

The Municipality

Your Voice Your Wisconsin.

March | 2020
PUBLIC UTILITIES



Kaukauna Utilities:
Public Power
with a Purpose

4

Public Power
Benefits Utility
Customers, Communities

8

Municipal Water
Works in the
Modern Age

12

Group Advocates on
Stormwater Issues
Affecting Municipalities

15

Working Successfully
with the Media

17

Municipal Utility
Governance: Options
and Responsibilities

21

CYBER LIABILITY? DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE COVERED.



Insured by LWMMI? You are automatically covered to Policy Limits with no deductible - including the investigation on how the breach occurred, notification to people affected and defense of potential claims.

If your municipality is not insured by the LWMMI you may be “phishing” for trouble and left to “phlounder” on your own.

With LWMMI Insurance you have the peace of mind to run your City or Village the way you want to *and* **Don't Worry, You're Covered!**



Protecting The Communities We Live In.

608.833.9595 | www.LWMMI.org

A Mutual Company Owned by Member Cities and Villages.

Editorial Offices
131 W. Wilson St., Suite 505, Madison, WI 53703
Dial (608) 267-2380
In-State (800) 991-5502
Fax: (608) 267-0645
e-mail: league@lwm-info.org
Website: www.lwm-info.org

The Municipality serves as the medium of exchange of ideas and information on municipal affairs for the officials of Wisconsin cities and villages. Nothing included herein is to be construed as having the endorsement of the League unless so specifically stated. The Municipality (ISSN 0027-3597) is published monthly at \$25 per year (\$5.00 per copy, back issues \$5.00 each) by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, 131 W. Wilson St. Suite 505, Madison, WI 53703. Periodical postage paid at Madison & additional offices, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address change to: The Municipality, 131 W. Wilson St. Suite 505, Madison, WI 53703

BOARD

Emily Berge, City Council, Eau Claire
Tammy Bockhorst, Village Trustee, Shorewood
Erik Brooks, Mayor, South Milwaukee
Kathy Ehley, Mayor, Wauwatosa
Mark Freitag, Manager, Janesville
Steve Genisot, Mayor, Marinette
Jim Healy, Administrator, Richfield
Cavalier "Chevy" Johnson, Alderman, Milwaukee
Justin Nickels, Mayor, Manitowoc
Maureen Murphy, Administrator, Mount Pleasant
Todd Schmidt, Administrator, Waunakee
Zach Vruwink, Mayor, Wisconsin Rapids
Tomika Vukovic, Alder, Glendale
Anissa Welch, Mayor, Milton
Yee Leng Xiong, Trustee, Weston

STAFF

Executive Director: Jerry Deschane
Deputy Director: Curt Witynski
Legal Counsel: Claire Silverman
Assistant Legal Counsel: Maria Davis
Member Engagement/Communications Director: Gail Sumi
Event Manager: Carrie Jensen
Director of Marketing & Administration: Robin Powers
Project Manager: Elizabeth Kazda
Staff Accountant: Tracy Kern
Administrative Assistant: Sandra Scott



The Municipality

March | 2020

Feature

Invisible Government	Kaukauna Utilities: Public Power with a Purpose	Public Power Benefits Utility Customers, Communities	Municipal Water Works in the Modern Age
3	4	8	12
Group Advocates on Stormwater Issues Affecting Municipalities	Working Successfully with the Media		
15	17		

Legal

Municipal Utility Governance: Options and Responsibilities	HR Matters - THC at Work	For the Good of the Order - Nominations	FAQ
21	24	26	28

News/Updates/Training

2020 League Workshops, Institutes, and Conferences	Transitions
31	32

On the Cover

Kaukauna Utilities' Journey Line Tech Collin Hass has worked at Kaukauna Utilities for four years, with 30 years' experience overall in the industry. Kaukauna Utilities employs 59 people, investing in their training and development to ensure a highly qualified and professional team. For more information about Kaukauna Utilities, visit their website <https://www.kaukaunautilities.com>. Read more about Kaukana Utilities on page 4 of this magazine.



GROWING SMALL BUSINESSES



WHEDA

WISCONSIN HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

www.wheda.com



Invisible Government

Jerry Deschane, Executive Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities

This month we're going underground. Well, mostly underground. *The Municipality* focuses on parts of local government that the public almost never thinks about, even though this particular set of services **MUST** be accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week with no interruptions. This is the municipal utility system; the pipes, wires, and pumps that residents cannot live without.

There are no "cookie cutter" utility systems in Wisconsin. Although they all have to abide by the same high service standards, each system has evolved in its own way, based on the geography, population, and prosperity of their individual municipality. Some systems have greater or lesser maintenance and upgrading issues. Many are struggling with the endless stream of regulations to control phosphorous, lead, copper, PFAS, and more.

Even the ownership and governance of systems are unique. Two of this month's articles focus on municipally-owned electric utilities. Most of us are served by investor-owned utility companies for electricity, but there are over 80 municipal electric companies. On the water side, virtually all systems are publicly-owned; ditto for sewer systems. Other states see waves of private ownership of water, but that never caught on in Wisconsin and isn't likely to any time soon. Two legal experts talk about the basics and the details of the various ways those public systems may be governed.

Chris Groh, the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Rural Water Association has written an excellent piece on the history and present-day challenges of small municipal water systems. One of those challenges is our own innate frugality, which has left some systems with a backlog of capital improvements that must be addressed to keep those systems operating safely for our residents. Like all other aspects of local governance, the challenge of maintaining the balance between keeping costs low and services high is never-ending.

If you've read many of my columns, you know that I am a cheerleader for local government. This system of representative democracy that allows us to get together and do cooperatively what we cannot do individually is world-class. In most cases it works so well we don't even realize how well it's working. A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Hatley village board. I left that small Marathon County village once again in awe of the simple, pragmatic, and honorable way local governments "just get it done." Nowhere is that more visible as in the invisible world of municipal utilities.

Enjoy the magazine, and yay, spring!

The League appreciates the support of the following Business Members:



- AARP Wisconsin
- American Fidelity
- American Transmission Co.
- Boardman & Clark LLP
- Ehlers Associates
- GRAEF
- incrediblebank
- MSA Professional Services Inc.
- Municipal Property Insurance Company
- Stafford Rosenbaum LLP
- WEA Trust
- Weld, Riley, S.C
- Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)

For more information, contact Robin Powers: rpowers@lwm-info.org | (608) 267-2383



Kaukauna Utilities: Public Power with a Purpose

Brittany Simonson, Communications Coordinator, Kaukauna Utilities and the City of Kaukauna

Kaukauna Utilities is one of this country’s 2,200 public power systems – a utility owned by the people and the community it serves. We are dedicated to meeting our customers’ needs while helping to make the community a better place to live and work. Public power systems like Kaukauna Utilities are nonprofit and have one main purpose – to provide customers with reliable service at a low cost.

Who is Kaukauna Utilities?

With 16,000 customers, Kaukauna Utilities provides electric service over a 50-square-mile area in portions of the following communities: Kaukauna, Little Chute, Combined Locks, Wrightstown, Buchanan, Freedom, Holland, Oneida, and Vandenbroek. Kaukauna Utilities also provides water service to customers within the city of Kaukauna.

Kaukauna Utilities was founded in 1912 by the citizens of Kaukauna. While a lot has changed since then, the focus of Kaukauna Utilities has not. We strive to provide low-cost, reliable service with a friendly, personal touch.

Today, Kaukauna Utilities still offers some of the lowest electric rates in the state – rates significantly lower than those in territories that are served by investor-owned utilities.

From system operators to lineworkers to the accounting team, we rely on the same public power utility that our customers do. After all, we are friends and neighbors who share in local values and understand local needs.

What are Kaukauna Utilities’ Power Supply Resources?

Kaukauna Utilities owns seven hydroelectric plants. We have invested in upgrading and modernizing these facilities because, not only are they our lowest-cost power supply resource, they are also emissions-free. The electricity they generate meets more than 30 percent of our customers’ total needs – one of the reasons our rates are among the lowest in the state.

Kaukauna Utilities also owns and maintains a natural gas-fired combustion turbine that when called upon can provide added energy to the power grid. The combustion turbine went into commercial service in March 1969 and was completely overhauled in 2016. It provides additional power during peak



times and is part of the interconnection system with the American Transmission Company.

Member-owned, not-for-profit WPPI Energy supplies the balance of Kaukauna Utilities’ wholesale electric needs. Together, WPPI’s 51 community-owned member utilities serve more than 200,000 homes and businesses in Wisconsin, Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, and Iowa. As members and owners of WPPI, we pool our needs and our expertise with those of 50 other like-minded communities.

As a result, we have built a diverse, competitive, and environmentally responsible resource portfolio; we share forward-looking programs, services, and advanced business technologies, and we advocate with the combined strength of 51 unified voices to protect and advance the energy policy interests of our customers and our communities. This joint action approach helps Kaukauna and all WPPI member communities preserve and enhance the significant local advantages of having a municipal electric utility.

How Does Kaukauna Utilities Incorporate Sustainable Practices?

“Sustainability and the use of renewable energy are a natural fit for municipal utilities like Kaukauna Utilities,” says General Manger Jeff Feldt, who also chairs the WPPI Board of Directors. “Our system exists for the benefit of those we serve, so taking great care of customers, our community, and the environment are fundamental to the business model.”



Reducing power plant emissions such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), and doing so reliably and cost-effectively, is an important WPPI business priority. Together, we have greatly reduced CO₂ emissions associated with supplying power to our customers and communities. In fact, the WPPI power supply portfolio today is approximately one-third carbon-free – significantly better than most utilities in the region.

As for what's still to come, the WPPI membership expects to continue making significant progress in this area. In 2021, solar power from the 100-megawatt Point Beach Solar Energy Center will come online, keeping WPPI and its members on track for a more than 37 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from 2005 levels by 2025.

“Not only are we reducing emissions and adding diversity to our power supply portfolio, but we're doing so cost-effectively,” Feldt says. “In addition to further reducing our emissions, the addition of Point Beach Solar is also projected to lower long-term wholesale power costs for our community.”

