



Utility Commission Meeting Agenda - AMENDED

Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

Roll Call

Notice of Open Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of June 19, 2025 Utility Commission Meeting Minutes and July 15, 2025 Utility Commission Meeting Minutes.
2. Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report.
3. Outage Report.

New Business

4. Consider and take action on septage rate increases for haulers.
5. Update on capital improvement projects and borrowing
6. Discussion on short-term and long-term goals of the Utility.
7. Award of quote to Hady Electric, Inc. for \$10,872.41 for installation of new MCC bucket in existing switch gear.

Reports

8. July 2025 Utilities Department Report
9. July 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 - Amended Minutes

Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

The following members were present: Joe Hammer, Michael Thom, Brook Andler, Sandy Curtis and Jack Sanderson (arrived at 6:12pm).

Molly Finkler and Reagan Rule were excused from attending the meeting.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Curtis, Seconded by Hammer to approve the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the May 22, 2025 Utility Commission Meeting and June 3, 2025 Special Utility Commission Meeting, the Utility Department's Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report, and the Outage Report. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

1. Approval of May 22, 2025 Utility Commission Meeting and June 3, 2025 Special Utility Commission Meeting.
2. Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report.
3. Outage Report

New Business

4. Resolution No. 2025-01 A Resolution Accepting The Columbus WWTP Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) 2024.

Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Andler to approve Resolution No. 2025-01. Motion was carried on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Award of Unit Pricing Contract to Jolma Utilities for Multiple-Year Overhead Electric Facility Installation.

Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Curtis to award contract to Jolma Utilities. Motion was carried on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Award of Unit Pricing Contract to J&R Underground for Multiple-Year Underground Electric Facility Installation.
Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Curtis to award contract to J&R Underground. Motion was carried on a unanimous voice vote.
7. Award of quote to Forest Landscaping & Construction for \$25,950 for lateral and manhole repairs.
Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Curtis to award quote to Forest Landscaping & Construction in the amount of \$25,950. Motion was carried on a 4-0 roll call vote.
8. Award of quote to Visu-Sewer for \$146,639.75 to install 3,333 feet of National Liner.
Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Curtis to award quote to Visu-Sewer in the amount of \$146,639.75. Motion was carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.
9. Award of quote to Ess Brothers and Sons for \$11,700 for manhole chimney tuckpointing and sealing.
Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Thom to award quote to Ess Brothers and Sons in the amount of \$11,700. Motion was carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.
10. Award of quote to Dorner for valve rebuilds at WasteWater Treatment plant in the amount of \$25,560.
Motion made by Andler, Seconded by Curtis to award quote to Dorner in the amount of \$25,560. Motion was carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.
11. Discussion regarding city ordinance for sewer lateral repairs.
The commission discussed interest in seeing a revised ordinance that would include a wye and cleanout for new and repaired laterals and include tracer wire in laterals and sewerlines. The commission requested additional information on the process of new street construction and how we address lateral replacements. No action was taken on this item.
12. Discussion and direction related to an Acting Utility Director.
City Administrator Amundson discussed options for an Acting Utility Director. The commission would like to see options including internal candidates considered.

Convene into Closed Session

13. Convene to closed session pursuant to § 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, and 19.85(1)(f) preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems, specifically a leave accommodation request by the Utility Director.
Motion by Hammer, Seconded by Curtis to adjourn to closed session. Motion was carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

Reconvene into Open Session

Motion by Hammer, Seconded by Sanderson to reconvene into Open Session. Motion carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

Reports

14. Utilities Department Report
15. June 2025 Live Lines

Adjourn

Motion by Sanderson, Seconded by Curtis, to adjourn at 7:23pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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



Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 5:15 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

Michael Thom called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

Roll Call

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

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

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.

Convene to Closed Session

1. Convene to closed session per §19.85(1)(b) considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or person licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against such person, or considering the grant or denial of tenure for a university faculty member, and the taking of formal action on any such matter; provided that the faculty member or other public employee or person licensed is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action being taken and of any meeting at which final action may be taken. The notice shall contain a statement that the person has the right to demand that the evidentiary hearing or meeting be held in open session. This paragraph and par. (f) do not apply to any such evidentiary hearing or meeting where the employee or person licensed requests that an open session be held; 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, and per §19.85(1)(f) preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems. Specifically, to discuss possible consideration of removal of the Utility Director. There is no evidentiary hearing.

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

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion by Finkler, seconded by Curtis to reconvene to open session. Motion was carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

New Business

2. Consider and take action pursuant to Wis. Stat. 17.12(1)(c)2.a on the appointment removal at pleasure and employment status of the Utility Director.

Motion by Finkler, seconded by Rule to approve the removal of the Utility Director.

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

Adjourn

Motion by Sanderson, seconded by Finkler to adjourn at 5:54 pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

2025 AGENDA ITEM

Utility Commission Meeting Date: 7/24/2025

ITEM: Financial Reports

Submitted by: Michelle Kaltenberg, Business Manager

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER:

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

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

LIST ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED:

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

ACTION REQUESTED OF COMMISSION:

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

CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES

TREASURER'S REPORT - JUNE 2025

Item #2.

