, Wis., but never graduated as she preferred working over going to classes. She returned to her job at McDonald's full-time and was eventually promoted to manager of the Wausau restaurant.

In 1999, Alfheim moved into the financial services industry and started her own agency, Appleton-based Retirement Dynamix LLC, which specializes in retirement planning and coaching and mentoring women in career advancement. In addition, she worked in volunteer government advocacy for both the Alzheimer's Association and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

Alfheim joined the Appleton Common Council for the 11th District in 2021 and won re-election in 2023. During her tenure on the Common Council, Appleton Mayor Jake Woodford called Alfheim Appleton's "moderator," due to her status as the swing vote.

During her campaign, Alfheim said her top focus areas included protecting a woman's right to choose, fighting for affordable health care, and working to fully fund Wisconsin's public schools.

Alfheim has two adult children from her first marriage. She divorced after 25 years of marriage and remarried in 2022. Alfheim said she values time with her wife and blended family, which includes two stepchildren.

## Sen. Bradley returns for second term, continues as Committee Chair



Sen. Julian Bradley represents the 28th District in the Wisconsin Senate. He was

first elected in 2020 and was re-elected for a second term last November. Bradley is the first Black Republican to serve in the Wisconsin Senate and only the second Black Republican to serve in the Wisconsin Legislature.

The 28th Senate District now covers part of Waukesha, Racine, and Walworth County. Bradley moved to a new residence in Franklin in 2024 after redistricting so he could continue to live in the 28th District and remain eligible for re-election.

Bradley will serve as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Utilities and Tourism for 2025. He was named to the Joint Committee on Finance, which will oversee the fiscal year 2025-2027 budget. Bradley is also Vice Chair on the Committee on Government Operation and Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology. Additionally, Bradley is a member of the Committee on Administrative Rules, the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, and the Committee on Health.

In his role on the Senate Committee on Utilities and Tourism, Bradley said he is

committed to balancing regulatory oversight with consumer interests and aims to keep utility services both safe and economically viable for Wisconsin residents. He is a strong supporter of the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) bill. He believes that this legislation is crucial for maintaining state-level control over transmission projects. The ROFR bill successfully passed the State Assembly in 2024 with a voice vote and no debate, but it is still awaiting a vote in the Senate.

Born in Baltimore, Md. Bradley moved to Wisconsin at age 11. He graduated from La Crosse Central High School, attended Temple University in Philadelphia, and earned his bachelor's in political science and economics from UW-La Crosse.

Bradley briefly pursued professional wrestling for a few years to support his family and fund his education. After college, Bradley worked in the telecommunications and insurance industries, becoming a manager at CenturyLink and later Northwestern Mutual.

Bradley is a long-time grassroots activist in the Republican Party, having been elected as a county chairman and to the Republican Party of Wisconsin executive committee. He routinely gives back to the community, including volunteering for the Salvation Army, United Way, and many literacy-based programs. He's also an avid sports fan and enjoys attending games and events with family and friends.

*Continued on page 11*

Continued from page 10

## Rep. Steffen begins sixth term in Assembly, will chair Energy and Utilities Committee



Rep. David Steffen (R-Howard) has served in the Wisconsin State Assembly since 2015 and was re-elected for his sixth term in 2024.

Steffen represents the 4th Assembly District, covering a mostly urban region of Green Bay. He has held several significant committee assignments during his tenure in the Wisconsin State Assembly. He has been the Vice Chair of the Energy and Utilities Committee for multiple terms and was named again as Chair for the 2025-2026 legislative session.

He also served as Chair of the Insurance Committee from 2021 to 2022, Chair of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee from 2019 to 2020, and Chair of the International Affairs and Commerce Committee in 2024. Additionally, Steffen was a member of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee for several terms.

In his role as Vice Chair of the Energy and Utilities Committee, Steffen publicly stated that he is focused on reducing costs for utility customers. He supports the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) legislation in Wisconsin. As a co-author of Assembly Bill 470, he advocates for granting incumbent utility companies the exclusive right to construct, own, and maintain new transmission lines. Steffen believes that this legislation will enhance grid reliability and help prevent out-of-state developers from taking over the state's transmission projects.

The bill was approved by the state Assembly last February and is expected to be considered by the state Senate in 2025.

Prior to taking office in 2015, Steffen spent 12 years in the education and non-profit sectors, most notably as the Director of Operations for the Legislative Leadership Institute Academy of Foreign Affairs. Additionally, he was a member of the Howard Village Board and the Brown County Board of Supervisors for eight years.

Steffen was born and raised in Ashwaubenon. After graduating Ashwaubenon High School, he attended UW-Madison and graduated with a degree in political science. Today he resides in Howard with his wife and son. ●

## Focus on Energy expands accessibility, increases many rebates for 2025

**F**ocus on Energy has made several changes for 2025 designed to make its energy-efficiency program more accessible and beneficial for utility customers. In 2025, Focus also will continue to implement the IRA Home Energy Rebates, allowing more households to make energy-saving improvements.

### Residential Program Changes in '25

As a result of more cost-efficient program delivery, Focus will offer additional instant discounts for efficient [heating and cooling](#) equipment in 2025. Instant discounts on furnaces have doubled (to \$100 per unit) and discounts for heat pumps increased by about \$100, depending on the efficiency rating of the equipment.