At the local level, Kaukauna Utilities is committed to minimizing the impact of our business on the environment with technologies and processes that are socially responsible, scientifically based, and economically sound. We encourage conservation, recycling, and energy efficiency programs that promote clean air and water and reduce landfill waste.

Kaukauna Utilities is instrumental in leading the way and currently provides 45 percent of the total energy needs of our customers with clean and renewable energy resources.

The LEED Gold Certified Kaukauna Utilities main office building was one of our first opportunities to demonstrate our commitment. It was one of only 23 such LEED Gold buildings in Wisconsin when it was remodeled in 2008. To achieve LEED Gold status, we reused an existing building and incorporated sustainable measures including significant

daylighting, a white roof, white pavement, solar water heaters, solar photovoltaics, sustainable landscaping, and an educational kiosk.

This would be the first of many subsequent municipal building projects contributing to our community's vision. Another notable example is our new city municipal building and fire department featuring:

- LED lighting with daylight dimming and occupancy sensors
- Geothermal heat pumps under the parking lot
- Extremely efficient insulation
- High-performance windows and glazing
- An 80-kilowatt rooftop solar PV system at the city municipal building and a 90-kilowatt rooftop solar PV system at the fire department, both designed and installed by Kaukauna Utilities

Working with municipally-owned facilities comes as a natural fit for public power utilities, and this is one important way we help our communities meet their sustainability goals. Not only do city buildings offer a highly visible space in which to showcase the community's commitment to sustainability, but using efficient building techniques and renewable technologies helps reduce the building's energy costs, and therefore, the tax burden for local citizens.

The less energy our municipal buildings waste, the easier it will be to move the needle toward a local carbon-free resource goal. After all, it would be foolish to invest in adding new renewable resources without first doing all we can to avoid using energy wastefully.

In addition, Kaukauna Utilities has partnered with Focus on Energy to help save customers energy. In 2019, our customers saved over 13 million kWh of electricity. That's enough electricity to power more than 16,000 homes for one month.

How Does Kaukauna Utilities Get Involved in the Community?

The cornerstone of a not-for-profit, community-owned and operated utility is “local people working together to meet local needs” – that's just where the benefits to the community start.

Being part of the community we serve is a role that Kaukauna Utilities takes seriously. We have pledged a strong commitment to not only our customers, but to our community. We work hard to be an active participant by lending a hand in a wide variety of community service projects, including

everything from annual food and toy drives to a winter apparel collection for those in need. Our civic-minded activities foster strong relationships that help further our connection to the community.

We also support a large and varied number of community organizations by contributing funds to help meet local needs. Listed below are just a few of the ways Kaukauna Utilities gets involved in the community:

- Sponsoring educational performances by The National Theatre for Children at local schools to teach youth about the importance of using energy wisely. In 2020, we have five performances scheduled at different schools throughout our service territory.
- Through a scholarship program, we have helped numerous local students with their continuing education. This year, Kaukauna Utilities will award three continuing education scholarships to local high school seniors.
- Over the past five years, our annual Electronics Recycling Event has removed over 212,000 pounds of electronics from landfills.

What Makes Kaukauna Utilities an Industry Leader?

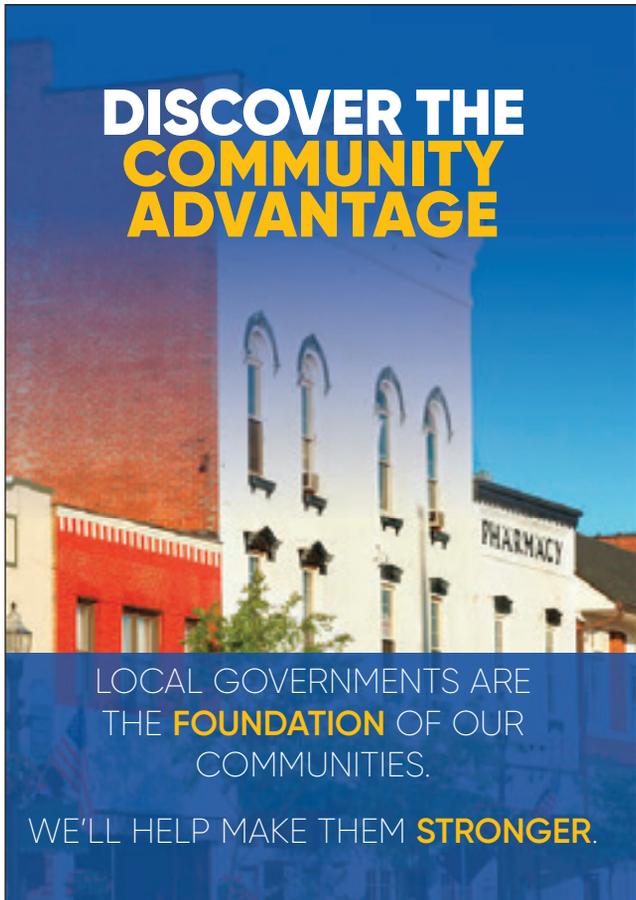
Based in part on our commitment to delivering safe, reliable, forward-thinking, and environmentally responsible service, we have been honored by the American Public Power Association with industry designations that we are extremely proud of.

- Kaukauna Utilities is recognized as a **Smart Energy Provider** for our efforts to incorporate energy efficiency and sustainability while providing affordable electric service.
- We are also designated as a top-tier **Diamond-Level Reliable Public Power Provider** for our strong commitment to providing reliable power while also maintaining high standards of safety and efficiency.

What's Most Important for Municipal Leaders to Know About Public Power?

Municipal utilities like ours invest in far more than meters, poles, and wires. We're an integral part of the fabric of our communities, and the homes, businesses, and citizens we serve are the focus of all we do.

► p.7



DISCOVER THE
COMMUNITY
ADVANTAGE

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE
THE **FOUNDATION** OF OUR
COMMUNITIES.

WE'LL HELP MAKE THEM **STRONGER**.

Community Insurance Corporation provides liability, workers' compensation and property insurance coverage for cities, towns, villages and school districts. We offer broad coverage, designed specifically to meet the needs of Wisconsin public entities under ONE single liability policy form.

COVERAGES	VALUE-ADDED SERVICES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » General Liability » Automobile Liability » Public Officials Errors & Omissions » Property » Workers' Compensation » Cyber Liability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Broad-range risk management and loss control services, including on-site training » Online safety training » Community Insurance Care Line - 24/7 nurse triage service for work-related injuries

To learn more, please contact
Josh Dirkse, Aegis Corporation,
1.800.236.6885 or josh@aegis-wi.com



COMMUNITY
INSURANCE
CORPORATION

As with any capable, reputable utility, Kaukauna Utilities will always make it our mission to deliver reliable, affordable, responsible service. But as a municipally owned provider, we do so for an even bigger purpose, which is to help make our community a great place to live, work, and play.

About the Author:

Brittany Simonson is the Communications Coordinator, serving both Kaukauna Utilities and the city of Kaukauna. She is responsible for news, web, and social media, community relations, and communication efforts for both organizations. In this role, Brittany hopes to build trust with both the customers of Kaukauna Utilities and the residents of the city of Kaukauna through an active social media presence and up-to-date website content. Contact Brittany at bsimonson@ku-wi.org

Let's show the world what we can do together.

Day by day. Project by project.
Together we're building better places that bring the world closer.




Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

Building a Better World for All of Us®
sehinc.com/subscribe • 800.325.2055

**Building Communities.
It's what we do.**



- Debt Issuance & Management
- Financial Management Planning
- Economic Development & Redevelopment
- Investment & Treasury Management
- Arbitrage Consulting



LEADERS IN PUBLIC FINANCE

✉ info@ehlers-inc.com ☎ 1 (800) 552-1171 🌐 www.ehlers-inc.com



Public Power Benefits Utility Customers, Communities

Tim Heinrich, Executive Director, Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin

Truth be told, most utility customers don't think much about who supplies the power to their homes. Unless or until there's an outage, electricity is something a vast majority of us simply take for granted. Residents of 81 communities across Wisconsin receive their electric service from a locally controlled, community-owned utility. The nearly 480,000 residents of those communities enjoy benefits of "public power" that aren't available to electricity customers served by larger investor-owned utilities or electric cooperatives.

Like community schools, libraries, and parks, public power utilities are local institutions working to meet local needs. Public power means homes and businesses run on electricity provided by a not-for-profit, locally owned utility. That means the community has more control, so all the benefits produced by public power – including affordable energy costs, superior service, and a focus on local goals – stay in the community. Decisions about how the electric utility is run are made by people who live and work in the community, not by corporations. In the end, public power does exactly what its name suggests – putting power in the hands of the public.

Public power has a long history in the United States. Locally owned public power utilities first appeared in the late 1800s. At a time when investor-owned utilities focused on earning profits by building the infrastructure to serve large cities, leaders in smaller and more remote areas took initiative to create electric utilities and provide light and power to their citizens. And while many of those utilities were sold to larger interests during the 20th century, thousands of communities chose to preserve this valuable asset and the local control it provides. Today, more than 2,000 communities across the country enjoy the advantages of public power. In fact, some of the nation's largest cities, including Los Angeles, Nashville, Orlando, San Antonio, and Seattle, operate locally owned electric utilities.

