

# WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION

44 East Mifflin Street, Suite 605A, Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Phone: (608) 250-4685

## 2014-2015 Officers

President  
LAWRENCE WILLKOM  
(715) 723-5804  
Chippewa County

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

Secretary  
William Goehring  
(920) 994-4749  
Sheboygan County

Treasurer  
LINDA SINKULA  
(920) 388-3251  
Kewaunee County

Executive Director  
ALICE O'CONNOR  
Direct(608) 250-4685  
aoc@constituencyservices.org

**Friday, November 7, 2014**

**WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION  
10:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (WORKING LUNCH)**

***NOTE: Wisconsin Counties Association  
22 E. Mifflin, Madison, WI 53703***

***Parking Instructions provided below***

## CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS:

**Conference Dial-in Number: (712) 432-0460**

**Participant Access Code: 115141#**

(Be sure to hit # key after you enter the number, this will take you into the conference call)

*If you are having trouble connecting, please call my assistant Kathy Midak at 608-250-4685, so she can assist you.*

## Member Counties

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

- Call to Order - John Tramburg
- Roll Call- John Tramburg
- Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2014 (**Attached**)
- President's Report – Larry Willkom
- Treasurer's report - Supervisor Linda Sinkula
  - Balance Sheet
- Report of Executive Director – Alice O'Connor
- WCA Model resolution update
- WCA Report – Kyle Christianson
- **Speaker TBD**
- Other Issues
- Next Board Meeting Date
- Adjourn

**\*Note: Sandwiches will be delivered at noon for a working lunch.**

**\*Note: Come to Alice's office after parking your car and we can walk over together at 10:15 a.m. or meet at the hearing room. Call Alice if you get lost 608-225-9391.**

## **DIRECTIONS TO Constituency Services and the Association Offices**

**44 East Mifflin Street Suite 605A, Madison Wi 53703  
608- 250-4685**

44 East Mifflin Street (also known as the old AT&T building) is located on the Capitol Square at the intersection of Mifflin Street, Pickney Street and Webster Street, directly across the street from the Madison Children's Museum.

Our parking ramp is located on the side of the building but a one way street toward the capitol square means you must enter it from the outside loop on the square or go around the block.

Bring your parking sticker to be validated.. You will need your ticket to get out of the ramp. Park in the visitor slots. This building has no elevator in the ramp.  
Enter the building from the back and press 6 to come to our floor. Or you can also enter from the main lobby on the square.

### **To enter the ramp: Dayton/Pinckney Parking Ramp, 21 E. Dayton Street**

#### **From Milwaukee**

*I-94 W toward Madison  
Take WI-30 W toward Madison  
Exit for US-151 S/US-151 N/E Washington Avenue  
Follow US-151 S/E. Washington Avenue  
Turn Right onto N. Webster Street;  
Turn Left onto E. Dayton Street;  
Parking Ramp is on the Left.*

#### **From Janesville/Beloit**

*I-90 W/I-39 N toward Madison  
Take Exit 142A on the left for US-12 W/Us-18 W/W Beltline Hwy  
Take Exit 263 for John Nolen Drive  
Follow signs for US-151/S Blair Street  
Turn left onto E. Washington Avenue/US-151  
Turn Right onto N. Webster Street;  
Turn Left onto E. Dayton Street;  
Parking Ramp is on the Left.*

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD**  
**May 9, 2014**

**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) 250-4685  
aoc@constituencyservices.org

The following members were present:

John Tramburg  
Lawrence Willkom  
William Goehring  
Richard Ott  
Linda Sinkula  
Chuck Hoffman  
Herb Tennis  
Walt Christensen

Columbia County  
Chippewa County  
Sheboygan County  
Rock County  
Kewaunee County  
Manitowoc County  
Washington County  
Jefferson County

**Via Phone:** Sharon Hampson, LaCrosse County, Don Pazynski, Marinette County

**Staff:** Alice O'Connor, WCUTA  
Kyle Christianson, WCA

**Excused:** Herbert Cornell, Ed Dörner, Thomas Meaux, Nick Osborne  
Steve Rasmussen, Lisa Schuh, Josh Schoenmann

**Call to Order**

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

**Minutes**

The minutes of March 31, 2014 were accepted on motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Sinkula.

