

Meeting of the **Wisconsin Utility Tax Association [WUTA]** held **Wednesday, September 28, 2011** at the Esquire Club, Madison.

Present: V. Pleasant Prairie T. Carlton (2) T. Two Creeks T. Wheaton
 Jefferson County V. Genoa (2) T. Genoa (2) T. Neenah
 Guest – L. Pearce. Lobbyist Jolene Plautz Marge Pearce. Administrative Assistant.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Pollocoff at 11:08am. Introductions followed.

Agenda correction. DeKeyser noted the date on the April Meeting Minutes in the materials is correct but the agenda for this meeting reads ‘Minutes of April 20,2011. Minutes of the April 27, 2011 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved on motion Poplham,second DeKeyser.

Membership Report (currently 28) was reviewed and discussed. Those who did not renew, and several who should be members, will be contacted by members. Mailing will go out to municipalities who should be member in February.

Financial Status Report was reviewed. In response to a question, it was stated the dues were previously discussed and will remain the same for fiscal year starting April 2012.

Lobbyist Plautz introduced **Rick Olin, Fiscal Analyst Department of Revenue Fiscal Bureau**. Using a handout [he had prepared] he did an overview of the history of **Utility Aids: Distribution; Mechanics; Comparison of most recent Utility Tax Collections and Aid Payments; and, Partial Listing of new Production Plants since 2004**. Handout will be attached to the Minutes and emailed to the member address book. 1977 Chapter 29 established the basic payment structure for distribution of the majority of utility aid payments until 2009. Changes were made to the formula in 2003 [Act 31]; 2007 [Act 20]; 2007 [Act 226]; and 2009 [Act 32]. Originally payments were based on the “book value” [which depreciated] of the production facility paying the tax. In 2003 ‘capacity aid’ became the basis of the payments. This ‘capacity’ is based on the stated (or plaque) capacity and municipalities should check with the facility and DOR to be sure those figures are changed when facility updates are completed. The account source was changed to ‘capacity aids’ but, based on specific criteria [P2&3] some payments continued to be paid from Shared Revenue. P.4 compared the Utility Aids and the Collection from 2004 through 2011. Olin responded to questions from the floor as to when those plants under the book value criteria would depreciate and switch of ‘capacity’; what formulas come into play when new facilities are constructed; and questions re specific municipalities.

Plautz stated only three Legislators have signed onto Rep Bies LRB 2323/1 ‘**Dry Cast Storage Bill**’. At this point it is unlikely the Bill will progress to Hearing status. *Members are asked to contact their Legislators and ask for their support.* Engelbrecht has been working with a Federal Blue Ribbon Committee on Dry Cask Storage. Purpose is to seek (and share with the Government) input on what to do with nuclear waste i.e. spent fuel. Federal Government has collected monies for storage but have not come up with an acceptable method. Members with casks in storage reported on the numbers and what is being done at the local level. Casks are moved about within a facility based on how long they have been in storage. Engelbrecht will continue to work with the committee and update members.

Next Meeting. Legislature will be in session on a very limited basis during the upcoming months. At this time there is no issue, other than the Dry Cask Storage, which must be addressed. It was decided to hold a ‘Conference Call Meeting’ at 11:am on Wednesday, January 18th for the purpose of updating members on what is happening in the Legislature.

It was suggested the April 25, 2012 Annual Meeting be held in Weston / Rothschild and include a tour of the facility.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:58pm.

Marge Pearce
WUTA Administrative Assistant
9.29.11