GENERAL FUND (commingled cash) - ACCOUNT #1310

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 542,587.91
Receipts:	\$ 1,036,352.57
Interest Earned:	\$ 233.92
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 1,579,174.40</i>
Disbursements:	\$ (935,321.51)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 643,852.89

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:	\$ 446,493.80
Receipts:	\$ 15,500.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,601.51
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 463,595.31</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 463,595.31

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 228,936.43
Receipts:	\$ 30,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 823.80
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 259,760.23</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 259,760.23

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:	\$ 7,972.51
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 348,395.07</i>
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$ (7,972.51)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 340,422.56

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%

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 133,394.46
Receipts:	\$ 1,660.89
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 135,055.35</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 135,055.35

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

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 539,450.74
Receipts:	\$ 5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,933.29
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 546,384.03</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 546,384.03

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:	\$ 1,224.26
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 4.39
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 1,228.65</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 1,228.65

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #11 - COLLECTION MAIN - REPLACEMENT

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$1,045,339.38
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$3,745.15
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 1,049,084.53</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 1,049,084.53

WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 157,980.60
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 566.00
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 158,546.60</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 158,546.60

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #8 - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 490,910.45
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,758.79
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 492,669.24</i>
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$ 492,669.24

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

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

WWTP FALL RIVER RESTRICTED REPLACEMENT FUNDS - F&M CDARS

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 1,065,564.23
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>\$ 1,065,564.23</i>
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
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS

0.5% / 0.75%
4.5% to 4.75%

Local Gov't. Investment Pool

4.36%

COLUMBUS UTILITIES
CASH DISBURSEMENTS REPORT
JUNE, 2025

DATE	CHECK NO	NAME	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
45827	24415	4 CONTROL, INC	\$ 1,058.34	WEED SPRAYING OF SUBS AND POLE YARD
45827	24416	A.C. ENGINEERING, CO	\$ 1,437.10	TEST INSULATION & WINDINGS ON SUB 3 TRANSFORMERS
45827	24417	ACE HARDWARE	\$ 177.20	CABLE TIES, BLUE AND RED COLOR PLUS KEYS, THREAD SEAL TAPE, HAMMER DRL BT, MISC FASTENERS, SAFETY PIN, CLOROX SPLASHLESS
45827	24418	AMARIL UNIFORM COMPANY	\$ 1,245.88	FR CLOTHES FOR DALTON, MASON
45827	24419	AMBUSH PEST CONTROL LLC	\$ 120.00	SUBSTATION RODENT CONTROL #4, ADMIN BUILDING RODENT CONTROL
45827	24420	ANTHONY DERR	\$ 116.05	BOOT REIMBURSEMENT
45827	24421	AQUAFIX	\$ 640.94	BUG ON A ROPE
45827	24422	BAKER TILLY US. LLP	\$ 7,157.00	AUDIT FOR 2024
45827	24423	BASSETT MECHANICAL	\$ 753.00	MONTHLY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT JUNE 2025
45827	24424	CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$ 60,961.39	MONTHLY PILOT, SALARIES, LRS INVOICE 5943520, PHONE USE REIMBURSEMENT, R&m INVOICE 156986
45827	24425	COLUMBUS POLICE DEPT.	\$ 250.00	NATIONAL NIGHT OUT DONATION
45827	24426	COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	\$ 23.13	2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT PUBLICATION
45827	24427	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	\$ 240.00	PE-DI Rent 6/01-6/30/24, DI Regeneration charge
45827	24428	DIGGERS HOTLINE	\$ 161.50	LOCATING EXPENSES
45827	24429	ENERGENECS, INC	\$ 1,810.00	DIAGNOSE AND REPLACE MICROLOGIX
45827	24430	FORSTER ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	\$ 16,243.75	DISTRIBUTION PLANNING & REGULATORY APPROVAL, SUB #3 HIGH SIDE PROTECTION DEVICE, RE-ROUTE CIRCUIT #403 AT THE HOSPITAL, 4KV CONVERSION CA AND UN
45827	24431	GRAINGER, INC	\$ 170.24	TUBING 100 FT, ELEC TAPE 60 FT, MARKING FLAGS(5)
45827	24432	HADY ELECTRIC, INC	\$ 830.00	TROUBLE CALL GENERATOR ISSUE, BLDG 30 GARAGE DOOR OPENER RELOCATION
45827	24433	HAWKINS, INC	\$ 4,325.76	WASTEWATER CHEMICALS, WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS
45827	24434	INFOSEND, INC	\$ 1,826.97	UTILITY BILL PRINTING AND MAILING, BILL INSERT
45827	24435	JEREMY ROLL	\$ 144.90	MILEAGE FOR DISINFECTION TEST
45827	24436	LANE TANK CO, INC	\$ 10,500.00	POWER WASHING & DNR INSPECTION OF WATER STORAGE TANK
45827	24437	MASON MOSHER	\$ 392.50	MASON APPRENTICESHIP REIMBURSEMENT
45827	24438	MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO	\$ 133.48	GRADUAL ON/OFF VALVE WITH BRASS BODY AND GATE, WHEEL HANDLE
45827	24439	MIDWEST SALT	\$ 3,560.94	BULK SALT
45827	24440	NAPA AUTO PARTS	\$ 157.54	1980 IH SLUDGE TRUCK MAINTENANCE, OIL, COLLANT FILTER, AIR FILTER, MAINTENANCE FOR CHEVY 2500
45827	24441	NCL OF WISCONSIN, INC	\$ 584.26	DISINFECTION STATION, PK (100/PK) FN-93447, NCL GLASS FIBER FILTERS
45827	24442	OPENPOINT	\$ 1,250.00	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION
45827	24443	PATRICIA FAUSER	\$ 227.55	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
45827	24444	PRAIRIE RIDGE HEALTH	\$ 308.00	ANNUAL AUDIO GRAMS FOR CREW AND DRUG SCREEN
45827	24445	RHYME BUSINES PRODUCTS	\$ 435.62	PRINTER AGREEMENT
45827	24446	RUEKERT & MIELKE, INC	\$ 23,802.35	MEISTER LIFT STATION DESIGN, 5-YEAR SEWER TELEVISION PROGRAM, GENERAL SERVICES, WATER SCADA SERVICE WORK, WWTF BIOSOLIDS DRY STUDY, GENERAL SERV
45827	24447	SABEL MECHANICAL	\$ 890.12	SAND FILTER PUMPS
45827	24448	SCHAEFFER'S MFG. COMPANY	\$ 839.60	CLARIFIERS
45827	24449	STUART IRBY	\$ 67,746.04	16X12 2500" CABLE
45827	24450	SUPERIOR CHEMICAL	\$ 225.12	HANDY CUBE SENTER PULL BOX (5), BLK LNR (1)
45827	24451	U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 188.00	ANNUAL POST OFFICE BOX RENEWAL
45827	24452	USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 1,752.15	DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING, SAMPLER PUMP TUBING, 50FT 2-WIRE AVOCADO MECHANICAL FLOAT SWITCH, HIGH RANGE PLUS COD, LOCATING KESON SPRAY WANE
45827	24453	USIC LOCATING SERVICE, INC	\$ 2,976.40	LOCATING EXPENSES
45827	24454	VC3, INC	\$ 289.71	NETWORK SECURITY/FIREWALL LIC/SUB
45827	24455	WI STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE	\$ 31.00	MONTHLY FLUORIDE TEST
45827	24456	WRIGHT PLUMBING	\$ 395.00	SEWER MACHINE RENT/LABOR
		SUBTOTAL	\$ 216,378.53	
44714	ACH	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank	\$ 10.00	NSF Fees
45811	ACH -4269	Payment Services Network	\$ 3,133.45	Customer Payment Fee
45813	ACH-4270	BP	\$ 1,680.64	Fuel May