**President's report**

Supervisor Tramburg thanked Kaye Shillin, Kewaunee County, and Amy Rinard, Jefferson County for their many years of service and dedication to the Association

**Nominating Committee Report**

Supervisor Tramburg acknowledged the service of the following two supervisors who won their elections but changes were made by the respective county board chairs. They are: President - Lawrence Willkom, Chippewa County; Vice President - John Tramburg, Columbia County; Secretary - William Goehring, Sheboygan County; and Treasurer - Linda Sinkula, Kewaunee County.

He welcomed Supervisor Bill Goehring back to the Board because he was reappointed. He welcomed Supervisor Walt Christensen from Jefferson County.

**Member Counties**

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

Supervisor Willkom asked Board Chair Tramburg to make a few comments. Supervisor Tramburg said it was time for him to slow down and he was supporting Supervisor Willkom as the new Board Chair.

Supervisor Tramburg asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the 2014-15 officers were approved on a motion from Representative Ott; seconded by Supervisor Sinkula.

**Audit Committee Report – Supervisor Linda Sinkula and Supervisor Bill Goehring.**

The Association assets (checking and CDs) through April 30, 2014 are \$68,655.54.

The Association checking account as of April 30, 2014 with invoices paid through February 2014 is \$32,460.35.

Since last year, dues generated regular income of \$26,336.27 in a money market checking account.

A one year CD that matured on May 18, 2012 was rolled over in 2013 with its next maturity date of March 18, 2014 (Park Bank account number 7381806) with interest it is \$10,065.91.

A six month CD (Park Bank #7379279) in the amount of \$40,192.58 has continuously rolled over since the initial \$40,000 was invested October 13, 2011. It was last renewed January 1, 2014 and was rolled over with its next maturity date June 31, 2014. When it renewed January 31, 2014, interest was \$10.14. The CD is currently at \$40,242.77.

Dues have been held at .0015 since 2012 continued at that rate since then.

A motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Goehring requests future audit reports to be presented on a calendar year basis with a balance sheet for purposes of reporting with a chart of accounts that will break out fees, postage, food and telephone. Alice will prepare this.

The audit committee report as presented was accepted on a motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Goehring.

**Treasurer's Report – Supervisor Linda Sinkula**

Supervisor Linda Sinkula presented the Treasurer's Report and she said the checkbook balance as of April 30, 2014 was \$32,460.35. Expenses for March and April 2014 were \$4,074.58. The total balance in all WCUTA accounts as of April 30, 2014 was \$68,655.54. The balance in CD #737927 is \$40,242.77.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted on a motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Goehring.

**WCA Report – Kyle Christianson and Dan Bahr**

Kyle Christianson and Dan Bahr both shared DOR graphs that they say challenge the assertion by the Towns Association that property values are decreasing faster than county property values where wind towers are cited in a community. Both stressed the WCA would support towns getting more money to assist with wind tower expansion in towns if they went after "new" money, instead of trying to take money from the county utility tax pot of money. Alice reminded the Board the Department of Revenue retains approximately 83% and of all funds collected for power plants and substations that pay no local property tax. The utility tax money split among counties is only approximately 17% of all money collected.

Kyle shared a draft resolution and urged supervisors to tweak it or give him feedback. The goal would be to have individual counties pass this resolution before the end of the year (see attachment)

Those Supervisors who are also town representatives urged the WCA to work with the Towns Association. WC representatives said the WCA does on many issues.

Mr. Christianson and Mr. Bahr stressed their only job was to represent counties and they worked collaboratively with the towns where possible, rather than against one another.

Kyle also reported a new issue emerging with retiring units. He referred to a prior Legislation Fiscal Bureau (LFB) paper previously shared with WCUTA that raises the revenue issue for counties. The state wants to look at gross receipts not name plate capacity, and would reduce revenue accordingly.

He reported other issues for counties that will be in the next budget include: 911 consolidation and funding, road maintenance since the DOT segregated fund has a \$700 million structural deficit that fuel efficient cars won't be able to make whole. He said counties are also questioning how funding for decommissioning power plants work.

**Speaker Dan Sage, PSC Administrator, Gas and Energy Division** - Badger Coulee Transmission project. He shared the project flow chart (attached) and said the PSC formal review process.

The PSC will be completed by April 30, 2015 with three public comment periods, six local hearings and environmental impact statement (EIS). The PSC mailing list is over 5,000 individuals, including those who own property along the 180 miles project from LaCrosse to Madison.

