



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 6, 2019

8:30 a.m.

Teleconference

MEETING NOTES

Executive Committee members present by telephone were Paul Hermanson and John Murphy. Tim Herlitzka and Executive Director Tim Heinrich joined the call from the MEUW Office.

Note: Prior to the meeting, Heinrich informed Executive Committee members by email that MEUW had settled pending litigation with the City of Gladstone over a 2018 contract dispute. The matter was scheduled to go to trial in Dane County in May, and the settlement was agreed to the day before appearing in court. MEUW had provided approximately \$9,000 in safety-related services to Gladstone in early 2018 before the City made notice it intended to terminate its contract. The contracted total (for the period ending January 6, 2019) was \$29,000. The case was settled for \$17,000 payable to MEUW, which incurred approximately \$4,500 in legal fees related to the matter.

Heinrich led the discussion on the following topics:

Annual Conference Feedback – 95% of survey respondents indicated they were “Extremely” or “Quite Satisfied” with the May conference, and 70% said they were highly likely to recommend the event to a colleague. There was a lot of positive feedback about the breakout session format and the featured speakers. Next year’s conference is in Manitowoc May 13 to 15.

Cybersecurity Training – Following remarks by Sue Kelly at the Annual Conference and the vulnerabilities associated with cybersecurity breaches, Heinrich asked for a proposal from APPA to bring its in-house training to Wisconsin. The Committee discussed the proposal, noted the importance of the topic and encouraged MEUW to host a one-day forum/workshop. (Subsequent to the meeting, the training session was scheduled for October 30 to be held at Wilderness Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells.)

Small Cell Bill – MEUW worked with the Kammer Group to secure an amendment that added “One representative of a municipal electric utility appointed jointly by the speaker of the assembly and the senate majority leader” to a right-of-way study committee being created in the bill. The amendment also addresses concerns with local government’s ability to regulate the placement of small cell facilities in rights-of-way. As amended, certain regulations can be imposed so long as they are authorized by other statutes under current law, rather than being limited only to situations where they are specifically required by state or federal law. The amended bill is expected to pass both houses and be signed into law by Gov. Evers.

5G Ad Hoc Committee – Following discussion at the Board Meeting, Heinrich will be scheduling a kickoff meeting among those who volunteered for the ad hoc committee to develop a “tool kit” for pole-attachment agreements of small cell wireless facilities. He expects to engage Anita Gallucci for the committee’s deliverables.

Employee Benefits Review – Heinrich presented a proposal from the QTI Consulting to conduct a “Benefits Spotlight Analysis” to benchmark MEUW’s benefit offerings to other similar organizations to show where the association may be “above, at, or below market” with its current benefits. The Committee discussed the desire to include MEUW members’ benefits among the data set. There was considerable discussion about the merits of such an analysis and the actions MEUW might take based on the findings. Heinrich was directed to move forward and contract QTI for the consulting engagement.

Annual Wage and Benefit Survey – The “comment period” is currently open to solicit feedback from members about questions to be included in the 2019 W&B survey. The survey tool will be distributed on June 17, with responses due by July 26 and the final report released by mid-August. Committee discussion focused on the desire to increase participation, the need to send frequent reminders and enforcement of the policy that only those utilities that respond may receive the results.

District Dinners – Staff is beginning work to identify dates and locations for this year’s gatherings. Based on survey feedback collected at last year’s events, Heinrich said it is likely that some get-togethers will be scheduled as breakfasts, lunches or mid-afternoon meetings. Details will be finalized soon.

Sept. 12 Board Meeting – The next meeting of MEUW’s Board of Directors is set for Thursday, Sept. 12. Staff is working to identify a location; facilities in Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point are not available on that date. The meeting is expected to have two parts – a morning workshop related to the new Leadership Academy that is part of MEUW’s Strategic Plan – followed by lunch and a brief meeting to review association business.

The Committee discussed scheduling for Heinrich’s performance review, which was set for Tuesday, June 18, at Waunakee Utilities at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.