Other utility companies are sometimes called "public" because they provide electric service to everyone – but that doesn't make them true public power utilities. Each public power utility is unique, delivering service to their municipality. In Wisconsin, the community of New Richmond was the first to establish its own electric utility – in 1890. There were more than 50 public power utilities in the state by 1920. Today,

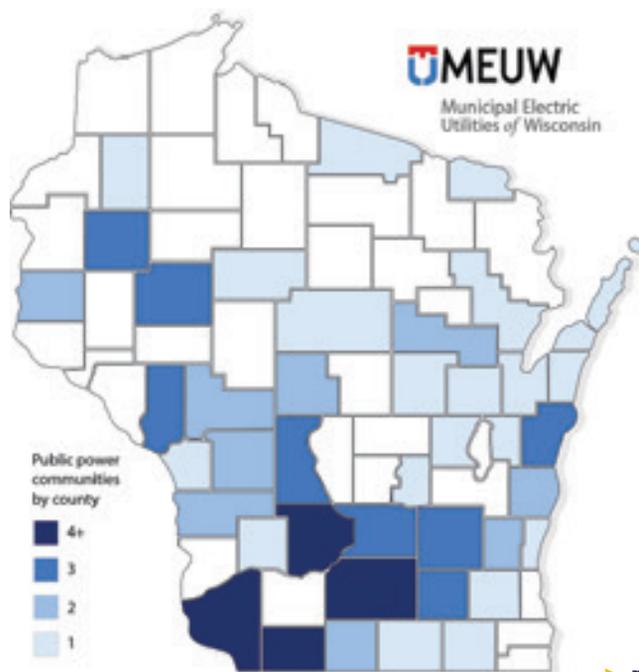
Wisconsin's 81 community-owned utilities deliver about 11 percent of the state's electricity, and nearly 80 percent of those utilities have been in business for a century or more.

Not-for-Profit, Affordable Rates

Because local public power utilities are owned and operated by the communities they serve, there are no stockholders to please or profits to make. Electricity prices are set locally – typically by a citizen-controlled board or commission – and in open meetings where community members can influence local energy policies. Local needs are considered when decisions are made about rates and services, power generation, renewable energy, and sustainability. And that way public power revenues can be reinvested to maintain and upgrade the local electric system, including substations and distribution lines, and in community programs and projects that benefit the common good.

Community Focused, Locally Controlled

Public power utilities are naturally focused on enhancing community value. By existing in the community in which they serve, municipal utilities create jobs and support the local economy. In 2018, Wisconsin's community-owned utilities





The best path forward.

PREEMINENT MUNICIPAL LEGAL
REPRESENTATION

For over 50 years, we have worked side by side with cities, villages, and towns throughout Wisconsin and the upper Midwest to navigate the complex legal issues they face. Together we chart the best path forward.


BoardmanClark

BOARDMANCLARK.COM | (608) 257-9521



Municipal utility crews from across the state helped to restore power after severe storms caused devastating damage to the electric system in Wisconsin Rapids in July 2019. In total, 120 utility workers from 44 Wisconsin communities were marshaled to provide “mutual aid” assistance, including the replacement of more than 150 broken poles damaged in the storm.

made payments in lieu of taxes to their municipality that totaled more than \$23.2 million. These payments are then injected back into the city, town, or village.

And, because all decisions are made locally, a municipal utility is uniquely able to respond to the community’s needs, build on the community’s strengths, and reflect the community’s values. They work to develop economic incentives and electric service infrastructure to attract and retain employers, delivering high-value products and services and supporting improvements that enhance the quality of life. Public power utilities are uniquely positioned to meet the changing needs of their communities.

Wisconsin communities served by public power come in all shapes and sizes. The smallest is Viola with around 400 electricity customers and the largest in Manitowoc with more than 18,000 customers. The median number of customers among the 81 utilities is 1,900. Collectively, more than 295,000 customers receive service from a public power utility in the Badger State.

Highly Reliable and Responsive Service

Aside from all the other benefits, public power customers typically lose power less often and for shorter periods of time. If an outage does happen, customers call a local number and talk with someone who knows the community. Line workers typically live and work in the community they serve, so their response time is lessened.

Another important aspect of public power is the level of collaboration and cooperation among all of the utilities. There is truly a sense of community within the community-owned electric providers. The utilities don’t compete with one another and share a common focus on delivering superior service and keeping workers and the community safe. Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) is the statewide trade association that supports public power in the state, providing safety and management training and organizing networking opportunities for its member utilities. MEUW was formed more than 90 years ago as the “common voice” of public power and continues to play an important role in unifying and strengthening Wisconsin’s community-owned utilities.

The public power community in Wisconsin is strong. Like other industries, the electric-utility business faces workforce challenges as a large number of longtime workers approach retirement age. Jobs in public power offer prospective employees the chance to stay in their hometown and pursue a career as an electric lineworker, metering technician, engineer, and other fulfilling roles. New opportunities open up all the time, and the latest postings are available on the “Employment” page of MEUW.org

Public power has been an important part of Wisconsin’s energy landscape for more than a century. The communities and electric customers served by the state’s 81 locally controlled, not-for-profit municipal utilities enjoy a wide array of benefits that help to make Wisconsin a great place to live.

About the Author:

Tim Heinrich is Executive Director of Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin, the statewide trade association providing safety services, leadership and management training, advocacy, and member support to the 81 community-owned electric utilities across Wisconsin. He has more than 25 years of experience in the electric-utility industry. Contact Tim at theinrich@meuw.org or www.meuw.org and on Twitter: @MuniElecWis



Nielsen Madsen + Barber
 CIVIL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
 Municipal / Transportation / Land Surveying
 Airports / Planning / Construction Management
 Racine, Wisconsin ■ (262) 634-5588 ■ www.nmbisc.net




FULL-SERVICE IN-HOUSE SOLUTIONS THAT HELP SHAPE OUR COMMUNITIES

110 YEARS OF SERVICE 1909 - 2019

McMAHON ENGINEERS ARCHITECTS

920 751 4200 | MCMGRP.COM

- Architecture
- Wastewater Systems
- Waste-to-Energy
- Water Systems
- Municipal Engineering
- Environment/Ecology
- Water Resources
- Transportation
- Parks & Recreation
- Land Surveying
- Site Development
- Geospatial Solutions
- GIS Development
- BIM
- Structural Engineering
- Industrial Engineering
- Electrical/Controls
- Mechanical HVAC/Plumbing
- Funding Strategies, Solutions and Grant Assistance
- Construction Services
- Design-Build Services
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Local Government, Parks & Recreation and K12 Administration Specialists
- Operations Services



REGISTERED ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
 MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONSULTANTS
 La Crosse, WI 54601
 Phone (608) 782-3130
www.davyinc.com



DESIGNING UTILITIES THAT FIT YOUR GROWING NEEDS

ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING • SURVEY • ENVIRONMENTAL • ENGINEERING • GIS

1-888-364-7272

meadhunt.com



Engineering • Architecture • Surveying
 Planning • Economic Development
 Landscape Architecture • Environmental
 800-472-7372
www.cedarcorp.com
 Since 1975
 Dedication. Quality. Success



Excellence in Engineering Since 1946.

Madison 608.251.4843
 Milwaukee 414.271.0771
www.strand.com



Municipal Water Works in the Modern Age

Chris Groh, Executive Director, Wisconsin Rural Water Association

It used to be that running a municipal water or wastewater utility was a fairly easy process that supplied safe drinking water and a clean discharge of wastewater into the environment. Most of the really polluted scenes we all saw as children (well, when I was a child in the '60s and '70s) were caused by large manufacturing conglomerates and multinational companies that were in the beginning stages of becoming the billion dollar industries we see now. Environmental issues weren't really addressed until 1973 when it got so bad that the government felt they needed to start reigning in the awful pollution that was happening. This was the beginning of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Fortunately, they also had the foresight to know that the polluted environment would lead to drinking water issues, so that part of EPA was developed later. Now almost 50 years later many things have happened to increase our protection from pollution, as well as the need for water and wastewater systems to increase and improve the processes to comply with these issues.

Systems were developed to increase treatments (both water and wastewater) which demand more technical operation and knowledge of the municipal plants. Water systems that took care of basic treatments are now asked to perform filtration, mineral removal, softening, corrosion control, and disinfection without byproducts. Wastewater systems are now tasked to remove nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen; and do so without the proper designs or equipment. Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) was formed in 1981 to help small municipalities cope with the new tasks of the modern water and wastewater industry and to help systems sustain their infrastructure, which is a task one can never keep up with. WRWA renders technical assistance and training for small systems (serving populations under 10,000) and is funded through USDA Rural Development loans and grants. Our business is to keep our small systems in compliance and to help sustain the infrastructure that all small municipalities have and coax the processes to do what it's not designed to do. We have been very successful in doing this and we have saved many millions of taxpayer dollars across the state. But, sometimes we have to deal with the reality that some systems have to be updated.

Our members are the rural heart of America, which often means they are frugal and want to spend their money wisely. Water and wastewater rates are often way behind being able to pay outright for system improvements and village boards and public works departments are loathe to increase rates. The realization that rates may need to double or triple to be able to upgrade the city's treatment facilities is one of the bigger issues we deal with the most. We can get USDA Rural Development involved with funding, which is very much a partnership that serves both parties. Rural Development offers low-interest loans, and also grants for many projects. This service can alleviate large rate increases and make the municipality more fiscally sustaining. One of the best examples is the recent issue of phosphorus removal in wastewater effluents. Phosphorus is a natural byproduct of human life and most wastewater plants are not designed to remove it very efficiently. The state DNR determined that the limits in effect were not accomplishing the goals for environmental levels, so extremely low limits were developed, limits that no wastewater plant could comply with. With scientific theories and experimental work, WRWA has actually changed the way existing plants can be run to reduce phosphorus levels almost to the very low limits established. Once again saving many millions of taxpayer dollars. But again, some systems just had to be upgraded or replaced, so Rural Development stepped in to fund new plants in quite a few villages across the state.

In the modern water works world there was an event that occurred in Flint Michigan that the whole world watched unfold. I don't need to remind anyone of the lead and water issues from several years ago, but this scenario opened many eyes to the state of water infrastructure and made regulating authorities look inward to their own states to head off and deal with possible problems at home. Lead and copper rules have been developed routinely for many years, but the latest rules developed by the EPA and DNR are very stringent and are aimed at total lead line replacement. A very hard issue is how do we deal with private services that may or may not contain lead? It is difficult to ask a governmental agency such as a village board to authorize public money to replace private services, leaving the homeowner with a question as to how to deal with the possibility of a lead contamination in their home.

The new lead and copper rule puts the onus of lead testing and removal on public water utilities, many of which are very small and poor. Once again WRWA can step in and get small utilities in compliance and connect them with the technical and financial skills to survive another onslaught of regulations.

