

Official Public Notice
MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION
CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER, WISCONSIN

Agenda

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 5:30 PM,
COUNCIL ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 450 S. MAIN ST., RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581 & VIRTUALLY

MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AND VIA WEBEX.

TEAMS: https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=a50acdf8-b28e-488b-a33b-839346d34ee7&tenantId=14038f70-880a-4544-99f2-5408da444e94&threadId=19_meeting_YjiOTkwnWYtNGY5Zi00ODU3LWI3OGYtMjg3NTQyNmFIMjUz@thread.v2&messageId=0&language=en-US

1. **Roll Call** *Roll Call for the meeting, determine whether a quorum is present; determine whether the meeting has been properly noticed.*
2. **Approval of Minutes** *Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the last meeting(s) in lieu of printed copies and approve the same.*
[A.](#) Minutes
3. **Treasurer's Report/Investment of Utility Funds**
[A.](#) Treasurer's Report
4. **Monthly Bills**
[A.](#) Water
B. Sewer
C. Electric
5. **Safety**
[A.](#) APPA Safety Award
6. **WPPI Regional Dinner**
[A.](#) Power Dinner
7. **APPA Power cost study**
[A.](#) Power Cost Survey
8. USDA Graduation Loan Letter
[A.](#) USDA Loan
9. MOU with Sextonville Water and Sanitary District
[A.](#) Proposed MOU with Sextonville Water and Sanitary District
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Water Cross Connection Ordinance Chapter 432
[A.](#) Cross Connection Ordinance Update
11. MEUW Live Lines
[A.](#) MEUW Live Lines
12. **Water Superintendent Report**
13. **WWTP Superintendent Report**
14. **Electric Superintendent/Utility Manager Report**
15. **Correspondence**
16. **Public Comments** *Members of the public are welcome to express their opinion on item(s) not appearing on this agenda.*
17. Commissioners or audience request, etc.

18. Adjourn

Posted this 6th day of March on or before 4:00 P.M.

Copy to the Richland Observer (official newspaper

Please Note: That upon reasonable notice, a minimum of 24 hours in advance, ,efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service contact Ashley Oliphant, Mayor at 450 S Main St., Richland Center, WI 53581 or call 608-647-6428. City Utilities of Richland Center is an equal opportunity employer/provider.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 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: Sawle, Jones, Collins, Wallace, Coppernoll, and Downs

Members absent: Walters

Others present: Gald, Fischer, Krueger, and Edwards

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

Motion by Jones, second by Wallace to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. Downs asked if the "Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic" be removed going forward. It was agreed. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was received and filed.

Motion by Wallace, second by Sawle to approve the Electric Bills for February totaling \$763,556.53. Also acknowledges the balance for January, thus totaling \$855,212.96. All voting aye upon rollcall, motion carried.

Motion by Collins, second by Jones to approve the Water Bills for February totaling \$62,204.45. Also acknowledges the balance for January, thus totaling \$116,812.84. All voting aye upon rollcall, motion carried.

Motion by Jones, second by Coppernoll to approve the Sewer Bills for February totaling \$125,038.20. Also acknowledges the balance for January, thus totaling \$217,815.68. All voting aye upon rollcall, motion carried.

For safety Gald reported we had an employee meeting and had Steve Ellers in for a brief refresher to report injury. Scott will be involved in hiring the replacement for Randy Larson.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that Hydro Corp does commercial and industrial cross connection inspections. They will be inspecting our larger customers for the next 2 years. AMI meter changing is going well. 740 meters changed out. The wastewater is continuing to assist. There are more meters coming and we will continue to work on replacing meters until the end of March. Terry will be attending training at WPPI for the reports from AMI metering. We still only had one water main break for the season. Frost is down 3 feet. Andy will be here next week to meet regarding future projects for water utility. Wisconsin Surplus auction is set to start next Tuesday for majority of the items. Steve is waiting on the title for a trailer before it could be listed. DNR monitoring schedule for 2027 is 20 lead and copper samples just once. PFAS in all 3 wells in October. Steve also added that Scott, Todd and himself are going to schedule a meeting with Dale from Sextonville Waterworks. They just want to discuss plans if they continue to use us as a backup.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that he is involved with the meeting with Dale because he called for his guys to come and vac a trench for them. Evan and Brad went and reported that it was not a safe environment. They did not feel comfortable. The wastewater is looking at doing some trenchless technology repairs. Dr Moen's line is one that would be a good candidate. There are quite a few places in the lines that

roots grow in and crack the pipe. We had a vendor for Veric. They supply all of our gas equipment at the plant. They claim that on our natural gas line the meter is right out of the admin building for the entire site. The boiler is the biggest thing that uses natural gas. The rep says that we have good pressure but not enough volume of gas to light the pilot. So there might be a bad regulator somewhere. Here were a few other things this vendor pointed out that Todd did reach out to Ben from Town & Country to see what he knows. Todd is also going to reach out to WE Energies. Todd is working on some maintenance issues. There are no updates on the truck orders.

Utility Manager/Electric Superintendent Gald reported Rowen is at school this week for third year. Hunter is attending WPPI Outage Management System tomorrow. We held an employee meeting today. Scott was not sure what to cover. So went over our revenues and what the utility is worth. For the next meeting, we will meet at one of the shops. Both water and electric are working on replacing meters to AMI. There have not been any major issues. The electric has been working on tree trimming. The 3 phase by Richland County Bank has been hit. The police came and filled out a report. The owner says he will keep it clear for us now. There was an email regarding the building concerns where Bindl Tire is. There is a plan to make the repairs. Scott is worried about the liability if something would happen helping out Sextonville. They will come up with a MOU. We have finally converted over to the new server. The new printers have been installed. With the new printers we have cancelled the fax lines. There is a meeting about HWY 14 in March at the community center. And the last thing is with 15 employees we have 195 years of service.

There was a member of the public present to discuss Data Centers and effects to the area. Sara Hunt spoke about data centers and the resources that they use. She is concerned about the bill that was moving through the legislature, requiring the data centers to receive 70% of energy from renewables. Sara was wondering if there is any knowledge of data centers seeking out Richland County for a possible location. Scott Gald explained that our grid is not capable of what a data center would want.

Collins states that no news is good news. He loves the job everyone is doing. Coppernoll mentioned that Bob Spanye's property downtown has sold. There is a property just past Schmitt Woodland Hills that is sold and the new owner wants to put 4 duplexes on it. Coppernoll wants a meeting with the county regarding the campus property. Sawle wanted to thank the guys for how efficient the utility is running. Wallace, Jones and Downs agreed.

Motion by Collins, second by Downs to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 6:12p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Angie Edwards

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER					
Utility Report - Month February 28, 2026					
FUNDS	TREASURER BAL BEG OF MONTH	RECEIPTS	TOTAL	DISBURSEMENTS	TREASURER BAL END OF MONTH
GARBAGE		22,891.64			
PUBLIC BENEFIT		3,276.12			
ELECTRIC UTILITY	522,965.89	823,924.05	1,373,057.70	967,331.60	\$ 405,726.10
WATER UTILITY	629,869.85	148,724.98	778,594.83	317,111.92	\$ 461,482.91
SEWER UTILITY	749,495.65	232,802.34	982,297.99	442,417.23	\$ 539,880.76
Fund	Total	Location	% Interest		
Electric Project Savings	401,504.35	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Electric Replacement Fund	1,002,620.72	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Electric Bond Fund "2027"	111,051.74	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Electric Project Savings	249,306.55	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Electric - AMI	438,554.47	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Total Electric	2,203,037.83				
Water Project Savings	1,193,923.74	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Water Replacement Fund	526,537.95	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Water - Clean Wa Loan#8-2028	107,913.59	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Water - Reservoir Loan#5-2039	136,610.38	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Water - AMI	190,544.59	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
Water DNR Loan	10.00	Richland Co Bank			
Total Water	2,155,540.25				
WWTP Replacement Fund	1,783,851.21	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
WWTP Project Savings	561,918.60	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
WWTP Bond Fund "2035"	207,273.12	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
USDA Reserve Acct	625,000.00	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
WWTP -RATE STABILIZATION	1,015,828.26	State/LGIP	Variable 3.69		
USDA 2015 Bond Fund "2045"	576,056.82	Peoples Bank			
Total WWTP	4,769,928.01				
	9,128,506.09				
Unrestricted					
Electric	\$ 405,726.10				
Water	461,482.91				
WWTP	539,880.76				
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,407,089.77				
Restricted - Restricted Funds are for Projects, Bond Payments and Equipment Replacement					
Electric	2,203,037.83				
Water	2,155,540.25				
WWTP	4,769,928.01				
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	9,128,506.09				

Report Criteria:

Invoices with totals above \$0.00 included.
Only paid invoices included.

Vendor	Vendor Name	Description	Invoice Date	Net Invoice Amount	Amount Paid	Date Paid	Voided	GL Account Number
ELECTRIC								
1229	BADGER WELDING SUPPLIE	CYLINDER RENTAL	02/28/2026	16.80	16.80	03/11/2026		1.5.562.00
2117	BLACKBURN MFG.CO	PRINTED 4"X5" VINYL FLAG	12/31/2025	287.10	287.10	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
2117	BLACKBURN MFG.CO	FREIGHT SHIPVIA FEDEXG	12/31/2025	112.35	112.35	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
220	CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER	MONTHLY TAX EQUIVALEN	03/10/2026	24,098.00	24,098.00	03/11/2026		1.2.236.00
232	CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER	2026 PROPERTY INSURANC	03/03/2026	4,902.72	4,902.72	03/11/2026		1.5.924.00
232	CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER	Q2 WORKMAN COMP AUTO	03/03/2026	1,432.53	1,432.53	03/11/2026		1.5.924.00
2084	COMPUTER DOCTORS	SWITCHING NEW SERVER	02/16/2026	281.25	281.25	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
53	GENUINE TELECOM	MONTHLY PHONE BILL	03/02/2026	184.30	184.30	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
2403	JOHN G. COLLINS	APPA WASHINGTON DC	03/10/2026	1,307.91	1,307.91	03/11/2026		1.5.930.00
1344	JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE	FIRE ALARM SERVICE/EL	03/02/2026	393.54	393.54	03/11/2026		1.5.562.00
273	JONES CHEVROLET	STEP PKG	03/09/2026	455.00	455.00	03/11/2026		1.5.933.00
273	JONES CHEVROLET	LABOR	03/09/2026	66.99	66.99	03/11/2026		1.5.933.00
2768	KWIK TRIP INC	MONTHLY FUEL EXPENSE	02/28/2026	898.75	898.75	03/11/2026		1.5.933.00
1798	LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVES	ERF-DEPOSITOR 852901.02	03/10/2026	10,000.00	10,000.00	03/11/2026		1.1.125.03
1798	LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVES	ELECTRIC BOND-DEPOSIT	03/10/2026	26,376.25	26,376.25	03/11/2026		1.1.125.11
439	MEUW	MEUW ANNUAL CONFEREN	03/10/2026	630.00	630.00	03/11/2026		1.5.930.00
439	MEUW	LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP	02/26/2026	350.00	350.00	03/11/2026		1.5.930.00
513	NAPA AUTO PARTS	NAPA GOLD ENGINE AIR FIL	03/06/2026	18.56	18.56	03/11/2026		1.5.933.00
513	NAPA AUTO PARTS	NAPA PROFORMER CABIN	03/06/2026	28.99	28.99	03/11/2026		1.5.933.00
513	NAPA AUTO PARTS	PREM AW 46 HYD/FL 5G ()	03/06/2026	75.99	75.99	03/11/2026		1.5.933.00
513	NAPA AUTO PARTS	TR NEW CAR SCENT 3PK ()	03/06/2026	3.00	3.00	03/11/2026		1.5.933.00
561	PELLITTERI WASTE SYSTEM	DATA SHRED	02/28/2026	83.66	83.66	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
661	RESCO	SWEETBRIAR XLPURD 4/0-	12/10/2025	2,659.57	2,659.57	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	33+-3/4X66FT-1.5TAPE SUP	03/04/2026	665.00	665.00	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	6813WASHER SQ FLT 2.25I	03/04/2026	127.59	127.59	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	51010CPSFUSE LINK 10 AM	03/04/2026	62.62	62.62	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	106MSCREW LAG 1/4 X 2 W	03/04/2026	81.81	81.81	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	AJ111TC1N12NOCUTOUT PO	03/04/2026	1,068.28	1,068.28	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	DA3000120E4B9X2DEADEN	03/05/2026	2,319.20	2,319.20	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	BC20CLAMP HOT LINE CU/	03/05/2026	356.65	356.65	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	BVC207CONNECTOR GROU	03/05/2026	177.50	177.50	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	PE-4UG10UGUARD PLASTI	03/05/2026	359.54	359.54	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	PE-2UG10UGUARD PLASTI	03/05/2026	267.80	267.80	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
661	RESCO	881PPIN CROSSARM INS 1"	03/05/2026	219.53	219.53	03/11/2026		1.1.150.00
620	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUC	OFFICE SUPPLIES	02/25/2026	57.50	57.50	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
620	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUC	LEX24B6719: OEM TONER Y	02/25/2026	205.70	205.70	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
718	SEERA Focus on Energy	FOCUS ON ENERGY/FEB	03/10/2026	1,638.06	1,638.06	03/11/2026		1.2.253.03
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	RENEWABLE ENERGY	03/10/2026	808.00	808.00	03/11/2026		1.2.253.08
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	PURCHASED POWER	03/10/2026	757,120.26	757,120.26	03/11/2026		1.5.545.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	AMI UPDATES LOAN MONT	03/10/2026	4,000.00	4,000.00	03/11/2026		1.5.903.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	METERS	03/10/2026	793.50	793.50	03/11/2026		1.5.903.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	NORTHSTAR	03/10/2026	746.03	746.03	03/11/2026		1.5.903.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	PASS THROUGH CHARGE	03/10/2026	250.00	250.00	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	FIREWALL/ENDPOINT CITY	03/10/2026	166.51	166.51	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	FIREWALL/END POINT	03/10/2026	83.26	83.26	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	TECH SUPPORT CITY	03/10/2026	2,990.25	2,990.25	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	TECH SUPPORT	03/10/2026	1,495.13	1,495.13	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	NETWORK MONITORING	03/10/2026	79.17	79.17	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	EL USE & COST DETAIL	03/10/2026	20.00	20.00	03/11/2026		1.5.921.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	SH. METER TECH	03/10/2026	306.25	306.25	03/11/2026		1.5.923.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	WAN	03/10/2026	75.00	75.00	03/11/2026		1.5.923.00
2859	TODD COPPERNOLL	WASHINGTON DC MOTEL	03/10/2026	435.97	435.97	03/11/2026		1.5.930.00
2507	UTILITY SALES AND SERVIC	TRUCK MAINT	02/23/2026	5,471.54	5,471.54	03/11/2026		1.5.933.00

