



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 7, 2020**  
8:30 a.m.

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MEETING NOTES

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Executive Committee members present via Zoom conference were Tim Herlitzka, Brian Knapp, George Morrissey, John Murphy and Joe Pickart. Executive Director Tim Heinrich also joined the Zoom. President Knapp called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

The minutes of the August 12, 2020, Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Pickart motioned approval; Murphy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Heinrich provided the Executive Director's Report, leading discussion of several topics.

The Committee continued discussion of changes to MEUW's Employee Travel and Reimbursement Policy under consideration to reduce employee expenses. Morrissey motioned approval of the policy changes; Murphy seconded. The Committee suggested the revised policy be in effect for 2021 and be reviewed again one year from now. Motion passed unanimously.

MEUW's benefits administrator needs input about employee benefit costs for 2021 by mid-October. Based on the preliminary budget discussions, the Committee determined it is appropriate to keep employees' contributions toward premium costs unchanged for 2021.

The Legislative and Regulatory Committee convened by phone this summer to discuss the disbursement strategy for Friends of Public Power (FPP) funds collected through the Conduit and PAC. The plan has continued to be adjusted as Election Day approaches. Priority is given to candidates who have demonstrated past support of public power and an overall willingness to listen to the municipal utilities' concerns as issues arise. We seek to strike the right balance between Republicans and Democrats. The general approach is to split the support evenly among Senate and Assembly candidates with a focus on those serving in leadership positions and/or holding appointments on the utility committees. A summary of year-to-date contributions and disbursements from FPP was provided (and is attached to these minutes).

Dates for the 2021-22 Management Training Program, which will begin in February, were communicated in the September edition of *Live Lines*. At this point, we are planning for in-person training (with appropriate protocols) and will reassess as the date gets closer. We have built in flexibility in the contract with Glacier Canyon. The participant fee was increased by \$20 for the series.

Approximately 40 individuals participated in the online Accounting and Customer Service seminar on September 22. There was good discussion and the program stayed on schedule. A summary of the attendee feedback was provided to the Committee – some participants experienced connection issues with Zoom, though overall it ran smoothly. We are likely to schedule a virtual roundtable session sometime in November to enable more discussion among this group of MEUW members (the in-person spring roundtables were canceled in 2020).

Heinrich reported good progress developing plans for the “reimagined” Electric Operations Expo to be held next spring. We are set for Thursday, April 29. MEUW staff met with the WUSA officers earlier in September and got their full support for the event. There are plans to host a webinar for all WUSA members in early November to fill them in on the details and answer their questions. Staff also visited the Sauk County Fairgrounds in Baraboo in late September and determined the site is ideal for what is being planned. There will be a need to rent some tents and sound system equipment, but the cost of staging at this site will be considerably less than at Kalahari or one of the other Dells resorts. A “save the date” announcement was included in the October edition of *Live Lines*.

In follow up to previous Executive Committee discussions about the increased value and overall quality of the Electric Utility Safety and Training (EST, formerly known as JT&S) Program, there was a review of proposed 2021 fees. Heinrich noted efforts to strike a balance between keeping fees reasonable (and competitive) while expenses are increasing due to the way the program is delivered, and acknowledging the enhanced value and overall quality of the program against a backdrop of elevated expenses. Herlitzka motioned approval of the recommended fee structure. Morrissey seconded. Under the revised structure, the largest annual charge is \$15,250, compared to \$13,130 currently and the smallest utilities will still pay less than \$1,000 per year for training for their one lineworker. The Committee discussed the need to reconsider the fee structure and shift away from larger utilities subsidizing the fees of smaller utilities. Motion passed unanimously. MEUW will send a notice of the 2021 fee before the end of October to help members budget for the increase.

All communities/utilities that currently participate in the Regional Safety Management Program were notified of three contractual changes affecting the program beginning in 2021. Many of the contract addendums have already been returned; the requested deadline was October 15.

The Member Engagement Survey launched September 15 and will remain open until October 16. As of September 30, we have more responses to this year’s survey than all that were received in the February/March 2019 survey.

It is expected that the 2021 APPA Legislative Rally, scheduled for March 1-3 in Washington, D.C., will be canceled or re-staged as a virtual event. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities reached out to inquire about MEUW’s interest in participating in another Joint Lobby Day next year. The target date is Wednesday, May 19, and the event is contingent on the status of the pandemic. Heinrich indicated that he has confirmed MEUW’s willingness to take part.

Heinrich noted that he is continuing to work through the details of the 2021 budget within the parameters discussed at the August 21 Board of Directors’ Meeting. The Financial Oversight Committee is expected to meet in early November, followed by Executive Committee discussion on December 2. The Board is scheduled to review and approve the 2021 budget on December 9.

In New Business, the Committee discussed the retirement of John Fales from Medford, which has created a vacancy in the Alternate Director role for District 2 on MEUW’s Board of Directors. Knapp will contact a prospective candidate for appointment to the vacant seat.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

## FRIENDS OF PUBLIC POWER

	<b>Conduit Account</b>	<b>Political Action Committee</b>
YE 2019 Balance Forward	\$4,060	\$4,980
Q1 2020 Contributions	\$1,950	\$3,250
Q2 2020 Contributions	\$700	\$650
Q3 2020 Contributions	\$1,100	\$1,350
<b>YTD 2020 Contributions</b>	<b>\$3,750</b>	<b>\$5,250</b>

### 2020 DISBURSEMENTS

<b>Campaign Committee</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Conduit</b>	<b>PAC</b>
Amy Loudenbeck for Assembly	Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R)		250
Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee	(D)		1,000
Committee to Elect A Republican Senate	(R)		1,000
Committee to Elect Joan Ballweg	Rep. Joan Ballweg (R)		250
Feyen for Senate	Sen. Dan Feyen (R)	250	
Friends and Neighbors of Robin Vos	Rep. Robin Vos (R)		500
Friends for Jessie	Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R)	100	
Friends of Alberta Darling	Sen. Alberta Darling (R)	250	
Friends of Beth Meyers	Rep. Beth Meyers (D)		250
Friends of Devin LeMahieu	Sen. Devin LeMahieu (R)	750	
Friends of Dianne Hesselbein	Rep. Diane Hesselbein (D)	150	
Friends of Mary	Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R)		250
Friends of Melissa Sargent	Rep. Melissa Sargent (D)	250	
Friends of Mike Kuglitsch	Rep. Mike Kuglitsch (R)	650	
Friends of Mike Kuglitsch	Rep. Mike Kuglitsch (R)		500
Hintz for Assembly	Rep. Gordon Hintz (D)	250	
Jagler for Assembly	Rep. John Jagler (R)	100	
Janet Bewley for Senate	Sen. Janet Bewley (D)	1,000	
Kurtz for Assembly	Rep. Tony Kurtz (R)	150	
Meyers for Assembly	Rep. Beth Meyers (D)		750
Oldenburg for Assembly	Rep. Loren Oldenburg (R)	100	
Republican Assembly Campaign Committee	(R)		1,750
Roth for Wisconsin	Sen. Roger Roth (R)		750
State Senate Democratic Campaign	(D)		1,000
Steffen for Wisconsin	Rep. David Steffen (R)	250	
Taxpayers for Marklein	Sen. Howard Marklein (R)	250	
Taxpayers for Nygren	Rep. John Nygen (R)		1,000
Testin for Senate	Sen. Patrick Testin (R)	250	
Tony for Wisconsin	Gov. Tony Evers (D)		250
Tranel for Assembly	Rep. Travis Tranel (R)	150	
		<b>\$ 4,900</b>	<b>\$ 9,500</b>