



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, August 03, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Committee Room - City Hall, 3rd Floor 1717
E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members: Shannon Derby, Darla LeClair, Tim Petri

Staff & Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Brian Dellemann, Andrew Sukowaty, Shawn Taddy, Kyle Kordell, Katherine Dahlke

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the July 6, 2026, Public Utilities Committee Meeting

Shannon Derby made a motion to approve the July 6, 2026, Public Utilities Committee meeting minutes with the following modification, that the grant dollar amount stated in item 7A. should have read \$10,000 not \$13,000. The motion was seconded by Darla LeClair. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC INPUT – N/A

5. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

A. 2025 LSL Project

Essential Sewer and Water has, for the most part, completed its contract and is finalizing restoration work on the east side. Public works crews are continuing to complete pavement repairs in the area, with approximately 40 remaining repairs. All concrete repair work within the Emmet Street, 18th Street, and 19th Street resurfacing areas has been completed.

B. 2026 LSL Project

Mammoth Construction has continued replacing impacted lead service laterals since the beginning of June. They have completed all work on 23rd Street and are currently working on 26th Street. Mammoth Construction is contacting property owners in each block prior to beginning work to provide notice that the area will be impacted and that there may be delays or temporary inconveniences accessing their properties.

Public works crews have not yet begun pavement restoration in this area, with approximately 40 openings awaiting completion. Public Works is expected to transition from the east side pavement repairs to this contract area toward the end of August.

C. 2026 Water System Improvement

Awaiting a preconstruction meeting to establish a more definitive construction schedule.

6. WASTEWATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION

A. Poly Trial Update

In an effort to reduce costs, Aqua Pure tested a polymer mixture for digested sludge dewatering on Thursday, July 9. The polymer mixture had a higher charge and was more highly branched. However, the mixture did not produce the desired results, requiring approximately 10% more polymer while producing a sludge cake with 19.9% solids, compared to the average of 22% solids achieved with the current polymer mixture. The Aqua Pure polymer also had an adverse effect on the screw press, causing glazing on the filter screens and requiring additional cleaning over the following several days.

B. Plant and Lift Station Maintenance

1. The east primary clarifier was drawn down for its annual cleaning and inspection. The east primary standpipe was jetted and vacuumed to remove accumulated grease and sediment. Staff also successfully removed and replaced a plug valve on the east primary sludge line.
2. Aeration basins 5, 6, 7 & 8 were drawn down for cleaning and maintenance.

C. Columbus Lift Station

The wet well and valve pit covers at the Columbus Lift Station needed to be raised approximately 7 inches to match the elevation of the new sidewalk being installed. As part of the City's ongoing investment in infrastructure, the project includes a new valve pit cover that will provide the required access to the valve pit for a planned lift station bypass valve installation. The bypass valve will allow the lift station to be bypassed in the event of an emergency or during required maintenance. Unfortunately, during the removal process, the original wet well cover broke into three large pieces and fell into the wet well.

Wastewater staff were on site during the removal process and immediately began emergency lift station operating procedures.

Two major components, a level transducer and pump hanger bracket, were damaged during the incident and were replaced using parts from the city's inventory.

Staff were able to draw down and maintain an acceptable level in the wet well using the Public Works vacuor as well as two vacuors from Mammoth Construction. The wastewater mechanic removed all debris from the wet well and completed the necessary repairs to the lift station equipment. At no time was a bypass of the lift station or sanitary sewer system required, and there were no injuries to workers at the site.

Completion of the lift station and sidewalk project is expected to be delayed approximately 4–6 weeks while a new wet well cover is constructed.

D. Mercury Permit Limit Exceedance

The Wastewater Treatment Facility exceeded its permitted effluent limit for mercury. As reported to the DNR as part of the required corrective action, the total recoverable mercury sample result of 2.1 ng/L, which exceeded the 1.3 ng/L limit, may be an outlier. The subsequent sample collected on July 8, 2026, was 0.65 ng/L.

The elevated result may be attributed to the Two Rivers water filtration plant cleaning its backwash tank of accumulated sediment in late March/early April. The tank had not been cleaned for more than 10 years. The wastewater treatment facility also experienced elevated

influent flows due to a rain event, which may have washed accumulated sediment from the collection system into the facility.

Staff will continue to monitor future total recoverable mercury sample results for any trends.

E. PFAS Report to WDNR

Wastewater staff submitted the permit required PFAS report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in early July. Last week, the WDNR provided the city with a response letter approving the final report on PFOA/PFOS Effluent Discharges for the Two Rivers Wastewater Treatment Facility. The department determined that there is no reasonable potential for the Two Rivers Wastewater Treatment Facility to discharge PFOS or PFOA above the water quality standards established in s. NR 102.04(8)(d), Wis. Admin. Code. Therefore, a minimization plan is not currently necessary.