Vendor	Vendor Name	Description	Invoice Date	Net Invoice Amount	Amount Paid	Date Paid	Voided	GL Account Number
2591	VERIZON	TABLET X2/DATA	02/23/2026	40.04	40.04	03/11/2026		1.5.562.00
831	WALSH'S ACE HARDWARE	SHOP SUPPLIES	02/28/2026	60.24	60.24	03/11/2026		1.5.562.00
Total ELECTRIC:					857,211.19			
WATER								
2494	CINTAS	UNIFORMS	02/02/2026	66.95	66.95	03/11/2026		2.5.623.00
2494	CINTAS	UNIFORMS	02/09/2026	66.95	66.95	03/11/2026		2.5.623.00
2494	CINTAS	UNIFORMS	02/16/2026	66.95	66.95	03/11/2026		2.5.623.00
2494	CINTAS	UNIFORMS	02/23/2026	66.95	66.95	03/11/2026		2.5.623.00
2494	CINTAS	UNIFORMS	02/27/2026	66.95	66.95	03/11/2026		2.5.623.00
220	CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER	MONTHLY TAX EQUIVALEN	03/10/2026	21,059.00	21,059.00	03/11/2026		2.2.236.00
232	CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER	2026 PROPERTY INSURANC	03/03/2026	3,268.48	3,268.48	03/11/2026		2.5.924.00
232	CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER	Q2 WORKMAN COMP AUTO	03/03/2026	1,295.88	1,295.88	03/11/2026		2.5.924.00
2084	COMPUTER DOCTORS	SWITCHING NEW SERVER	02/16/2026	140.63	140.63	03/11/2026		2.5.921.00
1164	CUMMINS SALES & SERVICE	ANNUAL SERIVCE	03/03/2026	627.44	627.44	03/11/2026		2.5.625.00
1164	CUMMINS SALES & SERVICE	ANNUAL SERIVCE	03/08/2026	929.80	929.80	03/11/2026		2.5.625.00
2621	GENUINE TELECOM	MONTHLY PHONE BILL	03/02/2026	48.92	48.92	03/11/2026		2.5.921.00
53	GENUINE TELECOM	MONTHLY PHONE BILL	03/02/2026	92.15	92.15	03/11/2026		2.5.921.00
2878	HYDOCORP LLC	MUNI COMMERCIAL CCC P	02/27/2026	1,083.06	1,083.06	03/11/2026		2.5.923.00
1344	JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE	FIRE ALARM SERVICE/STR	03/02/2026	393.54	393.54	03/11/2026		2.5.641.00
1344	JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE	FIRE ALARM SERVICE/WAT	03/02/2026	393.53	393.53	03/11/2026		2.5.641.00
2768	KWIK TRIP INC	MONTHLY FUEL EXPENSE	02/28/2026	302.59	302.59	03/11/2026		2.5.933.00
1260	LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVES	MONTHLY BOND PAYMENT-	03/10/2026	8,725.25	8,725.25	03/11/2026		2.1.125.04
1260	LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVES	WATER RESERVOIR LOAN-	03/10/2026	12,129.97	12,129.97	03/11/2026		2.1.125.06
1260	LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVES	WATER AMI-DEPOSITOR#85	03/10/2026	5,000.00	5,000.00	03/11/2026		2.1.125.15
1470	MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVI	SUBTOTAL PRELIMINARY D	02/25/2026	22,747.64	22,747.64	03/11/2026		2.1.107.53
1470	MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVI	R11137052.00.200SUBTOTA	02/25/2026	95.25	95.25	03/11/2026		2.1.107.53
561	PELLITTERI WASTE SYSTEM	DATA SHRED	02/28/2026	41.83	41.83	03/11/2026		2.5.921.00
2764	PRIMUS MARKETING GROUP	SN WATER V4 REMOTE MO	01/14/2026	2,222.50	2,222.50	03/11/2026		2.5.653.00
2764	PRIMUS MARKETING GROUP	EW10000B000V4 MOUNTIN	01/14/2026	105.00	105.00	03/11/2026		2.5.653.00
620	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUC	OFFICE SUPPLIES	02/25/2026	28.75	28.75	03/11/2026		2.5.921.00
2580	SCHMITZ JANITORIAL SUPPL	SHOP TOWELS	02/04/2026	43.00	43.00	03/11/2026		2.5.641.00
1056	STEPHEN KRUEGER	POSTAGE FOR DMV	02/25/2026	11.95	11.95	03/11/2026		2.5.903.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	METERS	03/10/2026	237.00	237.00	03/11/2026		2.5.903.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	NORTHSTAR	03/10/2026	373.02	373.02	03/11/2026		2.5.903.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	FIREWALL/END POINT	03/10/2026	41.63	41.63	03/11/2026		2.5.921.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	TECH SUPPORT	03/10/2026	747.56	747.56	03/11/2026		2.5.921.00
2591	VERIZON	TABLET/DATA	02/23/2026	20.02	20.02	03/11/2026		2.5.651.00
1407	WALSH'S ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES	02/28/2026	159.98	159.98	03/11/2026		2.5.625.00
1407	WALSH'S ACE HARDWARE	SHOP	02/28/2026	44.62	44.62	03/11/2026		2.5.641.00
1352	WISCONSIN STATE LAB OF H	FLUORIDE TESTING	02/28/2026	31.00	31.00	03/11/2026		2.5.641.00
Total WATER:					82,775.74			
SEWER								
2506	BUENA VISTA TOWNSHIP	ROAD MAINTENANCE	03/10/2026	1,200.00	1,200.00	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
2494	CINTAS	UNIFORMS & SUPPLIES	02/09/2026	269.16	269.16	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
2494	CINTAS	UNIFORMS & SUPPLIES	02/16/2026	92.81	92.81	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
2494	CINTAS	UNIFORMS & SUPPLIES	02/23/2026	156.98	156.98	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
2494	CINTAS	UNIFORMS & SUPPLIES	02/27/2026	92.81	92.81	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
232	CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER	2026 PROPERTY INSURANC	03/03/2026	4,003.89	4,003.89	03/11/2026		3.5.853.00
232	CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER	Q2 WORKMAN COMP AUTO	03/03/2026	2,892.69	2,892.69	03/11/2026		3.5.853.00
228	CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER	J STANEK HEALTH INS	03/10/2026	423.80	423.80	03/11/2026		3.5.926.00
2084	COMPUTER DOCTORS	SWITCHING NEW SERVER	02/16/2026	140.62	140.62	03/11/2026		3.5.851.00
1660	CULLIGAN WATER	SOFTENER TANK SERVICE	02/28/2026	50.57	50.57	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
1164	CUMMINS SALES & SERVICE	ANNUAL SERVICE /OLD W	03/06/2026	1,842.59	1,842.59	03/11/2026		3.5.833.00
1164	CUMMINS SALES & SERVICE	ANNUAL SERVICE /NEW W	03/06/2026	2,591.40	2,591.40	03/11/2026		3.5.833.00

Vendor	Vendor Name	Description	Invoice Date	Net Invoice Amount	Amount Paid	Date Paid	Voided	GL Account Number
1647	DELUXE DISTRIBUTORS	CASE/TRI-FOLD PAPER TO	02/20/2026	268.00	268.00	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
1647	DELUXE DISTRIBUTORS	CASE/WYPALL	02/20/2026	245.00	245.00	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
1647	DELUXE DISTRIBUTORS	SHIPPING	02/20/2026	209.98	209.98	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
1647	DELUXE DISTRIBUTORS	55 GALLON BARREN HERB	02/20/2026	1,595.00	1,595.00	03/11/2026		3.5.834.00
1637	E & B SCALE SERVICES, INC	MAINTENANCE OF SCALE	02/12/2026	150.00	150.00	03/11/2026		3.5.827.04
1598	GENUINE TELECOM	INTERNET/PHONE	03/02/2026	44.91	44.91	03/11/2026		3.5.851.00
53	GENUINE TELECOM	MONTHLY PHONE BILL	03/02/2026	92.15	92.15	03/11/2026		3.5.851.00
2798	HAWKINS, INC.	FERRIC CHLORIDE 35%	02/09/2026	9,405.40	9,405.40	03/11/2026		3.5.826.00
2768	KWIK TRIP INC	ICE	02/28/2026	11.68	11.68	03/11/2026		3.5.827.04
2768	KWIK TRIP INC	MONTHLY FUEL EXPENSE	02/28/2026	153.10	153.10	03/11/2026		3.5.828.02
1799	LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVES	WWTP BOND FUND-DEPOS	03/10/2026	18,625.82	18,625.82	03/11/2026		3.1.125.01
1799	LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVES	WWTP ERF-DEPOSITOR#85	03/10/2026	13,922.08	13,922.08	03/11/2026		3.1.125.04
513	NAPA AUTO PARTS	MOBILGEAR -HARTLAND	01/13/2026	1,116.00	1,116.00	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
995	NORTHERN LAKE SERVICE, I	1633 PFAS (NON-POTABLE)	02/25/2026	600.00	600.00	03/11/2026		3.5.827.04
995	NORTHERN LAKE SERVICE, I	SAMPLE TRANSPORT SPEE	02/25/2026	25.00	25.00	03/11/2026		3.5.827.04
995	NORTHERN LAKE SERVICE, I	MERCURY, ULTRA LOW LEV	03/02/2026	277.92	277.92	03/11/2026		3.5.827.04
995	NORTHERN LAKE SERVICE, I	MERCURY, LOW LEVEL BY	03/02/2026	90.06	90.06	03/11/2026		3.5.827.04
995	NORTHERN LAKE SERVICE, I	SAMPLE TRANSPORT SPEE	03/02/2026	25.00	25.00	03/11/2026		3.5.827.04
2505	ORION TOWNSHIP	ROAD MAINTENANCE	03/10/2026	600.00	600.00	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
561	PELLITTERI WASTE SYSTEM	DATA SHRED	02/28/2026	41.83	41.83	03/11/2026		3.5.821.00
2047	PREMIER COOPERATIVE	EQUA/TRUCKS	02/28/2026	31.37	31.37	03/11/2026		3.5.828.02
2764	PRIMUS MARKETING GROUP	SN WATER V4 REMOTE MO	01/14/2026	2,222.50	2,222.50	03/11/2026		3.5.830.00
2764	PRIMUS MARKETING GROUP	EW10000B000V4 MOUNTIN	01/14/2026	105.00	105.00	03/11/2026		3.5.830.00
2390	R.C. UTILITIES WWTP-USDA	MONTHLY USDA BOND PMT	03/10/2026	72,300.00	72,300.00	03/11/2026		3.1.125.09
620	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUC	OFFICE SUPPLIES	02/25/2026	28.75	28.75	03/11/2026		3.5.851.00
620	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUC	MONTHLY COPIER EXP	03/03/2026	63.00	63.00	03/11/2026		3.5.851.00
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	6400-8-6FITTING	02/19/2026	3.58	3.58	03/11/2026		3.5.827.01
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	4C2ATR1/4" GATES C2AT (G	02/19/2026	87.75	87.75	03/11/2026		3.5.827.01
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	4G-4FJX7103-0804 MEGA C	02/19/2026	14.94	14.94	03/11/2026		3.5.827.01
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	4G-6FJX90S 7103-4712MEG	02/19/2026	42.75	42.75	03/11/2026		3.5.827.01
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	FUEL	02/07/2026	20.00	20.00	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	OTHER MATERIALS	02/07/2026	4.69	4.69	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	GE 184146PRIMARY AIR FIL	02/07/2026	36.81	36.81	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	GE 195568OIL FILTER	02/07/2026	10.35	10.35	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	NH OW40 BULK OIL ENGINE	02/07/2026	116.49	116.49	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	NH BULK OILBULK OIL (QU	02/07/2026	25.88	25.88	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	GE 50314019KIT	02/07/2026	13.78	13.78	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
727	SIMPSON'S TRACTOR	LABOR	02/07/2026	312.50	312.50	03/11/2026		3.5.856.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	METERS	03/10/2026	237.00	237.00	03/11/2026		3.5.840.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	NORTHSTAR	03/10/2026	373.02	373.02	03/11/2026		3.5.840.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	FIREWALL/END POINT	03/10/2026	41.62	41.62	03/11/2026		3.5.851.00
2776	THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY	TECH SUPPORT	03/10/2026	747.56	747.56	03/11/2026		3.5.851.00
1989	WALSH'S ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES	02/28/2026	370.52	370.52	03/11/2026		3.5.827.02
Total SEWER:					138,466.11			
Grand Totals:					1,078,453.04			

Report Criteria:

- Invoices with totals above \$0.00 included.
- Only paid invoices included.