We have many municipal operators ready to retire over the next few years. One of the most difficult issues we are facing is replacing these very experienced dedicated people who have kept us healthy and our environment clean. Our continuing ability to train and get these operators certified and able to run their systems efficiently and at its highest ability is an ongoing project. Of course WRWA has been conducting operator certification training for many years and we continue to offer this service. Again we are often imitated, but never duplicated in this area.

Many of our member systems are also experiencing growing pains with expansions of water and wastewater services for growing populations. WRWA has been able to supply funding options help, vulnerability assessments, and experienced, knowledgeable advice to accomplish these projects a little less painfully.

The list goes on for issues that WRWA and our member utilities deal with. Most all the issues that are important to our rural neighbors are covered in our training and ability to connect municipalities with vendor services across the state. We have been very successful in lobbying for our membership to mitigate regulations and we have the ability to assist our systems in such new areas as cyber security, sustainability, energy conservation, fiscal and managerial issues, and most any other modern day problem. We also manage to help systems plan for emergencies and have the capability to work across the state to deliver emergency equipment and labor. We constantly let our federal funding agencies know of our services to rural America and ask for their support yearly in Washington, D.C. Our success has made us a target for others to cut into our business and funding, but so far no one has the experience and technical ability we have to deliver this very needed service.

Our members across the state are not alone in the changing modern world of water and wastewater treatment. They know we have their back and have taken on state and federal regulatory issues for them and we fight for sensible and affordable resolutions to sometimes nonsensical regulations. Hopefully some day you will meet someone from our

► p.14

count on
EMC
INSURANCE

**THE SMART CHOICE
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

- Proven experience
- Competitive program
- Local, specialized expertise
- Loss control services

www.emcins.com
milwaukee@emcins.com

Trusted Choice® INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS

in f t o
www.emcins.com

©Copyright Employers Mutual Casualty Company 2019. All rights reserved.

association and have the chance to speak with them about the modern world of municipal work. You'll probably never meet another more knowledgeable person or someone more dedicated to your continuing health. Fortunately we at WRWA are able to help these fine people in their abilities to do this every day.

About the Author:

With Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) since 2000 as WRWA's Wastewater Trainer, Chris accepted the Executive Director position and is now involved with the

everyday workings of Rural Water. With over 36 years of experience in the industry and graduate degrees in both Microbiology and Water Chemistry, Chris brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the association. Chris was recognized by National Rural Water with a Wastewater Peer Leadership award in 2010 which mirrors his concern for the environment and its protection. In 2011 Chris was awarded the Koby Crabtree Award in recognition of exceptional technical support and expertise in the wastewater industry by the Wisconsin Wastewater Operator's Association. Contact Chris at CGroh@wrwa.org

Village of Roberts

(St. Croix County - Population 1,780)

The Wisconsin DNR imposed a phosphorus limit of 0.04 mg/L on the Village of Roberts. At the time this was put into the village's Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, there was no technology available to test or treat to that low of a limit. Through much time and expense, the Village has found the technology to achieve that limit. The village estimates the cost of this upgrade will be about \$5 million, financed through the Clean Water Fund and ultimately paid for by the 750 rate payers. Unfortunately, treating to ultra-low limits for any nutrients comes at a cost that must be passed onto the rate payers.

-John Bond, Director of Public Works, Village of Roberts



Rendering for the new Village of Roberts Wastewater Treatment Plant to be completed by the summer of 2020.

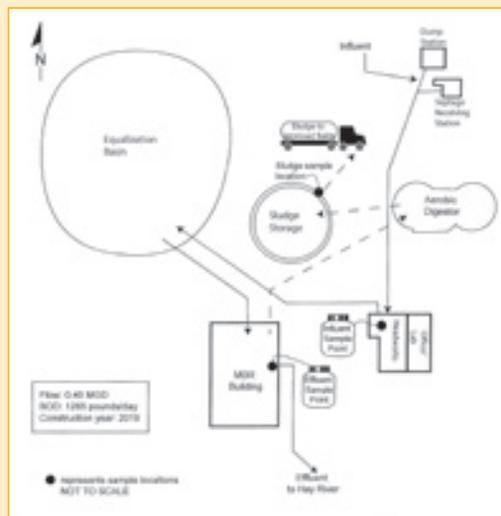
City of Cumberland

(Barron County - Population 2,300)

The Wisconsin DNR imposed a phosphorus limit of 0.075 mg/L on the City of Cumberland's Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). Since the city's WWTP was in need of an upgrade, the utility decided to find the right technology to meet this stringent level. In 2015 we decided to go with a membrane filtration system, to achieve the 0.075 limit before the water is discharged into the Hay River. The plant was put into service in July of 2016 at the cost of \$6 million, which was funded through an USDA loan, and unfortunately is passed along in the rates to the 1,100 rate payers. The WWTP has been achieving a level that is below 0.05, which is the lowest level that can be tested at any lab.

-Dean Bergstrom, General Manager, Cumberland Municipal Utility

City of Cumberland Wastewater Treatment Plant which consists of a headworks system (a screen and aerated grit chamber) followed by a Membrane Biological Reactor (MBR). An MBR is a combination of activated sludge treatment together with separation of the sludge by filtration to produce particle-free effluent.



Group Advocates on Stormwater Issues Affecting Municipalities



Curt Witynski, Deputy Executive Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities

The Local Government Stormwater Group is a section of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities consisting of communities that are subject to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4 communities) permitting by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The group was created in 2015 and currently has 68 members.

The group advocates on stormwater issues before the DNR, the governor's office, and the Wisconsin Legislature. The League has hired attorney Paul Kent to monitor legislation, DNR rule changes, DNR rule guidance, and other agency activities impacting on municipal responsibilities to manage and reduce pollutants in stormwater. The group regularly submits comments to DNR on guidance documents relating to stormwater and erosion control standards and submits comments on proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards for impaired waters.

The goal of the group is to ensure that local governments retain broad authority to implement sensible, cost-effective solutions for managing and treating stormwater in compliance with state standards. More information about the group's activities is posted on the League's website: <https://www.lwm-info.org/182/Local-Government-Stormwater-Group>

Two Examples of the Local Government Stormwater Group's Work in 2019 are:

Stormwater Utility State Budget Amendment Attempt.

League staff worked hard and were almost successful in amending the state budget to exempt stormwater fees from being covered under the levy limit law. The Legislature's budget writing committee voted 15-0 to approve a state budget amendment introduced by Sen. Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Rep. Born (R-Beaver Dam), at the League's request, removing stormwater management from the list of covered services for which any new or increased fee requires a corresponding levy limit reduction. Under the motion, municipalities that created a stormwater utility or increased stormwater fees would no longer need to reduce their allowable levy by the amount of fee revenue raised. Unfortunately, the amendment was deleted by the Assembly GOP leadership once the state budget was taken up by that house.

Changes to MS4 Permit. In February 2019, DNR released a draft WPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit for comment. On behalf of the League, attorneys Paul Kent and Vanessa Wishart worked with the Local Government Stormwater Group's technical advisory team to develop comments on the draft MS4 permit for submittal to DNR. Paul and Vanessa also arranged in person and telephone meetings with DNR to discuss League concerns. DNR made several changes to the general permit based on our comments.

Membership in the Municipal Storm Water Group is open to any MS4 community, including counties and towns. The annual cost varies by population size. The fee is \$600 annually for communities over 20,000 in population; \$400 for communities with populations between 10,000 and 20,000; and \$200 for communities with populations below 10,000.

If you are interested in joining the Municipal Storm Water Group, contact Curt Witynski, witynski@lwm-info.org

About the Author:

Curt Witynski is the League's Deputy Director. He manages the League's lobbying program, representing the League before the Legislature, the governor's office, and state agencies. Contact Curt at witynski@lwm-info.org

KUNKEL
engineering
group

- Municipal Engineering
- Cross Connection Inspection
- Building Inspection
- Funding Procurement
- Project Management
- Planning & Design

920-356-9447
107 Parallel St.
Beaver Dam, WI 53916
www.kunkelengineering.com

PAA

- ◆ Executive Search/Selection
- ◆ Interim Management
- ◆ Compensation Plans
- ◆ Fire and Emergency Services Studies
- ◆ Strategic Planning/Organizational Audits

public-administration.com
paassoc@northnet.net
262-903-9509

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ASSOCIATES, LLC

Kevin Brunner David Bretl Christopher Swartz

DID YOU KNOW?



Wisconsin's Municipally Owned Utilities

In Wisconsin, there are approximately

- ★ 575 municipally owned water utilities
- ★ 81 electric utilities
- ★ 1 gas utility
- ★ And 600 wastewater utilities



Declining Water Use a Mixed Blessing for Madison, Other Wisconsin Communities

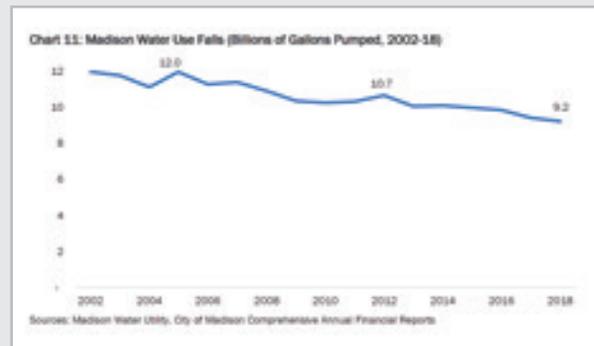
Included in our recent research on the city of Madison's budget is a look at key trends in meeting its water needs, including a decline in water use during the last two decades.

The Madison Water Utility pumped about 23 percent fewer gallons in 2018 than it did in 2002 despite robust growth in the city's population over those years. (See chart.) This was driven in part by Madison residents using less water, but it also reflects the loss of large industrial water consumers in the city such as dairies, the Oscar Mayer plant, and Bimbo Bakeries.

Other communities in Wisconsin have seen similar changes in their industrial landscape that also had a significant impact on water use. One example is the former Village of Brokaw in Marathon County, which dissolved and merged its functions, including water utilities, with a neighboring village following a local paper plant closure.

Declining water use has positive implications for the state's environment. But the flipside is it means the water utility's costs are being spread over a smaller volume of water, which can increase pressure to raise water rates, as Madison did.