He then discussed the NE Appleton Morgan Bay Lake Project in Outagamie/Winnebago Counties where ATC wants to install three lines side by side. The process will evaluate reliability and need factors.

Mr. Sage stressed that their evaluation includes looking outside of Wisconsin geography and including the energy needs of 18 states who participate in the Midwest system operations. This will be wrapped up by April 15, 2015.

During the discussion, Mr. Sage reported electricity use is declining due to energy efficiencies and the focus is now on energy distribution. This is why more power lines are going up.

Mr. Sage said any utility who wants to build must make their case and define the need for a new line. Energy growth at the local level is not relevant. The PSC now refers to new projects as "multivalued value" projects. Rates are set at the federal level.

Mr. Sage also discussed the Enbridge Project (9300-GF-184) and said the PSC had no jurisdiction over a liquid pipeline. Only the federal government does. The only rule the PSC plays is under Chapter 32(32.02), the eminent domain statute.

Enbridge can petition the PSC for a grant to authorize condemnation of property. The PSC in recent member has only used eminent domain to condemn property, twice.

Enbridge is not a utility so the company must pay for easements to the property. He said the PSC has been given no guidance by the federal government so they are likely to revert back to a public hearing process to obtain input (see attachment). The PSC always prefers to reach agreements with property owners.

He also added in response to a question that the state does receive revenue for transmission lines, he did not know if the state received revenue for pipelines.

He said property owners should pay much better attention to what specific languages inserted into easement language so they know if it includes any pipelines across sections of their property.

### **Executive Director Report – Alice O’Connor**

Alice reported that with the number of incumbent lawmakers who have announced they are not running again, almost 40% of the next legislature will be new.

She also shared a LFB memo that summarized the tax law changes since January 2011. She mentioned the approximate \$30 million rainy day fund, the largest in the state’s history.

She said she anticipated legislation next session would be looking at changes to the utility tax formula calculation that determines how local governments (towns, cities and counties) are reimbursed for power plants and substations within their jurisdiction.

### **Future Speakers Suggestions**

It was agreed future potential speakers could discuss:

- PSC Speaker – any updates on court decisions.
- Updates on Badger Coulee Transmission project.
- PSC future electricity generating needs of Wisconsin,
- Sen. Lasee or Rep. Thiesfeldt to discuss formula language for wind regulations.
- Kyle to discuss WCA model resolution status.
- Department of Revenue – 2015 budget.

The next meeting will be held October 10, 2014 at the Wisconsin Counties Association, 22 E. Mifflin Street, Suite 900, Madison, WI. The parking ramp is the same one used by Alice so directions for this meeting will be the same as the next meeting, except for entering a building that is more in the middle of the block.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. on a motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Sinkula.

**A RESOLUTION URGING ENACTMENT OF  
FAIR UTILITY TAX-SHARING LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, utility property was once taxed at the local level by counties and local units of government in the same way as most other property; and

**WHEREAS**, the state statutes under which the state taxes utility companies' local operations were written in 1929 in a search for greater efficiency, so that state experts would uniformly value all utility property in the state, levy a property tax on the property and then return 83% of the collected tax receipts to the site counties and local units of government as compensation for their forgone right to impose local property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the state changed this system 30 years ago into a "skim-off" under which only 19% of these tax collections are returned to utility-site counties and municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the state converted the utility tax to a gross receipts tax 20 years ago, but still compensates utility-site counties and municipalities under the same archaic property value-based formula; and

**WHEREAS**, the disparity between state-collected utility tax dollars and the meager state payments to utility-site counties and municipalities stifled needed development of new power generation for years; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2003 Legislature recognized the need to revamp the archaic and punitive system by enacting legislation increasing payments to counties and municipalities for newly constructed plants, but failed to pass 2003 Assembly Bill 774, a companion bill making similar changes for existing plants; Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** by the La Crosse County Board, that the La Crosse County Board urges the State Legislature to repeal the present outdated statutory system and to enact legislation that fairly compensates counties and local governments for hosting existing power generation sites; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to State Senator Dan Kapanke and Representatives Mike Huebsch and Jennifer Shilling with the request that they take the lead in introducing and enacting a successor bill to 2003 AB 774.