ELECTRIC

February Bills	763,556.53
Assurity	186.12
American Heritage Life	151.42
Champion Health	834.00
Health Compass	345.00
AT&T Mobility-Monthly Cell Phone	79.38
City of Richland Center-GA billed in Jan Pd in Feb	25,741.60
City Utilities-Sewer-Monthly U Bills	42.32
City Utilities-Water-Monthly U Bills	46.69
Darren Mott-Fuel for Demo Truck	118.84
MEUW-Job Training Safety Program Fees	8,625.00
MEUW-Foreman Roundtable for Gerald and Darren	250.00
Napa Auto Parts-Transportation Expense	35.98
Rowen Wipperfurth-School/Mileage	282.21
US Bank-Credit Card	1,209.71
We Energies-Line Shop	798.65
WI Dept of Revenue-Sales Tax	11,417.81
Local Government-ERF	80,790.20
City of Richland Center-Health Ins	11,228.46
City of Richland Center-Life Ins	205.93
City of Richland Center-Dental Ins	203.29
City of Richland Center-Vision Ins	42.35
Internal Revenue Service-Fed/Fica	4,677.95
Internal Revenue Service-Fed/Fica	5,632.46
WI Dept of Rev-S/WH	819.87
WI Dept of Rev-S/WH	968.04
Great West-Deferred Comp	560.00
Great West-Deferred Comp	560.00
City of Richland Center-Retirement	6,804.60
Payroll	18,547.19
Payroll	20,256.32
PSN	2,313.68
	<hr/>
	967,331.60

WATER

February Bills	62,204.45
City of Richland Center-Health Ins	13,330.94
City of Richland Center-Life Ins	275.53
City of Richland Center-Dental Ins	183.84
City of Richland Center-Vision Ins	14.32
American Heritage Life Ins-	17.02
Assurity	23.39
Champion Health	97.70
AT&T Mobility-Monthly Cell Phone	74.22
City Utilities-Electric-Monthly U Bills	7,692.36
City Utilities-Sewer-Monthly U Bills	72.08
Martelle Water Treatment-Chemicals	1,002.99
MSA Professional Services-2026 Water Main Improvements	12,690.36
US Bank-Credit Card	1,017.64
WE Energies-Wells Water Shop Pump Station Boosterstation	582.48
Wisconsin Rural Water Association-Conference	1,150.00
Local Government-SP Fund ERF	193,000.00
Registration Fee Trust-Titles for Trailers	658.50
Internal Revenue Service-Fed/Fica	2,938.71
Internal Revenue Service-Fed/Fica	3,666.06
WI Dept of Rev-S/WH	478.05
WI Dept of Rev-S/WH	607.03
Great West-Deferred Comp	143.48
Great West-Deferred Comp	131.76
City of Richland Center-Retirement	4,003.66
Payroll	4,950.97
Payroll	6,104.38
	<hr/>
	317,111.92

SEWER

February Bills	125,038.20
City of Richland Center-Health Ins	13,425.60
City of Richland Center-Life Ins	271.08
City of Richland Center-Dental Ins	326.13
City of Richland Center-Vision Ins	27.11
American Heritage Life	31.41
Assurity Life Insurance Company	138.71
Champion Health	458.30
Health Compass	115.00
AT&T Mobility-Monthly Cell Phones	83.68
City Utilities-Electric-Monthly U Bills	10,132.04
City Utilities-Water-Monthly U Bills	234.86
US Bank-Credit Card	135.38
WE Energies-WWTP Lift Stations	5,156.35
WIL-Kil-Pest Control	265.17
Wisconsin DNR-Exam Wilson	25.00
Wisconsin Rural Water Association-Conference	220.00
Local Government-State Treasurer	250,000.00
WI Dept of Rev-S/WH	574.58
WI Dept of Rev-S/WH	729.78
Internal Revenue Service-Fed/Fica	3,204.91
Internal Revenue Service-Fed/Fica	4,017.10
Great West-Deferred Comp	341.52
Great West-Deferred Comp	353.24
City of Richland Center-Retiremnt	4,945.42
Payroll	10,518.98
Payroll	11,647.68
	<hr/>
	442,417.23

Scott Gald

From: Aggie Serrame <aserrame@publicpower.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 2:17 PM
To: Safety
Cc: Safety
Subject: Congratulations on Your Diamond 2025 APPA Safety Award — Invitation to Join Fellow Awardees at the Safety Summit

Importance: High

Dear Awardee,

Congratulations! It is our pleasure to inform you that your utility has been honored as a **DIAMOND winner** of the **2025 APPA Safety Awards of Excellence**. This prestigious recognition reflects your steadfast commitment to protecting your workforce and your exemplary leadership within the public power community.

To ensure we recognize your achievement appropriately, please complete this form to order your utility's Safety Awards plaque by **Friday, March 13, 2026**:

- **Plaque Order Form:** https://pppi.biz/secured/form_safety_award.php.

As a Diamond award recipient, your utility will receive **one complimentary plaque**, which will be mailed directly to you.

Invitation to the 2026 APPA Safety Summit

We also invite you to join fellow awardees at this year's **APPA Safety Summit**, where all Safety Award winners will be recognized.

At the Summit, you'll have opportunities to:

- Be acknowledged alongside other award recipients
- Take part in professional photo sessions for use by your utility
- Connect with peers who are leading safety efforts across public power
- Attend sessions focused on strengthening and advancing safety programs

We hope you'll join us so we can celebrate your achievement in person and support your ongoing safety work.

Learn more and register:

- **Safety Summit Website:** <https://www.publicpower.org/safety-summit>
- **Safety Summit Registration:** <https://my.publicpower.org/s/community-event?id=a1YUT0000054jBl2Al>

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to safety. We look forward to recognizing your accomplishments at the Safety Summit.

Best regards,
Aggie Serrame
 Resilience Program Manager

2026 Regional Power Dinners

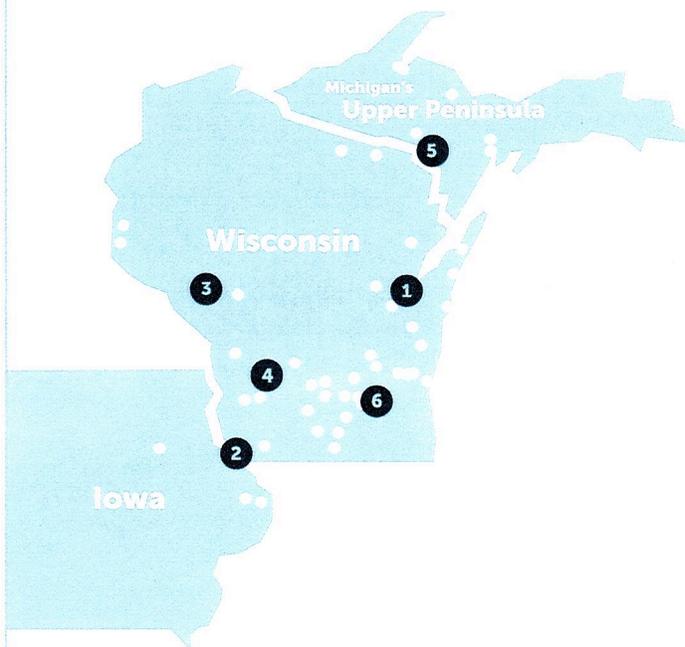


WPPI Energy will host six power dinners for member utility staff, utility governing body representatives and locally elected officials. These meetings are an opportunity to connect with other member community leaders to discuss electric industry issues and gain a broader understanding of key initiatives within the joint action organization.

We hope you'll be able to join us!

EVENING EVENTS

Cocktails 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. Program 6:45 – 7:15 p.m.



DATES AND LOCATIONS

- 1. Thursday, April 9**
Bridgewood Hotel & Conference Center
Neenah
- 2. Wednesday, May 20**
TBD
Dubuque
- 3. Wednesday, May 27**
Wilson Creek Inn
Menomonie
- 4. Thursday, May 28**
Ramada by Wyndam
Richland Center
- 5. Tuesday, June 2**
Pine Mountain Resort
Iron Mountain
- 6. Wednesday, June 17**
Weissgerber's Gold Mast Inn
Okauchee Lake

AVERAGE REVENUE PER KILOWATT-HOUR, 2024



AVERAGE REVENUE PER KILOWATT-HOUR REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

PREPARED BY

Kevin Tillmann, Manager, Research and Statistics
American Public Power Association

The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power approximately 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 55 million people that public power utilities serve across the United States and its territories. We advise on electricity policy, grid technology and operations, and workforce development in support of safe, modern, and resilient utilities.

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www.PublicPower.org
Contact MediaRelations@PublicPower.org or 202-467-2900



Powering Strong Communities

ABOUT THIS REPORT

We are pleased to present the summary report of average revenue per kilowatt-hour for U.S. electric utilities for calendar year 2024. The report contains state averages by type of ownership, as well as individual averages for each utility in the country.

Public power utilities often offer the most affordable rates compared to other utility types. In 35 out of 45 states with comparable data, public power customers have the lowest average residential rates. Nationwide, the average residential rates for public power utility customers were 17% lower than investor-owned utility residential rates.

Note that the report showing each utility's average revenue per kilowatt-hour covers full-service sales only, so average values for states with retail choice do not include sales to customers that purchase power from alternate energy suppliers. The national average rates for alternate energy supplier sales in states that have retail choice are higher than the average rates for full service customers. The average residential retail choice rate is nearly 60% higher than the average full-service residential rate.

The American Public Power Association calculated the revenue per kilowatt-hour from 2024 data reported by each utility to the Energy Information Administration on Form EIA-861 (and on Form EIA-861S for smaller utilities). These calculations can help you compare your average rate with other utilities in your state.

The average public power residential rate was 17% lower than the IOU residential rate in 2024.

Please note that beginning with 2020 data, EIA increased the size threshold for utilities to complete the shorter Form EIA-861S. On this form, utilities do not need to report sales for each rate class and thus report only total revenue and sales. Nearly three-quarters of all public power utilities complete the short form; therefore, residential, commercial, and industrial rates are not available for these utilities, as well as for the nearly 300 rural electric cooperatives who complete the shorter form. Utilities with less than 200,000 megawatt-hours in sales are required to complete the detailed Form EIA-861 every eight years. The next year that small utilities are required to complete EIA-861 is 2027.

Public power customers had the lowest average total rate in 35 states.

Utilities reporting data on EIA-861S are indicated throughout the tables in the report in italics. Note that state averages for residential, commercial, and industrial rates do not include utilities that complete the short form. State total averages include all utilities.

If you have any questions or would like data from this report as an excel spreadsheet, please contact our team at (202) 467-2920 or Statistics@PublicPower.org.

WISCONSIN

AVERAGE REVENUE PER KWH, 2024 (IN CENTS)

State Averages	Residential Rev/kWh	Commercial Rev/kWh	Industrial Rev/kWh	Total Rev/kWh
Public Power	12.4	10.7	8.0	10.2
Investor-Owned	17.9	12.9	8.6	13.0
Cooperative	16.1	12.2	8.3	13.9
Public Power				
Algoma Utility Commission	13.0	11.1	8.7	11.3
Arcadia Electric Utility	-	-	-	9.5
Argyle Municipal Electric & Water Utility	-	-	-	11.6
Bangor Municipal Utility	-	-	-	14.5
Barron Light & Water Department	-	-	-	9.0
Belmont Municipal Light & Water Utility	-	-	-	11.2
Benton Electric & Water Utility	-	-	-	12.6
Black Earth Utilities	-	-	-	12.9
Black River Falls Municipal Utility	14.3	12.0	28.6	13.0
Bloomer Electric Utility	-	-	-	8.9
Boscobel Utilities	10.7	9.0	8.0	9.3
Brodhead Water & Light Commission	13.2	11.8	11.6	12.4
Cadott Light & Water Department	-	-	-	11.7
Cashton Municipal Light & Water Plant	-	-	-	9.5
Cedarburg Light & Water Commission	12.7	10.9	7.8	11.3
Clintonville Water & Electric Utility	-	-	-	11.6
Columbus Water & Light Department	12.3	11.1	8.5	10.3
Cornell Municipal Electric Utility	-	-	-	10.9
Cuba City Light & Water Plant	11.4	10.7	-	11.0
Cumberland Municipal Utility	-	-	-	11.6

WISCONSIN

AVERAGE REVENUE PER KWH, 2024 (IN CENTS)

	Residential Rev/kWh	Commercial Rev/kWh	Industrial Rev/kWh	Total Rev/kWh
Eagle River Light & Water	14.5	11.6	-	12.2
<i>Elkhorn Electric Department, City of</i>	-	-	-	12.2
<i>Eroy Electric & Water Utility</i>	-	-	-	9.7
Evansville Water & Light Department	15.8	13.9	11.4	14.4
<i>Fennimore Municipal Utilities</i>	-	-	-	9.1
Florence Utility Commission	15.5	14.9	-	15.2
<i>Gresham Municipal Water & Electric Plant</i>	-	-	-	13.7
Hartford Electric	11.7	9.5	7.5	8.8
<i>Hazel Green Light & Water Utility</i>	-	-	-	16.1
Hustisford Utilities	13.8	13.1	-	13.5
Jefferson Utilities	11.9	10.5	7.9	10.5
Juneau Utility Commission	11.7	9.9	8.4	9.7
Kaukauna Utilities	12.5	10.4	7.5	9.2
<i>Kiel Electric Utility</i>	-	-	-	9.5
<i>La Farge Municipal Utilities</i>	-	-	-	12.5
Lake Mills Light & Water	13.9	12.0	-	12.9
Lodi Utilities	13.3	12.0	-	12.5
Manitowoc Public Utilities	11.1	9.6	7.6	8.7
Marshfield Utilities	10.1	9.8	8.6	9.3
<i>Mazomanie Electric Utility</i>	-	-	-	11.6
<i>Medford Electric Utility</i>	-	-	-	8.8
Menasha Utilities	12.4	10.4	7.0	8.1
<i>Merrillan Electric Light & Water Department</i>	-	-	-	9.7
Mount Horeb Utilities	12.2	12.0	-	12.1
Muscoda Utilities	10.9	11.7	8.5	9.3
New Glarus Municipal Light & Water Works	13.5	10.7	-	11.7

WISCONSIN

AVERAGE REVENUE PER KWH, 2024 (IN CENTS)

