



Utility Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Notice of Open Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

- [1.](#) Approval of November 20, 2025 Utility Commission Minutes
- [2.](#) Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report
- [3.](#) Outage Reports

Unfinished Business

New Business

- [4.](#) WPPI Director Appointment
- [5.](#) Consider and take action on Handbook Utility Addendum

Reports

- [6.](#) December 2025 Utilities Department Report
- [7.](#) December 2025 Live Lines

Adjourn

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



Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

Roll Call

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

Notice of Open Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Rule to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Approval of October 16, 2025 Utility Commission Minutes and October 30, 2025 Special Utility Commission Minutes.
2. Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report
3. Outage Reports

Convene to Closed Session

Motion made by Hammer, seconded by Finkler to convene to closed session. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Convene to closed session per § 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically Utility staff wages.

Convene to Closed Session

Motion made by Sanderson, seconded by Hammer to convene to open session. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

5. Introduction by Utility Director Randall Myrum

Utility Director Randy Myrum provided a presentation on his work history and background and a preview of reports he will provide the commission.

6. Presentation by Ruekert-Mielke of findings from water site study.

Jason Lietha provided a report on the study.

7. Approval of 2026 Budget

Motion by Finkler, seconded by Hammer to approve the 2026 budget. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

8. Consider and take action on Task Order with Ruekert-Mielke on Heritage Way water main loop

Jason Lietha discussed the task order for the project.

Motion by Finkler, second by Hammer to approve the task order. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Reports

9. November 2025 Live Lines

Adjourn

Motion by Finkler, seconded by Rule to adjourn at 7:21 pm. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

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



Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Item #2.

Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Item Title: Consider and take action on Financial Reports.

Submitted By: Michelle Kaltenberg, Business Manager

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

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

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

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

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

Action Requested of Commission:

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

**CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES
TREASURER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025**

Item #2.

GENERAL FUND (commingled cash) - ACCOUNT #1310

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 421,377.52
Receipts:	\$ 1,114,091.64
Interest Earned:	\$ 187.96
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,535,657.12
Disbursements:	\$ (1,393,537.65)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 142,119.47
<i>NOTE: Conventional utility accounting standards recommend a balance equal to two month's expenses - approx. \$1,400,000 (LGIP & Checking).</i>	

UTILITY GENERAL FUND - LGIP #13 - ACCOUNT #1314

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 532,830.13
Receipts:	\$ 15,500.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,666.57
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 549,996.70
Disbursements:	\$ (93,100.00)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 456,896.70

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 384,264.65
Receipts:	\$ 30,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,304.07
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 415,568.72
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 415,568.72
<i>NOTE: Transfers are made monthly to accrue sufficient funds to make May 1 and November 1 principal & interest payments.</i>	

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #4 - SEWER UTILITY GENERAL FUNDS

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 1,246.65
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 4.12
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,250.77
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 1,250.77

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #11 - COLLECTION MAIN - REPLACEMENT

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$1,018,007.16
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$3,273.48
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,021,280.64
Disbursements:	\$ (77,242.50)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 944,038.14

WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 160,868.87
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 532.09
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 161,400.96
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 161,400.96

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 340,422.56
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 340,422.56
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 340,422.56
<i>F&M Bank/CDAR 52 Week Certificate of Deposit: \$170,211.28 Due June 2026 4.75%; \$170,211.28 Due December 2026 4.75%</i>	

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 133,341.66
Receipts:	\$ 1,535.89
Interest Earned (<i>pd semi-annually May/Nov</i>) :	\$ 502.06
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 135,379.61
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 135,379.61

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 574,503.64
Receipts:	\$ 5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,905.74
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 581,409.38
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 581,409.38
<i>NOTE: Bond covenants require a "depreciation fund" with recommended balance of \$300,000 to cover plant renewals and replacements.</i>	

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #8 - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 499,885.48
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,653.42
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 501,538.90
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 501,538.90

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 235,407.85
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned (<i>pd semi-annually May/Nov</i>) :	\$ 10,936.74
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 246,344.59
Disbursements:	\$ (10,936.74)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 235,407.85

WWTP FALL RIVER RESTRICTED REPLACEMENT FUNDS - F&M CDARS

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

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

F&M Union Bank-Checking/Savings	0.5% / 0.75%	Local Gov't. Investment Pool	4.02%
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS	4.35%-4.65%		

COLUMBUS UTILITIES
CASH DISBURSEMENTS REPORT
NOVEMBER, 2025

Item #2.

DATE	CHECK NO	PAID TO	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	09-Dec-25
20-Nov	24645	AMBUSH PEST CONTROL LLC	\$120.00	ADMIN BLDG INSECT CONTROL, SUBSTATION RODENT CONTROL	
20-Nov	24646	ANTHONY DERR	\$442.27	MILEAGE FOR TESTING AND CONFERENCE IN LA CROSSE	
20-Nov	24647	AQUATIC INFORMATICS INC	\$6,408.87	2025 SCADA PROJECT AND LICENSE	
20-Nov	24648	BAKER TILLY US, LLP	\$3,954.40	2025 AUDIT SERVICES	
20-Nov	24649	BASSETT MECHANICAL	\$753.00	MONTHLY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT 2025	
20-Nov	24650	BORDER STATES ELECTRIC SUPPLY	\$1,055.33	4-REELS 1200FT MULE TAPE, TRANSFORMER PARTS	
20-Nov	24651	CHEMTRADE CHEMICALS	\$14,732.50	HYPER + ON 1987 HULK	
20-Nov	24652	CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$356,985.24	MONTHLY PILOT PAYMENT, SALARIES, PHONE USE REIMBURSEMENT, R&M INVOICE #159566, 2025 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS PAY REQUEST NO 2	
20-Nov	24653	COLUMBIA CITY HIGHWAY	\$31.72	EMPLOYEE DRUG TESTING	
20-Nov	24654	COLUMBUS CHAMBER CHOIR	\$300.00	PATRON DONATION	
20-Nov	24655	COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL	\$100.00	25-26 YEARBOOK AD	
20-Nov	24656	CORE & MAIN LP	\$113.93	WATER VALVE MARKERS	
20-Nov	24657	CRAIG SCHULTZ	\$125.00	REIMBURSEMENT SAFETY BOOTS	
20-Nov	24658	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	\$66.00	PE-DI 11/01-11/30,	
20-Nov	24659	DALTON HILEY	\$125.00	WORK BOOT REIMBURSEMENT	
20-Nov	24660	DAVY LABORATORIES	\$960.00	SDWA RAOACTIVITY PACKAGE (30), SDWA LEAD/COPPER (20)	
20-Nov	24661	DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	\$5,221.84	PUBLIC BENEFITS PY26 Q1	
20-Nov	24662	DIGGERS HOTLINE	\$93.50	Locating Expenses	
20-Nov	24663	DINGES FIRE COMPANY	\$285.00	DRAGER CALIBRATION/BUMP TEST (2) WASTEWATER, CALIBRATION/BUMP TEST ELECTRIC & WATER	
20-Nov	24664	DRONE HARMONY CORP	\$7,000.00	DRONE HARMONY ASSET	
20-Nov	24665	FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION	\$525.00	HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS	
20-Nov	24666	FOREST LANDSCAPING	\$3,775.00	WATERMAIN PATCH ON S. WATER STREET & JAMES STREET	
20-Nov	24667	FORSTER ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	\$18,326.04	ICA APPLICATION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, RE-ROUTE CIRCUIT #403 AT THE HOSPITAL, SCADA COMMUNICATION TROUBLE SHOOTING, DISTRIBUTION PLANNING	
20-Nov	24668	GRAINGER, INC	\$2,578.75	TUBING FOR LAB SAMPLES, EMERGENCY LIGHT, 12-LED, AMBERMANUFACTURER, PUMPING KIT AND ROTARY FOR PUMPING CHEMICALS	
20-Nov	24669	HAWKINS	\$737.00	SERVICE CALL FOR RIVER RD, KIWANIS LIFT, WESTSIDE LIFT, HALL RD LIFT	
20-Nov	24670	HYDROCORP	\$2,569.29	WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS	
20-Nov	24671	ICS MEDICAL ANSWERING SERVICE	\$980.00	CROSS CONNECTION CNTL PROGRAM	
20-Nov	24672	INDUSTRIAL CHEM LABS	\$198.01	PHONE ANSWERING SERVICE	
20-Nov	24673	INFOSEND	\$147.41	LIFT STATION DEGREASER	
20-Nov	24674	INSOURCE SOLUTIONS	\$1,919.70	UTILITY BILL PRINTING AND MAILING, PUBLIC POWER WEEK BILL INSERT	
20-Nov	24675	JEREMY ROLL	\$2,267.60	AVEVA WONDERWARE SOFTWARE	
20-Nov	24676	JOSH AND ASHLEY EHRKE	\$247.20	MILEAGE FOR TESTING AND CONFERENCE	
20-Nov	24677	LAKE SIDE INTERNATIONAL	\$318.85	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES	
20-Nov	24678	MADISON GRAPHICS CO	\$12,003.67	DUMPTRUCK #26 INSPECTION, LABOR, AND MATERIALS	
20-Nov	24679	MASON MOSHER	\$1,500.00	TRUCK #21 DECALS	
20-Nov	24680	MERLE NOREN	\$417.61	MASON APPRENTICESHIP REIMBURSEMENT	
20-Nov	24681	MID-STATE EQUIPMENT, INC	\$194.60	MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT LA CROSSE CONFERENCE	
20-Nov	24682	MIDWEST CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT	\$1,275.00	2026 ELECTRIC OPERATIONS CONFERENCE & EXPO HILEY & BONESS, MYRUM 2026 ELECTRIC OPERATIONS CONFERENCE & EXPO	
20-Nov	24683	MULCAHY SHAW WATER	\$485.11	HOSE KIT FOR 3" PUMP, REEL TRAILER HITCH PIN, 1/2" HITCH PIN	
20-Nov	24684	NAPA AUTO PARTS	\$3,623.00	(3) DRUMS POLYMER	
20-Nov	24685	NCL OF WISCONSIN, INC	\$83.45	PHOS. REDUCTION SYSTEM	
20-Nov	24686	NIEMANN FOODS, INC	\$330.35	BATTERY ACCESSORIES (2), NAPA 10W30 (2), CIRCLE FUSE HOLDER (3), 15 AMP BLADE FUSE, BATTERIES, DEPOSIT, WINDSHIELD WAS, SPARK PLUG FOR PRESSU	
20-Nov	24687	NILE XPEDITE SOLUTIONS	\$393.57	WASTEWATER DAILY TESTING MATERIAL	
20-Nov	24688	OPENPOINT	\$1,048.49	LINE TRIMMER, SAFETY GLASS, MARKING PAINT, SPRAY PAINT, CLIP BATTERY, SEARCH LIGHT, PIC HANG STRIP, EXTN CORD, LAMPHOLDER, TOOLS FOR HOIST TR	
20-Nov	24689	OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE	\$115.00	WET TESTING SHIPPING	
20-Nov	24690	PACKERLAND RENT-A-MAT	\$1,250.00	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION/CONCULTING	
20-Nov	24691	PROCESS REVOLUTION	\$67.37	TIRE REPAIR KIT, WIPER BLADES FOR #21	
20-Nov	24692	PURE WATER LABS	\$119.33	URNAL REFILLS, MATS	
20-Nov	24693	RESOURCE SOLUTIONS CORP	\$3,460.00	2 GATES	
20-Nov	24694	RUEKERT & MIELKE	\$45.00	BACTERIA SAMPLE	
20-Nov	24695	SCHAEFFER'S MFG COMPANY	\$15.00	ELECTRONICS RECYCLING	
20-Nov	24696	SPEE-DEF	\$18,295.05	MEISTER LIFT STATION DESIGN, GENERAL SERVICES WATER, 2025 SITE SELECTION STUDY FOR NEW WATER FACILITY, 5-YEAR SEWER TELEVISION PROGRAM	
20-Nov	24697	STUART IRBY	\$642.00	SUPREME INDUSTRIAL SMT GEAR LUBE	
20-Nov	24698	UNITED FUND OF COLUMBUS	\$22.38	SHIPPING SAMPLES TO LAB	
20-Nov	24699	USA BLUE BOOK	\$104,094.29	(1) SWITCHGEAR PAD MT 15KV, (3) SWITCHGEAR PADMOUNT DEADFRONT, (50) VINYL TAPE 76FT ROLL, VINYL COLOR CODING, GLOVES, CONNECTOR COVERS, UC	
20-Nov	24700	USC LOCATING SERVICES	\$300.00	UNITED FUND OF COLUMBUS DONATION	
20-Nov	24701	VC3, INC	\$2,862.94	DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING/SAMPLER PUMP TUBING, INVERTED PAINT, GREEN MARKING FLAG	
20-Nov	24702	VISU-SEWER, LLC	\$2,652.65	Locating Expenses	
20-Nov	24703	WI STATE LABORATORY OF HY	\$296.63	NETWORK SECURITY/FIREWALL/IC/SUB	
20-Nov	24704	WISEGUYS AUTO REPAIR	\$77,242.50	INSTALL 1886LF OF 8" NATIONAL LINER, INSTALL 1447 LF OF 10" NATIONAL LINER	
20-Nov	24705	WRIGHT PLUMBING	\$31.00	FLUORIDE TEST	
20-Nov	24706		\$3,808.20	TRUCK #32 2025 STROBE LIGHTS AND HITCH INSTALL	
20-Nov	24707		\$63.00	10' SCH 80 PVC WP#1	
20-Nov	24707		\$671,440.84	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LIST APPROVED AT NOVEMBER MEETING	
01-Nov	ACH	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank	\$10.00	NSF Fees	
14-Nov	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$31,475.93	Net Payroll for 2nd Payroll in October #23	
14-Nov	ACH -4484	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$1,521.17	Slate Withholding Payroll #23	
14-Nov	ACH -4481	EFTPS	\$10,599.47	FICA/FED/MED Withholding Payroll #23	
14-Nov	ACH -4483	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$1,889.90	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #23	
14-Nov	ACH -4482	North Shore Bank	\$300.00	North Shore Deferred Comp #23	
03-Nov	ACH -4497	Payment Service Network	\$3,712.60	Customer Payment Fee	
03-Nov	ACH -4495	BP	\$1,509.41	FUEL	
17-Nov	ACH -4514	WE Energies	\$63.95	Natural Gas Service for CWL Admin Building	
17-Nov	ACH -4499	WE Energies	\$142.28	TREATMENT PLANT	

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION 4 CIRCUIT # 403 DATE 11/13/2025 Item #3.
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER Sunset Circle 655998
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION Sunset Circle
 REMARKS Squirrels

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 Arrestor
- 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 Arrestor
- 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
- 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 _____ ON _____

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers _____ Minutes Duration _____

4 30 min

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 60/59/98 Size 10Amp

Transformer

Fuse _____ Transf. Size _____

ROUTING (initial)

Responded By

Jeff Hecht

Line Assisted By

Jaime Boness
Dallen Hiley
Mason Mosher

Assisted By _____

Manager _____

Outage File _____

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION 4 CIRCUIT # 403 DATE 11 / 4 / 25

Item #3.

LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 60145/78

CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION Prairie Ridge Health

REMARKS Excavator pulled primary cable out of transformer, causing an oil leak, leading to an outage on majority of hospital and needing to install a new 30 transformer

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 Arrestor
- 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.
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- 27 Vandalism
- 28 Other

EQUIPMENT

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

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF 1030 ON 1900

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers 1 Minutes Duration 8HR 30min

TRANSFORMER FAILURE

CWL# _____ KVA 2,000

MFG Cooper AGE (est) 2007

Serial # 0002FAL5K34A

Arrester ON / OFF Tank (circle one)

ARRESTOR FAILURE

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

DEVICE THAT OPENED

Distribution
Main Feeder

Breaker _____ Counter _____

Targets _____

Branch Line

O.C.R. _____ Size _____
Fuse _____ Size _____

Transformer

Fuse _____ Transf. Size _____

ROUTING (initial)

Responded By DH, JB

Line Assisted By JH, MM

Assisted By CS, JT

Manager DH

Outage File

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION 2 CIRCUIT # 201 DATE 11/15/2020 Item #3.
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 4F/95/62
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION _____
 REMARKS Sub functioned, found nuts on Riser and seat on transformer where the cutout was open

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 Arrestor
- 12 Conductor – Primary
- 13 “ - Secondary
- 14 Connector
- 21 Insulator
- 24 Metering equipment
- 25 Pole
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- 28 Other

EQUIPMENT

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

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF _____ ON _____

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers	Minutes Duration
<u>1</u>	<u>30</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 X Size 3

Transformer

Fuse _____ Transf. Size _____

ROUTING (initial)

Responded By Jeff Kech

Line Assisted By _____

Assisted By _____

Manager _____

Outage File _____

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION 1 CIRCUIT # 103 DATE 11 / 13 / 25

Item #3.

LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 4F/49/72, 4F/11/86

CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION 129 W James St

REMARKS Squirrel made contact between 2 primary conductors, being 2400v animal burnt, causing a weak spot in wire and under tension wires fell to ground causing 2 line fuses to blow.

PART THAT FAILED

CAUSE

TRANSFORMER FAILURE

- 0 None
☒ Numerous
 2 Other-note in remarks
 3 Transmission equipment
 4 Substation equipment
O.H. DISTRIBUTION

- 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

CWL# _____ KVA _____

MFG _____ AGE (est) _____

Serial # _____

Arrester ON / OFF Tank (circle one)

- 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

FOREIGN OBJECTS

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 (2) 200A Size _____

Transformer
 Fuse _____ Transf. Size _____

ROUTING (initial)

Responded By DH, JB, MM

Line Assisted By JH

Assisted By CS, JT

Manager DH

Outage File

- 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

EQUIPMENT

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

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF 1700 ON 2003

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers _____ Minutes Duration _____

311 3HR 3min

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



Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Item #4.

Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Item Title: Consider and take action on WPPI Director Appointment Recommendation.

Submitted By: Randall Ryrum, Utility Director and Michelle Kaltenberg, Business Manager

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

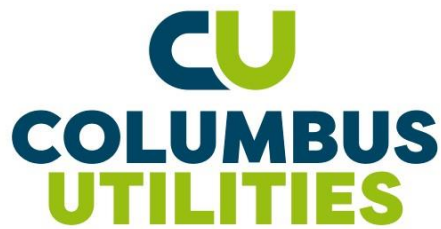
The WPPI Director is recognized at WPPI Functions where voting takes place. The recommendation to the Columbus Utility Commission is to appoint Utility Director Randall Ryrum, WPPI Director for Columbus Utilities.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

1. A letter that will need to be signed at the meeting on December 18th

Action Requested of Commission:

1. Approve the appointment of Utility Director Randall Myrum as the WPPI Director



Shared strength through  WPPI Energy

950 Maple Avenue
PO Box 228
Columbus, WI 53925
Email: cwl@columbusutilitieswi.com

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

Phone (920)623-5912
www.columbusutilitieswi.com

Mike Peters
Assistant Secretary of WPPI Energy
1425 Corporate Center Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

December 18, 2025

Due to the filling of the staff vacancy of Utility Director, effective Thursday, December 18, 2025, the following appointment has been made to the WPPI Energy Board by The Columbus Utility Commission:

WPPI Director: Utility Director Randall Myrum

Best Regards,

Brook Andler
Columbus Utility Commission Secretary



Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Item #5.

Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Item Title: Consider and take action on the Handbook Utility Addendum.

Submitted By: Randall Ryrum, Utility Director

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

On October 21, 2025, the City Council approved a new employee handbook that will go in effect on January 1, 2026. The utilities have a few unique items that fall outside the general scope of the handbook and will need to add an addendum.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

Handbook Utility Addendum

Action Requested of Commission:

Approve the Handbook Utility Addendum

Handbook Utility Addendum

CALL-IN AND STANDBY

An employee who is on-call must be able to report to the COLUMBUS UTILITIES facility within 30 minutes of notification.

An employee called back to work after having completed their regular day's work shall be given not less than two (2) hours pay at time and one-half (1-1/2) their regular hourly rate of pay or time and one-half (1-1/2) for all hours worked, whichever is greater, provided, however, that this two (2) hour guarantee shall not apply to worked consecutively prior to or subsequent to an employee's regular schedule of hours.

- A. Employees who are required to be on standby on weekends or holidays shall receive five (5) hours' pay at time and one-half (1-1/2) their regular hourly rate of pay (Saturday and Sunday) for each such day of standby.
 - i. Plus (1) hours pay at time and one-half (1-1/2) their regular hourly rate of pay (Saturday and Sunday) for water utility readings.
 - ii. Plus (2) hours pay at time and one-half (1-1/2) their regular hourly rate of pay (Saturday and Sunday) for wastewater utility readings
- B. Employees who are called out while on standby shall receive two (2) hours of pay at time and one-half (1-1/2) for each call-out if not in the same hours or time and one-half (1-1/2) for actual hours worked, whichever is greater.
- C. Employees called out on paid holidays shall receive two (2) hours of pay at double the normal hourly rate for each call-out if not the same hours or double time for actual hours worked, whichever is greater. The employee shall receive one (1) hour pay at double the normal hourly rate on these days for recording the plant readings.
- D. When an inexperienced apprentice lineman is scheduled for a week of standby, one of the journeyman linemen will be designated as the "back up" lineman and receive 100% of the normal standby time for the week as compensation. A Journeyman Lineman shall be on standby each weekend/week.
- E. When COLUMBUS UTILITIES Employees are called into work for emergency reasons, overtime will be paid, at time and one-half, until the emergency is repaired, or the new workday starts. The new workday begins at 7:00 am, Monday through Friday. If the emergency falls on the weekend the new workday will begin at 7:00 am on Saturday or Sunday.
- F. A minimum of six hours (6) rest time will be required for COLUMBUS UTILITIES Employees that have been working on an extended outage emergency.

