



## WPUI Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & start time: 1/17/2017, 1pm

Meeting location: Wisconsin Energy Institute, Room 4135, Madison WI

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The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members present: Kurt Runzler, Deb Erwin, Kira Loehr, Frank Greb, Sarah Justus, Rob Crain, Jeff Ripp, Rep. Mike Kuglitsch, and Associate Director of the Wisconsin Energy Institute Mary Blanchard

Also present: Scott Williams, Cara Lee Mahany Braithwait, Sara Langmack

Members on the phone: Ronda Ferguson, John Sumi, Brian Rude, P.J. DiStefano, Earl Gustafson, and Interim Director of the Wisconsin Energy Institute Ian Coxhead

Excused: Dave Siebert, Lawrie Kobza, Nilaksh Kothari, Jordan Hemaidan, Rodney Stevenson, Cheryl Parrino

Guest Speaker: Lee Swindall, WEDC

### Meeting Minutes:

Brian Rude moves to approve the July 2016 Meeting Minutes. Jeff Ripp seconds. There was no discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

### WEDC Presentation

Lee Swindall, Vice President of Sector Strategy Development for WEDC, gave a presentation to the Board related to a talk he gave at a WPUI Trends program on May 20, 2016. Mr. Swindall discussed a long-term decline in multi-factor productivity growth leading to slower economic growth and a shrinking middle class. WEDC is working on a transformational productivity initiative to help companies identify root causes of productivity drain.

### Membership

A list of current, past, and potential WPUI members was provided to the Board. Cara Lee asked the Board to review the list. She also asked for help with contacting potential members as well as for ideas for other methods of reaching new members.

## **Board Membership**

The Board needs a non-utility energy provider as well as a legislative member to replace former Board member and former Rep. Robb Kahl.

It was recommended to ask Jeff Anthony of M-WERC for suggestions for a non-utility provider as well as Chris Kunkle of Wind on the Wires. Rep. Kuglitsch will provide suggestions for legislative members.

Cara Lee also asked the Board for guidance on whether to approach the new Director of Customers First!, Sarah Barry, to join the Board as an At-Large member. There was a general positive sentiment, so Cara Lee will ask Sarah Barry about her interest in joining the Board. A formal nomination was not made.

Sarah Justus volunteered to join the Membership Committee.

## **Programs**

Cara Lee listed programs that were offered in 2016.

## **Finances**

The first half of FY2017 is tracking similar trends from previous years: typically, expenses surpass revenues in the first half of the fiscal year (when there is more programming) and revenues surpass expenses in the second half of fiscal year (when most membership fees are received). The fund balance is down from the start of fiscal year, but more membership fees are anticipated in the coming months.

Cara Lee presented a revised statement regarding WPU's policy of carrying a positive fund balance.

Sarah Justus recommended adding a statement to the Charter that the Board would review and affirm or modify this statement each year.

Cara Lee will add this to the July agenda, and it will be reviewed each July and included in meeting minutes.

## **Strategic Plan and Board interviews**

Cara Lee provided the Board with a summary of findings from interviews with each Board member and how they might inform strategic planning moving forward. Major points include maintaining neutrality, leveraging resources from the University and outside partnerships, keeping a Wisconsin focus, and keeping primary focus on industry audience but developing other programming that would be appropriate for public or legislative audiences.

Cara Lee asked for volunteers to form a Financial Advisory Committee to discuss industry consolidation and its potential effect on membership. Deb Erwin, Ronda Ferguson and Brian Rude agreed to join that Committee.

## **Programs 2017**

An online survey will be sent to the Board seeking input on program ideas for the coming year. In addition, the following Board members volunteered to serve on the Program Advisory Committee for 2017: Kira Loehr, Rob Crain, Frank Greb, Earl Gustafson (partial - for issues related to manufacturing), John Sumi, and Ronda Ferguson.

P.J. DiStefano made a motion to move the meeting into a closed session. Rep. Mike Kuglitsch seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

## **Closed Session**

The closed session began at 2:50 p.m.

In closed session, P.J. DiStefano made the following motion, and Brian Rude seconded:

Motion to create a Search and Screen Committee (the "Committee") of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Wisconsin Public Utility Institute ("WPUI"). The Committee's objectives will be to:

- Work with the Board and designated representatives of the University of Wisconsin (the "University") to define the job responsibilities of the Director of WPUI (the "Director")
- Work with the University to post the job responsibilities of the Director
- Work with the University to screen and interview qualified candidates for the role of Director
- Recommend to the University and the Board a qualified candidate for role of the Director. It is understood that the Board will vote on the recommendation. Once the Board approves a candidate, the candidate will be recommended to the University for hiring.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Search and Screen Committee members will be Ian Coxhead, Sarah Justus, Frank Greb, P.J. DiStefano, Jeff Ripp, Rob Crain, and Kira Loehr.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.