	Residential Rev/kWh	Commercial Rev/kWh	Industrial Rev/kWh	Total Rev/kWh
New Holstein Utilities	13.3	11.6	-	12.4
<i>New Lisbon Municipal Light and Water Department</i>	-	-	-	10.5
New London Utility Commission	12.3	10.7	8.2	9.3
New Richmond City Utilities	11.6	9.9	-	10.5
Oconomowoc Utilities	13.7	11.0	8.8	11.7
Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities	13.7	11.7	-	12.4
<i>Pardeeville Electric Commission</i>	-	-	-	13.7
Plymouth Utilities	11.8	9.5	7.8	9.4
Prairie du Sac Electric Department	11.3	10.4	9.9	10.6
<i>Princeton Light & Water Department</i>	-	-	-	14.5
Reedsburg Utility Commission	12.1	10.3	8.6	9.7
<i>Rice Lake Utilities</i>	-	-	-	9.4
Richland Center, City Utilities of	11.9	9.2	8.3	9.2
River Falls Municipal Utilities	13.3	11.4	9.6	11.9
<i>Sauk City Utilities</i>	-	-	-	14.4
Shawano Municipal Utilities	12.7	14.7	8.9	9.6
<i>Sheboygan Falls Utilities</i>	-	-	-	11.0
<i>Shullsburg Electric Utility</i>	-	-	-	14.0
Slinger Utilities	12.1	11.7	-	11.9
<i>Spooner Municipal Electric Utility</i>	-	-	-	11.3
Stoughton Utilities	12.6	10.5	9.2	11.3
<i>Stratford Water & Electric Department</i>	-	-	-	11.2
Sturgeon Bay Utilities	12.5	10.6	8.3	11.0
Sun Prairie Utilities	12.1	10.2	8.2	10.8
<i>Trempealeau Municipal Electric Department</i>	-	-	-	17.7
Two Rivers Water & Light	12.7	10.5	9.9	11.4

WISCONSIN

AVERAGE REVENUE PER KWH, 2024 (IN CENTS)

	Residential Rev/kWh	Commercial Rev/kWh	Industrial Rev/kWh	Total Rev/kWh
<i>Viola Municipal Electric Utility</i>	-	-	-	8.3
Waterloo Utilities	13.9	13.0	-	13.3
Waunakee Utilities	11.7	10.8	8.4	10.7
Waupun Utilities	11.8	10.5	7.5	9.9
Westby Electric & Water Utility	11.5	10.5	-	10.8
Whitehall Electric Utility	12.3	9.7	8.7	10.0
<i>Wisconsin Dells Water & Light Utility</i>	-	-	-	13.1
Wisconsin Rapids Water Works & Lighting Commission	13.4	12.4	8.9	12.1
<i>Wonewoc Municipal Water & Light Department</i>	-	-	-	16.1
Investor-Owned				
Consolidated Water Power Co	11.5	10.1	6.2	6.2
Dahlberg Light & Power Co	12.6	12.2	9.6	12.1
Madison Gas & Electric Co	20.3	13.8	9.1	15.4
North Central Power Co Inc	15.7	14.3	9.6	14.9
Northern States Power Co	15.8	11.6	8.5	11.8
Northwestern Wisconsin Elec Co	13.8	11.8	9.0	12.1
Pioneer Power and Light Co	17.1	17.0	11.2	15.8
Superior Water and Light Co	15.4	11.8	8.2	9.2
Westfield Electric Company	17.9	17.0	17.3	17.4
Wisconsin Electric Power Co	19.2	13.8	9.3	14.4
Wisconsin Power & Light Co	16.9	12.8	8.9	12.3
Wisconsin Public Service Corp	16.2	11.2	7.2	11.2
Cooperative				
Adams-Columbia Electric Coop	17.6	12.9	9.2	13.5
Barron Electric Coop	15.7	11.2	8.2	13.2

WISCONSIN

AVERAGE REVENUE PER KWH, 2024 (IN CENTS)

	Residential Rev/kWh	Commercial Rev/kWh	Industrial Rev/kWh	Total Rev/kWh
<i>Boyfield Electric Coop, Inc</i>	-	-	-	18.4
<i>Central Wisconsin Elec Coop</i>	-	-	-	20.2
<i>Chippewa Valley Electric Coop</i>	-	-	-	15.2
<i>Clark Electric Coop</i>	-	-	-	12.1
Dunn County Electric Coop	15.5	11.5	8.4	12.7
East Central Energy	16.6	14.5	-	16.4
<i>Eau Claire Electric Coop</i>	-	-	-	13.7
<i>Jackson Electric Coop, Inc</i>	-	-	-	12.0
<i>Jump River Electric Coop Inc</i>	-	-	-	17.4
Oakdale Electric Coop	15.9	12.9	8.7	12.1
<i>Oconto Electric Cooperative</i>	-	-	-	14.7
<i>Pierce-Pepin Coop Services</i>	-	-	-	17.4
Polk-Burnett Electric Coop	15.9	11.9	28.1	15.0
<i>Price Electric Coop Inc</i>	-	-	-	21.5
<i>Richland Electric Coop</i>	-	-	-	20.3
Riverland Energy Cooperative	16.3	13.1	9.7	15.4
Rock Energy Cooperative	14.5	10.5	5.5	8.9
Scenic Rivers Energy Coop	15.2	17.8	12.1	14.7
<i>St Croix Electric Coop</i>	-	-	-	13.1
<i>Taylor Electric Coop</i>	-	-	-	15.7
<i>Vernon Electric Coop</i>	-	-	-	15.2
<i>Washington Island EI Coop, Inc</i>	-	-	-	15.3

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-861 and EIA-861S, 2024 data.
 Data for EIA-861 utilities represent full-service ("Bundled") sales only. See "Unbundled Sales" for unbundled rates. Data for EIA-861S utilities contain all sales to ultimate customers.
 Italicized rows represent utilities that completed EIA-861S. Only total Rev/kWh is available for these utilities.
 State averages for residential, commercial, and industrial data include only utilities that report data on Form EIA-861 (long form). State total averages include all utilities.



January 20, 2026

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - RURAL DEVELOPMENT
WATER AND ENVIROMENTAL PROGRAMS

Subject: Graduation of Borrower and WEP Loan

Attention: Board of Directors:

As outlined in the security instruments for your USDA Rural Development loan, borrowers are required to pursue refinancing when financial conditions suggest the ability to obtain credit from responsible cooperative or private lenders at reasonable rates and terms for Water and Environmental Program (WEP) loans. Based on your current financial status, it appears your entity is well-positioned to refinance the remaining balance of your loan through such avenues. Please see the attached document, which identifies the loans included in the graduation request.

We request that you pursue refinancing through local lenders, and national lenders provided, please see the attached Lender document. Should you be unable to refinance the full balance, please submit written documentation within **60 days** demonstrating a good faith effort to secure alternative credit as required by 7 CFR 1782.11. This documentation will include the following:

1. The purpose of your loan request
2. The name(s) of lender(s) contacted
3. The amount of credit requested and any offers received
4. Proposed terms or written explanations from lenders regarding credit denial or limitations

To support this certification, borrowers must provide evidence that they contacted potential commercial credit sources and must include the lender(s)' responses. Acceptable evidence includes letters, proposals, or written statements from lenders. At a minimum, each response must include:

- Lender's name, address, and telephone number
- Name and title of the individual contact
- Date of the contact
- Terms offered, if any, and/or the lender's explanation for declining to consider or approve the loan

This information is necessary for USDA Rural Development to determine whether graduation to commercial credit is feasible and to ensure compliance with program regulations.

Rural Development • Wisconsin State Office
5417 Clem's Way • Stevens Point, WI 54482
Voice (715) 345-7635 • Fax (855) 731-0161

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender."

Scott Gald

From: Bub, David - RD, WI <David.Bub@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 2:26 PM
To: Treasurer
Cc: Scott Gald; Ashley Oliphant
Subject: City of Richland Center Graduation of Borrower and WEP Loan
Attachments: 1-City of Richland Center Graduation of Borrower and WEP Loan Letter.pdf; 2-City of Richland Center Graduation Refinancing Summary.pdf; 3-City of Richland Center Lender Contact Documentation Form.pdf

Attached to this email are the documents related to USDA Rural Development's graduation review of your loan. These materials outline the requirement to pursue refinancing based on your organization's current financial position and the steps needed to document your good-faith effort to seek commercial credit.

The attachments include:

1. Graduation Letter – This notice explains the requirement to pursue refinancing and outlines the 60-day timeframe to provide documentation if full refinancing is not achievable.
2. Graduation & Refinancing Summary Certification – This form summarizes the loan(s) subject to graduation, the applicable regulatory authority, and the response due date. It must be completed and returned as part of your response.
3. Lender Contact Documentation Form – This form is used to record each lender you contact, the amount of credit requested, and the lender's response. USDA requires this documentation as evidence of your efforts to secure commercial financing.

Please review the materials carefully and begin contacting potential lenders as soon as possible.

If you are unable to refinance the full balance, the completed forms and supporting lender responses must be submitted within 60 days of the date on the graduation letter.

If you have any questions or need clarification as you work through this process, feel free to reach out.

Dave Bub
 Community Programs Loan Servicing Specialist
 Community Programs
 Fond du Lac Area Office

 **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
 USDA Rural Development
 W6529 Forest Ave Ste. 200 Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Scott Gald

From: Kayla Thorpe <KThorpe@ehlers-inc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:26 AM
To: Scott Gald
Cc: Jon Cameron
Subject: RE: City of Richland Center Graduation of Borrower and WEP Loan
Attachments: Richland Center, WI Refinancing of 2015 USDA Loan 3-3-26 Supporting Docs.pdf

Good Morning Scott –

I kept the refunding analysis the same, as it appears what you sent me for 25 was still very preliminary and I don't want to overstate or understate revenues available for debt service, particularly since the Utilities 2024 financials is what the USDA based their analysis on.

The supporting materials are attached. A few key points I would highlight in your response to the USDA would be;

- While the 2024 audit shows the Sewer Utility has a total net position of \$34,706,702, that position includes the value of utility assets (mains, services, and plant in service) and is not reflective of the current cash position of the utility. As of year-end 2024, the Richland Center Sewer Utility has a (liquid) cash balance of \$1,571,188. The cash balance is already below industry standards of maintaining a cash balance **at minimum** of 6 months' worth of operating expenditures and one year of debt service payments. The utility does not have any available cash on hand to apply to any potential refunding.
- The USDA Loan in question was used to finance the construction of a wastewater treatment plant. At the time of construction of the plant the City experienced a loss of major industries/users which caused user rates to spike to support the new facility and related debt service payments. This issue has since been recently compounded by the City losing the UW-Richland Center campus as part of a state-wide consolidation of UW campuses by the UW system.
- While the utility has adequate debt coverage to take on a refunding, the reality of the Utility's user rate charges and the additional burden a refunding would place on rate payers would potentially overburden ratepayers in the City. User rates are already placing financial pressures on the rate payers given the loss of major users supporting the existing operations, but Ehlers' refunding analysis shows that in our current interest rate environment, a refunding of the existing USDA loan would create an additional \$2,212,235.63 in interest expense over the remaining life of the refunding. This additional expense could make user rates unaffordable to certain population demographics in the City.

Like I previously mentioned feel free to copy both Jon and I on correspondence to the USDA. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Kayla Thorpe
 Municipal Advisor
 O: (262) 796-6197 | ehlers-inc.com



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Table 1
Allocation of Debt Service - 2026 Revenue Bonds
City of Richland Center, WI

Year Ending	Sewer Portion			Total	Year Ending	Principal (5/1)	Totals		Total
	Principal	Est. Rate ¹	Interest				Interest		
2026	285,000	3.15%	161,055	161,055	2026	0	161,055	161,055	
2027	295,000	3.15%	317,621	602,621	2027	285,000	317,621	602,621	
2028	305,000	3.15%	308,486	603,486	2028	295,000	308,486	603,486	
2029	310,000	3.15%	299,036	604,036	2029	305,000	299,036	604,036	
2030			289,350	599,350	2030	310,000	289,350	599,350	
2031	325,000	3.20%	279,268	604,268	2031	325,000	279,268	604,268	
2032	335,000	3.30%	268,540	603,540	2032	335,000	268,540	603,540	
2033	345,000	3.35%	257,234	602,234	2033	345,000	257,234	602,234	
2034	355,000	3.45%	245,331	600,331	2034	355,000	245,331	600,331	
2035	370,000	3.60%	232,548	602,548	2035	370,000	232,548	602,548	
2036	385,000	3.70%	218,765	603,765	2036	385,000	218,765	603,765	
2037	400,000	3.90%	203,843	603,843	2037	400,000	203,843	603,843	
2038	415,000	4.10%	187,535	602,535	2038	415,000	187,535	602,535	
2039	430,000	4.20%	169,998	599,998	2039	430,000	169,998	599,998	
2040	450,000	4.30%	151,293	601,293	2040	450,000	151,293	601,293	
2041	470,000	4.35%	131,395	601,395	2041	470,000	131,395	601,395	
2042	490,000	4.40%	110,393	600,393	2042	490,000	110,393	600,393	
2043	515,000	4.45%	88,154	603,154	2043	515,000	88,154	603,154	
2044	535,000	4.50%	64,658	599,658	2044	535,000	64,658	599,658	
2045	560,000	4.55%	39,880	599,880	2045	560,000	39,880	599,880	
2046	590,000	4.60%	13,570	603,570	2046	590,000	13,570	603,570	
Total	8,165,000		4,037,950	12,202,950	Total	8,165,000	4,037,950	12,202,950	

Notes:
 1) Estimated Rate assumes current GO BQ "Aa1" market rates + 50 bps

Table 2
Revenue Debt Coverage - Impact of Financing Plan
City of Richland Center, WI

Year	Sewer Debt Service				Year	
	Existing Debt	Proposed Debt	Total	Debt Coverage		D.S. Capacity
				\$1,354,798	@ 1.25x	
				2024 Net Revenues		
2026	748,889	161,055	909,944	1.49	173893.93	2026
2027	219,418	602,621	822,039	1.65	261,799.45	2027
2028	219,356	603,486	822,842	1.65	260,996.55	2028
2029	219,292	604,036	823,328	1.65	260,510.29	2029
2030	219,226	599,350	818,576	1.66	265,261.96	2030
2031	219,159	604,268	823,427	1.65	260,411.58	2031
2032	219,090	603,540	822,630	1.65	261,207.97	2032
2033	219,020	602,234	821,253	1.65	262,584.92	2033
2034	218,947	600,331	819,278	1.65	264,559.97	2034
2035	0	602,548	602,548	2.25	481,290.90	2035
2036	0	603,765	603,765	2.24	480,073.40	2036
2037	0	603,843	603,843	2.24	479,995.90	2037
2038	0	602,535	602,535	2.25	481,303.40	2038
2039	0	599,998	599,998	2.26	483,840.90	2039
2040	0	601,293	601,293	2.25	482,545.90	2040
2041	0	601,395	601,395	2.25	482,443.40	2041
2042	0	600,393	600,393	2.26	483,445.90	2042
2043	0	603,154	603,154	2.25	480,684.65	2043
2044	0	599,658	599,658	2.26	484,180.90	2044
2045	0	599,880	599,880	2.26	483,958.40	2045
2046	0	603,570	603,570	2.24	480,268.40	2046
2047	0	0	0	N/A	1,083,838.40	2047
Total	2,502,398	12,202,950	14,705,348			Total

