

Kaukauna, WI  
April 24, 2024

The regular meeting of Kaukauna Utilities Commission was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Lee Meyerhofer. Commission Members present were John Moore, Pennie Thiele, Sue Hennes, Greg Lenz, Lee Meyerhofer, Tony Penterman, and Paul Van Berkel. Also present were Michael Avanzi, Clara Pickett, Dave Pahl, Zach Moureau, Eric Miller, Brittany Simonson, and Amy Brick from KU, Richard Heinemann from Boardman Clark, and Brian Roebke.

WPPI Energy Services Manager, Steve Engebos and Communications Coordinator, Brittany Simonson gave a presentation on the KU Customer Surveys.

It was moved by John Moore, seconded by Greg Lenz to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2024 Commission meeting.

All members voted aye.

Motion Carried

Engineering & Operations Director Dave Pahl discussed the Out-of-State Mutual Aid Billing Policy informing the Commission after the last storm event, MEUW asked its members to create a mutual aid policy that utilities could adopt to help make the billing from Wisconsin utilities more uniform. The policy is similar to the current billing practice KU uses for out-of-state mutual aid.

It was moved by Tony Penterman, seconded by Pennie Thiele to authorize the General Manager to adopt the Out-of-State Mutual Aid Billing Policy.

All members voted aye.

Motion Carried

General Manager Michael Avanzi reviewed the John Street Hydro Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Agreement with WPPI Energy stating that with John Street Hydro going behind the meter after the current purchase power contract expires in May, WPPI has agreed to continue purchasing the RECs produced by the plant.

It was moved by Pennie Thiele, seconded by John Moore to authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement with WPPI for the purchase of the John St. Hydro RECs.

All members voted aye.

Motion Carried

General Manager Michael Avanzi provided an update on the 2024 Work Plan and Key Performance Indicators.

General Manager Michael Avanzi provided an update on the 2025 Strategic Intent.

Engineering & Operations Director Dave Pahl provided an overview of the April 2024 winter storm outages. General Manager Michael Avanzi made the comment he has never seen an organization come together the way KU employees did to put all hands-on deck to support the line crew. He stated every department chipped in and helped and made the event a success.

Commissioner Greg Lenz left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

The Commission reviewed the Electric and Water Financial Statements and the monthly reports.

General Manager Michael Avanzi reviewed highlights from the monthly department updates informing the Commission he will be on vacation May 2-6; Dave will cover for him in his absence. Invitations for the Quarter Century Club dinner on May 22<sup>nd</sup> will be sent soon. The annual goal for energy efficiency measures was clarified. The new WPPI Energy Services Manager will be starting at KU on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is due to Steve Engebos retiring May 31, 2024. The IT Intern position has been filled. The seasonal hires have been filled also with one position in Maintenance and one located at the Warehouse. The Youth Apprentice in the Line Department has been filled and interviews are currently being held for the Water Youth Apprentice. Combined Locks Hydro should be back online ready for generation by April 26<sup>th</sup>. The EV chargers located in the main office building garage were energized on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The audio/visual upgrade in the KU Library has been completed. This room is a model of what the Commission Chambers could be like in the future. KU received a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Energy (DOE) for IT/OT projects. After submitting a pre-application concept paper, KU was invited to submit a full application for a more comprehensive IT/OT project grant to support the strategic intent of digitalization. The grant amount, if awarded, will be \$500,000. The annual PSC report is published; our rates of return for 2023 were 1.55% for Water and 5.95% for Electric. The newly adopted purchasing policy has been presented to all supervisors and all employees that are involved in purchasing are being asked to sign an acknowledgement form. Customer's New Bill Notification emails sent from the MyAccount customer portal will now include bill messages and inserts for customers that are paperless. 244 disconnection notices were mailed for the first round of residential disconnects on April 17, 2024. May is Electrical Safety Month and KU is planning a community coloring contest. KU should hear back soon on the appeal of our denial for grant funding under the DOE's Section 247 program.

General Manager Michael Avanzi informed the Commission KU received the APPA Safety Award of Excellence.

General Manager Michael Avanzi informed the Commission KU was awarded a \$1 million dollar grant through the Office of Energy Innovation for the geothermal project at the main office building. KU can also apply for investment tax credit funds through the federal government that could recover an additional 6-30% of the project costs.

General Manager Michael Avanzi reminded the Commission that the apparel store is open until mid May and that there is a WPPI Regional Dinner on May 9<sup>th</sup> in Appleton.

The Commission chose not to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. State Statute 19.85(f) for review of data Kaukauna Utilities is prohibited from making public under Wis. Stat. 196.137, including Kaukauna Utilities Write Off Journal details, Check Register details and Customer Usage and Billing.

It was moved by John Moore, seconded by Sue Hennes to approve the March accounts receivable write-offs.

Roll Call Vote:

Tony Penterman	aye
John Moore	aye
Paul Van Berkel	aye
Sue Hennes	aye
Lee Meyerhofer	aye
Pennie Thiele	aye

Motion Carried

It was moved by Sue Hennes, seconded by John Moore that checks numbered 1502 through 1512, 1514 through 1522 and checks numbered 79835 through 79983 in the amount of \$5,295,189.38 be approved for payment.

Roll Call Vote:	John Moore	aye
	Pennie Thiele	aye
	Lee Meyerhofer	aye
	Paul Van Berkel	aye
	Sue Hennes	aye
	Tony Penterman	aye

Motion Carried

It was moved by Tony Penterman, seconded by John Moore to adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Wis. State Statute 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved at 5:41p.m.

All members voted aye. Motion Carried

It was moved by Tony Penterman, seconded by John Moore to return to open session at 6:27 p.m.

All members voted aye. Motion Carried

It was moved by Tony Penterman, seconded by John Moore to adjourn.

All members voted aye. Motion Carried

The meeting ended at 6:28 p.m.

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John P. Moore  
Secretary

Minutes taken by Amy Brick