- **Example A** - A crew is called out for an after-hours emergency and shall get paid for rest time in the following manor. Depending on the Emergency, the Utility Director, Line Foreman or their designee can decide to split the crew and send some crew members home in order to have enough COLUMBUS UTILITIES Staff on duty at 7:00 am the next morning. The crew are called out and begin work at 12:01 am; they complete the repairs and arrive back at the COLUMBUS UTILITIES shop at 8:30 am. Overtime will be paid to crew members working in the after-hour emergency from 12:01 am until 7:00 am. (The normal workday shift begins at 7:00 am) 1.5 hours will be paid at the normal wage rate. At 8:30 am, the crew leaves for the day and will be paid the remainder of the workday as rest time at their normal hourly rate. Which would be 8:30 am until 4:30 pm, minus ½ hour for lunch or 7.5 hours. If the after-hour emergency begins at 12:01 am on Friday, the paid rest time shall reflect the crew being done with work at 11 am. If they left at 8:30 am as explained above the paid rest time would be 8:30 am until 11:00 am or 2.5 hours at their normal hourly rate.

Example B – A crew is called out for an afterhours emergency beginning at 7:00 pm. The crew works until 4:00 am the next morning. Overtime wages will be paid from 7:00 pm until 4:00 am. The normal working day begins at 7:00 am. The Crew will be required to have a minimum of 6 hours of rest-time before reporting to work for the normal workday. The normal workday begins at 7:00 am, seeing as how the crew worked until 4:00 am, they will report for their normally scheduled workday at 10:00 am and will receive 3 hours of pay for rest time (at their standard hourly rate) based on the example above. Depending on the Emergency, the Utility Director, Line Foreman or their designee can decide to split the crew and send some crew members home in order to have enough COLUMBUS UTILITIES Staff on duty at 7:00 am the next morning.

UNIFORM POLICY

Full-time, operational employees of the COLUMBUS UTILITIES will be required to wear Flame Resistant (FR) clothing, as specified and approved by the Columbus Utility Director, when performing their duties.

COLUMBUS UTILITIES linemen are required to adhere to the following protective clothing guidelines:

All inner layers of clothing must be constructed of natural fiber materials or be fire retardant (FR).

All outer layers of clothing must be FR meeting the requirement of the most recent arc flash hazard assessment.

The following will be the policy of the COLUMBUS UTILITIES line personnel for FR clothing:

1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis during annual negotiations. The Columbus Utility Commission will decide if it should continue or other options considered.
2. All shirts will be required to have the Utilities logo and employees' name on them before being placed into service.
3. All clothing purchased will meet NFPA 70E and OSHA 1910.269 compliance based on arc flash studies being conducted by COLUMBUS UTILITIES.
4. In the event that an employee is no longer employed by COLUMBUS UTILITIES all clothing is to be returned to COLUMBUS UTILITIES before the final employees' paycheck will be issued.
5. Clothing will be treated the same as PPE which means that it shall be worn any time that there is any risk of electrical exposure.
6. The Columbus Utility Commission has approved the following initial purchases for COLUMBUS UTILITIES Employees:
7. Line workers – 5 pairs of FR pants, 5 FR long sleeve shirts button-up or Henley style shirts
8. Water Operators / Wastewater Operators – 5 pairs regular duty pants, a total of 5 button-up duty shirts, a combination of long and short sleeve
9. COLUMBUS UTILITIES will provide a yearly clothing allowance per Line Worker – Water Operator – Wastewater Operator
10. Any clothing that is damaged beyond repair during work hours will be replaced and will not be counted against replacement clothing allowance.
11. Any clothing damaged needs to be reported to the Utility Director immediately,
12. Clothing may be mended by approved methods no more than two times after which the Utility Director will have final determination if the mended clothing is acceptable for public wear.
13. Clothing determined to be unfit for duty due to damage or unsightly appearance will need to be turned into the Utility Director and disposed of properly.

CDL DRIVERS LICENSE REIMBURSEMENT

As a condition of employment, certain employees are required to obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). COLUMBUS UTILITIES will reimburse the employees for the cost to obtain the original CDL. In the event the Employee remains employed for less than two years, the Employee shall repay the utility portion of the non-wage related expenses according to the following schedule.

Terms of Employment	Repayment Amount
Less than 12 months	100%
12 months to 15 months	75%
16 months to 20 months	50%
21 months to 24 months	25%
After 24 months	0%

In addition,

COLUMBUS UTILITIES will reimburse employees for the difference between the renewal cost of the regular driver license and the renewal cost of the CDL.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

COLUMBUS UTILITIES will provide tools and equipment required to perform normal duties.

Except in the case of emergency situations, COLUMBUS UTILITIES prohibit the use of laptops, hand-held cell phones and similar devices while driving. Hands-free devices for cell phone use are acceptable.

Safety glasses will be provided. If an employee wears prescription eyeglasses, COLUMBUS UTILITIES will provide safety glasses that fit over the prescription eyeglasses.

COLUMBUS UTILITIES personnel designated by the COLUMBUS UTILITIES Utility Director will be paid \$25.00 per month as compensation for the use of their personal cell phone for COLUMBUS UTILITIES-related communications.

Personal tools, equipment or property will not be stored at any COLUMBUS UTILITIES Facilities.



Utility Commission Meeting Memo

Item #6.

Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Item Title: Director's Report Outline

Submitted By: Randall Myrum - Utility Director

Electric Dept.

- New construction.
 - Cardinal Heights.
- System Repairs

Water Dept.

- Residential low-pressure issue.
- Flushing Plant No. 2.

Sanitary Dept.

- Collection System Repairs.
 - Pipelining along Ludington St.
- Plant Maintenance.
 - Winterizing plant.

Special Events

- Installing Christmas decorations city wide.

Project Updates

- Cardinal Heights
- Water Plant No.2 rehab.

LIVELines

Volume 74, Issue 12 • December 2025

Electric Operations Conference & Expo will kickstart 2026

When employees and leaders from Wisconsin's municipal and cooperative electric utilities gather in Wisconsin Dells in January, they'll start off the next year by upholding a valued tradition. The Electric Operations Conference & Expo (EOCE), which evolved from the former Joint Superintendents' Conference, is held annually to strengthen relationships and encourage information sharing to improve utility operations across the state. MEUW and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) will hold EOCE26 at the Kalahari Resort on Jan. 14–15.

While the timing of this year's event is slightly altered compared to prior years, the two-day program will feature informative presentations, engaging keynote presenters, and a jam-packed trade show.

MEUW will hold a Board of Directors meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14. Event programming will kick off at 1:00 p.m. with general session presentations for both MEUW and WECA attendees.

The program for Thursday, Jan. 15 includes large-group general sessions, breakouts, the trade show, and an inspirational keynote focused on safety.

Based on positive feedback, we will again offer "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 linework and electric metering.

Thursday's program will once again feature a five-hour vendor Expo, giving exhibitors and attendees plenty of time to connect. The trade show will open at 9:30 a.m. and continue through 2:30 p.m. During this time, attendees can choose to visit the Exhibit Hall (and auxiliary exhibit space) or attend a cohort and/or breakout session.

The program is filled with topical presentations and educational sessions on a variety of subjects. Public Service Commissioner Kristy Nieto will share her perspective on the current regulatory

environment and current areas of PSC focus. Presentations are designed to help utility leaders anticipate and prepare for developments shaping the energy industry. Presenters will discuss the state of transmission and the Midwest electric grid, innovations in battery storage, the impact of data centers, as well as how emergency managers are responding to seemingly more intense weather. An update on changes impacting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will also be covered.

Day one will feature an engaging keynote address, "This is Not My First Rodeo!" by professional speaker Brenda Clark Hamilton, who will offer strategies for building personal resilience in stressful times. Her talk provides a perfect segue to the Welcome Reception Wednesday evening.

Thursday's agenda will also feature three breakout sessions from which to choose. Topics include tips to prepare for safety inspections, stray-voltage testing, and ways utilities can use drones and AI to enhance system security and resilience.

