



WISCONSIN COUNTIES
UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION

**WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MINUTES

Friday, May 6, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Wisconsin Counties Association
22 E Mifflin St., Suite 900
Madison, WI 53703

CALL TO ORDER: Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association (WCUTA) President William Goehring called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: William Goehring, Sheboygan County; Anita Martin, Jefferson County; Tom Rosenberg, Marathon County; and Lee Engelbrecht, Manitowoc County.

VIRTUALLY: Roger Calkins, Chippewa County; Christopher Polzer & Shonna Neary, Columbia County; Brad Stiner, Crawford County; Jim Farrell, Rock County; John Aasen, Trempealeau County; Carroll Merry, Washington County. **ABSENT:** Robert Keeney, Grant County; Jerry Guth, Green County; Jeffery Amo, Jackson County; Ken Borzick, Marquette County; Roger Call, Vernon County; Melissa Pingel, Waushara County; and Lance Pliml, Wood County. **OTHERS:** George Klaetsch, Klaetsch Public Affairs; Mark Wadium, Outagamie County; Dan Bahr, and Robyn Voss, Wisconsin Counties Association. **OTHERS**

VIRTUALLY: Senator Joan Balweg, Representative Loren Oldenburg & Leah Peterson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 21, 2022 MEETING: Motion by Englebrecht, second by Rosenberg, to approve the January 21, 2022 minutes as printed (Anita Martin abstained). Motion carried.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: Mr. Goehring welcomed the new members to the group. Mr. Goehring told the Board that we are in a transition period with the elections and the groups new lobbyist, George Klaetsch.

UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYMENTS: Mr. Goehring told the Board that Sauk and Pepin County have decided not to join the WCUTA Board at this point, but all other dues have been paid.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Robert Keeney was not in attendance today. Mr. Goehring suggested since the WCA has assumed responsibility for financials that we remove “Treasurer Report”. Motion by Rosenberg, second by Englebrecht, to approve the removal of the “Treasurer’s report”. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Dan Bahr called for nominations for President of the Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association (WCUTA). Lee Englebrecht nominated William Goehring. Motion by John Aasen, second by Tom Rosenberg, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for William Goehring. Motion carried.

Dan Bahr called for nominations for Vice-President of WCUTA. William Goehring nominated Robert Keeney. Motion by Lee Englebrecht, second by Shonna Neary, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Keeney. Motion carried.

Dan Bahr called for nominations for Second Vice President of WCUTA. Lee Englebrecht nominated Tom Rosenberg. Motion by William Goehring, second by Lee Englebrecht, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Tom Rosenberg. Motion carried.

Dan Bahr called for nominations for Secretary of WCUTA. William Goehring nominated Lee Englebrecht. Motion by Tom Rosenberg, second by Carroll Merry, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Lee Englebrecht. Motion carried.

Dan Bahr called for nominations of the Fifth Member of the Executive Committee. William Goehring nominated Chris Polzer. Motion by Lee Englebrecht, second by Tom Rosenberg, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Chris Polzer. Motion carried.

LOBBYIST REPORT: George Klaetsch provided an update on where he sees the Board going in the future. Mr. Klaetsch suggested that the Board put together a more detailed “ask” that he can present to the Legislature. Mr. Klaetsch asked for more direction from the Board. Discussion followed.

STRATEGIES FOR 2022:

- a. Biennial Budget – Utility Aid Case: Mr. Klaetsch explained the difference between the Utility Aid and Utility Tax to the Board. He suggested going forward we have someone come in and speak about the difference and what the WCUTA Board could expect as far as funding. Mr. Klaetsch also suggested the Board put together an “ask”. Discussion followed.

PRESENTATIONS (VIA ZOOM): Mr. Klaetsch introduced Senator Joan Ballweg and Representative Loren Oldenburg.

Senator Ballweg thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. She provided detail about decommissioning power plants and how the stepdown payment plan should work. Senator Ballweg talked about legislations she worked on and would continue to support. Discussion followed.

Representative Oldenburg thanked the Board for allowing him to speak and informed the Board about the Genoa Powerplant deciding to shut down early and potentially losing a million dollars a year in shared revenue, instead of a five-year step down. Discussion followed.

WCA REPORT: Dan Bahr provided an update on the proactive legislative agenda at the steering committees. He suggested adding a line for the utility aid payments to make sure we ask for help from our steering committees.

NEXT MEETING DATE/TOPICS: The next meeting date will be July 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Have the Board think about questions to put on a questionnaire to send out to counties. Provide the last three years of utility costs.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Englebrecht, second by Rosenberg, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried.