



## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

May 13, 2022

8:30 a.m.

Madison Concourse Hotel

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## MINUTES

*To be approved by the Board of Directors at the next Annual Business Meeting in May 2023*

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President George Morrissey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. *A list of those present is on page 3.*

The minutes of the 2021 Annual Business Meeting held May 14, 2021, were presented. Jill Weiss motioned approval; Brian Knapp seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the January 14, 2022 Board of Directors' Meeting were presented. Wes Arndt noted a clerical error impacting the last page of the document. He motioned approval of the amended minutes; Brian Rhodes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Morrissey opened the floor for Member Comments. Arndt (New Richmond) thanked staff for the work putting together the Annual Conference. There were no other comments.

**President's Remarks:** President Morrissey expressed appreciation to the membership for their continued support of MEUW. He reported that all candidates for District Director and Alternate Director in the even-numbered districts were elected by a majority of the members in that district. There are two newcomers to the Board as a result of the election: Michael Avanzi, GM of Kaukauna Utilities, is District 4 Alternate Director, and Nick Wyss, DPW Director for New Lisbon, is District 6 Alternate Director. He also thanked Brian Knapp, Cindy Carter, Troy Murphy, and Joe Pickart for their service on MEUW's Board.

Morrissey presented a gift to Rick Wicklund, who presented a crystal award and thanked Morrissey for his service as Board President (noting that, pending approval of the Bylaws changes, he will be the last person to hold that title for MEUW).

**Executive Director's Report:** Tim Heinrich provided an update on several items of administrative business, including:

- Several member-requested seminars are planned before year-end, including an underground facility locating workshop on June 28 in Lake Mills and a one-day workshop focused on advanced tree trimming for lineworkers that will take place on back-to-back dates in Plymouth on September 21 and 22.
- New energy-efficient LED light fixtures have been installed in the MEUW office, and the Focus on Energy rebate check has been received.
- Board members were reminded to complete the online form to certify acceptance of two MEUW policies that are expected to be reviewed annually; the link was provided with the meeting packet.
- The Underground Training Field that MEUW members were integral in helping to develop was dedicated at Southwest Technical College in Fennimore on April 21. Randy Larson collected donated materials from members across the state and delivered them to SWTC where they'll be used for training.

- The new Legislative and Regulatory Relations position being added to MEUW’s staff is expected to be filled by mid-June. As noted during presentations at the Annual Conference, the role will help to provide a renewed focus for MEUW’s advocacy efforts, which are particularly valuable to small member utilities.
- This year’s APPA National Conference takes place in Nashville, and plans are coming together for a MEUW-hosted reception for Wisconsin attendees to be held on Tuesday evening, June 14.
- MEUW will host “Public Power on Parade” to celebrate the association’s 95th anniversary on October 18, 2023. Full details will be communicated to the membership in the coming months. The occasion promises to be a prime opportunity to draw attention to our member utilities and the special nature of public power. The event centers around a caravan of municipal electric utility trucks making their way down East Washington Avenue and then circling the Capitol Square in Madison. The planned route uses Token Creek Park in DeForest as an assembly area and site for either a pre- or post-parade picnic lunch for those who participate. Heinrich noted that the same public relations agency that developed MEUW’s public radio/TV campaign materials in 2021 is being contracted to develop a comprehensive plan for the event.

**Secretary/Treasurer’s Report:** Tim Herlitzka reported on year-end 2021 financial results, noting that MEUW finished the year with a surplus of \$50,965, performance that was better than budget, as the Board had approved a 2021 plan that balanced income and expenses. The cash balance as of December 31, 2021, was \$455,070, short of the target of three-months’ operating expenses, equal to \$482,572. He also noted the “clean opinion” from Wegner CPAs, the firm which conducted the financial audit.

**Approval of Independent Auditors’ Report:** Scott Adler motioned and Jill Weiss seconded approval of the Audit Report. Motion passed unanimously.