Expo Bingo will also be back in 2026, 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.

Continued on page 4



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"Providing safety training" is the most important service MEUW makes available to its members (71% say it's "extremely important") — learn more about how MEUW's Randy Larson keeps the training fresh and relevant for municipal utility lineworkers

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The inescapable reality of money in politics

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MEUW News Monitor

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Community Spotlight on Cadott

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Associate Members keep MEUW strong

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

Effective safety training begins with keeping it fresh

As MEUW's Randy Larson embarks on his 44th year in the electric-linework trade, one thing remains unchanged: his passion for keeping lineworkers safe. Randy is the primary classroom instructor for MEUW's Job Training and Safety (JT&S) Program (most recently referred to as the Electric Utility Safety Training Program). He brings energy, experience, and creativity to every session he teaches.

"Effective safety training begins with keeping it fresh," Randy says. "If I'm bored teaching it, the crews will be bored learning it. I want them to leave wanting more."

That philosophy has defined Randy's seven-plus years at MEUW. He's continually revising curriculum, introducing new topics, and using field demonstrations to reinforce critical lessons. Whether it's a new [federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration] OSHA rule, an updated safety procedure, or a lesson learned from a recent close call, Randy builds it into the next rotation. "I've made it clear to our members — you'll never see the same program for annual mandatory OSHA training subjects twice," he says. "I don't want training to become a dull, boring, 'when-will-this-be-over?' session."

Randy's journey began during Electrical Power Distribution school in Eau Claire in 1982. Before finishing the program, he was hired at Jump River Electric Cooperative as temporary help. After gaining experience with a contractor in Minnesota, he joined the municipal electric utility in Richland Center in 1986, and completed his State of Wisconsin Apprenticeship in 1988.



Larson

A few years later, his career took a turn toward education. In 1992, he became the State of Wisconsin Apprenticeship Instructor at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC), where he taught for 26 years. After retiring from CVTC in 2018, he applied to work for MEUW. "Thirteen days later, [MEUW's Director of Safety Services and Operations] Mike Czuprynski offered me the job," Randy recalls with a smile. "I guess I wasn't done teaching yet!"

When asked what fuels his commitment to safety, Randy's answer is simple and heartfelt: "It's *my* linemen's safety," he says. "I'm not just doing this for the power companies or even the linemen themselves. I'm doing it for their families. I want every one of them to go home the same way they came to work."

His classroom isn't just a workplace, it's where he feels most at home. "Putting the program together, that's work," he says.



To keep training from being dull and boring, MEUW's Randy Larson often takes lineworkers out of a traditional classroom. This photo is from a training day at Arcadia Electric Utility where Randy worked with the crews to demonstrate measuring high-voltage potential and what happens when damaged rubber gloves aren't properly tested, among other topics.

"But when I get in front of the crews — that's the fun part. Throw me the challenging questions. I love that."

One of the most rewarding aspects of Randy's work is seeing generations of lineworkers come through his classes. "Sometimes I've trained a dad years ago, and now his son is in my class," he says. "I tell them how we used to do it, and then I show them the better way."

From leather gloves and felt hats to today's rubber gloves, arc-rated clothing, and ergonomic climbing body belts, Randy uses history to show how far the trade has come. "In the 1920s and 30s, only half of linemen lived to retirement. Look how far we've come, and how much we owe to the safety standards we follow today," he explains. "My goal is to help every lineworker be more professional and proactive about safety."

During most of November and each December, Randy focuses his time preparing the next year's curriculum — reviewing what's been taught, identifying topics that need to be revisited, and finding new ways to make the learning engaging. That might mean incorporating photos from the field or finding new videos or fresh case studies that support the topic.

He also spends a good deal of time looking for inspiration from a variety of sources: other safety instructors across the country, OSHA updates, industry magazines, member feedback, and even phone calls from lineworkers who share their own stories. "You listen to crews, to management, to other instructors — that's how you know what needs more attention," Randy says. "If someone had a close call, I want to turn that into a lesson that might save someone else's life."

Continued on page 4

Money's role in political advocacy is an inescapable reality



The role money plays in politics is a topic most people don't like to talk about. An even larger number of people hate the idea of giving their own money to support

politicians. Polling shows most Americans wish money wasn't a part of election campaigns. Despite those attitudes, the fact is that money in politics is a reality. Associations like MEUW can accept and take part in that reality or risk being passed over by politicians who depend on campaign funds to win election.

Let's start by addressing the elephant in the room head on: Yes, giving money to support politicians matters, and it's something groups like MEUW need to do. Donations to campaigns and caucus committees (a fancy term for political parties) is critical to our advocacy efforts. Think of "political capital" (e.g., the amount of influence) as a bucket filled with water. You can add water to your bucket by building goodwill through supporting good legislation, by having meetings with lawmakers to discuss policy and issues, and by building relationships with elected officials. You can remove water from your bucket by pushing for legislation, especially if there is opposition, or by opposing popular legislation. Regardless of the issue, what really matters is the size of your bucket. So, how do we increase the size of the municipal utilities' "bucket"? One important way is by giving money to candidates and caucus committees through the MEUW-sponsored political action committee (PAC) known as Friends of Public Power (FPP).

During the 2023-24 election cycle, all utility types combined — investor-owned (IOUs), cooperatives, and municipals (through FPP) — contributed more than \$600,000 to candidates and committees. (The amount doesn't include other groups that are trying to influence policy

in the utility space, such as solar developers). The contributions are all personal dollars, given through PACs or conduits. The total does not include any corporate contributions (which is a subject for another time). Of the \$600,000+, FPP represented roughly \$22,000, or about 4%. By comparison, the co-ops' total contribution was more than \$82,000, or about 13%. When you consider municipal utilities account for roughly 11% of the electricity distributed in Wisconsin, there is clearly room for public power to grow its share of political giving.

Putting aside prior-cycle giving, what is the minimum municipal utilities should do during an election cycle to increase the size of our "bucket" of influence?

In a typical election year, there are a minimum of eight events among the Assembly and Senate Democratic and Republican caucuses. It's important for the municipal utilities — through FPP — to be represented at each of the fundraising events, meaning about \$25,000 will be needed just to support all eight.

Likewise, giving to individual candidates who not only support our public power goals but also serve on the key utilities committees, also makes a difference for municipal utilities' advocacy efforts. To maximize our influence, FPP should contribute to individual candidates who are on the utilities committees as well as to members of both the Democratic and Republican leadership teams, who make decisions about which bills move forward. Contributing a respectable \$500 to each of those individual candidates would require an additional \$25,000 for FPP's fundraising.



Of course we also want to give to legislators who represent our members but are not on utilities committees. If you're keeping track, that's at least \$50,000 in an election cycle to grow the size of our bucket of influence.

In the last election cycle, FPP set a goal of raising \$20,000. We raised \$18,000 — falling just short. Thanks to funds leftover from prior elections, we contributed a little more than \$22,000 to legislators who are key to our priorities and those of our member utilities — from both sides of the aisle. Each election cycle, MEUW's Legislative & Regulatory Committee offers input into the contribution plan, helping determine where our funds are best spent. In 2024, every candidate supported with a FPP contribution won election — showcasing a solid record of supporting campaigns where it matters most.

This year, FPP has set a goal to raise and spend \$30,000 in the 2026 election cycle in an effort to keep improving, keep adding to our profile, and keep growing our bucket of influence. We will need everyone's help to be successful.

For more information about Friends of Public Power, and how to contribute, visit www.meuw.org/fpp.

Tyler Vorpapel is MEUW's Director of Legislative and Regulatory Relations. He can be reached at tvorpapel@meuw.org

Interested in learning more about MEUW's advocacy efforts on behalf of member utilities?

Reach out to a member of MEUW's Legislative and Regulatory (L&R) Committee — Chair Troy Adams (Manitowoc), Michael Avanzi (Kaukauna), Casey Engbretson (Black River Falls), Bruce Gomm (Shawano), and Nicolas Kumm (Marshfield).

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

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An archive of past issues of *Live Lines* is available at www.issuu.com/meuw

EOCE will kickstart 2026 *Continued from page 1*

During the afternoon, cohort discussion sessions will be held on multiple topics of shared interest, including mutual aid, safety, and advocacy. These facilitated discussions will be led by session participants.

Thursday's program concludes with an inspirational keynote address underscoring the importance of believing in and following safe work practices. Brandon Schroeder will share his remarkable survival following a catastrophic workplace accident and the lessons it taught him about the true cost of shortcuts and the power of personal responsibility. An electrician for more than 20 years, Brandon survived an arc-flash explosion that should have been fatal. Today, he is a professional speaker who shares his harrowing survival story with one goal in mind — to ensure no one else makes the same choice he did.



Schroeder

The Apprentice Graduation Banquet will take place Thursday evening and features a brief program to recognize the class of 2025, who completed the lineworker and meter technician programs at Chippewa Valley Technical College and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. A separate registration and \$60 fee are required to attend the Banquet.

Full details are online at www.meuw.org/eoce. ●

EOCE26 is presented by Platinum Level Sponsors:



Larson focuses on keeping safety training "fresh" *Continued from page 2*

A proud member of the Quad State Instructors organization since 1993, Randy also stays connected with more than 120 other safety professionals across 22 states. The group meets regularly to share program ideas, regulatory updates, and best practices in safety education.



First introduced in early 2021, Randy uses a 16-foot trailer that enables lineworkers to practice procedures in hands-on simulations in a kind of mobile classroom he built from scratch using mostly donated equipment and supplies that keeps training fresh and highly interactive.

Randy's work ethic is well known and his early-bird-gets-the-worm onsite arrivals don't go unnoticed. "It does take a special breed to do this," he admits. "I spend about 82 nights a year in hotels." But for him, the travel, preparation, and long hours are worth it. "My goal is that when I leave a member's facility, management knows they got their money's worth — and that their crews are better prepared to 'Work it safe.'"

That phrase — "Work it safe!" — has become Randy's signature sign-off, echoing through training sessions across the state. "I started saying it when dismissing my first apprenticeship class," he says. "Now the class says it for me."

After more than four decades in the trade, Randy shows no signs of slowing down. His enthusiasm, adaptability, and genuine care for the people he teaches continue to define him — and keep MEUW's safety training as strong and vital as ever. ●

MEUW NEWS Monitor

Next Fundamentals of Utility Management course set for Feb. 11

Understanding the various financial aspects associated with utility operations is essential for anyone in a management position. The next course in MEUW's four-part Fundamentals of Utility Management Training Series — Utility Accounting & Finance — will provide attendees the fundamentals of public utility accounting, a clear understanding of business operations, and how to review and effectively manage budgets. Training will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at The Lodge At Mauston. Register [here](#) today.

Get hands-on training at Apparatus Workshop

MEUW and Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) have organized an Apparatus Workshop for Feb. 10–11. 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](#).

Sharpen your skills as a leader during March workshop

MEUW is once again offering an interactive two-day Leadership Workshop to support the next generation of public power leaders. With many leadership transitions underway across Wisconsin municipal utilities, this program is designed to strengthen communication, sharpen leadership skills, and help participants lead confidently through change.

The workshop will be led by Nilaksh Kothari, retired CEO of Manitowoc Public Utilities, and Dr. Craig Woolard, Head of Civil Engineering at Montana State University — two distinguished leaders with decades of utility management experience.

Participants will explore strategies to build trust, communicate effectively, manage change, and enhance team collaboration. The hands-on sessions will benefit utility professionals at all stages of their leadership journey.

The session will be held March 12–13 at Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells. Registration is now open and available [here](#).

Share and learn at Foreman's Roundtable

The foreman role is important to the safety and efficiency of any utility. The people leading utility line crews face common issues and often don't have an opportunity to talk with others facing those same challenges. MEUW's Foreman's Roundtable enables electric-utility foremen to share ideas, learn from one another, and develop leadership and communication skills, especially regarding safety. The 2026 Foreman's Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, March 25, at Pinseekers in DeForest. The day's agenda provides time for discussion on topics most important to the attendees. After the Roundtable, those in attendance can take part in an optional team building and networking activity at the hybrid golf facility. Learn more and register [here](#).

Underground Facility Locator Workshop planned for spring

Offering both classroom instruction and hands-on practice, a one-day Underground Facility Locator Workshop will be offered on Wednesday, April 1, in Spooner. The workshop will cover information found in Units 1–3 of the National Utility Locating Contractors Association (NULCA) Professional Competency Standard including locating theory and use of the transmitter and receiver. All learners will receive a certificate documenting the completed training. Registration will open early next year. ●

Remember to check

 [MEUW.org](https://www.meuw.org)

for the most up-to-date training dates and details.

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Tessmann concluding 40-year career in Hustisford

By Sharon Wolf

After 40 years of service to Hustisford Utilities, Manager Todd Tessmann is hanging up his hard hat — but not before reflecting on changes he witnessed in his career.

Tessmann's journey with Hustisford Utilities began in 1985, when the local economy was sluggish and jobs were scarce. He was working as an electrician when there was an opening for a lineman at the utility. "I started as a lineman and went through apprenticeship school," he recalls. "When the utility hired another lineman, I became Lead Lineman, and about 18 years ago, I took over as manager."

As of Nov. 11, 2025, Tessmann marked an incredible 40 years with the utility — a tenure defined by dedication, adaptability, and deep community connection.

When asked what's changed the most over the years, Tessmann doesn't hesitate. "Technology," he says with a laugh. "Back then, if there was a power outage, customers would look us up in the phone book and call our homes. If we weren't home, they'd track us down somehow. Then came pagers, then two-way radios — and now, we can see everything on our phones. SCADA tells us where the problem is, and AMI metering shows us who's out of power. It's a heck of a lot more reliable than it was then."

He jokes that he started with the utility in "1985 B.C. — Before Computers," but he quickly adapted. "I really took to the computer systems," he says. "They've changed everything about how we manage the system."

While the tools have evolved, Tessmann says the people have remained the best part of the job. "We've got great customers here. They're cooperative, appreciative, and supportive. We've only had one disconnect for nonpayment in the past five years," he notes. Customers are also supportive and easy to work with when it comes to easements.

He also praises the local leadership. "We've always had a very supportive and proactive utility commission," he says. "That's made a huge difference."

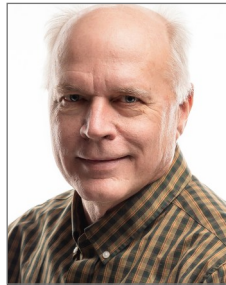
Among the many storms and challenges of his career, one stands out vividly — the May 10, 1990, snowstorm. "Everything was down," Tessmann recalls. "The trees already had leaves, and the snow just took them down on the lines. We were out most of the day and had to call in mutual aid to help with the substation.

That's the only time I can remember doing that."

Generally speaking, though, luck has been on their side during other disasters. "We got lucky a few times — tornadoes hit utilities all around us, but we were spared," he says.