Additional cost pressures that public water systems face include the need to replace aging infrastructure, such as water mains and pumping and treatment systems. Many communities also have lead lateral service lines in need of replacement.



Providing clean drinking water at reasonable cost to users is a core function for many municipalities, and balancing competing factors in doing so will continue to be a challenge for them going forward.

This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state's leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education. Learn more at wispolicyforum.org

Working Successfully with the Media

How to Instill Trust and Confidence in your Community Through the News

Stephanie Marquis, President, SME LLC



Rolling out a new ordinance. Tornadoes and dangerous storms. A public health outbreak. A tragic accident or active shooter. Conflict among board members. Taxes.

If you have an important issue or emergency in your community, expect media to come knocking on your door. This article will provide advice on how to work with reporters, and why it is so important that you do so successfully.

The first step is acknowledging the face of news has changed with the onset of 24-hour news channels and social media. According to the Pew Research Center, about two-thirds of Americans now get their news from social media channels such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.

With the fast pace of social media comes the desire of each news outlet to beat its competitors to a story, which means you'll be asked to respond to requests faster than ever before. And, stories are inherently built upon conflict. So, how do you put your best foot forward?

Media Stories Shape Perception

Your overall reputation is shaped by what gets reported in the newspaper, on TV, or on the radio. This perception directly impacts the ability to carry out your mission successfully. If your department is perceived as being unsuccessful, ineffective, or wasteful, it can be a challenge going forward. It can take only seconds to damage or lose a good reputation, and years to overcome a negative perception.

Therefore, it is essential to understand how to be honest, ethical, and forthcoming in your interactions with reporters

and media outlets, while getting your message across and protecting your community.

Communication Goals

Whether responding in a crisis or emergency situation, or simply trying to determine the best way to communicate an issue or policy, these communication objectives apply:

- Build knowledge and understanding
- Motivate and influence behavior
- Set the stage for future messaging
- Build trust and credibility

In addition to educating the audience, you may wish to affect behavior such as getting your community members to stay away from a scene, register to vote, attend a meeting, follow the direction of police or fire officials, and much more. You may also need to set the stage for future messaging, essentially preparing for additional stories.

As an example, if a tornado hits, the damage will be the focus of initial news coverage. Follow-up stories will feature how people are getting back on their feet and rebuilding their homes, so you could note in the first story how the community is strong and working together, but cleanup will take some time. Future messaging is essentially setting expectations for what may come next.

Perhaps the most important communication objective is the opportunity to build trust and credibility with your citizens

through the media. You can instill confidence with the public based upon how you respond to news outlets.

Interview Tips

» **Be the first to break the news.** When there is an issue that could cause angst or a strong emotional response from members of your community, be the first to share it. This instills trust because you come across as an informative, upfront leader. It also provides the additional advantage of being proactive in explaining the topic from your point of view instead of being responsive to questions.

When confronted with an emergency, quickly get the right people around the table (in person, virtually, and/or on the phone) to discuss and determine an initial course of action. Do not wait for email.

o **EXAMPLE:** Unfortunately, cyberattacks are now more commonplace. If you get hacked, you may prefer to wait to talk about what happened until you have all the background details. But, from the community's perspective, I'm going to be really angry if you wait days or weeks to divulge that my personal information could have been accessed. This severely damages trust. You can be first

with the facts you know at the time and share what you're doing to protect citizens from any further impact.

» **Word choice matters.** Facts are important, and so is word choice. You have the ability to calm or inflame a situation with your words, and when people are stressed or upset, their ability to comprehend information drops to about a 6th grade reading level. So, as you're developing your statement or preparing for an interview, avoid acronyms and jargon. Keep it simple and easy to understand – plain language.

o **EXAMPLE:** Would you be confused if I said the local TV station called and they don't know if they want a VO/SOT or package, but they will definitely want b-roll? It is much easier to comprehend, "The TV station called; they want to interview someone, and will also need video footage." That's taking jargon and translating it for the audience. Feel free to use acronyms and lingo with your peers, but be mindful of your word choice when communicating with others.

» **Use a spokesperson who can express empathy.** Again, people shift from facts to perception in times of high stress or emotion – what they think is happening. This could be based upon their own assumptions or the rumor mill. *Your community members want to know you care about*

► p.19



WE HAVE YOUR BACK

To learn more about WEA Trust:

► weatrust.com/info

Choose WEA Trust for Your Health Insurance Needs

Just like The League of Wisconsin Municipalities was created to help Wisconsin cities and villages, WEA Trust was created to help the public sector with health insurance.

That means we know public employees better than anyone else in the industry. Put your Trust in us and choose WEA Trust for your health insurance needs.



ADV 0019-1218

them before they can truly hear and comprehend the rest of the details.

Empathy comes first, and the compassion must be genuine. Recognize the emotions and feelings of your audience before moving forward.

- o EXAMPLE: Your municipality will be raising taxes to meet budgetary demands. The reporter will ask how much money you need, what it will be used for, etc. Before explaining all the ins and outs of your new tax policy, start with empathy. It could be as simple as saying, “Raising taxes is never popular...” or “We understand people are concerned about what this means for their own pocketbook...” This type of statement recognizes what community members may be feeling, and then you can continue into why raising taxes is important, such as preserving important police, fire, and sanitation services.

Whomever you choose to be spokesperson should be the same person throughout the event, whether it lasts one day or one year. A consistent, recognizable face provides consistency.

If needed, consider two spokespeople: one who can express compassion and deliver the message, and another who has the technical knowledge. A nice advantage for municipalities: the closer a spokesperson is to the community, the more he or she is viewed as trustworthy. For instance, you have more credibility because you are part of the local community vs. someone from the state or federal level.

» Practice, practice, practice...and then practice aloud.

There will be a variety of audiences to consider: residents, the general public, victims, other governmental officials, employees, stakeholders, and more. Identify the common questions and concerns these audiences have, and you will be able to anticipate at least 95 percent of the questions you’ll get from reporters.

Once you get a media request, **take at least a minute or two before doing an interview.** Practice your answers out loud in your office, your car, in front of your mirror – even better if someone will play the role of reporter for you. Preparing aloud helps focus your mind, so that what you actually say during the conversation is what you intended.

- » **Talk in soundbytes.** Remember how media outlets are trying to get the scoop on a story? Talking in soundbytes – or snippets that last about 15 seconds – is helpful for two reasons:

- o First, talking in soundbytes helps keep your answers in context because, if your answer is short, it is more likely to be used in its entirety. If you talk and talk and talk, the reporter decides which part of your quote to use. I promise you will be asked more than one question, so you will have multiple opportunities to make your point instead of trying to say everything in the first answer. Express empathy right out of the gate, respond to the question, and continue on from there.
- o Second, reporters appreciate soundbytes because it makes their job easier when filing their news story. If you provide short and complete answers, the reporter can sort through the information more easily. Again, keeping it brief increases your chances of having your entire response included.
- o The exception: a live TV or radio interview. During those interviews, the host is expecting you to expound further when you answer.

- » **Do not speculate. If you’re wrong, it can take years to build back trust.** At some point, you’ll be pressed to answer a speculative question. This type of inquiry is often followed by, “Can you just tell me yes or no.”

- o EXAMPLE: if there is a heating fuel shortage, the reporter may ask, “Is it possible that people in the community won’t be able to get the fuel they need to heat their homes this winter – yes or no?” If you answer this speculative question with a “yes” or “maybe,” how will the headline read?

Instead, focus on what you *do* know. “At this time, we are working with our citizens to help them find the fuel they need. We will continue to monitor this situation closely, and want residents to contact us if they need assistance.” You answered the question, kept it short, and gave the community an action step – you motivated behavior. If asked again, repeat the answer, and then ask if they have another question to keep the interview moving forward.

- o When I was leading communications related to a building fire that displaced hundreds of government employees, rumors were rampant about what caused the fire. When I was asked by reporters if the cause could be X or Y, if I would have said it was *possible* that X triggered the fire and was then wrong, the next time I was asked a factual question, my credibility would have been shot. In addition, it was important to turn this question over to the correct source to answer: the fire department.

o **CARDINAL RULE: NEVER say “no comment.”** This makes a person seem guilty or that he/she is hiding something. I want to be responsive to the taxpayers and maintain my relationship with the reporter, so instead, I personally say something along the lines of, “Thank you for reaching out, but I do not have anything to add to your story.”

» Develop relationships with media now. Become familiar with your local paper, TV, and radio reporters. Grab a cup of coffee, or pitch good stories to the news outlets when you have them. These relationships can go a long way when an emergency or other important issue arises because you will have developed a working relationship in advance.

My hope is you will develop trust and build a strong reputation with your community when working with media.

About the Author:

Stephanie Marquis, President of SME LLC, is a high-impact public relations strategist with 25+ years’ experience.

She has extensive knowledge as a speaker, instructor, and consultant on a variety of topics including strategic, risk and emergency communication, media relations, marketing and brand development, communicating with customers, and much more. These tips are excerpts from her crisis and strategic communications training, as well as her experience in developing emergency response plans. Contact Stephanie at hello@stephaniemarquis.com

Crack Filling Service Corp.
Pioneers in crack routing and rubberized sealants
1-800-732-4379
 Jeff Herring Jim Herring Scott Herring Greg Herring
 4033 Barlow Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528

 **DELTA 3**
EVERY ANGLE COVERED
 Professional Civil, Municipal & Structural Engineering
 Architecture • Grant Writing • Land Development • Planning & CADD Services
 Phone: (608) 348-5355 ▲ Website: www.delta3eng.biz ▲ Platteville, WI



PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (P3)

- An Innovative Tool for Your Community

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR SERVICES

- Interim Administrator Services
- Professional Staff Recruitment
- TIF District Implementation
- Additional Professional Services

PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES:

- Grant Writing and Administration
- Open Space Plan Development
- Interim Services

920.751.4200
 NEENAH WI MACHESNEY PARK IL VALPARAISO IN



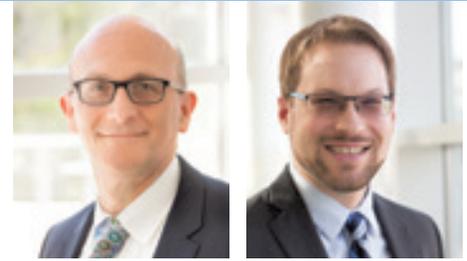
**Together,
 let's achieve the
 GOALS of YOUR
 COMMUNITY.**




IPR-P3.COM
 A MCMAHON AFFILIATE COMPANY

Municipal Utility Governance: Options and Responsibilities

Attorneys Richard Heinemann and Jared Walker Smith,
Boardman & Clark, LLP



It is generally understood that a municipality operates its water, electric, and sewer utilities as a public service to community residents, businesses, and industries. But in an era where drinking water concerns, aging infrastructure, and clean energy priorities increasingly capture the public's attention, achieving the full benefits of municipal utility ownership seems more important than ever before. With that end in mind, this article will first describe what municipal public utilities do and the regulatory landscape within which they operate, and then lay out the various governing structures available for running them.

The Utility Industry and the Role of Regulation

A public utility is classically defined as a business charged with the public interest. In the United States, the principle of utility regulation – the so-called “regulatory compact” – centers on the idea that the public utility is granted the right to serve customers exclusively in its defined territory and earn a fair and reasonable return on its assets in exchange for the obligation to serve all its customers in its territory in a non-discriminatory manner and allow regulators access to the utility's books and records for the purpose of establishing just and reasonable rates.¹ Public utilities may be municipally or investor-owned.

In contrast to investor-owned utilities, municipally owned utilities do not earn their fair and reasonable return for the benefit of shareholders. Instead, municipal utility profits stay in the community, allowing utility assets to

directly meet the needs of local residents and businesses. In Wisconsin, there are approximately 575 municipally-owned water utilities, 81 electric utilities, 1 gas utility, and 600 wastewater utilities.

All public utilities in Wisconsin, except wastewater utilities, are regulated by the Public Service Commission (PSC). In most other states, municipal utilities are regulated by the local unit of government itself, and not by a state commission. The PSC regulates most aspects of water, electric, and gas utility operations. This includes authorizing major construction projects; establishing retail rates with an authorized rate base and reasonable rate of return; enforcing customer service, customer protection and safety rules to ensure reasonable and adequate service; and imposing specialized reporting and accounting systems.²

Unlike municipally owned water, electric, and gas utilities, municipal stormwater and wastewater systems are not defined as “public utilities,” which are subject to full PSC regulation.³ Consequently, municipalities may determine and set rates, rules, and practices governing use of their municipal sewerage systems. The PSC retains limited authority to hear complaints about such rates, rules or practices, and, when warranted, may set them, or provide other relief. While different statutes provide for the formation and operation of municipal sewerage systems, municipalities may still establish a governance system similar to their public utilities.

PSC regulation is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, regulation ensures

greater scrutiny of rates, construction costs and service obligations, which, in theory, is good for customers. It also affords utilities some cover for imposing necessary rate increases required to maintain system reliability and service quality. On the other hand, PSC hearings can be time-consuming, costly, and complicated, requiring expertise and sometimes outside assistance. This is especially true when dealing with complex policy issues where achieving equitable outcomes is not always straightforward.

Wisconsin's municipal water systems, for example, face estimated costs of \$8.5 billion over the next 15 years to meet existing drinking water priorities, such as the replacement of aging infrastructure and the elimination of lead service lines.⁴ To actively address these costs through rate setting, utilities must involve the PSC. The PSC recently approved substantial rate increases for the cities of Janesville and Marshfield to finance ongoing replacement of their aging mains.⁵ Other communities are implementing new PSC-approved and utility-financed programs to assist residents with the replacement of their lead laterals.⁶

The bottom line is that PSC regulatory oversight means that local governments do not have complete control of their water, electric, and to some extent, sewer and stormwater utilities. This is true regardless of how the municipal utilities are managed and governed.

Municipal Governance Options

The broadest authority for the management and governance of municipal utility operations derives from statutory home rule.⁷ This is an extremely broad grant of authority with respect to the management and control of “the public service” through regulation, license, tax levy, appropriation, and “other necessary or convenient means.” Although this language, as well as Wisconsin case law,⁸ would appear to confer free reign to local governments for organizing and managing their utilities, Wis. Stat. § 66.0805 in the municipal utility subchapter specifies the most common governance alternatives: management by a local utility commission and (for cities of the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th class, villages or towns) management through the board of public works or other officers.⁹

Utility Commissions

Under a utility commission form of governance, a municipality creates a non-partisan utility commission to be responsible for the management and control of utility operations while remaining under the general control and supervision of the governing body. The utility commission may have 3, 5, or 7 commissioners, and is intended to function as a semi-autonomous public body with authority, among other things, to appoint and establish the compensation of a manager, enlist the services of municipal engineers, contract for utility services in its own name, retain its own attorneys, and supervise construction of its own facilities, rather than through the board of public works. Utility commissions, however, cannot tax or borrow; nor do they otherwise constitute a separate legal entity apart from the municipality that created it. Although members of the governing body can be on the commission, they must be in the minority.

According to Wis. Stat. § 66.0805(1), a city exercises its control and supervision by enacting ordinances. But it is not always clear what distinguishes a semi-independent utility commission from other city departments. As a practical matter, it’s a good idea to align city and commission policies and practices when it comes to human resources matters, contracting, bidding, and purchasing. So while a commission may determine what piece of equipment should be purchased, for example, the actual purchase can be made in accordance with the city’s general purchasing policies.

While in practice the lines of authority as between a utility commission and the governing body may sometimes appear blurry, the courts have made it clear that once a utility commission is created, a governing body cannot undo the independence of the commission by, for example, establishing a sub-committee of the council to set wages or usurp other commission responsibilities.¹⁰

Because utility commissions are designed to be non-partisan in nature, they can be run more like a business. Moreover, the best run commissions benefit from expertise and continuity, which are at a premium in a business that by its very nature is complex and ever-changing. However, it goes without saying that a commission cannot be oblivious to the politics of the municipality – the governing body always retains the right to eliminate the commission it has created.

Board of Public Works

A board of public works operates in some ways like a utility commission – it is comprised of commissioners, it has certain powers and duties delegated by statute, and its general duty is “to superintend all public works and keep the streets, alleys, sewers and public works and places in repair” under the direction

of the city council. Unlike a utility commission, a Board of Public Works is unique to cities, created pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 62.14.¹¹ In all cities but cities of the 2nd class, the board of public works commissioners are the city attorney, city comptroller, and city engineer. In 2nd class cities, the commissioners are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council. In any city, by a two-thirds vote, the council may determine the board of public works to consist of other officers or persons. A city may also eliminate the board of public works and assign its duties to the council, another committee, or an officer or officers.

While there remains some insulation from the city council and partisan politics, ultimately the board of public works lacks a utility commission’s quasi-independent stature and is subject to greater city council control. For example, a board of public works typically does not have the authority to contract separately from the city or retain its own legal counsel. Nevertheless, because of the flexibility in how a city may select board of public works commissioners, when those selections are made wisely, boards of public works can also benefit from expertise and continuity.

Other Options

Municipalities have a range of other governance options contemplated by both Wis. Stat. §§ 66.0805 and 62.14. Municipal utilities may be run by a committee of the governing body or a new utility board or other commission not expressly given the powers of a Wis. Stat. § 66.0805 commission.¹² Both a committee and utility board function similarly and have similar considerations to a board of public works. However, since a committee or utility board are non-statutory, the governing body has greater reign to determine how they will function and retains discretion in what powers and duties it assigns to the

committee or utility board. Additionally, the governing body may determine the composition of the committee or utility board members, which may include members of the governing body¹³ and local residents. Consequently, a committee or utility board may still allow for building some of the expertise of a utility commission, while retaining more control by the governing body. However, a committee or utility board is less insulated from partisan politics, which means it may not always be inclined to prioritize long-term planning.

If opting for a non-statutory form of utility governance, municipalities should take care to craft the authorizing ordinance and committee or board structure appropriately in order to avoid confusion over scope of authority, encourage retention of expertise, and discourage breakdowns in trust or communication.

A governing body could also decide to exercise direct control over the operation of its municipal utilities. This would maximize control, but it's not clear that the results would be optimal since governing body members are typically generalists without the special expertise typically required to manage complex

utility operations. Moreover, since governing body members are subject to election and must devote substantial time to the operation of every other aspect of the municipality, direct management of a utility by the governing body is rarely the best option.

Conclusion

Regardless of the governance structure, there are a few principles for governing bodies to keep in mind. While municipal officials must always act for the common good of the municipality, when it comes to municipal utilities, it is especially important to act in essence as a trustee of utility property to ensure that long-term investments made by previous governing bodies are protected for the benefit of the public. If municipal utility decisions are delegated, the governing body should respect the expertise of its advisors, particularly with respect to the details of utility operations, while keeping an eye on the long term.

Governing officials should also have a basic understanding of utility rules of operation, rate setting, and environmental protection. Whenever possible, they should avail themselves of opportunities offered by trade groups and associations such as the Municipal Electric Utilities

of Wisconsin, American Public Power Association, Municipal Environmental Group-Water Division, American Water Works Association, Wisconsin Rural Water Association, and other groups to learn about new technology and policy developments.

With several options available, municipalities should carefully consider which governance structure is likely to yield the best results for their communities.