45453	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$ 32,648.53	Net Payroll for 1st Payroll in June #12
45817	ACH-4253	EFTPS	\$ 11,610.16	FICA/MED/FED Withholding Payroll #12
45817	ACH-4254	Northshore Bank	\$ 300.00	Deferred Comp Payroll #12
45817	ACH-4255	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$ 1,721.01	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #12
45817	ACH-4256	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$ 1,740.50	State Withholding Payroll #12
45826	ACH -4261	Charter Communications	\$ 100.00	Internet Service for Admin Building
45826	ACH -4259	Charter Communications	\$ 119.99	Internet Service for Electric SCADA
45828	ACH-4271	Charter Communications	\$ 130.00	Wastewater Spectrum
45828	ACH -4274	US Cellular	\$ 37.64	Cell Phone Charges
45086	ACH	Investment Pool	\$ 30,000.00	June Bond Interest Payment
45086	ACH	Investment Pool	\$ 5,000.00	June Depreciation Payment
45086	ACH	Investment Pool	\$ 15,500.00	Transfer into LGIP #13 General Fund
45827	ACH-4258	SEERA	\$ 1,861.42	May 2025 Focus on Energy Payment
45833	ACH	Farmers & Merchant Union Bank	\$ 1,660.89	E3P Enhanced Energy Transfer
45825	ACH -4267	WE Energies	\$ 10.67	Waste Water Pump Station
45825	ACH -4268	WE Energies	\$ 12.43	Westside Sewage Lift
45825	ACH -4268	WE Energies	\$ 12.43	Generator On James St
45825	ACH-4266	WE Energies	\$ 13.13	Natural Gas Service for Water Plant #2
45825	ACH-4265	WE Energies	\$ 103.71	Natural Gas Service for CWL Admin Building
45826	ACH-4260	WE Energies	\$ 11.59	119 Middleton St Lift Station
45826	ACH-4262	WE Energies	\$ 13.34	Waterloo St Lift Station
45825	ACH-4264	WE Energies	\$ 461.96	Treatment Plant
45820	ACH- 4275	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$ 18,840.57	May Sales/Use Tax
45827	ACH -4253	Brook Andler	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for June
45827	ACH -4254	Jack Sanderson	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for June
45827	ACH -4255	Michael Thom	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for June
45827	ACH -4256	Regan Rule	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for June
45827	ACH -4257	Sandra Curtis	\$ 50.00	Commission Salary for June
45471	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$ 32,745.52	Net Payroll for 2nd Payroll in June #13
45835	ACH-4284	EFTPS	\$ 11,717.17	FICA/MED/FED Withholding Payroll #13
45835	ACH-4285	Northshore Bank	\$ 300.00	Deferred Comp Payroll #13
45835	ACH-4286	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$ 1,764.64	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #13
45835	ACH-4287	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$ 1,657.62	State Withholding Payroll #13
45828	ACH -4272	Cintas First Aid and Safety	\$ 45.56	First Aid Supplies for June
45838	ACH -4276	WPPI	\$ 503,012.13	Power Bill 6/1/24 to 6/30/24, Northstar, Electric & Water MDM Charges, Interface, Residential AMI Metering Project, Loan Repayment
45828	ACH -4273	Elan Financial Services	\$ 1,685.61	Lodging for MEUW conference-Dalton & Joe, Two sump pumps for wp#1, cable swivel, email subscriptions, condolence flowers and card, lift station duplexor alternating
45835	ACH-4279	City of Columbus - Life	\$ 369.51	Life Insurance for Employees - June
45835	ACH-4277	City of Columbus - Retirement	\$ 13,872.18	Retirement for Employees - June
45835	ACH-4278	City of Columbus - Health Insurance	\$ 19,308.06	Dean Care Health Insurance for Employees - June
45835	ACH-4280	City of Columbus - Dental Insurance	\$ 1,231.52	Dental Insurance for Employees - June
45835	ACH-4281	City of Columbus - Vision Insurance	\$ 151.20	Vision Insurance for Employees- June
45835	ACH-4282	City of Columbus - Health Savings Account	\$ 3,612.00	Health Savings Account Transfer for Employees - June
45835	ACH-4283	City of Columbus-LTD	\$ 343.10	Long Term Disability-June
45471	ACH	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank	\$ 143.10	ACH/ PSN/WIRE Fees
		SUBTOTAL	\$ 718,942.98	

TOTAL

\$ 935,321.51 APPROVED BY:

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION 4 CIRCUIT # 461 DATE 6/23/2025 Item #3.
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 4F/65/84
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION 4F/65/84
 REMARKS Tree fell on wires, ~~power~~ shook overhead transformer enough to cause an internal short. Tree limb also fell on service wire to house and broke their service mast.