Tessmann says the most rewarding part of working at a municipal utility has always been the personal connection. "The customers are so appreciative. When you're out on a power outage, they'll come up to the truck just to thank you. You don't get that everywhere," he says. "And it's rewarding to know we're able to provide great service and better rates than the bigger utilities."

He also emphasizes the importance of collaboration. "We can't do it alone. MEUW has been a huge help with our safety programs and advocacy — I don't think we could go it alone like back in the old days," he says. Tessmann also served on the MEUW Board of Directors, contributing to the broader public power community.



When Tessmann retires at the end of the year, Cade Schreiber will step into the manager role. "Cade has 24 years of experience, a great temperament for the job, and an excellent personality," Tessmann says. "He's good with people, understands the system, and grew up right here. He'll do great."

Retirement won't slow Tessmann down much. He plans to spend time working on his family farm, which has been in the Tessmann name since 1887. "My great-grandpa Ludwig Tessmann bought it, and it's stayed in the family ever since," he says with pride. "I have a lot of projects I want to do." He also plans to spend time with his step-kids and grandkids, and says he's willing to help out the utility, as needed.

Asked what advice he'd give to the next generation, Tessmann doesn't hesitate. "If you're getting into management, don't fight with your commissioners or board members," he advises. "Work with them. Learn their goals and obstacles. You catch more bees with honey than vinegar."

And for anyone considering a career in public power, Tessmann says it's a path worth taking. "It's the most rewarding position. You're involved in everything — designing, building, maintaining. If there's something you don't like one day, the next day you'll be doing something completely different," he says. "You just don't get that kind of variety and satisfaction anywhere else." ●



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Cadott opts to maintain local control of its electric utility



By Karen Whitmer

The Village of Cadott sits halfway between the North Pole and the equator — a midpoint marked by a roadside sign that's become a popular photo

stop. For this Chippewa County community of about 1,500, the marker reflects more than geography. It represents a part of Wisconsin that's balanced, practical, and focused on making thoughtful decisions about its future.

That balance was tested recently when locals faced a major question: should Cadott sell its village-owned electric utility?



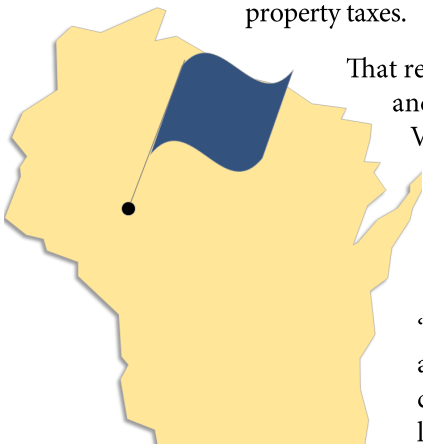
Bruhn

"We were faced with the reality that significant improvements would eventually be needed in order to maintain reliability for our customers and residents," said April Bruhn, the village's clerk/treasurer. An engineering study had estimated that about \$7.5 million in upgrades would be needed to replace aging infrastruc-

ture — prompting officials to ask whether selling the utility might be in the community's best interest (refer to article in the [November 2024](#) edition of *LIVES LINES*).

The most straightforward option appeared to be selling to Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC), which has partnered with Cadott Light & Water since 2017 for line operations and maintenance. The two systems even overlap in some areas, making a sale seem, at first glance, like a practical move.

But a closer look told a different story. A financial analysis by Ehlers & Associates, a municipal advisory firm, showed that selling the utility would mean losing a key source of general-fund revenue — money that helps pay for everyday services like street maintenance, equipment, and community programs. To replace that lost income, the village might have had to raise property taxes.



That realization tipped the balance. By the fall of 2024, the Village Board voted to keep the utility, ensuring Cadott's power would remain locally owned and governed.

"After weighing the pros and cons carefully, we chose to keep the system local — preserving a

hometown operation that's powered Cadott for more than a century," Bruhn said.

Village President Randy Kuehni agreed. "Our utility is an important local asset, and we want to keep those decisions — and that service — in Cadott. The community is happy we decided to retain ownership."



Investing in the future

Cadott's municipal utility delivers locally controlled power to about 860 customers within the village. In addition to electricity, the village oversees water and wastewater services for residents. The utility purchases its power wholesale through American Electric Power Energy Partners and contracts with Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative for maintenance support. Public Works Director Jeremy Kenealy oversees the system's daily operations.



Kuehni

Kuehni said officials had discussed hiring a full-time lineworker to join the staff, but decided to continue their contract with CVEC for now. "Our relationship with CVEC continues to be positive, and we work well together," he said. "We may look at adding a lineworker down the road, but hiring and salary costs make that challenging right now."

The utility is also preparing for infrastructure improvements. Cadott Light & Water is in the midst of a rate case before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to help fund system upgrades. In July, the Village Board approved plans for a nearly \$350,000 substation upgrade.

Cadott's average residential electric rate — 12.83 cents per kilowatt-hour — remains below the state average. Bruhn said any increases will be gradual and phased in. "Higher rates aren't anyone's favorite news," she said, "but these upgrades mean a stronger, more reliable system that stays community-owned

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for generations to come. We're working hard to help customers understand that raising rates is about reinvesting in the system to make positive, long-term changes."

At the same time, Cadott is preparing for steady growth. Located in a desirable part of the Chippewa Valley, the village offers small-town character, reliable services, and convenient access to nearby cities like Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire — qualities that continue to draw new residents.

To support that growth, the utility is laying infrastructure for a new subdivision east of the village office, which will include a mix of single-family and multi-family homes. "The location lets residents enjoy the best of both worlds," Kuehni said. "You're close to larger communities but still part of a true small town."

Cadott is also investing in community spaces that bring people together. Construction is underway on a new public library, expected to open in 2027. Once complete, it will serve as a hub for learning, connection, and local events.

Village with history and heart

Cadott's story stretches back nearly two centuries, to the days of fur traders and river routes. In the early 1830s, Jean Baptiste Cadotte, a French-Ojibwe fur trader, established a trading post along the Yellow River. Decades later, in 1865, Robert Marriner, the village's first permanent settler, built a log cabin and sawmill nearby. His work helped the community grow around the river, eventually taking Cadotte's name — though over time, the spelling dropped the ending "e."

The Yellow River made Cadott a hub for logging and milling, industries that helped fuel northwestern Wisconsin's growth through the late 1800s. By the early 1900s, Cadott had evolved from a lumber stop into a thriving rural village. Over time, family-owned businesses, farms, and local services formed the backbone of the community, helping it retain its small-town feel while adapting to change.

Today, Cadott blends history with recreation and celebration. Trails wind along the river and through nearby parks, including Riverview Park, Brunet Island State Park, and Lake Wissota State Park. For history enthusiasts, landmarks such as the Z.C.B.J. Lodge Hall, the Cadott Area Historical Society and Baker School Museum, and the Cadotte Trading Post marker offer a glimpse into the past.

Cadott also knows how to celebrate. Each summer, the village transforms into a regional destination for music and community events. Hoofbeat Country Fest draws nearly 90,000 people over three days, filling fields and campgrounds with concertgoers who set up tents and RVs for a weekend of



Cadott's iconic halfway-point marker — proudly noting the village's location midway between the Equator and the North Pole — is a popular photo spot in the Chippewa County community of 1,500 residents. *Photo from villageofcadott.com*

live music and fun. OneFest, a three-day Christian music festival, attracts thousands more with national artists and family-friendly activities. Local favorites like Nabor Days in July and Booya Days in September keep the calendar full and the community spirit alive year-round.

Small village, caring community

These celebrations — along with strong local leadership and active resident involvement — are what hold Cadott together. The decision to keep its utility local was about more than finances; it was about preserving independence and protecting a hometown legacy.