Public Utilities 356

About the Authors:

Jared Walker Smith is an attorney at Boardman & Clark LLP, where his practice focuses on general municipal, water utility, and real estate law. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College and the UW Law School. Contact Jared at jsmith@boardmanclark.com

Richard A. Heinemann is an attorney at Boardman & Clark LLP. He advises a wide range of municipalities and local governments in Wisconsin on all areas of municipal law, with a focus on energy issues. Contact Richard at rheinemann@boardmanclark.com

1. *Munn v. People of State of Illinois*, 94 U.S. 113 (1876).
2. The PSC also has the authority to exercise oversight over all municipalities, not just municipal utilities, when it comes to the regulation of public utility use of municipal rights of way under Wis. Stat. § 196.58(4) and (5).
3. Combined water and wastewater utilities are, however, fully regulated by the PSC.
4. See Wisconsin's Public Water Systems 2018 Annual Drinking Water Report, PUB-DG-045 2019 (July 2019).
5. See Final Decisions in PSC dockets 2740-WR-110 and 3420-WR-106.
6. For example, the City of Kenosha implemented the first PSC-approved lead service line replacement program under Wis. Stat. § 196.372. See PSC docket 2820-LS-100.
7. Wis. Stat. §§ 61.34(1) and 62.11(5).
8. *Hack v. City of Mineral Point*, 203 Wis. 215, 219, 233 N.W. 82 (1930)("[A] city operating under the general chapter finding no limitations in express language has under the provisions of this chapter all the powers that the Legislature could by any possibility confer upon it").
9. It is worth noting that funds generated through utility operations are considered enterprise funds. Governing body access to such funds is therefore restricted by state law (Wis. Stat. § 66.0811), PSC rules and in some instances, by revenue bond covenants.
10. See *Schroeder v. City of Clintonville*, 90 Wis. 2d 457, 280 N.W.2d 166 (1979).
11. In villages, the village board functions as the board of public works for purposes of letting contracts under Wis. Stat. § 61.54.
12. The City of Madison provides one example of non-66.0805 utility board governance. City of Madison Code of Ordinances Section 13.01.
13. When designating members of the governing body to a committee or utility board or commission, municipalities must consider the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 66.0501, which restricts the ability of elected officials to serve on boards over which they have the authority of selecting members.



2. Training

Recognizing the signs of impairment is an important factor in dealing with THC or any other substance that can impair a person at work. Managers and staff should be trained to spot signs of impairment, as well as indications that an employee is trying to hide his or her impairment. They should also be trained in how to handle a suspected impaired employee, and how to document observations and other evidence of potential impairment. Further, managers must know how to appropriately administer the drug testing policy.

3. Drug Testing

Wisconsin employers can conduct drug and alcohol testing 1) on a pre-employment basis for candidates to whom a conditional offer has been made, 2) when reasonable suspicion indicates that a current employee is potentially impaired, and 3) on a random basis for employees who are required to have a CDL. Testing must be done within

the parameters of a written policy, and a state-accredited lab must be used to do the testing. The policy must be disseminated to affected employees and applicants, and the consequences of a positive test must be clearly outlined.

There is some indication that CBD use can cause a positive drug test result, even at low levels and particularly with repeated use.⁸ Drug testing is currently unable to identify whether marijuana or CBD caused the positive THC result.

Wisconsin employers are not required to exempt positive tests due to CBD. At this point in the legal landscape, policies could adopt the same approach taken by the federal Department of Transportation (DOT), which makes a positive drug test for THC a policy violation for any safety-sensitive position, regardless of whether its source is marijuana or CBD.⁹ For organizations who choose not to take this approach, at a minimum, any employee claiming that CBD caused a positive test result should be required to produce a

doctor's authorization for medical use, as well as the medical provider's certification that the substance will not cause the employee to be impaired and unable to safely perform assigned job duties.

Conclusion

Employers have an obligation to protect their employees. Using sound policies, training, and testing, organizations can deal with staff who may be under the influence or impaired by any substance. Nevertheless, there are many different factors that may come into play in a particular situation, and the interplay of other laws, such as Wisconsin's use of lawful products statute¹⁰ or reasonable accommodation under the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act¹¹ could potentially factor into the analysis of an individual situation. Before taking an adverse employment action against an employee, the circumstances should be discussed with legal counsel.

Employees 358

1. 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

2. Wis. Stat. § 961.14; 21 U.S.C. § 841; City of Madison permits small amounts of marijuana in private places. Madison Code of Ordinances § 23.20.

3. Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018.

4. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-scott-gottlieb-md-signing-agriculture-improvement-act-and-agencys>.

5. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-drug-comprised-active-ingredient-derived-marijuana-treat-rare-severe-forms>.

6. Wis. Stat. § 961.32(2m)(b).

7. Wisconsin Dep't of Justice, AG Schimel and Stakeholders Resolve Questions Surrounding DATCP Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program (May 10, 2018).

8. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/11/191104141650.htm>.

9. 49 C.F.R. § 40.151(f).

10. Wis. Stat. § 111.35.

11. Wis. Stat. § 111.34(1)(b).



Water Tower Painting & Repair - Inspections
Power Washing & Expansion Joints
Ladder Safety Devices

LANE TANK CO., INC.
PO Box 500
Menomonie, WI 54751

Office: (715) 235-3110
Cell: (715) 308-9665
Fax: (715) 235-5385



Batterman
engineers surveyors planners

2857 Bartells Drive
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511
608.365.4464
www.rhbatterman.com



FAHRNER
asphalt sealers
Pavement Maintenance Contractors

1.800.332.3360
www.fahrnerasphalt.com
Crack Seal ♦ Chip Seal
Slurry Seal ♦ Road Striping
Micro Surfacing ♦ Patching
EOE/AA Employer



tc TOWN & COUNTRY
ENGINEERING, INC.

Madison (608) 273-3350
Rhinelander (715) 420-0579
Kenosha (262) 925-3210
www.tcengineers.net

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1981
water/wastewater • stormwater • municipal • GIS/mapping



Nominations

Daniel Foth, JD, Local Government Specialist, Local Government Center, UW-Madison, Division of Extension

Municipal governing bodies will hold organizational meetings after the spring election is complete. Newly elected and re-elected governing body members begin their terms on the third Tuesday in April.¹ In cities, the common council holds its organizational meeting on the third Tuesday in April; the council elects the council president at that meeting.² Some cities elect other officers as well (e.g., vice president). The statutes governing villages don't set a date for the board's organizational meeting or provide for the election of specific officers; however, some villages elect a vice president (sometimes referred to as the president pro tem) or other officers.

Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure 3rd Ed. (Sturgis) notes: "The process of nominating and electing officers is vital to every organization because the abilities and talents of the leaders largely determine the achievements of the group."³ Because the statutes provide no guidance on the procedure for electing such governing body officers, this month we discuss the nominating and voting process used to elect officers of governmental bodies.

Rules and Procedures

If the governmental body has established nomination and election procedures, it should use them. A member may also make a motion to determine the nominations procedure.⁴ If there are no established procedures, the body can use outside rules of procedure such as *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Ed.* (RONR); *Sturgis*; or *Welty's Book of Procedures for Meetings, Boards, Committees & Officers*. Each has a similar application. This article reflects the RONR⁵ election procedures as follows:

Quorum

A quorum must be present to conduct the election.

Nominations

Nominations are a formal proposal to the voting body in an election to fill a particular position with a particular person.⁶

RONR describes several methods for nominating candidates including: from the floor, by the chair, by a nominating committee, by ballot, by mail, and by a petition.⁷ Nominations from the floor and by a nominating committee are most common. Most governmental bodies use floor nominations.

Floor nominations: The chair, or presiding officer, asks: "Are there any nominations for the office of ____?" Then individual body members may nominate a person for the particular office. A member may nominate him/herself and the same person may be nominated for more than one office (if elected to more than one, the member must choose). Nominations may be made by saying: "I nominate ____ for the office of ____." One does not need to be recognized by the chair to make a nomination and nominations need not be seconded (though members sometimes second to signal endorsement).⁸ After each nomination, the chair asks: "Are there any further nominations?" This continues until no more nominations are received at which time the chair may say, "Nominations are closed." Generally, a motion to close nominations is unnecessary.⁹

Election

After nominations are complete, the governmental body votes. A majority of a quorum is typically required, absent a local rule requiring an extraordinary majority. If there are multiple offices being elected, the voting procedure can elect each office separately or elect an entire slate. If there is more than



TAKE CONTROL OF
YOUR ROADS.



3 LOCATIONS
TO SERVE YOU



MONROE, WI
DE PERE, WI
MARSHFIELD, WI



WWW.MONROETRUCK.COM

one nomination for each position, we suggest a separate vote for each position. The voting may be by voice vote, ayes and nays by each member or by ballot. A limited exception in Wis. Stat. § 19.88(1) allows a governmental body to use secret ballots when electing the

body's officers. RONR details the various ballot procedures.¹⁰ The voting process continues until the winner receives a majority of the votes.

The election is final when the chair announces the result. If the candidate

does not immediately decline, s/he immediately assumes the office.¹¹

1. Wis. Stat. §§ 61.23(2) and 62.09(5).

2. Wis. Stat. §§ 62.09(5) and (8)(e) and 62.11(2).

3. Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, Chapter 18, (3rd Ed.), page 140.

4. RONR (11th Ed.) § 31, pages 287-288.

5. RONR (11th Ed.), §46, page 430-446.

6. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised "In Brief," (2nd Ed.), page 78.

7. RONR (11th Ed.), § 46, page 432-433.

8. RONR (11th Ed.), § 46, page 432.

9. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised "In Brief," (2nd Ed.), page 78.

10. RONR (11th Ed.) § 46, pages 439-440.

11. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised "In Brief," (2nd Ed.), pages 79-80.



Did you know? The published Legal FAQs are taken directly from the extensive library of resources on the League's website. Have a question? Try the search function on the website and get an answer. <http://www.lwm-info.org>

Employees FAQ 20

Does a municipal employer have to provide notice, a hearing or some

other process before ending an employment relationship with a municipal employee?

Generally, no. In Wisconsin, municipal employees are generally classified as "at will" employees. In the absence of a civil service ordinance or law, or a contract or collective bargaining agreement or other document stating otherwise such as a personnel policy or employee handbook, "at will" employees may be terminated with or without cause and with or without notice by the employer. See *State ex rel. Epping v. City of Neilsville*, 218 Wis. 2d 516, 581 N.W.2d 548, 552; (Ct. App. 1998); *Vorwald v. School District*, 167 Wis. 2d 549, 482 N.W.2d 93, 96 (1992). However, a municipal employee may not be discharged for unlawful

reasons (e.g., discrimination based on, among other things, race, gender, age, or national origin).