## 2006 DUES

Member County	2005 Actual Shared Utility Tax Payments <sup>1</sup>	2006 Estimated Shared Utility Tax Payments <sup>2</sup>	2006 Dues (Column 1 times .0025) <sup>3</sup>
Ashland	\$91,971.31	\$104,283.68	\$230.00
Buffalo	381,737.28	381,358.04	954.00
Chippewa	1,114,792.22	1,103,789.48	2,786.00
Columbia	765,915.01	862,578.51	1,915.00
Douglas	45,635.46	44,792.34	114.00
Dunn	64,756.42	82,886.48	162.00
Grant	157,954.76	165,336.55	395.00
Jefferson	846,548.08	812,996.99	2,116.00
Kenosha	1,171,785.38	1,139,930.03	2,929.00
Kewaunee	891,463.79	878,436.44	2,229.00
LaCrosse	189,284.87	189,705.96	473.00
Manitowoc	841,752.80	841,239.60	2,104.00
Marathon	411,264.13	411,411.56	1,028.00
Marinette	328,361.54	323,279.86	821.00
Ozaukee	135,181.35	820,136.40	338.00
Rock	1,620,321.93	1,611,062.90	4,051.00
Sheboygan	518,027.15	916,378.27	1,295.00
Vernon	294,583.25	293,781.90	736.00
Washington	<u>216,247.29</u>	<u>207,611.07</u>	<u>516.00</u>
Total	\$10,087,584.02	\$11,190,996.06	\$25,192.00

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Revised – 8/24/05  
<sup>2</sup> Original Estimates - 9/6/05  
<sup>3</sup> Rounded



## MODEL LETTER

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

For 34 years, \_\_\_\_\_ County has been the victim of a lawful, yet unfair skim-off by the state of utility tax payments. The background is as follows.

In 1929, the Legislature correctly concluded that the state could do a more accurate job of assessing unique utility property for property tax purposes than local assessors could, and also could collect the money more efficiently. Accordingly, it enacted a system under which the state assessed the utility property and collected the taxes due, and then returned 83% of the moneys collected to the appropriate counties and local units of government where the plants were located, because the moneys collected were payments in lieu of local property taxes.

In 1971, then-Governor Lucey proposed to fund the new "shared revenue pot" in large part by skimming off most of this money. Since that time, the counties and local units of government have received only about 19% of the moneys collected by the state. One consequence of this drastic reduction in payments was to stifle utility plant construction. What locality would want the inconvenience of a utility plan if most of the tax revenue was going somewhere else? As a result, Wisconsin fell behind in needed utility construction.

In the 2003 session, the Legislature rewrote the law so that newly constructed plants will be under a new formula, and the counties and municipalities involved with new plants will receive enhanced payments based on the generating capacity of the utility plants. This incentive has already had a significant impact in encouraging the new construction that will be needed to make Wisconsin self-sufficient again in generating electric power.

Given the fiscal crisis then existing, the Legislature concluded that it had to deal with the problem of new construction first. Now the time is at hand to address these inequities that have existed for \_\_\_\_\_ County and other counties and local units that are sites of existing plants. If anything, the equities are even greater for existing site locations, because our citizens have been short-changed for over 30 years.

Several good ideas are currently under legislative consideration. One would change the formula for county and local payments from the present property value formula, to a "capacity-based" formula like that enacted for new plants. That has merit, and gets rid of the irrelevant reduction for depreciation that has eaten away at the present payments year after year. To be truly fair, however, such a change-over needs to be coupled with a hold-harmless for those locations that would see a decrease in payments. The payments have been too inadequate for too many years to warrant yet another reduction in the amount paid.

Flowing from this change to a capacity-based formula are two other ideas: One to put "general structures" (utility office buildings) back on the local property tax rolls; and another to put utility "substations" on the tax rolls as well. These changes complement the changeover to a capacity-based formula, because neither change would affect (i.e., reduce) the payment based on plant capacity.

There may be other ideas offered to address the problems that still linger for existing plant sites. All ideas warrant thoughtful consideration. The only certainty here is that \_\_\_\_\_ County and other counties and local units with existing plants have subsidized the rest of the state for too long and that we deserve to be fairly compensated in a way we have not been for over three decades. Representative Scott Jensen and others are exploring the available options and will have something ready for legislative consideration in the 2005 session. On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ County, I urge you to work with Representative Jensen and all others engaged in this effort to insure that a fair payment plan is enacted for \_\_\_\_\_ County and all other affected areas.