Notes:



City of Richland Center, Wisconsin

\$8,165,000 Sewerage System Mortgage Revenue Ref Bonds, Dated May 1, 2026

Proposed Current Refunding of Series 2015 USDA Loan

Assuming Current Rev BQ "Non-Rated" Market Rates + 50 Bps

Debt Service Comparison

Date	Total P+I	DSR	Existing D/S	Net New D/S	Old Net D/S	Savings
12/31/2026	161,055.00	-	263,450.92	420,735.52	354,981.88	(65,753.64)
12/31/2027	602,621.25	-	-	602,621.25	354,981.88	(247,639.37)
12/31/2028	603,486.25	-	-	603,486.25	354,981.88	(248,504.37)
12/31/2029	604,036.25	-	-	604,036.25	354,981.88	(249,054.37)
12/31/2030	599,350.00	-	-	599,350.00	354,981.88	(244,368.12)
12/31/2031	604,267.50	-	-	604,267.50	354,981.88	(249,285.62)
12/31/2032	603,540.00	-	-	603,540.00	354,981.88	(248,558.12)
12/31/2033	602,233.75	-	-	602,233.75	354,981.89	(247,251.86)
12/31/2034	600,331.25	-	-	600,331.25	354,981.88	(245,349.37)
12/31/2035	602,547.50	-	-	602,547.50	354,981.88	(247,565.62)
12/31/2036	603,765.00	-	-	603,765.00	354,981.89	(248,783.11)
12/31/2037	603,842.50	-	-	603,842.50	354,981.88	(248,860.62)
12/31/2038	602,535.00	-	-	602,535.00	354,981.88	(247,553.12)
12/31/2039	599,997.50	-	-	599,997.50	354,981.88	(245,015.62)
12/31/2040	601,292.50	-	-	601,292.50	354,981.87	(246,310.63)
12/31/2041	601,395.00	-	-	601,395.00	354,981.88	(246,413.12)
12/31/2042	600,392.50	-	-	600,392.50	354,981.88	(245,410.62)
12/31/2043	603,153.75	-	-	603,153.75	354,981.88	(248,171.87)
12/31/2044	599,657.50	-	-	599,657.50	354,981.88	(244,675.62)
12/31/2045	599,880.00	-	-	599,880.00	354,981.88	(244,898.12)
12/31/2046	603,570.00	(617,140.00)	-	(13,570.00)	354,981.89	368,551.89
12/31/2047	-	-	-	-	354,981.88	354,981.88
12/31/2048	-	-	-	-	354,981.88	354,981.88
12/31/2049	-	-	-	-	354,981.88	354,981.88
12/31/2050	-	-	-	-	354,981.89	354,981.89
12/31/2051	-	-	-	-	354,981.88	354,981.88
12/31/2052	-	-	-	-	354,981.88	354,981.88
12/31/2053	-	-	-	-	354,981.89	354,981.89
12/31/2054	-	-	-	-	354,981.88	354,981.88
12/31/2055	-	-	-	-	354,981.90	354,981.90
Total	\$12,202,950.00	(617,140.00)	\$263,450.92	\$11,845,490.52	\$10,649,456.46	(1,196,034.06)

PV Analysis Summary (Net to Net)

Gross PV Debt Service Savings	(2,212,235.63)
Effects of changes in DSR investments	270,597.92
Net PV Cashflow Savings @ 4.165%(Bond Yield)	(1,941,637.71)
Contingency or Rounding Amount	3,770.40
Net Present Value Loss	\$(1,937,867.31)
Net PV Loss / \$7,322,477 Refunded Principal	(26.465%)
Net PV Loss / \$8,165,000 Refunding Principal	(23.734%)

Refunding Bond Information

Refunding Dated Date	5/01/2026
Refunding Delivery Date	5/01/2026

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

City Utilities of Richland Center Utilities
and
Sextonville Water and Sanitary District

1. Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between:

City of Richland Center Utilities (“City Utilities”), a municipal utility of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin; and

Sextonville Water and Sanitary District (“District”), a sanitary district organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

Collectively referred to as “the Parties.”

2. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to establish the terms and conditions under which City Utilities may provide assistance, maintenance support, technical services, emergency response, or operational support to the District upon request.

This MOU is intended to clarify responsibilities, safety obligations, and liability allocation between the Parties.

3. Scope of Assistance

City Utilities may, at its discretion and subject to availability of personnel and equipment, provide:

- Emergency repair assistance
- Equipment support
- Technical consultation
- Operational or maintenance assistance
- Other mutually agreed services

City Utilities also reserves the right to suspend working for the district to respond with personnel and/or equipment needed to respond to any issue or emergency within the service area of City Utilities.

All assistance shall be provided only upon request by an authorized representative of the district.

Nothing in this MOU obligates City Utilities to provide services.

4. Control and Direction of Work

When City Utilities personnel are working on or assisting with the District's system:

- The District retains ownership, operational authority, and regulatory responsibility over its water and sanitary system.
 - The District shall designate a representative responsible for coordination.
 - City Utilities personnel remain employees of City Utilities at all times.
-

5. Safety and Regulatory Responsibility

Primary Safety Responsibility

The District acknowledges and agrees that:

- The District retains full responsibility for the safety condition of its facilities, infrastructure, and worksites.
- The District is solely responsible for compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and safety standards, including but not limited to OSHA, DNR, **WI DSPS**, regulations, confined space requirements, lockout/tagout procedures, and any other regulatory requirements governing its system.
- City Utilities does not assume responsibility for identifying, correcting, or ensuring compliance with safety or regulatory deficiencies within the District's system.

Employee Safety

City Utilities will require its employees to follow its own internal safety policies and procedures. However:

- The District is responsible for ensuring that work sites are safe and compliant before work begins.
 - The District shall disclose any known hazards, including, but not limited to confined spaces, hazardous atmospheres, energized equipment, structural concerns, traffic, excavation hazards, or other safety risks.
 - City Utilities reserves the right to refuse or suspend work if unsafe conditions exist or are created by other contractors working on behalf of the District.
-

6. Liability and Indemnification

To the fullest extent permitted by law:

- The District agrees that City Utilities shall not be responsible for any claims, damages, losses, fines, penalties, regulatory violations, or liabilities arising out of the condition, operation, or regulatory compliance of the District's system.
- The District agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless City Utilities, its officers, employees, and agents from and against any and all claims, demands, damages, liabilities, or expenses arising from:
 - Conditions of the District's facilities
 - Regulatory violations
 - Safety non-compliance
 - Third-party claims related to the District's system

City Utilities shall be responsible only for the negligent acts or omissions of its own employees while acting within the scope of their employment.

7. Insurance

Each Party shall maintain insurance coverage or governmental self-insurance consistent with Wisconsin municipal standards. Upon request, proof of coverage may be provided.

8. Compensation

Compensation for services, equipment use, materials, or labor shall be billed in accordance with mutually agreed rates or as established by written agreement prior to work when feasible.

Emergency services may be billed at standard municipal utility rates.

9. Term and Termination

This MOU shall take effect upon execution by both Parties and shall remain in effect until terminated by either Party upon thirty (30) days written notice.

Either Party may terminate immediately if continued performance would create unsafe or unlawful conditions.

10. No Partnership or Joint Venture

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to create a partnership, joint venture, or agency relationship between the Parties.

11. Amendment

This MOU may be amended only in writing signed by authorized representatives of both Parties.

12. Governing Law

This MOU shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

Signatures

City of Richland Center Utilities

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Sextonville Water and Sanitary District

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

**CHAPTER 432
PROVIDING A PROGRAM FOR PROTECTING THE PUBLIC WATER
SYSTEM FROM CONTAMINATION DUE TO BACKFLOW OF
CONTAMINANTS THROUGH THE WATER SERVICES CONNECTING
INTO THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM BY PROHIBITING
CROSS-CONNECTIONS TO THE CITY WATER SUPPLY**

[History: Enacted by Ord 1985-5 as Chapter 485; Renumbered Chapter 432 by Ord 2013-1]

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Administrative Code – Natural Resources (NR) Chapters NR 810, Section NR 810.15, Chapter NR 811, Sections NR 811.06, NR 811.07, NR 811.68, and Wisconsin Administrative Code – Department of Safety and Professional Services 305, 381, 382, and 384, require protection for the public water system from contamination due to backflow of contaminants through the water service connection; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires the development and implementation of a comprehensive cross connection control program to effectively prevent the contamination of potable water systems;

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432.01 DEFINITION. A cross connection shall be defined as any physical connection or arrangement between two otherwise separate systems, one of which contains potable water from the City of Richland Center water system, and the other containing water from a private source, water of unknown or questionable safety, steam, gases or chemicals, whereby there may be a flow from one system to the other, the direction of flow depending on the pressure differential between the two systems.

432.02 CROSS CONNECTIONS PROHIBITED. No person, firm or corporation shall establish or permit to be established or maintain or permit to be maintained any cross connection. No

interconnection shall be established whereby potable water from a private, auxiliary or emergency water supply other than the regular public water supply of City of Richland Center may enter the supply or distribution system of said City unless such private,

auxiliary or emergency water supply and the method of connection and use of such supply shall have been approved by the Richland Center Water Utility and by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in accordance with Section NR 111.25 (3), Wisconsin Administrative Code.

432.03 DUTY OF THE CITY WATER UTILITY. It shall be the duty of the Richland Center Water Utility to cause inspections to be made of all properties served by the public water system where cross connections with the public water system are deemed possible. The frequency of inspections and reinspections based on potential health hazards involved shall be as established by the utility and as approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

432.04 RIGHT OF INSPECTION. Upon presentation of credentials, any agent or representative of the Richland Center Water Utility shall have the right to request entry at any reasonable time to examine any property served by a connection to the public water system of City of City Utilities of Richland Center for cross connections. If entry is refused, such representative may apply to the appropriate court for a special inspection warrant under sec. 66.122, [now renumbered 66.0119] Wisconsin Statutes. On request, the owner, lessee or occupant of any property so served shall furnish to the inspecting agency any pertinent information regarding the piping system or systems on such property.

432.05 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.

(1) **DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICE.** The Richland Center Water Utility is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue water service to any property wherein any cross connection in violation of this chapter exists, and to take such other precautionary measures deemed necessary to eliminate any danger of contamination of the public water system. Water service shall be discontinued only after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing under Chapter 68, Wisconsin Statutes, except as provided in Section 432.06.

Water service to such property shall not be restored until all cross **connections have** been eliminated in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. The taking of such action by or on behalf of the City shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of or to be in lieu of the forfeiture as set forth hereunder.

(2) **FORFEITURE.** Any person, partnership, corporation, voluntary association or other legal entity who shall violate or fail or refuse to comply with any section of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit to the City of Richland Center not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$400.00, together with the costs of prosecution and any applicable penalty assessment, and in the event such forfeiture, costs and assessment are not paid, such person, any partner of such partnership, or any officer or director of any corporation or any officer of such voluntary association may, upon order of the Circuit Court, be imprisoned in the Richland County Jail until such forfeiture, costs and assessment are paid, but not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation is maintained or permitted to exist shall constitute a separate violation. Such forfeiture may be imposed in addition to the discontinuation of water service to the affected property.

432.06 EMERGENCY ACTION. If it is determined by the Richland Center Water Utility that a cross connection or other water quality emergency endangers public health, safety or welfare and requires immediate action, and a written finding to that effect is filed with the Clerk of the City of Richland Center and delivered to the customer's premises, service may be immediately discontinued. The customer shall, upon delivery to the City Clerk of a written request, therefore, be afforded a hearing on the propriety of such disconnection, within ten (10) days after such emergency discontinuance or within ten (10) days after written request for a hearing whichever is later. Such hearing shall be conducted pursuant to Chapter 68, Wisconsin Statutes.

432.07 STATE PLUMBING CODE ADOPTED. The City of Richland Center hereby adopts and incorporates herein by reference the State Plumbing Code of Wisconsin, as set forth in [Wisconsin Administrative Code – Natural Resources \(NR\) Chapters NR 810, Section NR 810.15, Chapter 811, Sections NR 811.06, NR 811.07, NR 811.68, and Wisconsin Administrative Code - Department of Safety and Professional Services SPS 305, 381, 382, and 384, Chap. 82, Wisconsin Administrative Code](#), as the same may be amended from

time to time, it being intended hereby to adopt and incorporate herein all future amendments to said Chapter ~~82~~, NR 810 and 811 and SPS 305, 381, 382, 384.

432.08 CITY ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTARY TO STATE PLUMBING CODE. It is intended that this chapter shall not supersede either the State Plumbing Code or Chapter 457 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Richland Center, but is rather to be supplementary thereto.

432.09 EFFECTIVE DATE. This chapter shall take effect and be in force from and after the 3rd day of December, 1985.

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CHAPTER 432

PROVIDING A PROGRAM FOR PROTECTING THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM FROM CONTAMINATION DUE TO BACKFLOW OF CONTAMINANTS THROUGH THE WATER SERVICES CONNECTING INTO THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM BY PROHIBITING CROSS-CONNECTIONS TO THE CITY WATER SUPPLY

[History: Enacted by Ord 1985-5 as Chapter 485; Renumbered Chapter 432 by Ord 2013-1]

432.01 DEFINITION. A cross connection shall be defined as any physical connection or arrangement between two otherwise separate systems, one of which contains potable water from the City of Richland Center water system, and the other containing water from a private source, water of unknown or questionable safety, steam, gases or chemicals, whereby there may be a flow from one system to the other, the direction of flow depending on the pressure differential between the two systems.

