

**WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION**  
44 East Mifflin Street, Suite 605A, Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
Phone: (608) 250-4685

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD**

**December 13, 2013**

**DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C.  
Madison, Wisconsin**

**2013-2014 Officers**

President  
JOHN H. TRAMBURG  
(920) 484-3534  
Columbia County

Vice President  
LAWRENCE WILLKOM  
(715) 723-5804  
Chippewa County

Secretary  
WILLIAM GOEHRING  
(920) 994-4749  
Sheboygan County

Treasurer  
LINDA SINKULA  
(920) 388-3251  
Kewaunee County

Executive Director  
ALICE O'CONNOR  
Direct(608) 252-9391  
aoc@dewittross.com

The following members were present:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| John Tramburg    | Columbia County  |
| Lawrence Willkom | Chippewa County  |
| Sharon Hampson   | LaCrosse County  |
| William Goehring | Sheboygan County |
| Richard Ott      | Rock County      |
| Larry Wolf       | Grant County     |
| Chuck Hoffman    | Manitowoc County |

**Via Phone:** Kaye Shillin, Don Pazynski, Richard Ott, Sharon Hampson and Nick Osborne

**Staff:** Alice O'Connor, WCUTA

**Excused:** Kyle Christianson, Doug Johnson, Josh Schoenmann, Linda Sinkula, Herb Tennes and Del Twidt

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Minutes**

The minutes of May 31, 2013 were accepted on motion by Larry Willkom, seconded by William Goehring.

**Member Counties**

ASHLAND  
BUFFALO  
CHIPPEWA  
COLUMBIA  
DOUGLAS  
DUNN  
GRANT  
JEFFERSON  
KENOSHA  
KEWAUNEE  
LA CROSSE  
MANITOWOC  
MARATHON  
MARINETTE  
OZAUKEE  
ROCK  
SHEBOYGAN  
VERNON  
WASHINGTON

**President's report**

John Tramburg pointed out attendance at meetings is falling off. He also said counties need to remain cautious about potential changes to the utility tax formula

**Treasurer's Report - Linda Sinkula**

With the absence of the Treasurer, finances were discussed but a motion by Chuck Hoffman, seconded by Steve Rasmussen was to delay accepting the Treasurer's Report until the next meeting. Motion approved. It was pointed out Ashland County never paid 2013 dues and now 2014 is upon us. Alice will follow up.

Alice reported dues checks are coming in slow, but some counties are waiting until 2014. The beginning balance in WCUTA checkbook is \$16,659.86, with a CD that will mature March 18, 2014. The CD is value at \$10,055.94. There is a separate CD in the amount of \$50,232.63 that matures on January 31, 2014.

Expenses since May through October is \$13,891.06 for a net balance of \$93,284.70.

### Executive Director Report – Alice O’Connor

- Status of JFC directed study committee on utility tax formula. Alice reported despite the JFC mandate to the DOR to report back with considerations to review related to the utility tax formula, the WCA has not yet been contacted. Alice said we know the towns will persist in their attempts to remove funds from counties rather than seeking new funds.
- SB 371/AB 463 – nitrous oxide standards for certain combustion turbine. The bill affects emission standards from combustion turbine and cannot exceed certain levels. The DNR has promulgated Rule NR428 to meet the Federal Clean Air Act requirements to control nitrogen oxide. It was signed into law December 15, 2013, Act 91.
- AB 513 - dry cask storage of spent fuel from nuclear power plants and has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities. AB 513 will be amended as a result of a meeting with local towns. Passage is not likely.
- New Assembly Utility Chair – Rep. Mike Kuglitsch (R-New Berlin). Alice reported he has no background in energy or utilities per se. He owned a fitness club.

### WCA Report – Kyle Christianson

Alice reported that she talked to Kyle Christianson about the JFC study to look at changing the utility tax formula at DOR but the WCA had not yet been contacted by the DOR.

Speaker Deborah Erwin, PSC supervisor provide an updated on the wind regulation program. Deborah provided a history of wind regulations and said current issues remain around shadow flicker, decommissioning, and set back distance. There are specific processes that need to be adhered to at both local levels of government and the PSC.

The Shirley noise wind study suspended rules for one year. Experts did not analyze health effects only noise levels. Senator Lasee’s bill which is not likely to pass creates a legal cause of action if you feel your health has been impacted by a wind turbine. The Wind Siting Council which is advisory to the PSC is statutorily mandated to provide a report every five years. Their next report will be out in October 2014.

There was discussion around the controversial St. Croix County 50 turbine wind project. The PSC is expecting a lawsuit when that permit was denied.

She also discussed working with the DNR when new windmills are sited to be sure bird migration patterns are not negatively impacted. There are fall migration issues. The PSC also works with the fish and wildlife.

The law specifies a “no go zone” flagged for future residential development you established as a placeholder prior to 2009 and a plan in place ready to go by 2015. It must be a comprehensive plan.

The PSC will also be issuing a preliminary report in January 2014 on wind project updates with a final report expected in June 2014.

She said the federal production tax credit is set to expire on December 31, 2013 so it’s going to be difficult for larger wind projects to “pencil out” moving forward.

Wisconsin utilities have already met the 10% RPS threshold by 2015. The next big project is coming from a group of developers who want to double the size of a tower from 200 to 400 feet. A new coalition against it has formed “SOUL” – Save our Land.

The next board meeting is set for February 21, 2014 at 10:30 with location in Madison to be announced.

Possible speakers suggested included DNR fall migration patterns or DOR and changes under consideration to change utility tax formula.

A motion to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. was made by Supervisor Hoffman and seconded by Nick Osborne.