[Multifamily](#) lighting and HVAC incentives are now bigger and aligned with the general business program incentives.

Focus's [online marketplace](#) now includes a new [smart thermostat](#) choice for customers with electric-resistant heating, from the brand Mysa. In addition, the website and installation guides associated with purchased products are now available in Spanish.

Residential customers are encouraged to begin their energy-efficiency journey by visiting the [Residential Rebate Finder](#) page.

### Non-Residential Program Changes in '25

Prescriptive incentives have increased an average of 30% on select products, including LED troffers, high bay/low bay fixtures, variable frequency drives (VFDs), and HVAC. To simplify and improve rebate options for business customers, a new incentive option for watts reduced/fixture elimination and adjusting incentive structure for select LED measures is also now available.

### IRA Home Energy Rebates Launched

Focus is partnering with the Public Service Commission to offer rebates through the federal government's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The Home Efficiency Rebates Program (HOMES) and the Home Electrification & Appliance Rebates (HEAR) Program are now offering discounts on the purchase of qualifying electric appliances and home upgrades for low- and moderate-income single-family residences. The program is expected to expand to include purchases made at participating retailers later in 2025. Utilities are encouraged to visit the Focus [website](#) to stay updated on all developments related to the rollout of these programs.

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# MEUW NEWS Monitor

## MEUW scholarship application period open now

To help ensure the education of future municipal utility workers, MEUW provides the “Powering Futures” Scholarship to students pursuing careers in electrical power distribution. Applications for this year’s awards will be accepted until Friday, Jan. 24. To be eligible, students must reside in a Wisconsin public power community and must be pursuing post-secondary education to become a Field Service Technician, Groundworker, Lineworker Apprentice, Electric Meter Technician, Substation Electrician Apprentice or Utility Technician. For more information and to review the complete criteria, visit [MEUW.org/scholarships](http://MEUW.org/scholarships). Click [here](#) to find a customizable letter template you can send to your local high school principals and counselors to encourage applications.

## Get hands-on training at Apparatus Workshop

MEUW and Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) have organized an Apparatus Workshop for Feb. 18–19. Held at CVTC’s campus in Eau Claire, this workshop will cover topics such as jobsite safety, capacitors, voltage regulators, reclosers, trip savers, meters, and connectors/connections. (Final topics may change depending on presenter availability.) Details and registration information can be found [here](#).

## Share and learn at the Foreman’s Roundtable

Back by popular demand, we will once again be holding our Foreman’s Roundtable. The foreman role is important to safety and efficiency when operating a utility. The people leading utility line crews face common challenges and often don’t have an opportunity to talk with others facing those same challenges. This meeting will enable electric utility foremen to share ideas, learn from one another, and develop leadership and communication skills, especially regarding safety.

The next Foreman’s Roundtable will be held at [Milford Hills](#) in Johnson Creek. The day’s agenda will include discussion on topics most important to the participants. Following the Roundtable, attendees will have the chance to take part in an optional teambuilding and networking activity at the hunt club. Participants will be able to participate in clay trap or range shooting. A full agenda will be available soon. Registration is now [open](#).

## Represent your community-owned utility at the annual APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C.

The annual federal Legislative Rally to share the public power message and influence policy is set to take place Feb. 24–26, 2025. Full details about the Rally are available on the American Public Power Association (APPA) website [here](#).

## 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](#). Here are some current opportunities available:

### Manitowoc Public Utilities

[Meter System Administrator](#)

### Wisconsin Rapids Water Works & Lighting Commission

[Director of Engineering and Electric Operations](#)  
[Information Systems Technician](#)

### City of Stoughton

[Asset & Facilities Coordinator](#)

### City of Fennimore

[Public Works Maintenance Worker](#)

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



Powering Strong Communities

2451 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000  
Arlington, VA 22202-4804  
202-467-2900  
[www.PublicPower.org](http://www.PublicPower.org)

December 7, 2024

Michelle Kaltenberg  
Co-Superintendent  
Columbus Utilities  
PO Box 228  
Columbus, WI 53925

Dear Michelle,

As we approach this holiday season filled with gratitude and celebration, it brings me great joy to present an American Public Power Association Mutual Aid Commendation to Columbus Utilities. The Mutual Aid Commendation was established in 2018 to recognize public power utilities that have answered the call for assistance and aided another community in restoring power to its customers.

Mutual aid is at the heart of what public power does, and the public power community thanks you for stepping up to help a neighbor in need—whether they are next door or thousands of miles away.

Enclosed is a sample news release that you may wish to use in publicizing your commendation. If you have questions or would like assistance, please contact us at [MutualAid@PublicPower.org](mailto:MutualAid@PublicPower.org).

On behalf of the more than 2,000 public power utilities we represent, and with warm holiday wishes, please accept my thanks.

Wishing you a happy holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Corwin".

Scott Corwin  
President & CEO

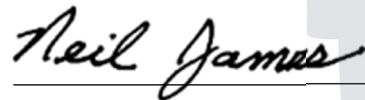


# MUTUAL AID COMMENDATION

## Columbus Utilities

In recognition of its support in electric power restoration efforts, the American Public Power Association recognizes

Columbus Utilities  
for providing mutual aid assistance to  
Lakeland Electric



Neil James  
Chair, Mutual Aid Committee



Scott Corwin  
President & CEO



Powering Strong Communities