432.02 CROSS CONNECTIONS PROHIBITED. No person, firm or corporation shall establish or permit to be established or maintain or permit to be maintained any cross connection. No interconnection shall be established whereby potable water from a private, auxiliary or emergency water supply other than the regular public water supply of City of Richland Center may enter the supply or distribution system of said City unless such private, auxiliary or emergency water supply and the method of connection and use of such supply shall have been approved by the Richland Center Water Utility and by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in accordance with Section NR 111.25 (3), Wisconsin Administrative Code.

432.03 DUTY OF THE CITY WATER UTILITY. It shall be the duty of the Richland Center Water Utility to cause inspections to be made of all properties served by the public water system where cross connections with the public water system are deemed possible. The frequency of inspections and reinspections based on potential health hazards involved shall be as established by the utility and as approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

432.04 RIGHT OF INSPECTION. Upon presentation of credentials, any agent or representative of the Richland Center Water Utility shall have the right to request entry at any reasonable time to examine any property served by a connection to the public water system of City of Richland Center for cross connections. If entry is refused, such representative may apply to the appropriate court for a special inspection warrant under sec. 66.122, [now renumbered 66.0119] Wisconsin Statutes. On request, the owner, lessee or occupant of any property so served shall furnish to the inspecting agency any pertinent information regarding the piping system or systems on such property.

432.05 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.

(1) **DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICE.** The Richland Center Water Utility is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue water service to any property wherein any cross connection in violation of this chapter exists, and to take such other precautionary measures deemed necessary to eliminate any danger of contamination of the public water system. Water service shall be discontinued

only after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing under Chapter 68, Wisconsin Statutes, except as provided in Section 432.06. Water service to such property shall not be restored until all cross connections have been eliminated in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. The taking of such action by or on behalf of the City shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of or to be in lieu of the forfeiture as set forth hereunder.

(2) **FORFEITURE.** Any person, partnership, corporation, voluntary association or other legal entity who shall violate or fail or refuse to comply with any section of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit to the City of Richland Center not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$400.00, together with the costs of prosecution and any applicable penalty assessment, and in the event such forfeiture, costs and assessment are not paid, such person, any partner of such partnership, or any officer or director of any corporation or any officer of such voluntary association may, upon order of the Circuit Court, be imprisoned in the Richland County Jail until such forfeiture, costs and assessment are paid, but not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation is maintained or permitted to exist shall constitute a separate violation. Such forfeiture may be imposed in addition to the discontinuation of water service to the affected property.

432.06 EMERGENCY ACTION. If it is determined by the Richland Center Water Utility that a cross connection or other water quality emergency endangers public health, safety or welfare and requires immediate action, and a written finding to that effect is filed with the Clerk of the City of Richland Center and delivered to the customer's premises, service may be immediately discontinued. The customer shall, upon delivery to the City Clerk of a written request therefor, be afforded a hearing on the propriety of such disconnection, within ten (10) days after such emergency discontinuance or within ten (10) days after written request for a hearing whichever is later. Such hearing shall be conducted pursuant to Chapter 68, Wisconsin Statutes.

432.07 STATE PLUMBING CODE ADOPTED. The City of Richland Center hereby adopts and incorporates herein by reference the State Plumbing Code of Wisconsin, as set forth in Chap. 82, Wisconsin Administrative Code, as the same may be amended from time to time, it being intended hereby to adopt and incorporate herein all future amendments to said Chapter 82.

432.08 CITY ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTARY TO STATE PLUMBING CODE. It is intended that this chapter shall not supersede either the State Plumbing Code or Chapter 457 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Richland Center, but is rather to be supplementary thereto.

432.09 EFFECTIVE DATE. This chapter shall take effect and be in force from and after the 3rd day of December, 1985.

(Authority: Chapters NR 111 and ILHR 82, Wisconsin Administrative Code)

CHAPTER 432

**PROVIDING A PROGRAM FOR PROTECTING THE PUBLIC WATER
SYSTEM FROM CONTAMINATION DUE TO BACKFLOW OF
CONTAMINANTS THROUGH THE WATER SERVICES CONNECTING
INTO THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM BY PROHIBITING
CROSS-CONNECTIONS TO THE CITY WATER SUPPLY**

[History: Enacted by Ord 1985-5 as Chapter 485; Renumbered Chapter 432 by Ord 2013-1]

WHEREAS, Chapters NR 810, Section NR 810.15, Chapter 811, Sections NR 811.06, NR 811.07, NR 811.68, SPS 382, Wisconsin Administrative Code and Department of Safety and Professional Services 305.381-384, require protection for the public water system from contamination due to backflow of contaminants through the water service connection; and

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WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires the development and implementation of a comprehensive cross connection control program to effectively prevent the contamination of potable water systems;

432.01 DEFINITION. A cross connection shall be defined as any physical connection or arrangement between two otherwise separate systems, one of which contains potable water from the City of Richland Center water system, and the other containing water from a private source, water of unknown or questionable safety, steam, gases or chemicals, whereby there may be a flow from one system to the other, the direction of flow depending on the pressure differential between the two systems.

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Water service to such property shall not be restored until all cross **connections have** been eliminated in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. The taking of such action by or on behalf of the City shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of or to be in lieu of the forfeiture as set forth hereunder.

(2) **FORFEITURE.** Any person, partnership, corporation, voluntary association or other legal entity who shall violate or fail or refuse to comply with any section of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit to the City of Richland Center not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$400.00, together with the costs of prosecution and any applicable penalty assessment, and in the event such forfeiture, costs and assessment are not paid, such person, any partner of such partnership, or any officer or director of any corporation or any officer of such voluntary association may, upon order of the Circuit Court, be imprisoned in the Richland County Jail until such forfeiture, costs and assessment are paid, but not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation is maintained or permitted to exist shall constitute a separate violation. Such forfeiture may be imposed in addition to the discontinuation of water service to the affected property.

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incorporate herein all future amendments to said Chapter SPS 382, and DSPS 305, 381 - 384.

432.08 CITY ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTARY TO STATE PLUMBING CODE. It is intended that this chapter shall not supersede either the State Plumbing Code or Chapter 457 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Richland Center, but is rather to be supplementary thereto.

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LIVELines

Volume 75, Issue 3 • March 2026

Utility leaders “rally” in nation’s capital

Public power leaders from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C., in late February for the annual Legislative Rally organized by the American Public Power Association (APPA). More than 60 people representing nearly 25 Wisconsin municipalities registered to attend this year’s gathering.

Travel disruptions caused by winter weather prevented some from making the trip, while others joined more than 600 fellow mayors, alders, commissioners, general managers, and utility employees. Rally attendees took part in group meetings to educate federal lawmakers about the work their utilities do to support thriving communities. Discussions also centered on APPA’s policy priorities, including affordability, energy permitting reform, and support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), among other key topics.

Meetings took place Feb. 24 and 25 inside the U.S. Capitol complex and in nearby

congressional office buildings. Those attending from Wisconsin met with six of the state’s eight Members of Congress and their staff. Fresh off President Donald Trump’s Feb. 24 State of the Union address, the group met separately with U.S. Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin the following morning and heard firsthand from the Senators about their views of the administration’s policy priorities.

“Lawmakers always enjoy hearing from their constituents, and the APPA Rally is a great opportunity to have focused discussions about issues that matter to municipal utilities,” said MEUW President and CEO Tim Heinrich. “I am proud to say that Wisconsin always has an impressive turnout, and the level of engagement makes a real difference in APPA’s efforts to influence legislators.”

Continued on page 2

More photos from the Rally on page 2.



Members of the Wisconsin delegation posed for a group shot inside the U.S. Capitol.

Data shows municipal utility residential rates are lowest in Wisconsin

As energy costs capture headlines and state and federal politicians debate affordability in general, statewide data reveals residential public power customers in Wisconsin benefit from electric rates that compare favorably to those of other utilities. Comprehensive analysis shows, on average, residential customers served by the state’s 81 municipal electric utilities pay the lowest per-kilowatt-hour rates in Wisconsin. Municipal utilities represent approximately 10% of Wisconsin’s total residential electricity sales, with investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives selling the remainder. *Full story on page 3.*

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Equipment For Sale — **Page 12**

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

Scenes from the 2026 APPA Legislative Rally in Washington



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Public power leaders from Wisconsin took part in events surrounding the annual APPA Rally in late February. (1) MEUW Director of Legislative and Regulatory Relations Tyler Vorpapel talked through logistics during MEUW's Rally Kickoff held Feb. 22 at the Black Finn Pub; (2) Municipal leaders posed for a photo at the U.S. Capitol; among those present were Hustisford Village President Joshua Prescher, and Mayors Todd Coppernoll of Richland Center, Steven Stocker of Sun Prairie, Joe Hammer of Columbus, Dale Oppermann of Jefferson, Rohn Bishop of Waupun, Ann Groves Lloyd of Lodi, Danny Helgerson of Westby; (3) Mark Herter of New London and Tony Penterman of Kaukauna; (4) Marshfield Utilities officials met with Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-Wis. 7th); (5) Leaders from Evansville, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, as well as WPPI Energy and MEUW met with Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis. 2nd); (6) MEUW members representing Kaukauna, New London, and Sturgeon Bay met with Rep. Tony Wied (R-Wis. 8th); (7) Sen. Ron Johnson addressed the group inside a meeting room at the U.S. Capitol; and (8) Sen. Tammy Baldwin took questions from the audience inside a Senate hearing room at the Dirksen Office Building.

Continued from page 1

APPA stages the rally every year to advocate for public power utilities and provide a forum to engage legislators and policymakers about topics important to municipal power companies. Wisconsin's delegation — which also includes representatives of WPPI Energy and Great Lakes Utilities — is typically among the largest from any state to participate.

Aside from meetings with legislators and their staff, the Rally also features topical breakout sessions and the APPA Legislative and Regulatory Luncheon. This year's program featured a presentation from Nathan Gonzales, Editor and Publisher at Inside Elections, on the federal political environment and the issues shaping public policy.

▶ The 2027 Rally is set for March 1–3. ●



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 "Like" MEUW on Facebook @MunicipalElectricUtilitiesofWisconsin

Statewide data shows municipal utilities deliver lowest average residential electric rates

Contributed by WPPI Energy staff

Statewide data confirms what many local municipal utility leaders already understand: Wisconsin's not-for-profit municipal utilities remain competitive on electric costs.

Wisconsin's lowest average residential electric rates

Based on publicly reported retail sales and revenue for 2024, the most recent year for which full data has been published, municipal electric utilities in Wisconsin compare favorably to other utilities in the state.

As shown in the chart at right, on a statewide aggregate basis, on average, residential customers served by Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities pay the lowest per-kilowatt-hour (kWh) rates in the state. Municipal utilities represent about 10% of Wisconsin's total residential electricity sales, and the remaining 90% of statewide residential sales occur at higher average per-kWh rates.

The comparison includes every major retail utility category in Wisconsin: investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives. Across those groups, municipal utilities show the lowest average residential rate on a statewide, load-weighted basis.

Commercial and industrial (C&I) data points in the same direction. On a statewide, load-weighted basis, approximately 66% of Wisconsin's C&I sales occur at higher average per-kWh rates than municipal utilities charge.

Expanding on previous analysis

During his nearly 20 years at WPPI Energy, Director of Rates and Contracts Peter Shatrawka has routinely delivered competitive analyses covering WPPI's 41 Wisconsin member utilities using publicly available reporting from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. For MEUW's purposes,

the same approach has been applied statewide to include all 81 Wisconsin municipal utilities.

Dividing total reported revenue by total kilowatt-hour sales for each customer class produces an average per-kWh cost that reflects what customers actually paid over the course of the year and gives municipal leaders, policymakers, and regulators a reliable basis for comparison.

What the numbers mean

Competitive performance does not happen by accident. Wisconsin's municipal utilities operate on a not-for-profit basis. Financial decisions are made locally and long-term investments are evaluated with community impact in mind. The Public Power model includes a built-in focus on managing costs responsibly over time.

Wisconsin electric utilities also face growing capital demands, rising infrastructure costs and changing market conditions. At the same time, customers expect clearer communication and greater transparency. Maintaining competitive performance in that environment requires steady planning and financial discipline.

Communicating the value of public power

Electric costs remain a visible issue in many communities. When questions arise about how a local utility compares, statewide benchmarks provide perspective.

"Customers expect their local utility to manage costs carefully and to com-

Wisconsin Residential Electric Rates and Load Share (2024)

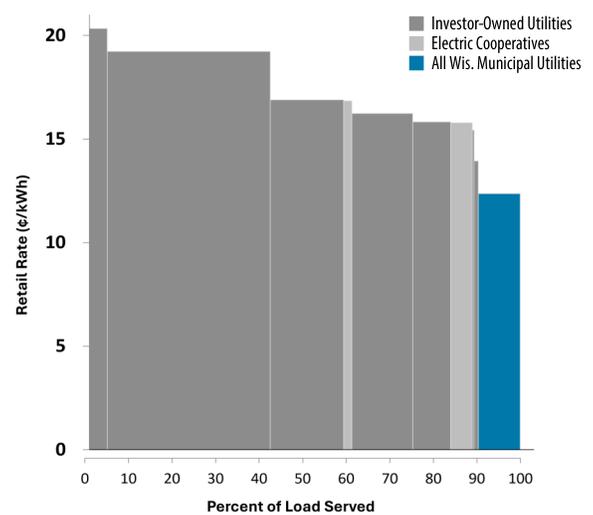


Figure 1. Residential Service Comparison

On average, residential customers served by Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities pay the lowest per-kilowatt-hour rates in the state. Municipal utilities represent approximately 10% of Wisconsin's total residential electricity sales; the remaining roughly 90% of statewide residential sales are served at higher average per-kilowatt-hour rates.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Form 861 and Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Annual Reports. Figures reflect 2024 total revenues divided by total kilowatt-hours sold for each customer class, based on utilities with publicly reported data. Percentages reflect statewide residential electricity sales.