**Consideration of Revisions to Bylaws:** The Board of Directors was asked to approve changes to the association Bylaws, effective immediately. A redline version of the proposed changes was distributed to the Board via electronic means on April 27, 2022. The proposed updates are mostly minor, taking into account current practices, modernizing certain phrasing, and correcting grammatical, stylistic, or formatting errors in the current Bylaws document. The most significant change updates MEUW’s governance and executive titles to mirror those used by American Public Power Association (APPA) and a number of other trade associations, including Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA). Brian Knapp motioned and Brian Rhodes seconded approval of the Bylaws revisions. Motion passed unanimously.

**Consideration of 2022-23 Officers and At-Large Directors:** The Board was presented with a slate of officers to serve a one-year term that expires at the Annual Meeting in 2023: Rick Wicklund (Sun Prairie), Board Chair; Nicolas Kumm (Marshfield), Chair-Elect; Dean Bergstrom (Cumberland), Vice Chair; Tim Herlitzka (Waunakee), Secretary/Treasurer; and George Morrissey (Cuba City), Immediate Past Chair. Incoming Board Chair Wicklund has nominated two At-Large Directors — Troy Adams (Manitowoc) and Scott Adler (Jefferson) — to serve a two-year term expiring at the Annual Meeting in 2024. Wes Arndt motioned and Michelle Kaltenberg seconded approval of the officers and at-large directors. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Appointment of District 1 Alternate Director:** The Board was asked to approve the appointment of Tim Aaby of Rice Lake as District 1 Alternate Director to complete the unfinished term of Dean Bergstrom, who has been elected to the Executive Committee. Motion by Kumm and second by Adler. Motion passed unanimously.

*Wicklund of Sun Prairie was seated as 2022-23 Board Chair and presided over the remainder of the meeting.*

## Other Business:

- Heinrich provided a brief review of the results from the most recent **Member Engagement Survey** that was conducted in February and March. Feedback shows continuing satisfaction with MEUW's services. A full report will be provided in the June edition of *Live Lines*, including a link to the results report.
- As a follow up to Executive Committee and Board discussions, Heinrich has been evaluating MEUW's **Professional Development Program Offerings**, which would include the existing Management Training Program. He reviewed the proposed program changes and a timeline for future course offerings. Board members indicated support for the new offerings and noted they were well thought out and would be of value to the membership. Communications around the changes will begin this summer, and the first program changes will occur in early 2023.
- The MEUW Board will hold a daylong planning meeting to discuss updates to the current **Association Strategic Plan**. The session will take place on Wednesday, August 31, at the Lodge At Mauston, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The current MEUW Strategic Plan was adopted in 2019.
- Board members also discussed opportunities related to grant dollars available from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and how MEUW could assist members in taking advantage of those opportunities. After a discussion, it was agreed that staff would continue to work with Power System Engineering, which has already demonstrated an interest and willingness in working with municipal utilities to explore projects that would meet the grant guidelines and timeframes. MEUW will communicate the details to the membership as they are finalized.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

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### 2022 Annual Business Meeting Attendees (33 participants representing 24 member utilities)

Troy Adams, Manitowoc	Tim Heinrich, MEUW
Scott Adler, Jefferson*	Tim Herlitzka, Waunakee*
Wes Arndt, New Richmond*	Michelle Kaltenberg, Columbus*
Michael Avanzi, Kaukauna	Brian Knapp, Shawano*
Dean Bergstrom, Cumberland*	Melanie Krause, Menasha*
Jason Bieri, Sturgeon Bay	Greg Kuhn, Oconto Falls*
Steve Brooks, Waupun*	Nicolas Kumm, Marshfield*
Mallory Conradt, MEUW	John Moore, Kaukauna
Adam Carroll, Shawano	Eric Miller, Kaukauna
Brian Carroll, Gresham*	George Morrissey, Cuba City*
Cynthia Carter, Manitowoc*	Tim Putz, Arcadia*
Mike Czuprynko, MEUW	Chad Renly, Evansville*
Casey Engebretson, Black River Falls*	Mike Reynolds, Boscobel*
Nick Gahlman, Juneau*	Brian Rhodes, Hartford*
Scott Gald, Richland Center*	Jill Weiss, Stoughton*
Rick Giese, Gresham	Rick Wicklund, Sun Prairie*
Richard Heinemann, Boardman & Clark	

\* Board member; 9 of 10 districts (District 5) were represented