Bruhn, a lifelong resident, said that spirit defines the village. "We look out for each other and rely on one another," she said. "That sense of community is what sets Cadott apart."

Kuehni, who has called Cadott home for nearly 30 years, agreed. "People know each other, they care about what's going on, and they take pride in being part of the community," he said. "It's the kind of place where you really feel like you belong."

That close-knit character extends beyond friendships — it shapes the way the village plans for the future. From infrastructure upgrades and new housing to the library now under construction, Cadott continues to invest in projects that strengthen the community and keep it moving forward.

Even as the village grows and changes, the lights in Cadott will keep shining under the same local ownership residents have come to enjoy. And for a village halfway to everywhere, that feels just right. ●

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

Associate Members support MEUW, member utilities

Having easy access to a strong supplier network is vital to efficient utility operations. The businesses listed here paid dues as Associate Members of MEUW in 2025. 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](#). ●

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Get to know a little about some Wisconsin lawmakers



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

Rep. Stubbs serves on Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee



Shelia Stubbs (D-Madison) represents Wisconsin's 78th Assembly District, which in-

cludes much of south and east Madison, the city of Monona, and most of the village of McFarland. Elected in 2018, she made history as the first African-American to represent Dane County in the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Stubbs is active on energy issues, serving on the Energy and Utilities Committee, as well as on the Corrections and Health, Aging and Long-Term Care committees. She has also held leadership roles, including Co-Chair of the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Dispari-

ties and its Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards, and has served on the Speaker's Task Force on Human Trafficking.

Born in Camden, Ark., Stubbs moved to Beloit, Wis., at a young age. Her commitment to education and justice shaped her academic path. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Tougaloo College, a second bachelor's in criminal justice administration from Mount Senario College, and a master's degree in management from Cardinal Stritch University. Before joining the legislature, she worked as a special education teacher, spent eight years as a senior probation and parole agent with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and later taught as an adjunct professor of criminal justice.

Stubbs also brings deep local government experience. From 2006 to 2022, she served on the Dane County Board of Supervisors, where she championed criminal justice reform, racial equity, and restorative justice initiatives.

She and her husband, Bishop Dr. Godfrey Stubbs, co-founded End Time Ministries International in Madison. They continue to live in

Madison, where they remain active in their community and family life.

Rep. Udell is new to representing the 47th in Dane County



Randy Udell (D-Fitchburg) took office earlier this year as the representative for

Wisconsin's 47th Assembly District, which covers a broad stretch of southern Dane County — including the cities of Fitchburg and Stoughton, part of McFarland, and several surrounding towns. In the State Assembly, he serves on the Financial Institutions; Insurance; Forestry, Parks, and Outdoor Recreation; and Rules committees.

Although new to the Assembly, Udell brings extensive experience in local government. He served on the Fitchburg City Council (District 4) from 2020 to 2024, including two years as Council President and three years as Chair of the Finance Committee, where he oversaw the city's multimillion-dollar operating budget. He currently serves both in the State Assembly

and on the Dane County Board of Supervisors, representing District 33, where he has been an active member of the Broadband Task Force as well as the Public Works and Transportation Committee, helping guide county priorities on infrastructure, access, and long-term planning.

He describes his approach to public service as rooted in listening carefully, considering a wide range of perspectives, and working collaboratively to find practical, community-centered solutions.

Udell was born and raised in Janesville. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he served as president of the Young Democrats. After college, he worked for U.S. Representative Les Aspin and Maryland Attorney General Stephen Sachs, gaining early experience in policy and constituent service. He then spent roughly 30 years at AT&T as a telecommunications engineer and later in finance, gaining expertise in technology, budgeting, and large-scale systems.

Udell and his husband, Brad, have lived in Fitchburg since 1998 and with their rescue dog, Cooper. ●

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Training program is helping to build energy-efficiency workforce

Focus on Energy is recognized as Wisconsin's statewide program partnering with utilities to provide financial incentives for customers making energy efficiency upgrades to their homes and businesses. Many people don't realize the program also offers training for utility staff and contractors. These trainings help workers build skills, earn professional credentials, and stay current with new technologies shaping the energy industry. These training courses are more than classes. They are investments in a skilled and diverse workforce ready to meet changing customer needs.

In 2025, more than 400 participants, including many Wisconsin utility staff, attended the 28 training sessions Focus has offered. Most of the training courses are free, and recordings are often available afterward, making it easier for professionals to learn and share knowledge. Popular courses such as *The Four Seasons: Heat Pumps*, which explored how heat pump technology works across different climates and its potential to improve energy efficiency year-round, and *Money Talks: Energy Efficiency Investment Analysis*, which provided strategies for evaluating the financial returns of efficiency upgrades and communicating value to stakeholders, attracted the largest audiences — reflecting strong interest in both advanced technologies and financial strategies. Other sessions, including *Best Practices in Energy Management and Energy Saving Opportunities for Schools*, delivered actionable insights that utilities can use to help their local schools lower costs and reinvest savings, supporting local economic growth.

Most Focus trainings offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and certifications, adding extra value for participants. Whether learning HVAC basics or advanced topics like predictive maintenance, attendees gain skills that make them trusted advisors in their communities. This knowledge strengthens customer relationships and helps contractors and energy professionals stay competitive in a fast-changing market. Focus on Energy also partners with leading organizations, such as the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), to provide hands-on solar PV training. These partnerships ensure participants learn the latest technologies, best practices, and industry standards.



For those needing flexibility, Focus on Energy's on-demand training platform is available 24/7. Professionals can access a wide range of courses covering residential, business, and industrial solutions, searchable by topic. This option makes it easy to fit training into busy schedules without losing quality.

Every training course helps build a stronger energy efficiency workforce that supports sustainability, delivers measurable energy savings, and boosts economic growth. To explore upcoming sessions or access on-demand courses, visit focusonenergy.com/training. Utilities are encouraged to share these opportunities with local contractors and trade allies to expand services and strengthen Wisconsin's energy efficiency network. ●

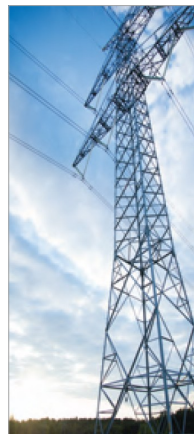


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Members earn national honors

Employees working at several Wisconsin municipal utilities are celebrating achievement recognized during the annual Customer Connections Conference hosted by American Public Power Association (APPA). **Stoughton Utilities** and **Sun Prairie Utilities** were among a group of 15 public power utilities recognized nationally by APPA with 2025 Public Power Customer Satisfaction Awards for providing excellent service to their communities. The customer satisfaction award is the result of receiving high marks from customers in several categories, including customer service, field personnel, communication and reliability. Both utilities achieved Bronze-level awards that were presented at the conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in early November.

Three WPPI Energy employees — **Kelanie Davis**, **Darren Jacobson**, and **Anna Stieve** — were recognized for completing the APPA Academy's Key Accounts Certificate Program, which is designed to showcase how key account management helps to nurture strategic relationships and build trust and loyalty. Graduates of the program must complete required coursework, pass an exam, and complete a capstone project.

APPA's Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Developments (DEED) program also recently approved funding for various grants and scholarships. The DEED program funds research, pilot projects, and education to improve the operations and services of public power utilities. **Manitowoc Public Utilities** was awarded a grant of \$125,000 for its *Smart Tools for Public Power: Automating Energy Storage Maturity Assessments Using Storage Compass* project.

Kaukauna Utilities was awarded scholarship funding for its internship program. ●

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