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
 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 6:00 pm ON 10:30 pm

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers 6 Minutes Duration 4 hr: 30 min

TRANSFORMER FAILURE

CWL# T-970 KVA 37.5
 MFG Looper AGE (est) 20
 Serial # 0502058667

Arrestor 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 _____

Fuse 8T Transformer Transf. Size 37.5

ROUTING (initial)

Responded By MM:DH
 Line Assisted By JB
 Assisted By JH
 Manager _____
 Outage File _____

COLUMBUS UTILITIES WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

SEPTAGE RECEIVING FEE SCHEDULE

<u>General Determination</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Gate Entry / Admin. Fee	\$0	\$25.00 / Load
Low Strength / Domestic Strength	\$8.54/1000 Gals.	\$25.00/1000 Gals.
High Strength / Septic Tank	\$25.00/1000 Gals.	\$50.00/1000 Gals.
Industrial Strength / Commercial	\$35.00/1000 Gals.	\$70.00/1000 Gals.

Lab Sampling

COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand)	\$15.00/Test
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<u>COD (Key Categorical Indicator)</u>	<u>Concentration</u>
Low Strength / Domestic Strength	0 - 350 mg./L.
High Strength / Septic Tank	351 - 899 mg./L.
Industrial Strength / Commercial	> 900 mg./L.

2025 Utilities Bonding by Department

		2025	2026	2027	2028
		Updated Amount	Amount		
ELECTRIC					
2025	2025 Ford F350 Utility Truck Purchase	\$79,903	\$ 79,903		
	Transformers (Inventory & Projects)	\$550,000	\$ 720,750		
	Hospital Project (Up front Purchase)	\$320,000	\$ 320,000		
	American Packaging Transformers	\$51,000	\$ 700,000		
	4.16kV Conversion (Multi year Project)	\$0	\$ 6,600,000	\$970,000	\$2,200,000
	Decommission Substation #1	\$10,000	\$ 10,000		
	Reconnect Padmounted Step-Downs	\$10,000	\$ 10,000		
	PLC/Fiber Installation Upgrade	\$50,000	\$ -		
	Circuit 403 Reroute	\$0	\$ -	\$62,000	
	Circuit Tie to 202/302	\$0	\$ -	\$361,000	
	Increase Substation 2 Transformer	\$0	\$ -		\$2,562,000
Total		\$1,070,903	\$ 8,440,653	\$1,393,000	\$2,200,000
		2025	2026	2027*	2028*
		Updated Amount	Amount		
WATER					
2025	Plant #1 Emergency Softening Repair	\$120,000	\$ 120,000		
	Water Portion of Streets Projects	\$340,000	\$ 175,000	\$625,000	\$187,500
	Plant #2 Dehumidifier 1 of 4	\$22,000	\$ 18,164		
	Iron Filter Automated Backwash Plant #2	\$0	\$ 293,000	\$305,500	
	Plant #2 MCC Replacements	\$286,200	\$ 283,379		
	Plant #2 Softener Reconditioning & Repainting	\$617,000	\$ 434,557		
	Plant #2 Booster Pump Replacements & Piping	\$0	\$ -	\$216,842	
	Plant #2 Well Pump Replacement	\$0	\$ -	\$118,290	
	Plant #3 Land Search Testing and Purchase	\$32,761	\$ 300,000		\$275,000
	PLC/Fiber Installation Upgrade	\$50,000			
Total		\$1,467,961	\$ 1,624,100	\$ 1,265,632	\$ 462,500
		2025	2026	2027	2028
		Updated Amount	Amount		
WASTEWATER					
2025	2025 Chevrolet 5500 Hoist Truck	\$151,565	\$ 151,565		
	Biosolids Handling Project	\$229,319	\$ 229,319	\$2,189,495	
	Rehab Rebuild Sand Filters	\$300,000	\$ 450,000		
	Collection System Contract Work	\$300,000	\$ 300,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
	Wastewater Portion of Streets Projects	\$123,000	\$ 110,000	\$75,000	\$175,000
	Scum Pumps & Flanges (Plant submers pumps)	\$100,000	\$ 100,000		\$50,000
	Effluent Sampling River level monitor and Phos chemical feed and monitoring system	\$135,000	\$ 150,000		
	PLC/Fiber Installation Upgrade	\$75,000	\$ 175,000		
Total		\$1,413,884	\$ 1,665,884	\$ 2,414,495	\$ 325,000
		2025	2026	2027	2028
Total Borrowing		\$3,952,748	\$5,073,127	\$2,987,500	\$2,762,000



Hady Electric, Inc.

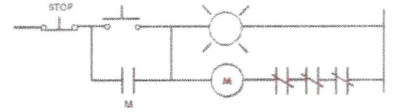
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July 15, 2025

City of Columbus
105 N. Dickason Blvd
Columbus, WI 53925
Email: pgallun@columbusutilitieswi.com

Subject: Sludge tank MCC bucket

Hady Electric, Inc. agrees to supply all the necessary materials and labor (permit included) to complete any of the following options:

1. Installation of new MCC bucket in existing switch gear for **\$10,872.41 (Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars and Forty-One Cents)**

Clarifications:

- Please note that the lead time is 18-20 weeks from order date.
- Wiring will be NEC code compliant
- All work will be conducted by Wisconsin State Licensed Electricians

Hady Electric Inc. agree to perform the work listed above. We accept cash, check, and credit card (**Note: a 4% surcharge will be added to the total bill for the credit card payment**). Balance is due 30 days after completion of work. The above quoted price is valid for 15 days.