“communicate clearly about performance,” said Jake Oelke, Senior Vice President of Member Relations, Communications and Services at WPPI. “Statewide data shows Wisconsin's municipal utilities compare favorably, and that gives local officials credible information to support conversations about electric costs.”

Oelke notes that a growing number of municipal utilities are incorporating similar comparisons into bill inserts and other community outreach efforts. Clear, consistent data helps ground those conversations in facts.

The Bottom Line: Wisconsin's not-for-profit municipal utilities continue to deliver competitive electric service as industry conditions evolve. Statewide data supports that conclusion. ●

Inside 725 Insights from the MEUW Office



By Tim Heinrich,
President and CEO

Feedback is a gift. I believe that. Like many of you, I receive any number of “presents” on any given day. Some of the gifts come from my wife or my daughters or even in the form of a middle finger from a perfect stranger on the highway. I’ve learned to filter the feedback and can generally accept there’s probably at least a kernel of truth in the “gifts” I receive. As you might expect, I get all sorts of feedback from our members about the work MEUW does (or doesn’t do). I really do enjoy hearing from the people we’re privileged to serve. In fact, I think it should be called “feed-forward” because the constructive input and new ideas are an opportunity to do even better moving ahead.

We collect formal and informal feedback from our members all the time. Whether it’s a post-event survey, discussions at committee and Board meetings, or through one-on-one interactions, every one of those gifts is helpful to us.

One recurring theme over the years has been the need for MEUW to do more to engage with the folks who govern their municipal utilities. Elected officials and those appointed as utility commissioners play a critical role, and many of our stakeholders think MEUW could do more to help them. I had a chance to visit with a number of these like-minded individuals during the APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C. I learned about some of the local challenges they face and how support from MEUW can help them to make more informed decisions to improve their local utility. The gift of such feedback over the years led us to organize the upcoming **Utility Governance Roundtable** session planned in conjunction with the 96th Annual Conference happening in May.

Recognizing that many of these individuals have difficulty getting away for education and networking, we’ve tried to build a program that fits nicely alongside other worthwhile events. The program is designed to bring municipal leaders together for a practical, peer-driven discussion on the fundamentals of utility governance, including regulatory considerations, rate setting, and a plain-language overview of municipal utility finances. We’ve designed it for both new and experienced officials, with the opportunity to get real-world insights, shared experiences, and leading practices that strengthen oversight and support reliable, financially sustainable utility operations.

From feedback I receive, I know our utilities share *LIVE LINES* in the packet of materials distributed prior to Commission meetings. I hope those reading this will accept the invitation and plan to join us in Sun Prairie on Wednesday, May 13, beginning at noon. Full details about the program are available [here](#).

There are plenty of times when we don’t know what we don’t know. MEUW is fortunate to have an active and engaged group of individuals — through our Board of Directors and committees — who help our small staff execute on the association’s mission to “unify and strengthen” municipal utilities. With regular (and often unsolicited) feedback from those we serve, we can be more effective in delivering the services and providing the support that’s needed.

There’s no need for ribbons or bows, but the gift of your feedback is really vital to keeping MEUW moving forward and delivering for you. Thanks for your continuing support.

theinrich@meuw.org | (608) 478-0998

Nominate individuals and groups for recognition

Each year, MEUW honors utility leaders and elected officials at a special awards ceremony held in conjunction with the Annual Conference. The association is currently accepting nominations to honor individuals in a variety of categories.

For 2026, the Awards Committee has created a new award designed to recognize a MEUW member utility that has demonstrated exceptional collaboration, partnership, and mutual support in advancing the goals of public power. The aptly-named Public Power Partnership Award highlights the spirit of cooperation that strengthens Wisconsin’s municipal utilities and exemplifies the values of shared expertise, resourcefulness, and community-minded service.

All nominations are submitted using a simple online form. Nominators share information about the person deserving recognition, and the Awards Committee determines the appropriate award category. Eligibility details and the nomination form are available at www.MEUW.org/awards, with all submissions due Monday, March 30.

MEUW Board of Directors elections coming soon

Nominations for individuals interested in serving a two-year term on the association’s Board of Directors will be accepted beginning March 23. Self-nominations are welcome. To be eligible, a nominee must be employed by a member utility. This year’s election will be for Directors and Alternate Directors in [even-numbered districts](#). Additional information is available at meuw.org/elections.

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

Annual Conference has something for everyone

Municipal employees, elected officials, governing body members, and public power enthusiasts will gather in Madison and Sun Prairie for MEUW's 96th Annual Conference May 12–14. Stretched over three days, this year's event features a refreshed schedule designed to enhance member engagement. The schedule promises something for everyone, including education, networking, and information-sharing among utility professionals and industry partners.

Based on member feedback, MEUW is holding a “Day at the Capitol” on Tuesday, May 12, providing members the opportunity to share the public power story with lawmakers and hear from government affairs experts about policy activity at the federal and state level.



Events on Wednesday, May 13, include a golf outing at The Oaks Golf Course in near-by Cottage Grove. A special Utility Governance Roundtable session will take place between noon and 3 p.m. at the Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) facility. Later, SPU — this

year's host utility — will welcome attendees for a tour of its new 83,000-square-foot office, warehouse, and garage. In addition, MEUW is organizing a trade show to complement the traditional activities, offering utility suppliers and consultants a new opportunity to engage with MEUW mem-

bers in a casual setting. The trade show runs from 4–7 p.m. The conference Welcome Reception begins at 5 p.m.

The main program will happen on Thursday, May 14. The day begins with MEUW's Annual Business Meeting and includes a full program highlighting timely topics affecting municipal utilities, both locally and nationally. The agenda includes a mix of large-group general sessions designed to bring everyone together on broader issues, as well as small-format breakout sessions and cohort discussions to enable every attendee to get the most out of the conference. The Awards Ceremony will happen over lunch.

The conference program will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel Madison East (off both I-39/90/94 and Highway 151), which is the official lodging site.

Each of the three breakout sessions will be presented twice. The back-to-back 45-minute presentations will cover service territory issues, relocating utility facilities, and mutual aid. After lunch, small groups will gather to discuss one of three topics — the affordability of public power, cyber and physical security, and lineworker safety and education. The full program — including detailed descriptions of the topics planned for breakout and cohort sessions — is available at www.meuw.org/96thagenda.

Thursday's program wraps up with a Keynote Address by legendary broadcaster Wayne Larrivee, the “Voice of the Green Bay Packers.” The Closing Reception will conclude at 7 p.m.

Conference registration is now open [here](#). An “early-bird” discount is available for registrations received on or before April 1. New this year, MEUW will award complimentary registration for the Annual Conference to an eligible policymaker — an elected official serving on a city council, village board, or commission of a Wisconsin public power community, or an elected or appointed member of a governing body with oversight of a Wisconsin municipal electric utility. Details about the registration grant program are provided [here](#). ●



Larrivee

Municipal employees complete management training program

Six MEUW utility employees recently took the next step in their professional development journeys. Pictured at right are (back row,

from left): **Joe Vance** (Customer Service Manager, Marshfield Utilities), **John Giese** (Customer Account Specialist III, Marshfield), **Kamren Seefluth** (Utility Engineer, Marshfield), **Ryan Roehrborn**



(Electrical Operations Manager, Plymouth Utilities), **Ashley Kuechenmeister** (Accounting Assistant, Marshfield), and **Danielle Doelle** (Utility Clerk, Trempealeau Municipal Utilities), who were recognized at a recent training session.

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

In case you missed it ...

New Cyber/Physical Security working group seeks input from MEUW members

MEUW recently formed a new Cybersecurity/Physical Security working group to support Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities as they navigate evolving security risks. The group was formed at the suggestion of a member utility and is intended to be a peer-driven resource for MEUW members, particularly smaller utilities that may have limited staff, budgets, or technical capacity.

To help guide the effort and areas of focus, the group is seeking input through a [brief survey](#). Employees from member utilities are encouraged to take time to complete the survey and anonymously share cybersecurity and physical security topics. Those who may be interested in joining or learning more are encouraged to contact working group Chair [Don Krause](#) at Kaukauna Utilities or email the [MEUW office](#).

the "why" behind each of the topics. Municipal workers of all skill levels and backgrounds can benefit from the training, which provides a solid foundation for understanding the public power industry. To learn more, visit meuw.org/dp. ●

Wisconsin UTILITY NEWS Digest

Wisconsin lawmakers advance data center regulations

Wisconsin legislators have introduced several bills aimed at increasing oversight of large data centers amid concerns about energy demand, water use, and cost impacts. Lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle and in both the Assembly and State Senate have introduced bills to address constituent concerns. One proposal would require construction wage standards, sustainability measures, water-use regulations, new fees for large energy users, and expanded reporting. Another, already passed by the Assembly, would prohibit shifting infrastructure costs to other customers and mandate on-site renewable energy, closed-loop cooling, and water-use reporting. A third proposal would create a statewide planning authority, require 100% new renewable energy, and mandate local referendums. MEUW is monitoring all developments.

City of Superior considering municipal ownership of utilities

Wisconsin Public Radio reported that a new study estimates it could cost the City of Superior \$300 million or more to acquire the electric, water, and gas systems currently operated by Superior Water, Light & Power (SWL&P). The analysis, commissioned by SWL&P, was released as the city awaits its own independent valuation. In 2024, the city began exploring a potential takeover of the state's only private water utility after SWL&P proposed a double-digit increase in water rates. Superior officials have since widened the scope of community discussion to include all utility types, including electric. State law allows municipalities to acquire a utility, but the sale would require approval from utility regulators. Prior to seeking regulatory approval, the city must first put a referendum before voters.

Superior Mayor Jim Paine called the estimates "significantly inflated" and accused the company of overstating costs to discourage a purchase. SWL&P officials disagree, arguing the findings show a takeover would place an unnecessary financial strain on residents.

The potential purchase would involve years of costly legal proceedings. Additional startup and transaction expenses, including legal fees and staffing, are estimated at \$84 million, with another \$3.1 million needed to separate systems shared with Minnesota Power.

Community reaction to the proposed buyout has been mixed. Some groups warn that the city could burden residents with unsustainable debt, while others — concerned about rising rates — support municipal ownership for greater accountability. Any acquisition would require voter approval via referendum before state regulators could consider the proposal.

MEUW NEWS Monitor

There's still time to register for upcoming Leadership Workshop

Investing in leadership development delivers measurable returns — stronger teams, better communication, improved operational efficiency, and more effective change management. MEUW's upcoming "Practical Leadership Strategies for Utility Managers" workshop is designed to provide practical tools that create real value for your organization. This two-day interactive Leadership Workshop will be led by two long-time utility industry leaders and focuses on communication, leadership skills, and managing change. Participants will learn strategies to build trust, communicate effectively, and strengthen team collaboration. Full details are [here](#). Join us March 12–13 at Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells.

Don't miss the annual Foreman's Roundtable happening March 25

The third annual Foreman's Roundtable will take place on Wednesday, March 25, at Pin-Seekers in DeForest. This forum was created to support utility line crew leaders who often face similar challenges and can feel isolated in their roles. The event provides an opportunity to exchange ideas, learn from peers, and strengthen leadership and communication skills, with a particular emphasis on safety. Discussion topics are driven by those attending, so participants can take away as much as they put in. After the event, those in attendance can take part in an optional team build-

ing and networking activity at the hybrid golf facility. Learn more and register [here](#).

Underground Facility Locator Workshop planned for spring

A one-day Underground Facility Locator Workshop will be offered on Wednesday, April 1, in Spooner. The workshop will include both classroom instruction and hands-on practice, covering information found in Units 1–3 of the National Utility Locating Contractors Association (NULCA) Professional Competency Standard including use of the transmitter and receiver. All learners will receive a certificate of completion. Registration is available [here](#).

Workshop focused on collaboration planned for April 2

Truly collaborating is much more than working side-by-side with another person — it also involves using influence and persuasion to drive outcomes from a high-performance team. Being collaborative can help leaders get the most out of others. Registration is now open for "Leading Through Collaboration," a one-day training offered through MEUW's three-part Municipal Utility Leadership Certificate Program. Training will take place on Thursday, April 2, in Mauston. Registration and details are available [here](#). ●

Make plans to join a Customer Service Roundtable

Member utilities will gather to exchange ideas and learn from one another about leading practices, service trends, and emerging issues affecting municipal electric utility customers. Everyone is welcome!

A member of MEUW's Accounting and Customer Service Committee moderates each session, which are sponsored by Focus on Energy. There is no cost to attend; lunch is provided. Roundtable dates and locations are:

- Wednesday, March 18:
Rice Lake
- Thursday, March 19:
Wisconsin Dells
- Wednesday, March 25:
Oconomowoc
- Thursday, March 26:
Menasha
- Wednesday, April 8:
Stoughton
- Tuesday, April 14:
Merrillan

Pre-registration is required. Sign up at meuw.org/csr ●



MEUW is introducing a one-day pre-conference workshop on utility cost-of-service and rate design as part of this year's **Accounting and Customer Service Seminar**. Members have consistently expressed interest in a foundational session on electric rate setting, and this training is designed to meet that need. The full-day workshop will provide practical insights for municipal employees, as well as help local utility commissioners and governing body members gain a clearer understanding of the rate-making process. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Sept. 22, in Mauston (and stick around for the next day's seminar).

Your source for the most up-to-date information about MEUW news, training seminars and programs

MEUW.org

Sturgeon Bay Utilities supports a thriving waterfront community



By Karen Whitmer

A welcoming city at the entrance to destination Door County, Sturgeon Bay has grown from its modest maritime roots into a community shaped by tourism, shipbuilding, commercial fishing, and outdoor recreation. For 122 years, Sturgeon Bay Utilities (SBU) — the city's municipal utility — has supported that growth by providing reliable energy and water to homes, small businesses, and the industries that power the local economy. Its work helps ensure Sturgeon Bay remains both an inviting place to visit and a strong place to live and work.

