

October 22, 2021

Minutes of the Board of Directors Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association at WCA Conference room. –VIA ZOOM and in person

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 by Board Chair, Supervisor William Goehring. Roll call was taken.

PRESENT: William Goehring- Sheboygan County Supervisor, Thomas Rosenberg, Marathon County Supervisor, Walt Christensen - Jefferson County Supervisor, Bob Yeomans - Rock County Supervisor, Alice O'Connor - WCUTA, Mark Wadium, Outagamie County, Lee Engelbrecht, Manitowoc County; Kyle Christianson, WCA , Alice O'Connor WCUTA staff.

VIA ZOOM:

Sonya Hansen, Buffalo County; Vern Koch-Sheboygan County Board Chair; Robert Keeney - Grant County Board Chair, Charlene Kervina, Chippewa County Supervisor; Vern Gove, Columbia County Board Chair; Charlene Kervina, Chippewa County Board Chair; Shonna Neary, Columbia County Project manager, Cari Redington, Vernon County, Justin Running, Dan Gray, Ashland county Administrator, WCA Chelsea Fibert, Lois Schoepp, Columbia county comptroller.

Chairman's Report Supervisor William Goehring

After roll call, Chairman Goehring reported on the status of transition plans to become effective Jan 1, 2022. He indicated that the executive committee decided to move administrative functions to the WCA and retain authority over lobbying services after initial meetings with the Wisconsin Utility Tax Association resulted in no interest to merge our Associations. Supervisor Goering reported the WCA agreed to assume all costs associated to WCUTA administrative duties effective January 2, 2021 with Chelsea Fibert as the WCA point person. Kyle Christianson reported that administrative duties would include preparing meeting agendas and minutes, mailings , scheduling meetings, handling all finances and banking, with expenses separated by specific accounts inside the WCA, general counsel updates to bylaws and any other legal matters. Kyle stressed WCUTA would still be its own board and make all its decisions and direct lobbying activities. Motion to move the administrative duties to WCA January 1, 2021 was approved on a motion from Supervisor Robert Keeney, second by Supervisor Tom Rosenberg.

Lobbying services will go through an RFP process with deadline for applications November 8, 2021; interviews by the Executive Committee in November and a decision by the December 3, 2021 board meeting, where the new lobbyist will be announced. Supervisor Goering shared the RFP After discussion the RFP will be tweaked to add more detail regarding benchmarks for measuring services. The final RFP will be put out to the Association of Wisconsin Lobbyists. The WCUTA Executive Committee will set up interviews. A motion to authorize the WCUTA executive committee to make changes to the RFP was passed on a motion from Supervisor Walt Christensen, seconded by Supervisor Tom Rosenburg. Motion passed.

The Executive Committee was given authority to do the two-month termination notice per the by-laws to Constituency Service contract effective December 31, 2021 and as well decide a month to month contract with Constituency Services as needed after December 31, 2021. That was approved on a motion by Supervisor Yeomans, second by Supervisor Rosenberg. Motion passed.

Separately, after additional discussion, a motion from Supervisor Yeoman, seconded by Supervisor Rosenberg was approved to increase Alice O'Connor's retainer to \$3000 for the months of October, November, December 2021 to aid in the transition taking place.

Speaker PSC Commissioner Tyler Huebner then joined via zoom. He said the state just released an additional \$100 million in funds for expanded broadband with 83 grants throughout the state. An additional \$125 million will be released by Governor Evers over the remainder of the biennium. There may be more if the federal infrastructure bill passes. He said the PSC generally has three dockets but the one he thinks we are most interested in is "The roadmap to zero carbon." This is open for comments now. He said PSC staff wants to know more exactly what utilities are doing to actively reduce carbon integrated planning. He said Wisconsin has strategic energy planning but not integrated planning for our future. He said every two years the PSC looks ahead six years and they are currently asking more questions of utilities.

A second docket the PSC just opened has to do with the emergency of electric vehicles. There is much to learn. Will they be charging to the electric grid and if so, what does this mean?