Thank you for the opportunity to quote this job. If you have any questions, please call.

Bruce D. Hady, Vice President
Hady Electric, Inc.
contact@hadyelectric.com

Customer Signature (Indicates Quote Approval)

Date

Utilities Department Report

Electric Department:

- Substation #3 is back online with full load
- Working on the Highway K Project
- Cardinal Heights and the Hospital Rebuild temporary power
- Reconstructions of aged overhead infrastructure
- Took down a few trees that were potential problems for the infrastructure

Water Department:

- Progressing with Water Plant #1 Valve Replacement Project: working with R&M to get the new meters for the softeners to communicate with the old SCADA system.
- 2025 Street Projects and Hospital Extension
- Distributing Lead and Copper bottles to customers to collect samples for DNR compliance
- Progressing with the Hydrant Flushing Program for the Season

Wastewater Department:

- Kurz Industrial Solutions will be changing out a failed VFD for one of the Influent Tertiary Filter Pumps. We will be looking for future quotes for replacing the other two VFD's as they are all the same age.
- On 7 July there was a water main break on the 300 block of W. Harrison. One of the wastewater operators went out to do an emergency locate using our Asset Alley GIS program. He marked where the sewer lateral should be according to the map but the sewer line got hit anyway. Asset Ally was off by three feet. The lateral was repaired.
- Lift Stations checks weekly
- Pressing solids every two to three weeks. Will be hauling to fields within the next two to three weeks.

LIVELines

Volume 74, Issue 7 • July 2025

Access to emergency mutual aid: Valuable tool for utilities

By Mike Czuprynko

When the worst happens, it's good to know you can rely on friends for support. That spirit is on full display any time an electric utility faces widespread outages in the wake of devastating storms. The concept of mutual aid is a hallmark of the electric industry. We've had more than our share of mutual aid events recently. In just the last few months, utilities provided labor and equipment to restore power and keep people safe after a late March ice storm in Gresham and when tornadoes took aim at Juneau in mid-May.

As a statewide trade association focused on helping to unify and strengthen Wisconsin's public power utilities, MEUW takes an active role in coordinating mutual aid. MEUW members consistently rank emergency mutual aid among the greatest value MEUW brings to their utility. MEUW staff members help to manage the response from neighboring utilities, organizing the right number of people with the right skills and equipment in the right locations at the right time.



Mutual aid crews strung a three-phase feeder after multiple poles had to be replaced when tornadoes hit Juneau in May.

Photo courtesy of Steve Brooks

As we've seen during the recent mutual aid events, a well-coordinated and organized response is essential to restoring storm-damaged systems and equipment safely and quickly.

MEUW leverages an established process each time a mutual aid event is requested. Which utilities are called and how many people are needed is based on the following considerations:

- The location of the damage;
- Other surrounding utilities that may also be in the path of the damaging storm or weather event; and
- The scope of the damage/how much help is needed.

Crew and equipment assistance is scheduled based on working to fill the need as quickly as possible, using the considerations listed above. For example, utilities in

the path of the weather event may be standing down to monitor their own systems, while others who are not at risk will be called first. Often, we receive more response than is needed based on the scope of the damage.

But even with a solid (and well-tested) mutual aid process, we've learned that some of our utilities have experienced challenges when working with the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), including difficulty with reimbursement processes and timelines. These issues seem to most often result from turnover in the key contact (program manager) position and results in inefficiencies and delays.

At the national level, American Public Power Association (APPA) is working on several initiatives to help municipal utilities and FEMA work better together, including:

- Asking FEMA to standardize the process it uses to award assistance for utility projects, which currently varies from year-to-year and event-to-event. The initiative aims to:
 - Increase the accountability of FEMA program managers;

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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

Wisconsinites recognized with national public power awards

The American Public Power Association (APPA) recently presented individuals and utilities with awards for their service to public power, including three from Wisconsin.



Jim Brooks of Evansville was awarded the Spence Vanderlinden Public

Official Award, which recognizes elected or appointed local officials who have contributed to the goals of APPA. Brooks has served on the Evansville City Council since 2010 and is Chair of Municipal Services Committee that

oversees the Evansville Light & Water Utility. Through the years, Brooks has been a regular attendee at federal legislative rallies, and in 2015 was elected to serve on American Public Power Association's Policy Makers Council, which he Chaired in 2022-23.



Troy Murphy of Prairie du Sac was presented with the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award. The

award recognizes a manager who performs a variety of duties in communities with 2,500 or fewer electric me-

ters and wears many "hats." These managers have a very small staff and must assume multiple roles. Murphy began his career with the Village in 1997 as an apprentice line technician. Murphy accepted his current role as Director Public Works in 2016. The utility has made significant system upgrades to improve reliability under his leadership.

Marshfield Utilities (MU) was presented with the Sue Kelly Community Service Award to honor its "good neighbor" activities that demonstrate commitment to the local community. In

2024, MU celebrated 120 years of serving the community with its ComMUnitY Care Project, with a goal of giving back to local communities in 120 different ways. The award also recognized MU employees' active participation in community fundraising, including donating backpacks and professional attire, and making financial contributions to support local groups. MU was one of only five utilities to receive this honor.