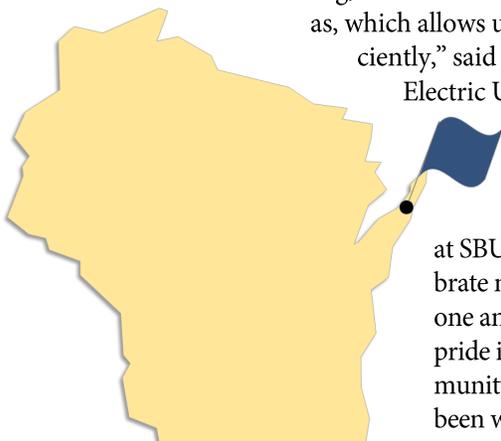
Roughly 10,000 people call Sturgeon Bay home year-round, a number that swells each summer as seasonal residents, boaters, and tourists arrive. SBU serves a wide range of customers, from permanent and seasonal households to local businesses and industrial facilities. The electric utility powers about 9,800 meters, with 35 percent residential, 38 percent commercial, and 27 percent industrial.



Stawicki

“We have a really balanced mix of customers,” said SBU General Manager Jim Stawicki. “That puts us in a good position to plan ahead and keep service affordable and reliable for everyone. As Sturgeon Bay grows — with new businesses and more housing, including affordable housing — we’re making sure the infrastructure is there to support it.”

SBU operates its electric, water, and wastewater utilities with a lean staff of 18, including seven lineworkers, with plans to add an eighth. Later this year, the electric utility expects to bring on an apprentice, continuing its long tradition of developing skilled, cross-trained personnel. “Our team is talented, hard-working, and trained across multiple areas, which allows us to operate efficiently,” said Jason Bieri, SBU’s Electric Utility Manager.



A strong family culture underscores the work at SBU. Employees celebrate milestones, support one another, and take pride in serving the community. Stawicki, who has been with SBU for 22

years, noted, “We’ve built a team that truly cares about each other — about the work we do and the people we work with. It’s not just a job; it’s a community within a community.” Bieri, with 25 years at SBU, is one of several long-tenured employees whose deep knowledge and dedication help keep operations running smoothly every day.



The historic Third Avenue district in downtown Sturgeon Bay is home to art galleries, specialty shops, and unique dining establishments along the waterfront. At right, SBU General Foreman Scott Hoffman works on a downtown streetlight, part of SBU’s commitment to delivering safe and reliable service to power a thriving community.



From Waterfront Roots to a Thriving Hub

Sturgeon Bay is located at the southern end of Wisconsin’s “thumb” — the 90-mile Door Peninsula. The community developed along the bay from which it takes its name, historically known for its world-class fishery and thriving maritime activity.

Nestled between Lake Michigan and Green Bay, the waterfront community was established in 1850 with one residence, and by 1862, its population had increased to over 200 individuals, supporting three active sawmills. Later in the 19th century, Sturgeon Bay became a regional center for limestone quarrying, shipping stone across the Great Lakes to help build harbors and piers.

The city’s defining transformation, however, came in 1881 with the completion of the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal. Cut through the peninsula after years of planning and debate, the canal provided a safer, more direct route to and from Lake Michigan, allowing vessels to bypass the notoriously dangerous *Porte des*

Continued on page 9

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Shipbuilding is a cornerstone of the economy of Sturgeon Bay and has been for more than a century. The top photo offers a glimpse into the past, capturing the bustling shipyards that helped shape commerce on the Great Lakes. That same tradition continues today, as shown in the bottom image.

Wisconsin's "Shipbuilding Capital." This legacy is evident, as Stawicki pointed out, in SBU's largest electric customer: Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding, a facility belonging to a major Italian shipbuilder and one of only two such sites on the Great Lakes.

Powering a Growing City

SBU delivers electricity not only to the city but also to the adjacent townships of Clay Banks, Nasewaupée, Sevastopol, and the Town of Sturgeon Bay, encompassing an expansive urban and rural service footprint. The utility operates and maintains over 260 miles of electric lines and four substations, capable of delivering more than 122 megawatts of energy throughout its complex territory.

Adding to the challenge, the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal divides the city into north and south sides, requiring two separate distribution systems. "We have two substations on each side," Bieri said. "Maintaining redundancy, coordinating load transfers, and monitoring voltage stability on both sides requires careful planning and a skilled staff."

Converting overhead lines to underground is another key priority, helping ensure reliable service in all kinds of weather. "It's an ongoing process that will take many years," Bieri added.

The crew is also busy installing infrastructure for new apartments, condos, and single-family homes. Although the city has long had a "grey" population, with many residents over 59, its

Morts, or "Death's Door," strait to the north. By shortening the distance between Green Bay and southern Lake Michigan ports by 50 to 75 miles, it quickly became a vital artery for regional commerce. The surge in maritime traffic spurred Sturgeon Bay's population growth and economic development.

The canal remains a vital part of shipping and commerce today, upholding Sturgeon Bay's reputation as

scenic surroundings, waterfront access, and employment opportunities are drawing in newcomers who live there year-round. Since 2019, the city has added more than 400 new residential units, with zoning changes encouraging more affordable housing.



"Every connection we make means more than just adding a meter," Bieri explained. "It's about helping the city expand and prosper while ensuring that everyone receives safe, dependable, and affordable service."

Guiding Innovation and Collaboration

SBU has long been a steady leader in the municipal utility sector and is a founding member of both MEUW and WPPI Energy. Stawicki, known for his collaborative approach, inquisitive nature, and broad utility knowledge, currently serves as chair of WPPI Energy's Board of Directors. With over 20 years of service to the organization, he has represented Sturgeon Bay on the WPPI Board since 2004 and has been a member of its Executive Committee since 2006.

In this role, he helps guide WPPI's strategic direction to ensure it remains closely aligned with the needs of member utilities, while also providing SBU with early insight into emerging technologies and regional best practices.

"Through collaboration with other public power professionals via WPPI," Stawicki said, "SBU has been in a position to adopt



emerging technology early, such as advanced metering infrastructure, which ultimately helps strengthen our reliability, efficiency, and customer service."

Continued on page 10



The Sturgeon Bay Utilities team helps the community thrive.

Continued from page 9

Commitment to Sustainability

The City of Sturgeon Bay and SBU continue to strengthen and expand their environmental initiatives. In 2023, the city joined Wisconsin's Green Tier Legacy Communities program, a voluntary DNR initiative recognizing local governments committed to going beyond basic environmental standards.

SBU offers customers the option to purchase renewable-energy blocks under WPPI's Choose Renewable program, which help fund additional investment and advancements in renewable energy opportunities across its membership. The utility also features "solar flairs" prominently displayed in front of its office, making sustainability a visible, community-centered priority. Stawicki noted, "While the solar array isn't a major source of energy, it stands out and serves as a reminder to Sturgeon Bay residents and visitors that our beautiful environment deserves protection."

As part of its broader sustainability efforts, the city is also working to establish a stormwater utility to better manage runoff and protect local waterways. While this initiative is separate from SBU's operations, the utility collaborates closely with city leadership to ensure infrastructure planning supports long-term community needs.

"Our focus is on delivering reliable, safe service for residents and businesses while helping the city grow responsibly," Stawicki said. "Providing essential utility services and supporting economic development — all while protecting Door County's natu-



To demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability, the City of Sturgeon Bay installed several Solar Flair™ photovoltaic systems as both functional infrastructure and educational tools to promote renewable energy awareness. Three flairs are located in front of the Sturgeon Bay Utilities headquarters. Pictured here is the "Constellation" Solar Flair near the planetarium at Crossroads at Big Creek, a local nature preserve.

ral resources — is simply good utility and city management."

Festivals, Waterfront Life, and the Utility Behind It All

Sturgeon Bay's energy extends beyond its waterfront and maritime heritage. The city hosts numerous festivals and entertainment options throughout the year, including Steel Bridge Songfest, Harvest Fest, and the winter Fire and Ice Festival, which attracts thousands of visitors. Weekly Concerts in the Park, tall-ship visits, and programs at the Door County Maritime Museum celebrate the city's rich maritime history.

Sturgeon Bay features waterfront resorts like Stone Harbor, Bridgeport, Bayshore Inn, and Westwood Shores, as well as historic hotels like White Lace Inn. The

local dining scene ranges from Wisconsin supper clubs to upscale waterfront restaurants, many serving the region's signature fish boils — a quintessential Door County experience.

Stawicki, who has lived in Sturgeon Bay for over 35 years and jokes that he's "almost a native," prefers to stay out of the spotlight, letting the work of SBU and the community speak for itself. "This is a community with world-class entertainment and restaurants, vibrant arts, and a beautiful waterfront," he said. "It's a special place — and it's a privilege to live and work here."

And there's no question the community of Sturgeon Bay is stronger because of SBU. Behind the scenes, the utility steadily and quietly powers homes, businesses, and public spaces, keeping the area vibrant, strong, and welcoming for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. ●

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

That's all Folks!

This month's profile of Sturgeon Bay is the last in a series of **Community Spotlight** articles that began with a feature of the Village of La Farge in the August 2018 edition of *LIVE LINES*. Since then, MEUW has profiled all 81 cities and villages across Wisconsin that own and operate a municipal electric utility. Each of the articles is available in the archive of *LIVE LINES* accessible from MEUW.org. A listing of each community and the month it was featured is [here](#).



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Wisconsinites received millions in rebates through IRA Home Energy Rebate Programs

Wisconsin closed 2025 on a strong note in its efforts to support residential energy efficiency. Since the launch of the first federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Energy Rebate program in 2024, residents across the state have received more than \$7 million in rebates for improvements that reduce energy use, boost comfort, and help lower energy costs.

Participation has been widespread, with projects completed in 67 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The broad geographic reach underscores the value these rebates provide for all types of households, whether owned or rented, in urban centers, rural communities, or anywhere in between.

Continuing into 2026, both rebate programs remain active, and with significant progress already achieved. This year offers even more opportunity for Wisconsin households to participate in the IRA Home Energy Rebate programs as the number of participating IRA Registered Contractors continues to grow. Funding continues under two distinct program tracks, each supporting different types of energy-saving improvements.

Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES)

Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to launch their HOMES in August 2024. HOMES rewards whole-home energy savings. Rather than offering rebates based on specific equipment, this program provides incentives tied to achieving 20% or greater reduction in energy use achieved by the project. This approach requires an Energy Assessment and gives households the flexibility to pursue multiple upgrades at once and to take on deeper energy-efficiency improvements. Eligible projects include insulation upgrades, air sealing, heat pump heating and cooling systems, and heat pump water heaters.

More than 96% of HOMES rebates have been distributed to low-income Wisconsin residents, underscoring the program's

role in expanding access to meaningful energy-saving improvements. HOMES projects often align well with utility energy-efficiency goals, reducing both household expenses and strain on the electric grid.

Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program (HEAR)

HEAR supports households choosing efficient, modern electric appliances and equipment. Rebates are available for:

- ENERGY STAR® cold-climate heat pumps;
- ENERGY STAR heat pump water heaters;
- ENERGY STAR heat pump clothes dryers;
- ENERGY STAR electric ranges and cooktops;
- Electrical panel and wiring upgrades; and/or
- Insulation and air sealing.

HEAR rebates can be accessed in two ways, either through installations completed by IRA Registered Contractors, or (for certain products) through purchases at retail stores. This makes the program accessible to households pursuing major system upgrades as well as those making smaller, incremental improvements.

The \$7 million milestone since August 2024 demonstrates strong public interest in making homes more energy-efficient, comfortable, and affordable to operate. Wisconsin's utilities are well positioned to maintain this momentum by continuing to share information about available rebates, encouraging residents to explore upgrade options, and helping direct customers to trusted contractors and retailers.

To explore available rebates, learn about eligible upgrades, or find an IRA Registered Contractor or participating retailer, visit focusonenergy.com/home-energy-rebates.

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



Mutual Aid Hotline

1-844-MEUW-911

(1-844-638-9911)

When you need help, call MEUW – 24 hours a day, seven days a week – for help coordinating mutual aid assistance



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Calendar of Events

- March 12-13 Workshop: “Practical Leadership Strategies for Utility Managers” — *Wisconsin Dells*
- March 18 CS* Roundtable — *Rice Lake*
- March 19 CS* Roundtable — *Wisconsin Dells*
- March 25 Foreman’s Roundtable — *DeForest*
- March 25 CS* Roundtable — *Oconomowoc*
- March 26 CS* Roundtable — *Menasha*
- April 1 Underground Locating — *Spooner*
- April 2 Municipal Utility Leadership Program: Leading with Collaboration — *Mauston*
- April 7 Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
- April 8 CS* Roundtable — *Stoughton*
- April 14 CS* Roundtable — *Merrillan*
- April 15 MEUW Board of Directors Meeting — *Wisconsin Dells*
- April 28-30 Overhead Workshop — *Eau Claire*
- May 5 Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
- May 12-14 96th Annual Conference — *Madison*
- May 13 Governance Roundtable — *Sun Prairie*
- May 14 MEUW Board of Directors and Annual Membership Meeting — *Madison*
- June 2 Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
- June 3 Fundamentals of Utility Management: Regulation, Compliance & Safety — *Mauston*

* Customer Service



LIVE Lines 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 is a current opportunity available:

City of Evansville — [Electric Line Worker](#)

Review postings for application deadlines.

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



Spring Forward!

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8, at 2:00 a.m.

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.



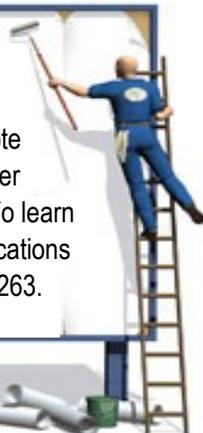
Equipment For Sale

Waukegan Utilities is currently accepting bids for the sale of a substation transformer (ABB 14 MVA), voltage regulators (Siemens), and substation fusing. Bids will be accepted until noon on March 17. Contact Sam Trace at (608) 843-6235 for detailed information.

Sturgeon Bay Utilities is selling a 2003 55-foot Versa-lift bucket truck and other equipment. The full list of items for sale can be found [here](#). Contact Jason Bieri at (920) 746-5972 for additional information and photos.

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National Conference

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www.public.power.org/national-conference

