

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER

MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 5:30p.m.,

Council Room, Municipal Building, 450 S Main St, Richland Center WI 53581

This Meeting was held in person and via Teams

Members present: Collins, Coppernoll, Walters, Downs, and Sawle

Members absent: Wallace and Jones

Others present: Fischer, Krueger, Edwards, Gald and Rod Perry

President Sawle called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m. The meeting had been properly posted.

Motion by Collins, second by Downs to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was received and filed.

Motion by Coppernoll, second by Downs to approve the Electric Bills for March totaling \$857,211.19. Also acknowledges the balance for February, thus totaling \$967,331.60. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Collins, second by Sawle to approve the Water Bills for March totaling \$82,775.74. Also acknowledges the balance for February, thus totaling \$317,111.92. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Downs, second by Walters to approve the Sewer Bills for March totaling \$138,466.11. Also acknowledges the balance for February, thus totaling \$442,417.23. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

For safety Scott Gald announced that we received the Diamond Award from APPA. It is the top award. We had no injuries. Steve Eller did CPR training for all the departments.

We have been asked to host the WPPI Regional Power Dinner on May 28th at the White House. This is one of six.

APPA did a power rate study. It was designed to show our customers how our rates compare to other utilities.

We recently received a letter from USDA informing us that we can graduate and seek financing elsewhere. So that would free up money for other projects. Scott reached out to Elhers. Currently we are locked in at 2.5%, the rate would be 3 to 4% and would cost our rate payers 2.2 million in interest. Collins would like to see a letter sent to Congressmen and Senators explaining what a burden this would be on our rate payers. Todd explained that everyone that worked on this project has since retired. Todd feels we should contact our lawyer that was involved from the beginning. Scott will draft a letter to be sent to our representatives in Washington.

Scott, Steve and Todd met with Mindy and Dale from Sextonville Water Works to discuss mutual aid expectations and guidelines. There was a MOU drafted and Windle reviewed it and their board is reviewing it.

Steve explained that by having Hydro Corp inspecting our cross connections, they have requested to see the ordinance. It was drafted in 1985, and the body is good, but we do need to update code numbers for DNR and DPS. Walters made a motion to update Chapter 432, second by Collins. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

Scott informed the commission that he included the MEUW Livelines in their meeting packets. He feels there is a lot of good information in it and will include it every month.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that his staff, with Todd's staff help, changing meters to AMI. We are up to 900 and they are just knocking on customers' doors. Still only one water main break for the season. Ground temperatures are above 40 degrees so hopefully we are in the clear for the rest of season. Andy from MSA met with Scott, Darrick, and Steve on potential street project. They will be taking bids for Valley View Dr project and due April 7th. Steve attended the preconstruction meeting on Monday for Hwy 14 project. The Wisconsin Surplus Auction was successful. The mixer at the SE Reservoir locked up and awaiting potential repairs or replacement. They have been working on S Central Ave where a curb stop was in an old coal bin. That will be blocked off. Also the water meter was in that area too. It will be relocated.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that last Monday he received a phone call for service rep from RNOW that our Jet/Vac combo Truck is done at Supa Products and is now at RNOW getting the final touches. Scott received the same info on our truck from Fillback. Todd said they listed first three items on Wi Surplus Auctions. The Jet/Vac combo truck, the F250 and plow and a dump body trailer. The equipment replacement fund is 1.73 million dollars. The bid after trade is \$473,000.00 and it can all come out of ERF. Todd also attended HWY 14 meeting. They do have the wastewater specials in place for the one intersection. The problem is HWY 80 South is hard to locate. There is a meeting to discuss if the pole for the traffic control light can be moved or if we find our pipe, we are able to move it.

Utility Manager/Electric Superintendent reported that the electric crew is working on AMI meter install and tree trimming. Scott attended the APPA rally in D.C. Darren is attending leadership training in the Dells Thursday and Friday. Scott attended mock interviews at SW Tech. Next Wednesday Darren and JJ will attend the lineman foreman roundtable in DeForrest. Scott is working on PSC reports, the auditors will be here in April. They have hired replacements for the lineman training section for MEUW. D>C was a good trip and Scott appreciated Todd and John for taking time to go.

For correspondence the commission did receive a thank card from the Richland Hospital Foundation for their donation of WPPI Community Funds.

Rod Perry was present to address the commission. Rod was so happy to see the utilities participating in that. Even though it was an electric utility trip, we are contacting our representatives regarding the wastewater loan. Rod is also glad to see the emphasis continues on safety. When he served on the commission that was very important to him. He thinks it is great that the activity continues with WPPI and MEUW. Rod loves to see the utilities working together and would like to thank the staff for their hard work.

Collins went to D.C. with Rod Perry the first time and really enjoyed it. This time when he went with Mayor Todd and Scott. He really enjoyed watching these guys speak to the representatives and watching them listen to them. Collins would also like to go back next year. Coppennoll asked when the wastewater

auctions close. Todd says in three weeks. Must bids will come in the last 24 hours. Coppernoll talked about the meeting with the county and the utility department heads. It was a good meeting with a lot of information shared. He loved the D.C. trip. All three senators treated us with respect and paid attention to why we were there. It was a really great opportunity to network. Fischer commented that he and Steve met with Josh Elder and Mike Wertz to discuss plumbing issues with Melville Hall, the gymnasium and Symons. It is all moving forward to get those buildings ready to go to the school district. Sawle thanked the commissioners for going to D.C. He hopes to attend one in the future. Walters had a question about Terry attending training for AML, she was wondering if there is cross training in the departments. Scott answered yes. Downs asked about the Power Dinner, he just wanted to clarify the date. It is May 28th. Downs also thank the guys for all their hard work.

Motion by Collins, second by Downs to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 6:24p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by:

Angie Edwards