The awards were presented during the annual APPA National Conference held in New Orleans in June. ●



Continued from page 1

- Develop a standardized Public Assistance (PA) Program checklist; and
- Increase FEMA's engagement with utilities.
- Requesting that the FEMA disaster assistance process account for the unique nature of public power's emergency responsibility role following major incidents by:
 - Streamlining or waiving some date requirements for emergency work;
 - Expediting assistance for utilities facing multiple disasters;
 - Creating a new PA "Category for Work" for utility emergency restoration.
- Requesting that FEMA train program managers on electric utility-specific issues to address a perceived lack of institutional knowledge and experience.

As APPA is working on these issues, utilities are encouraged to document all conversations and exchanges through email. This provides concrete evidence to help expedite the process in the event of a new program manager. Take photos, upload everything, and save all sent emails to help ensure reimbursement. ●



*Mike Czupryny is Director of Safety Services and Operations for MEUW. One call to the MEUW **Mutual Aid Hotline** — 1-844-MEUW-911 — triggers an immediate response to organize resources and support a member utility's recovery.*

Future of FEMA in question

FEMA was established in 1979 to consolidate various federal disaster-related responsibilities into a single agency. Initially operated as an independent agency, FEMA was later integrated into the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. The Trump Administration is contemplating a phase-out of FEMA following the 2025 hurricane season. The change would put responsibility on impacted states to fund natural disasters they encounter.



FEMA

It's not clear what impact this would have on Wisconsin and other states that MEUW member utilities support for mutual aid. Some are speculating that funding may happen faster, while others predict states will be more reluctant to call on states that are further away. Crews from responding states may also be more hesitant to travel because of open questions about how or when they will be paid. Many uncertainties exist.

In the meantime, APPA is working with FEMA to strengthen their operations and processes to help with recovery for utilities impacted by natural disasters. MEUW is closely monitoring these decisions and will share updates as they become available.



PSC decides on individual metering exemptions

At its June 19 open meeting, the three-person Public Service Commission (PSC) reached agreement on proposed revisions to individual electric metering requirements for multi-dwelling residential buildings. Originally established in 1980 (and last reviewed in 2002), the current rule requires individual meters for most apartment units to promote energy conservation and ensure tenants pay only for their own electricity usage. The rulemaking was initiated in 2023 due to an increasing number of waiver requests and the need for clearer guidance to align with current technology and energy use considerations for this type of housing. MEUW has been carefully following the docket and provided a comprehensive assessment of the potential revisions in the [March 2025 LIVE LINES](#).

FERC's limited authority over public power affirmed

A federal appellate court recently upheld a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) decision denying Kimball Wind, LLC's request for the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) to reimburse \$6 million in interconnection costs. The court affirmed that FERC's authority under section 211A of the Federal Power Act does not extend to ordering non-jurisdictional utilities, like public power entities, to pay such costs.

Kimball Wind sought reimbursement after upgrading a wind facility and connecting to WAPA's system. FERC denied the request, as Kimball Wind wasn't a transmission customer of

After discussion, the commissioners agreed to replace the current waiver process and instead apply exemptions to individual metering by requiring that electric equipment under tenant control comply with established high-energy-efficiency standards. Likewise, an exemption would be allowed when the average electric energy use in each multi-dwelling unit is projected to be less than half of Wisconsin's average per-customer monthly residential use. Onsite renewable energy technologies offsetting overall usage would be factored into the projections.

The commissioners also agreed to exemptions involving new construction in which building design meets high-energy-efficiency standards and for multi-dwelling unit residential buildings under contract with local, state, or federal affordable-housing programs. The final language revising Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 113.0803 will be reviewed by the Commissioners before being forwarded to the Governor and legislature.

Members' NEWS



Jill Weiss is joining Sun Prairie Utilities as General Manager July 21. She has been Utilities Director at Stoughton Utilities since 2019, and is a member of the Board of Directors of both MEUW and WPPI Energy.

Braeden Minor has joined Hustisford Utilities as an Apprentice Lineworker.

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

Three begin service on MEUW Accounting and Customer Service Committee

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. Three individuals have recently joined the Accounting and Customer Service Committee, succeeding long-time members who recently retired. The new members are: **Shanon Breed**, Finance/Office Manager at Rice Lake Utilities; **Kristin Hubertus**, Finance Manager at Menasha Utilities, and **Tiffany Myers**, Accounting and Customer Service Manager at Manitowoc Public Utilities. Each of them will now put their municipal utility experience to work and help structure MEUW programming for accounting, credit and collections, and customer service employees.

Notes from recent committee meetings and a complete listing of those who serve on standing committees are available on MEUW's website at www.meuw.org/committees.



Breed



Hubertus



Myers

WAPA and wasn't seeking transmission service. The court ruled that section 211A only allows FERC to order transmission service on comparable terms — not cost reimbursement.

This decision reinforces the limited scope of FERC's authority over public power utilities and preserves their exemption from FERC's general ratemaking jurisdiction. ●

MEUW NEWS Monitor

Register for Leading Through Collaboration

Collaborating isn't just about working with people — it also involves using influence and persuasion to drive high-performing teams. Leaders skilled in collaboration understand how individuals impact one another and how to foster creative thinking and effective problem-solving to drive results. Leading Through Collaboration, part of MEUW's three-part Municipal Utility Leadership Certificate series, will give attendees practical ideas and skills to apply at their workplace. The class will be held Mauston on Wednesday, Aug. 6. Full details are [here](#).

Annual Accounting and Customer Service Seminar is Sept. 24 in Mauston

Registration will open soon for MEUW's annual one-day seminar that brings together municipal electric utility staff with a focus on accounting and customer service topics. Attendees receive updates on regulatory and legislative policies affecting utilities to compare best practices to improve their operations. MEUW's Accounting and Customer Service Committee assists MEUW staff in putting together the day's program to address industry topics. This year's seminar is planned for Sept. 24 in Mauston.

lic power. Make plans for you and your Commissioners or Board Members to attend one of the eight dinners scheduled to receive updates and participate in roundtable discussions.

