



**Wisconsin Public Utility Institute Executive Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 by Cara Lee Mahany Braithwait.

Present: Brian Rude, Dairyland; Charlie Higley, Citizens Utility Board; Jim Schubilzke, We Energies; Peter Taglia, E&E Consulting; David Donovan, Xcel Energy; Tim Kallies, Wisconsin Public Service; PJ Distefano, Deloitte; Lynn Hobbie, MG&E; Terry Nicolai, Alliant Energy; Cheryl Parrino, Parrino Consulting; Bob McKee, ATC; Scott Meske (in for Dave Benforado), MEUW; Steve Peters, Office of Rep. Josh Zepnick; Kevin Vesperman, Division of Energy Services; Jordan Hemaïdan, Michael Best and Friedrich

Excused: John Schulze and RJ Pirlot, Public Service Commission of WI; Paul Meier and Michael Corradini, UW-Madison; Earl Gustafson, WI Paper Council; John Imes, Wisconsin Environmental Initiative

Board Membership

The meeting began with an introduction of the newest board member, Tim Kallies from Wisconsin Public Service. Tim is general manager for customer relations at WPS. He replaces Barbara Nick, who was promoted to a position at Minnesota Energy Resources and Michigan Gas Utilities.

Sen. Rich Zipperer has now taken a position with the Walker administration, which means there is an open seat for a state senator. It was decided that WPUI would wait until the fall elections before pursuing a replacement.

December Meeting Minutes

Charlie Higley moved to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by PJ Distefano. It was mentioned that according to the minutes, the nominating committee was supposed to invite Brad Jackson from Foley and Lardner to be the newest board member. The committee members said they would do so in the near future.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Membership

A few organizations did not renew their membership this year: GDS, Energy Center of Wisconsin, Shaw Group and WECC. This was likely due to uncertainty over funding; the board agreed that WPUI should try to pursue these organizations for membership again.

Budget

Cara Lee Mahany Braithwait presented the budget picture for the previous fiscal year. WPUI saw about a \$40,000 net gain compared to last year. Revenue was about \$188,000 and expenses were about \$150,000. Cara Lee said that WPUI is doing OK financially. However, as some topics require expertise outside of our usual networks, we need to start paying for speakers more often, which translates to covering travel expenses and a small honorarium.

A few other budget highlights:

- Registration fees are strong because of Energy Utility Basics.
- We are getting new clients, such as PSERC, to run programs for.
- 4/11 programs in the last year profited, 4/11 were offered at no charge, and 3/11 lost money.
- Programs netted \$66,000, largely because of attendance from Energy Utility Basics and the fact that we're not paying many speakers
- PJ Distefano asked about possibility of outside groups underwriting the cost of some programs. Cara Lee said that organizations like EEI and PSERC pay us to run their programs, but in the interest of showing neutrality in WPUI-organized programs, underwriting from outside groups is not desired.
- There were questions about fee levels for EUB, affordability and revenue. Cara Lee said that for members and for-profit organizations, the fees are comfortable. However, there are some attendees from non-profit or government sector that do not generate much revenue. However, we are holding steady in terms of the numbers of attendees who generate the most revenue, and we always have a seat to sell.
- In terms of cash flow, there are no months where we're running on empty
 - o EUB and two EEI courses provide a boost in the July to December period, and the net inflow of cash in those months more than offsets the net outflow in January to June.
- Cara Lee said that if we break even on programs, we would be OK financially as long as we keep membership constant. We have \$50,000 in our foundation account that we rarely tap into.

Programs in FY12:

- July 14: Utilities as Transportation Fuel Providers
- July 24-27: EEI Advanced Ratemaking Course.
 - o The typical attendee has been in the utility for about a decade and is now in charge of managing rates. We help teach them strategy.
- August 1-5: EEI Transmission Course
 - o This course is a chance to learn from top leaders in the field

- September 7: Smart Grid and PSCW
- October 3: Natural Gas
- October 24-28: EUB
 - o Very positive responses (85% or higher positive rating for all speakers)
- Look back at well-attended Fukushima program in March (teachable moment)
- November 16-17: Follow-up nuclear program in November (less well-attended)
- January 26: EPA and Electric Utilities
- May 24: Geomagnetic Disturbances
- June 27-28: PSERC Future Grid Forum
- EEI, EUB, March Fukushima program, EPA, Transportation programs were highly attended
- Fall gas and nuclear programs had low attendance; the rest were invite only
- Average attendance was 44
- PJ Distefano asked for a one-page document of past programs that they could share with potential members. Cara Lee said WPUI would put a document together that also included presenter names for the next meeting.

FY13 Programs (recently held or in the works):

- July 22-25: EEI Rates Course
- July 17: Transmission planning issues
 - o Cara Lee noticed a gap in understanding among some attendees. She would like to open up Energy Utility Basics to a few local government people so that they have a better understanding of the issues.
 - o It was suggested that it may be better to start with the leaders of the counties association and the towns association, and potentially have a special program
 - Lynn Hobbie suggested a special program on infrastructure for local governments, which would take some sections from EUB and include presentations on generation and transmission siting. This could be an annual partnership programs with the counties/towns associations.
 - o Kevin Vesperman made a motion that would allow 2 to 5 local government officials chosen by Cara Lee to attend EUB at a reduced rate. Brian Rude seconded. The motion was approved.
- August 6-10: EEI Transmission Course
- September 13: Gas Program
- September 14: Advanced Metering
- India – A Teachable Moment? Working with PSERC and ATC on a potential one hour webcast within the next two weeks.

Program ideas – these will be sent out in an e-mail for the board to vote on

- History of regulation
- Declining use
- Water and energy issues

- David Donovan said that this is a big concern for municipal water utilities
- P.J. Distefano said he could contact Rich Meeusen from Badger Meter to see what issues they are experiencing
- Peter Taglia said suggested contacting Kevin Schaefer from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District about using biogas from wastewater for energy
- Kevin Vesperman suggested this program could be marketed to the counties/towns associations, which have a lot of pressure on old systems.
- Ownership and Meters
 - Ownership of data; who owns, and what information can be shared?
 - What are the legal issues?
 - Cheryl Parrino suggested WPUI touch base with the telecom industry to get their experiences, which may shed light on the energy side
- ACEEE scorecard
 - Major questions to be explored: What is Wisconsin doing that isn't getting scored? Is there something that we should be doing? Are there innovative programs should we be doing? What benchmarks should we set for ourselves (independent of ACEEE scorecard)?
 - This would be a roundtable discussion for members only
- Natural Gas Distribution Line Extensions
 - Peter Taglia said that ECW might be interested in a discussion on this topic
- Bob McKee suggested a program on the possible impacts to WI due to competition on transmission lines from other states (right of first refusal) from FERC Order 1000.
 - What are the potential impacts of new players? This would happen later in the program year, as it will not be finalized next year, but it would be good to have on the radar screen of the public.
- Cara Lee said that there would be a new format for the board meeting in December
 - What issues do board members think we should cover in the next year?
 - Cara Lee would provide membership letters for board members to sign

Presentation by Energy Hub

- eHub is planning for their annual student conference on October 26
- This summer they piloted an afterschool K-12 energy program – 10 week curriculum for 4th and 5th grades

Discussion of Energy Institute

- WPUI will move into the new Wisconsin Energy Institute building next January or February and will be integrated into its programming.

The date of December 14 was chosen for the winter meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

