

WPUI Board Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Cara Lee Mahany Braithwait at 1:00 p.m.

PJ Distefano, Deloitte and Touche; John Sumi, MG&E; Peter Taglia, E&E Consulting; Mike Corradini, Wisconsin Energy Institute; Dave Siebert, DNR; Jeff Ripp, PSCW; Nilaksh Kothari, Manitowoc Public Utilities; Paul Meier, Wisconsin Energy Institute; Matt Bromley, Customers First Coalition; Heather Leibham, We Energies; Terry Nicolai, Alliant Energy; Scott Williams, Wisconsin Energy Institute & WPUI; Lika Balenovich, WPUI; Tim Kallies, Wisconsin Public Service; Kevin Vesperman, Division of Energy Services; Rep. Robb Kahl, State Assembly

On the phone: Dave Donovan, Xcel Energy; Jordan Hemaidan, Michael Best and Friedrich; Cheryl Parrino, Parrino Consulting; Bob McKee, ATC

Excused: RJ Pirlot, PSCW; Brian Rude, Dairyland; Sen. Paul Farrow

Unexcused: Earl Gustafson, Wisconsin Paper Council; Bradley Jackson, Foley and Lardner

Minutes from June 2013

- Motion to approve from PJ Distefano, seconded by Nilaksh Kothari.
- It was noted that the minutes are available on the WPUI website, along with a new board member directory that includes a bio and picture for each board member.
- The motion to approve the June minutes was approved unanimously.

Nomination of Rep. Robb Kahl to Board

- Rep. Robb Kahl has been nominated to replace Rep. Josh Zepnick on the executive board as one of the two legislative positions.
- PJ Distefano moves to confirm Rep. Kahl as a new board member, Tim Kallies seconds.
- Motion was approved unanimously.

Standing Committees Discussion

- The current standing committees are the executive committee, the nominations committee, and the programming committee.
- Cara Lee: Biggest need is in help in programming.
- However, would also like a membership committee (currently not a standing committee) to attract more members.
 - Roles of membership committee: to advise board and the director on strategies to attract new members, especially in person-to-person outreach and how to best maintain existing members (e.g. suggestions for what to include in membership packets)
 - Are there former members who are in a position to now pay? Could IBEW pool resources from several locals around the state? Matt Bromley agreed to approach Local 2150.

Program Discussion

- Large Public Power Council (LPPC) Rates Committee held a program last year and wants to have WPUI host another program in 2014.
- Mike Corradini suggested a program on capacity market planning – the Dept. of Energy is interested in long-term planning to encourage diversity of resources, using “energy diversity” as a metric in long-term power purchase agreements. The question is how to give regulators the authority to allow utilities to invest in technologies that make sense in the long term but not necessarily in short term.
- There was discussion on whether WPUI should pursue more grant proposals where WPUI serves as education/outreach function of a larger state agency grant. It was agreed that these would be reviewed and pursued on a case-by-case basis as long as they fit the mission of WPUI.
- Cara Lee provided a summary of programs in 2013. One program, the iCanConserve Roundtable, will be held on December 17.
- Several revenue-generating programs are being planned for 2014, including the LPPC Rates program, the EEI Rates and Transmission courses, and Energy Utility Basics. In addition, Cara Lee is hoping to do another program co-sponsored by the WI Bar Association
- This summer WPUI will organize a public seminar course (funded by the UW Division of Continuing Studies) on the Language of the Energy Industry
- The California PUC has also approached Cara Lee to put together a new rate design course
 - The course would have some advanced topics (a draft outline is provided in packet materials)
 - The plan is to leverage other content and programs such as the LPPC Rates meeting and EEI rates course
 - The course won't be put on unless there's a commitment from a minimum number of attendees
 - Cara Lee is looking for a committee to help put together a course
 - Jeff Ripp will help double-check that other courses (such as those in New Mexico and Michigan) aren't too similar, and will check with RJ Pirlot for feedback on the PSC's potential involvement
 - John Sumi noted difficulty with committing rates staff because filing of rate case is also around late Spring
- There was general interest in a program focused on a resource outlook for electricity
 - A status update on generation including upstream issues, impact of transmission decisions and environmental regulations
 - Program committee volunteers: Tim Kallies will find someone from WPS; Dave Siebert and Kevin Vesperman also volunteered
- Falicia Hines of the Wisconsin Energy Institute presented a brief overview of WEI's Fall 2014 Energy Summit (an outline was provided in packet). WEI would like Cara Lee involved in the planning process and is open to suggestions for speakers. The summit also will have a career fair, and members are welcome to
- Luke Vandenlangenberg from Energy Hub provided an update on the student group. Energy Hub just held its conference on Friday. About 150 students registered, several speakers talked about

intersections between waste and energy. In 2014 the group is planning more tours and other programs.

Board Suggestions

Cara Lee asked board members to offer suggestions on topics they are currently interested in for potential programs

- Jordan Hemaidan: Solar panels, distributed generation, legal issues, what are the implications?
- Dave Donovan: Compressed natural gas fueling stations (and how to reinforce the buildout). Also, Tesla is pressuring utilities to reinforce infrastructure for their EV rapid charging stations
- John Sumi: CNG vehicles, whether it couples well with biogas; Distributed generation, third party ownership, legal status, business models, adequate consumer protection?
- Peter Taglia: An update to “Utilities as Transportation Fuel Providers” program (CNG and EV); Carbon regulation: Carbon taxes vs. cap and dividend, etc.; different potential routes that EPA existing source rules could take (and likelihood to be challenged)
- Dave Siebert: Could partner with WPUI in the future to hold program on strategic analysis of updated rules related to the WI Environmental Policy Act
- Nilaksh Kothari: How to optimize distribution systems – new technologies
- Matt Bromley: Effect of deregulation on long-term resource planning (e.g. Presque Isle closing)
- Terry Nicolai: Adequacy of natural gas infrastructure (especially in Western WI) to support new usage such as CNG
- Tim Kallies: Undergrounding of distribution infrastructure
- Kevin Vesperman: What are the CNG infrastructure options for WI? Practical ways of optimizing the system with DG (look at existing realities – what were costs and benefits?)
- Rep. Kahl: Third party ownership of distributed generation
- Other suggestions:
 - CAPEX – this issue may not be very timely now (but maybe in a few years)
 - How to conduct energy efficiency evaluation now that many projects don’t meet the TRC test because of low natural gas prices
 - Issues with propane and fuel oil— they are not currently regulated fuel sources – what are the alternatives as their costs go up (energy efficiency, natural gas expansion, etc.)?
- It appears that the two issues that many are interested in are CNG vehicles and distributed generation. Cara Lee will follow up with board members on all of these suggestions.

The next meeting is scheduled for mid-June. Cara Lee will send out a notice for the date and time.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.