Planned locations and dates are:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 23** – Hartford
- **Wednesday, Sept. 24** – Rice Lake
- **Monday, Sept. 29** – Algoma
- **Tuesday, Sept. 30** – Gresham
- **Monday, Oct. 6** – Cuba City
- **Wednesday, Oct. 8** – Cashton
- **Thursday, Oct. 9** – Merrilan
- **Wednesday, Oct. 15** – Mazomanie

Advance registration will be required. Full details about specific locations and sign-up information will be shared in future communications from MEUW.

Each session begins with a cash bar at 6:00 p.m., meal at 6:30 p.m., and a brief program to follow. The events typically wrap up no later than 8:00 p.m. ●



Mark your calendars for MEUW District Dinners

MEUW will once again be hosting District Dinners around the state in September and October to provide local utility leaders a chance to connect and network over topics of interest to pub-



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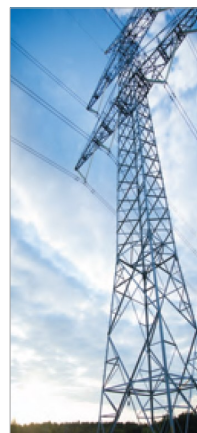
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LIVELines

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

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

Your voice matters: Why advocacy is everyone's business

If you've ever wondered whether your voice matters in government, the answer is a resounding yes! Whether you're an elected official or a utility staff person, your insight plays a vital role in shaping policy that impacts the electric-utility industry and municipal utilities across Wisconsin.

In support of MEUW's Strategic Plan objectives, members of the Board of Directors' Advocacy Training Work Group sat down with several attendees at the 2025 Annual Conference to hear why advocacy matters, what motivates them to engage, and how they've built relationships with their legislators over time. Here's a snapshot of what we heard:

Advocacy is local leadership



"Advocacy is important because you're the voice for the entire community and your utility," explained **Brian Rhodes**, General Manager of Hartford Utilities. "You have the opportunity to explain to legislators how important certain issues are in your area."

With over 1,000 bills introduced each session, many directly affect cities and villages. Whether your role covers a broad range of issues or a specific area, your knowledge and local perspective help legislators understand how laws affect real communities.

It's not about being an expert — It's about telling your story



Most legislators aren't experts in every issue they vote on — that's where you come in. Sharing your local experience helps lawmakers understand real-world consequences of policy decisions. "It's our job to help them understand our needs and challenges," said **Dan Hornung**, a long-time public power advocate and Manitowoc Public Utilities Commissioner.

Advocacy efforts can be one-time or ongoing. You might respond to a specific bill, testify at a hearing, or meet with your legislator. You may also contribute feedback to MEUW or APPA or respond to surveys on issues. The best engagement includes personal stories and local examples that illustrate the real-world impact of legislation.

It's never too early to build relationships



The best time to connect with your elected officials is before you need something. "Keep sharing your story — even when there isn't a fire to put out," suggested **Troy Adams**, General Manager at Manitowoc Public Utilities. "When the time comes, you'll already have that relationship in place."

Build relationships with your legislators now by attending listening sessions, inviting them to visit your municipality, or meeting informally.

These are just a few voices helping MEUW shape a stronger future for public power. In the months ahead, we'll highlight more member experiences — from first-time advocates to seasoned pros — and share simple, actionable ways you can get involved.

Want to Add Your Voice?

We're building a library of stories and tools to support local advocacy efforts. If you've got an experience, idea, or tip to share, we want to hear it! Please take a moment to [answer a few brief questions](#) to let us know what you are doing. ●

Questions? Contact MEUW Director of Legislative and Regulatory Relations **Tyler Vorpapel** at (920) 265-7720 or by email at tvorpapel@meuw.org

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.

Veteran lawmaker now represents 15th District



Adam Neylon (R-Pewaukee) has served as the representative for Wisconsin's 15th Assembly Dis-

trict since January 2025, after representing the 98th District from 2013 to 2025. The 15th District, located in southeastern Wisconsin, includes Pewaukee, most of Brookfield, and parts of the City of Waukesha in Waukesha County.

Neylon currently serves on the Assembly's Energy and Utilities Committee, a role he has held since the 2023-24 legislative session. He is also Chair of the Assembly Committee on the Review of Administrative Rules and Co-Chair of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules. In addition, he is a member of the

Assembly committees on Jobs, Economy and Small Business Development; Health, Aging and Long-Term Care; and Public Benefit Reform.

Originally from the Chicago area, Neylon moved to Wisconsin to attend Carroll University in Waukesha. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 2008. Before his election to the Assembly, he worked on Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner's campaign and later served on his staff. He also held roles with the Republican National Committee and the Wisconsin GOP and worked as a policy advisor in the state legislature.

Alongside his public service, Neylon is a small business owner. In 2010, he founded the Neylon Group, LLC, a commercial window-cleaning company based in Waukesha. His legislative work has earned recognition from the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, and the American Conservative Union.

He lives in Pewaukee with his wife and their three children and remains active in the community, including coaching youth sports and serving on the Carroll University President's Advisory Council.

Rep. Sarah Keyeski is newly elected legislator



Sarah Keyeski (D-Lodi) has represented Wisconsin's 14th State Senate District since

January 2025. Located in central Wisconsin, the district includes all of Richland and Sauk counties, most of Columbia County, and parts of southern Adams and Juneau counties, as well as northern Dane County. Key communities in the district include Baraboo, Columbus, Portage, Reedsburg, Richland Center, and Wisconsin Dells.