The third docket is for private smaller renewable owners. PSC wants to know what they generate and when they generate excess, what should they pay. This could impact a county's return on investments.

He said there have been eleven different approvals for solar projects these past two years that have generated 1,850 megawatts. This is 6 percent of the total electricity used in our state. He said the PSC is starting to see utilities purchasing and bringing into their rate base more renewable generation. There is currently no comprehensive data on alternative energy sources. It takes 35 acres to produce 5 megawatts from solar.

Supervisor Yeomans said that local governments receive utility tax payments from generating the capacity of utilities so it's a loss if those people are not paying property taxes. Is this fair to ratepayers?

Commissioner Huebner said PSC says utilities need to prove they have the capability to deliver generation adequacy during tough times of the year—summer and winter. Upon plant retirements, utilities have to prove to MISO they will have reliability on the grid. He said the PSC taxes utilities in state at one rate, and a different rate if they get energy from outside the state. I.e. Excel energy is a large Midwest provider moving power between Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas. MISO is having 15 state conversations right now. Supply chain issues in the US are affecting prices. Technology is winning- helping decisions about costs and strategic energy assessments. He said PSC is a public agency and has 200 documents filed daily. He is going to

share documents that we might find useful. He is happy to speak to us anytime and thanked us for our questions.

Minutes from the July 23,2021 were approved on a motion from Supervisor Tom Rosenberg and Seconded by Supervisor Bob Yeomans. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report -Supervisor Robert Keeney

As of July 1,2021 balance in the check book was \$28,350.08 plus 70 cents for a full balance of \$28,350.78. Checks paid to Constituency Services between July 31, 2021 were \$4,553.81, and \$2,439.46, and 26 cents interest in August. This left an August 31,2021 checkbook balance of \$21,357.77. In September, Constituency Services was paid \$2,461.57 with 18 cents interest in the check book leaving September 30, 2021 balance of \$18,897.37. There is an outstanding balance to Constituency Services of \$2,340.81 that will leave a check book balance of \$16,555.56 when paid. The CD beginning balance as of July 1, 2021 was \$ 41,108.54 with quarterly interest of \$25.90. The August 31, 2021 CD balance is \$41,134.44. Total WCUTA assets as of October 16, 2021 after an outstanding invoice of \$2,340.81 is paid is \$57,690.00. The Treasurer's report was passed on a motion by SSupervisor Yeoman, seconded by Supervisor Engelbrecht.

With the transition to a new lobbyist and some overlap with Alice, there was a discussion that dues has been at .0020 for some time and the Association might want to do a slight dues increase. A motion was make to increase dues to .00225 by Supervisor Walt Christensen seconded by Supervisor Tom Rosenberg. This will generate approximately \$5000 more in revenue for 2022. Motion passed.

Executive Director REPORT - Alice O'Connor

Alice reported that the Senator Ballweg/Rep. Oldenburg 10-year step down bill is hung up in the Assembly Energy Committee because the committee chair does not like the ten year step down but he is OK with was recently introduced, SB468, and WCUTA is supporting. The legislation will move with hopes of reaching the floor by the next floor period scheduled for the week of September 28th followed by the week of October 2, 2021. It is not clear if it has enough momentum to pass. Kyle said he would send a report to share with the board.

The two co-chairs of the Legislative Council Study Committee Senator Chris Kapenga and Rep. Tyler Vorpagel have not committed to a Legislative Council Study Committee. It appears their enthusiasm has waned from previous signals they would be supportive of a Legislative Council Study Committee. There is tremendous apathy in the legislature and like last session, they are likely to adjourn at the end of February 2022. GOP leaders say it will be a mostly do-nothing legislature. The GOP priority is gerrymandering and control over legislative maps and continued hammering on the last election and alleged fraud.

WCUTA SUBCOMMITTEE Work Group -Supervisor Yeoman, Rosenberg and Keeney and Administrator Cari Redington -on hold.

The next board meeting is Friday December 3 at the Wisconsin Counties Association Conference room at 10:30 am. A zoom meeting notice will be sent out closer to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 am on a motion by Supervisor Christensen, seconded by Supervisor Rosenberg.