Effluent refers to the liquid portion of the wastewater stream that is discharged to Lake Michigan.

However, the wastewater treatment sludge continues to contain PFAS, commonly referred to as “forever chemicals.” The disposal of this sludge remains a concern and a challenge that the city will need to address in the future and will likely involve significant costs.

F. Capacity, Management, Operation, Maintenance (CMOM) Plan Update

After several submittals, reviews, and revisions, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has approved the City’s Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) Plan and Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Plan. Both plans must be reviewed at least annually and updated as necessary to reflect changes and incorporate improvements that may make the plans more efficient and effective.

G. Cybersecurity Alert

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) issued an alert during the last week of July regarding ongoing malicious activity targeting Wisconsin public drinking water and wastewater systems. A group has been attempting to gain unauthorized access to these systems through certain PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers). WDNR advised utilities to remove PLCs from direct internet exposure by using a secure gateway and/or firewall.

The Wastewater Treatment Facility’s system is secure. Additionally, in the event of a cyberattack or system failure, mechanical fail-safes are in place that would allow the facility to continue operating.

7. ELECTRIC AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITIES: DIRECTOR UPDATES AND ACTION IF APPLICABLE

A. WPPI Contract Extension Discussion

Director Dellemann asked the Committee if there were any questions or items they would like him to research further for clarification and future discussion regarding the WPPI contract extension. He also noted that the annual WPPI meeting will be held in September in Sheboygan. Committee and council members interested in attending the conference were encouraged to let him know. Director Dellemann noted that the conference provides a good opportunity to interact with representatives from other member communities and discuss the pros and cons of being a WPPI member.

B. Two Rivers Electric Utility Mutual Aid Assistance

Two Rivers sent two crews to provide mutual aid to Fox Crossing, Neenah, and Menasha during the first two days following the July 27, 2026, tornado. Due to internal staffing conflicts and shortages, the crews were subsequently recalled.

Prior to this meeting, it was reported that 18 different utilities had provided some form of mutual aid to the affected communities over the past week. In addition to providing personnel and equipment, the communities also requested assistance with materials. Two Rivers electric was able to contribute six 50-foot electric poles late last week.

As the recovery effort is expected to continue for an extended period, Two Rivers electric may be asked to rotate crews back into the area to provide additional assistance in the future.

8. WATER UTILITY: DIRECTOR UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND ACTION AS NEEDED

A. Water Treatment Chemical Addition Discussion

Following the Council Work Session, Director Sukowaty asked whether Committee or Council members had any follow-up questions or additional information they would like him to research. Director Sukowaty stated that he is reaching out to communities that discontinued adding fluoride to their water systems several years ago, rather than within the past year or two, to gather feedback on their experiences and any impacts they have observed.

No additional questions were asked.

It was noted that Committee and Council members have received public feedback both in support of and opposition to the addition of fluoride to the drinking water system.

B. Intake Cleaning Discussion/Update

In 2017, the water utility had its 6,500-foot intake piping cleaned due to excessive sand sedimentation within the pipe, which had caused approximately 80 percent blockage. At that time, the contractor recommended that the intake piping be cleaned every three years. If cost were not a consideration, the water utility would wholeheartedly agree with that recommendation.

Since 2017, the water utility has been monitoring the maximum volume of water that can be conveyed through the intake piping to the treatment plant. The maximum capacity is approximately 3.3 million gallons per day. During the summer months, water usage typically ranges from 1.6 to 1.8 million gallons per day, providing some excess capacity and allowing the utility to delay cleaning of the intake piping.

As flow capacity decreases toward the 2.0 million gallons per day (approximately 3,500 gallons per minute) threshold, the need to clean the intake piping becomes increasingly important. Recent monitoring indicates that flow volumes are closer to 2,500 gallons per minute, suggesting that the utility should begin preparing for cleaning the intake line in the near future.

The permitting process for this type of work through the WDNR takes approximately one year. If the Committee concurs, the water utility will begin the permitting process and include a placeholder for the project in the 2027 annual budget.

The Committee provided a verbal consensus about moving forward with the permitting process.

9. STORM WATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION AS NEEDED

The meeting was adjourned prior to the update due to time constraints.

10. SOLID WASTE UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION AS NEEDED

The meeting was adjourned prior to the update due to time constraints.

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS OR ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, WITH DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The meeting was adjourned prior to the update due to time constraints.

12. SET DATE, TIME, AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Proposed for **TUESDAY**, September 8, 2026, at 5:00 pm

13. ADJOURNMENT: 5:59 pm

Shannon Derby made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tim Petri. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: *Matthew R. Heckenlaible*
Public Works Director/City Engineer