A lifelong Wisconsinite, Keyeski was born in La Crosse and raised on her family's farm near Cashton in Monroe County. She earned her bachelor's degree from Luther College in Iowa in 1993 and a master's degree in counseling from Northwestern University in 1996. She became a Licensed Professional Counselor and spent more than a decade practicing in Sun Prairie before relocating to Lodi, where

she opened her own private counseling practice.

Keyeski's commitment to mental health advocacy deepened during the COVID-19 pandemic, when she witnessed firsthand the strain it placed on her community. In response, she founded Lift Lodi, a nonprofit organization focused on improving public spaces and promoting civic engagement through volunteerism.

In 2024, following significant redistricting changes, Keyeski launched a campaign for the Wisconsin State Senate. She went on to win one of the most closely watched races in the state, narrowly defeating incumbent Joan Ballweg with just over 51% of the vote.

As a senator, Keyeski serves on several committees, including Agriculture and Revenue; Education; and Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families. She is a vocal advocate for expanding mental health services, improving educational access, and investing in Wisconsin's rural communities.

Keyeski lives in Lodi with her husband, Rodney, and their six children. ●



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Kaukauna paper mill honored for excellence in energy efficiency

Ahlstrom-Thilmany Mill in Kaukauna has been honored with the prestigious 2025 Energy Efficiency Excellence Award from Focus on Energy, in partnership with Kaukauna Utilities. The award recognizes the mill's outstanding efforts in implementing sustainable energy solutions that not only reduce operational costs but also contribute to a healthier environment and a stronger economy.

Ahlstrom-Thilmany Mill manufactures a wide range of specialty paper products, including food packaging, e-commerce packaging, building and construction papers, and medical papers. The mill, founded in 1883 by Oscar Thilmany, was purchased by Finnish-based manufacturer Ahlstrom in 2018. Recently, Ahlstrom invested in upgrading and converting a paper machine at the Kaukauna plant to produce stretchable creped-base papers for masking tape. This new crepe machine is unique because it enables the use of integrated pulp from the Thilmany pulp mill, generating sustainability advantages such as reduced emissions from lower energy consumption and less transportation, along with cost benefits for customers.

In recent years, the mill has made significant facility upgrades, implementing energy-efficient improvements to lighting, process equipment, compressed air systems, and HVAC systems. The upgrades and other measures have led to estimated energy reduction totals of 1300 kW; 14,213,138 annual kWh; 2,496,862 annual therms; and 4,418,113 MMBTU.

The mill has received over \$1.2 million in Focus on Energy incentives for its upgrades. In addition to participating in the Focus on Energy program through Kaukauna Utilities, the Ahlstrom-Thilmany plant has also participated in the WPPI Energy Request for Proposals (RFP) Program for the last 16 years.

Kaukauna Utilities General Manager Michael Avanzi said, "We believe in partnering with our customers to use energy efficiently and sustainably. Over the years, no customer has exemplified this better than Ahlstrom's Thilmany Mill. We are proud to be their electric service provider and community partner and applaud them for this remarkable achievement."

The mill's achievements in energy efficiency have a ripple effect on the local community. By reducing energy consumption and operational costs, Ahlstrom-Thilmany Mill enhances its own sustainability while also supporting the economic vitality of Kaukauna.



Those celebrating the Ahlstrom-Thilmany Mill's 2025 Energy Efficiency Excellence Award were (from left): WPPI Energy Energy Services Manager Frank Barth; Kaukauna Mayor Tony Penterman; Kaukauna Utilities General Manager Michael Avanzi; Ahlstrom Thilmany Plant Manager Chris Williams; Thilmany Plant Maintenance and Engineering Manager Richard Peterson; Ahlstrom Thilmany Project Engineer-Energy David Leeder; Focus on Energy Energy Advisor Tim Hasbargen; Public Service Commissioner Marcus Hawkins; and Focus on Energy Managing Director Erin Soman.

Ahlstrom-Thilmany Mill was among 11 Wisconsin organizations recognized for their exceptional contributions to energy efficiency.

Celebrating these achievements acknowledges the vital role that energy efficiency plays in building resilient communities and fostering economic growth. Across Wisconsin, municipal utilities are working with customers to successfully embrace energy-efficient practices. Ahlstrom-Thilmany Mill's journey serves as a strong example of what can be achieved through dedication, innovation, and collaboration. ●



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Municipal employees complete MEUW training program

Three MEUW utility employees recently took the next step in their professional development journeys. Pictured at right are: **Natalie Markelz** (Menasha Utilities), **Ashley Fox** and **Amanda Trumpf** (both of Sun Prairie Utilities) who were recognized during a recent training session held in Mauston.

Each of them has now completed MEUW's four-part Fundamentals of Municipal Utility training program. The series is designed to explain specifics that are relevant to public power utility employees and leaders, with an emphasis on detailing the "why" behind each of the discussion areas. Municipal workers of all skill levels and backgrounds can benefit from this series, providing them with a foundation for understanding the public power industry. To learn more about professional development opportunities, visit meuw.org/pdp. ●



LIVELines Classifieds

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

City of Stoughton

[Utilities Director](#)

City of New Lisbon

[Director of Public Works](#)

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



American Public Power Association (APPA) is seeking nominations for two upcoming vacancies on the **Smart Energy Provider Review Panel** with preference to members from an APPA region that includes Wisconsin, and those who have not yet served on the Panel. Nominations are due July 14.

The Smart Energy Provider (SEP) program is public power's evaluation and review of leading practices for utilities based on four criteria — smart energy program planning, energy efficiency and distributed energy resources, environmental and sustainability programs, and customer communication and education. The SEP Review Panel guides APPA staff in the implementation of the SEP program and provides expert peer review of public power utilities' applications for SEP recognition.

For further information on position requirements and recommended criteria, please view the [nomination form](#). Please reach out to APPA at SEP@publicpower.org with questions. ●

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