

Practical Leadership Strategies for Utility Managers

Leaders come in all shapes, sizes, and forms. Some people become leaders by choice and ambition, while others are thrust into the role by necessity. Regardless of the circumstances or the individual, leading people and projects — and being “in charge” — requires a base level understanding of the fundamentals of leadership. This interactive, two-day workshop will offer insights from experienced leaders and a roadmap to put both emerging and seasoned leaders on a path to success.

Workshop Facilitators



Workshop participants will learn from two experienced leaders: **Nilaksh Kothari**, who retired as General Manager and CEO of Manitowoc Public Utilities after nearly 20 years leading the state’s largest public power utility. He also served as Managing Director of Great Lakes Utilities and earned the James D.



Donovan Individual Achievement Award from American Public Power Association (APPA) in 2019; and **Dr. Craig Woolard**, Head of the Civil Engineering Department of Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman, MT, and a prior General Manager at Anchorage (Alaska) Utilities, as well as a Public Works Director

for City of Bozeman. Both have established proven track records of successfully delivering several leadership trainings for municipal leaders nationally. They are continuing their legacies of service by sharing their personal experiences and helping to develop a new generation of public power leaders.

The two-day program begins with check-in and networking at 8:30 a.m. Thursday and will conclude by noon on Friday. Continental breakfast will be provided both days, plus a buffet lunch on Thursday.

LOCATION

The Great Wolf Lodge — 1400 Great Wolf Drive, Baraboo (Wisconsin Dells)

A room block is available for the rate of \$110.00 per night plus taxes. Book online [here](#) and mention Group Code 2603MEUW. The reserved rate is available until Feb. 9.

March 12 & 13, 2026

Wisconsin Dells

Who should attend

Those who are “in charge” of their community-owned electric utility — workers with titles like Electric Superintendent, Lead Lineman, Director of Public Works, or Utility Manager, among others.

Discussions will benefit municipal utility leaders of all experience levels, including those who may be new to their role, those in line to be the next leader, and those who already have extensive experience and simply want to learn from others responsible for similar work.

Key Discussion Topics

- Perspectives on Leadership Challenges
- Fostering Trust and Credibility with Teams
- Successfully Holding Crucial Conversations
- Influencing Others
- Understanding the Psychology of Change and Resistance
- Leading Change with Vision and Clarity
- Engaging Stakeholders and Sustaining Momentum

Why attend

- Increase ability to effectively address common and emerging leadership challenges
- Strengthen communication skills for team engagement and performance
- Develop new skills and a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of leading people and projects
- Understand your personal leadership style and the styles of others to maximize your effectiveness
- Learn from accomplished leaders and takeaway valuable lessons you can apply to your own work
- Focus on what it takes to be a leader in today’s workplace and pick up tips to be more successful

> **\$350 per person** (MEUW members/communities only)

Reserve your seat for this valuable training by March 6 ...

MEUW.org