A contract, state law, local ordinance or other document (e.g., employee handbook) may alter an employee's at-will status. If the municipality and an employee enter into an express or implied contract, any discharge must be done pursuant to the contract terms. State law also protects certain municipal employees from being fired at the will of the municipality. For example, municipalities must comply with certain statutory due process procedures when seeking to terminate police or fire department personnel. See Wis. Stat. §§ 62.13(5), 62.13(6m), 61.65(1)(am). (rev. 1/20)

Legal Captions

Employees 359

HR Matters column by Lisa Bergersen discusses employee use of marijuana, THC, and CBD and how employers can manage issues in the workplace, including drug and alcohol policies, training managers and staff to recognize and address impairment, and conducting drug and alcohol testing.

Public Utilities 356

Legal comment by Attorneys Richard Heinemann and Jared Walker Smith, Boardman & Clark, LLP, discusses options, and related responsibilities, for municipal utility governance, including utility commissions under Wis. Stat. § 66.0805, boards of public works, and other alternatives such as a committee

of the governing body or a new utility board or other commission not expressly given the powers of a Wis. Stat. § 66.0805 commission.

2020 Local Government 101

Date	City	Location
May 8	Pewaukee	Holiday Inn Pewaukee West
May 15	Eau Claire	Lismore Hotel
May 29	Oshkosh	Best Western Premier Waterfront
June 5	Madison	To Be Determined
June 26	Oconto Falls	City of Oconto Falls Admin. Building
September 11	Waupaca	Par 4 Resort

\$100 Member Tuition, \$125 Non-Member Tuition (Staff and officials from cities and villages that are currently members of the League and League Business Partners may register as members.)

Hotel Information: This is a one day workshop, which usually does not require an overnight stay, but small hotel blocks are available in some locations. Check our website for details. Please make reservations directly with hotels.

Agenda and Registration Online at: <http://lwm-info.org>



2020 Clerks, Treasurers, & Finance Officers Institute

June 10-12, 2020

Best Western Premier Waterfront, Oshkosh

\$135 Member Tuition, \$160 Non-Member Tuition (Staff and officials from cities and villages that are currently members of the League and League Business Partners may register as members.)

Hotel Information: Make reservations directly with Best Western Premier Waterfront at 920-230-1900. \$82 single or double. Use booking ID *WI Clerks, Treasurers, Finance Officers* to receive the block room rate. Deadline for room reservations at the block rate is May 19, 2020, or until group block is sold out, whichever comes first. 72-hour cancellation policy. Check-in is at 4:00 p.m. Check-out is at 11:00 a.m.

Agenda and Registration Online at: <http://lwm-info.org>

Registration Deadline: June 3, 2020





Avoiding Common Mistakes

*In Partnership with
League Of Wisconsin Municipalities Mutual Insurance*

Learn how to avoid situations and behaviors that are most likely to land municipalities in hot water. The most common problem areas involve land use decisions, open meetings law violations, and human resources.

Free to League Mutual Insured, \$50 Tuition for Non League Mutual Insured

Registration is complimentary for staff and officials from cities and villages that are insured by League Mutual.

Staff and officials from cities and villages that are members of the League may register at the reduced rate.

Hotel Information: This is a one day workshop, which usually does not require an overnight stay. If needed, a list of hotels is available on our website. Please make reservations directly with hotels.

Agenda and Registration Online at: <http://lwm-info.org>

Date	City	Location
March 6	Waukesha	R&R Insurance
May 14	Wisconsin Dells	Chula Vista Resort
July 8	Rice Lake	Rice Lake City Hall
September 10	Waupaca	Par 4 Resort



2020 Building Inspectors Institute

April 15-17, 2020

Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan

\$205 Member Tuition, \$230 Non-Member Tuition (Staff and officials from cities and villages that are currently members of the League and League Business Partners may register as members.)

Hotel Information: Make reservations directly with Lake Lawn Resort at 800-338-5253. \$82 single or double. Use booking ID *WI Building Inspectors Institute* to receive the block room rate. Deadline for room reservations at the block rate is March 25, 2020, or until group block is sold out, whichever comes first. 72-hour cancellation policy. Check-in is at 4:00 p.m. Check-out is at 11:00 a.m.

Agenda and Registration Online at: <http://lwm-info.org>

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2020

2020 League Workshops, Institutes, and Conferences

EVENT	DATES	LOCATION	LODGING	REGISTRATION FEE
*Building Inspectors Institute	April 15-17	Delavan	Lake Lawn Resort 262-728-7950 \$82 Single/ double ID: WI Bldg Insp. Inst.	\$205 Member \$230 Non-Member
*Local Government 101	May 8	Pewaukee	Holiday Inn Pewaukee - West 262-506-6300 Usually does not require overnight stay but small block is available	\$100 Member \$125 Non-Member
*Local Government 101	May 15	Eau Claire	Lismore Hotel Eau Claire 715-835-8888 Usually does not require overnight stay but small block is available	\$100 Member \$125 Non-Member
*Local Government 101	May 29	Oshkosh	Best Western Premier Waterfront 920-230-1900 Usually does not require overnight stay but small block is available	\$100 Member \$125 Non-Member
*Local Government 101	June 5	Madison	Hilton Garden Inn Madison West/Middleton Usually does not require overnight stay but small block is available	\$100 Member \$125 Non-Member
*Clerks, Treasurers & Finance Officers Institute	June 10-12	Oshkosh	Best Western Premier Waterfront 920-230-1900 \$82/single double ID: Clerks, Treasurers, Finance Officers	\$135 Member \$160 Non-Member
Municipal Attorneys Institute	June 17-19	Sturgeon Bay	Stone Harbor Resort 877-746-0700 \$135 single/double ID: League of WI Muni Attorneys Institute	\$295 Member \$320 Non-Member
*Local Government 101	June 26	Oconto Falls	City of Oconto Falls Administration Building Usually does not require overnight stay	\$100 Member \$125 Non-Member
Chief Executives Workshop	August 19-21	Wausau	City Grill at Jefferson St. Inn 866-855-6500 \$128 single/double ID: Chief Execs Workshop	\$200 Member \$225 Non-Member
*Local Government 101	September 11	Waupaca	Par 4 Resort 715-256-9000 Usually does not require overnight stay but small block is available	\$100 Member \$125 Non-Member
Municipal Assessors Institute	September 15-17	Stevens Point	Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center 715-344-0200 • \$82 single/\$109 double ID: Municipal Assessors Institute	\$190 Member \$215 Non-Member
Plumbing Inspectors Institute	September 23-25 *Date may change	Eau Claire	Lismore 715-835-8888 \$82 single/double ID: League of WI Muni's - Plumbing Insp Institute	\$165 Member \$190 Non-Member
*Annual Conference and Engineering & Public Works Institute	October 7-9	La Crosse	Radisson 608-784-6680 \$119 single/\$129 double ID: League of WI Municipalities Several overflow hotels. Room block open July 1.	\$270 Member \$295 Non-Member
Police & Fire Commission Workshop	November 13	Wisconsin Dells	Usually does not require overnight stay but small block is available	\$130 Member \$155 Non-Member

*** Online Registration Available**

Transitions

Alder: Richland Center - Jasen Glasbrenner

Clerk: Williams Bay - Jackie Pankau

Economic Development Coordinator:

Weston - Tom Chartrand

Fire Chief: Sauk City - James Kirch

Police Chief: Eau Claire - Matt Rokus;
Mount Horeb - Doug Vierck

Police Lieutenant: Mount Horeb - Nate Gretzinger

Public Works Superintendent: Neenah - Greg Radtke

THANK YOU!

Welcome new League Board members! Thanks to the following local government leaders who joined the 16-member League Board in January and February. They join the Board at a crucial time in the League's 121-year history as we begin to focus on providing Wisconsin's municipalities with more opportunities to set priorities at the local level. You can view all the Board members here: lwm-info.org/746/Officers-Board-of-Directors



Emily Berge,
City Council Member,
Eau Claire



Yee Leng Xiong,
Trustee, Weston



Steve Genisot,
Mayor, Marinette

Welcome!



★ Wisconsin Policy Forum Salute to Local Government Awards ★

Nomination Deadline is April 17, 2020

Are you a local government leader who wants to see innovative efforts in your field recognized by your peers? The Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state's leading independent, nonpartisan public policy research group, wants to hear from you.

The forum is seeking nominees for the 28th annual Salute to Local Government Awards, which honor Wisconsin local governments and school districts and their employees. Award categories are:

- Innovative Approach to Problem Solving, to a government, school district, or governmental unit;
- Innovative Use of Data or Technology, to a government, school district, or governmental unit;

- Intergovernmental Cooperation, to a cooperative effort among two or more governments;
- Public-Private Cooperation, to a partnership between one or more public and private sector entities;
- Norman N. Gill Award, to a non-elected official in local government or a school district who demonstrates individual excellence;
- Jean B. Tyler Leader of the Future Award, to a non-elected official in local government or a school district, age 40 or younger, who demonstrates individual excellence.

The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, April 17. To do so, visit our website at wispolicyforum.org. We'll present the awards at our Salute to Local Government luncheon this summer.

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY... OUR PROMISE. OUR PRIORITY.



Municipal Property Insurance Company

9701 Brader Way, Suite 301
Middleton, WI 53562

(715) 892-7277 | www.mpicwi.com

MPIC is a leading provider of property insurance solutions for Wisconsin public entities. Organized and founded with the support of the Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Company (WMMIC), Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company (CVMIC), and the League of Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Company (LWMMI), we are specialists in towns, villages, cities, counties, and special districts.

Imagine

Financing Solutions That Keep Your Municipality's Needs First

Your municipality's needs don't change with the market. When securing your municipality's future, you need solutions that are built to last.

That's why we bring broad capabilities to every client we serve, large and small. A deep bench of diverse, experienced finance professionals. Knowledgeable and responsive support. Plus the No. 1 underwriting team in Wisconsin.*

Imagine a full-service financing team working with your municipality. Imagine the power of you and Baird.

Brad Viegut
Kevin Mullen
Justin Fischer
Brian Ruechel
Rebekah Freitag
Emily Timmerman
Jordan Masnica

800-792-2473, ext. 3827
rwbaird.com/publicfinance

f **t** **in**