Sincerely,

---

## 2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 818

November 9, 2005 – Introduced by Representatives HONADEL, HAHN, ALBERS, GOTTLIEB, GRONEMUS, HINES, HUNDERTMARK, JENSEN, KERKMAN, KREIBICH, KREUSER, F. LASEE, LEMAHIEU, MCCORMICK, MONTGOMERY, NERISON, NISCHKE, OTT, PETROWSKI, SHERIDAN, STEINBRINK, TOWNS and VAN ROY, cosponsored by Senators PLALE, LEIBHAM, KANAVAS, BROWN, A. LASEE and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Energy and Utilities.

1     **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 196.20 (7) (c); *to amend* 16.969 (2) (a), 70.05  
2           (5) (a) 1m., 70.112 (4) (a), 76.28 (9), 76.29 (2), 79.04 (1) (intro.), 79.04 (1) (b) 1.,  
3           79.04 (2) (a), 79.04 (2) (am) 1., 79.04 (6) (a) and 196.491 (3) (gm); and *to create*  
4           70.112 (4) (am), 70.32 (2) (a) 8., 70.32 (2) (c) 2m., 70.995 (15), 76.28 (3) (e), 76.48  
5           (3d), 79.04 (4m) and 196.20 (7) (c) 2. of the statutes; **relating to:** public utility  
6           aid payments, imposing local general property taxes on production plant  
7           general structures and substations, and creating a credit against license fees  
8           imposed on light, heat, and power companies and electric cooperatives.

---

### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

Under current law, beginning in 2005, each county and municipality in which a power production plant is located receives a state aid payment based on the net book value of the production plant, for production plants that, generally, began operation before January 1, 2004, or based on the production plant's megawatt capacity, for production plants that began operation after December 31, 2003. Under this bill, beginning in 2007, if in any year the payments to the municipality and county in which a production plant is located would be greater based on the production plant's name-plate capacity than on the depreciated net book value of the production plant, the municipality and county will receive payments based on the

# WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2038, Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Phone: (608) 257-7181

## Officers

President

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

Vice-President

LAWRENCE J. WILLKOM  
(715) 723-5804  
Chippewa County

Secretary

GLEN SKUBAL  
(920) 755-2748  
Manitowoc County

Treasurer

THOMAS W. MEAUX  
(262) 284-8202  
Ozaukee County

Executive Director

MICHAEL R. VAUGHAN

## Background Information on AB 818

Assembly Bill 818 has been introduced in this legislative session to rewrite the law on shared utility tax payments to counties and municipalities for existing utility plants. The purpose will be to provide the same fair treatment to counties and municipalities hosting existing plants that was given in the 2003-04 legislative session to counties and municipalities where new utility plants are being built.

As many of you know, what was created in 1929 as an efficient way to collect utility property taxes for local governments, has been transformed into a cash cow for the state treasury, where only 19% of moneys collected from utilities are paid back now to counties and municipalities. This proposal places existing utility sites under the same "capacity-based" formula as this Legislature did in 2003 Act 31 for new utility sites. The purpose is to correct an inequity that has existed for over 30 years, through which counties and communities that hosted utility sites were at an economic disadvantage and received much less in "in lieu of property tax" compensation than they would have received if the sites were on the property tax rolls.

## Member Counties

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

The proposal also includes a "hold harmless" in the change-over to a capacity-based formula for existing plants, so that no county or municipality will receive less than it was receiving under the existing formula. The cost is small, particularly in light of the skim-off that has occurred for 30 years and will continue even under this bill.

This new bill contains the same provisions that were placed in the budget bill by the Joint Committee on Finance and subsequently passed by both houses of the legislature. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed those provisions, for reasons that are not yet clear. We plan to work with the Governor and his staff to help them understand this time that this proposal merits his support as well.

We understand that a renewed effort will be made in this legislative session to rewrite the law on shared utility tax payments to counties and municipalities for existing utility plants. The purpose will be to provide the same fair treatment to counties and municipalities hosting existing plants that was given in the 2003-04 legislative session to counties and municipalities where new utility plants are being built.

As many of you know, what was created in 1929 as an efficient way to collect utility property taxes for local governments, has been transformed into a cash cow for the state treasury, where only 19% of moneys collected from utilities are paid back now to counties and municipalities. This proposal places existing utility sites under the same "capacity-based" formula as this Legislature did in 2003 Act 31 for new utility sites. The purpose is to correct an inequity that has existed for over 30 years, through which counties and communities that hosted utility sites were at an economic disadvantage and received much less in "in lieu of property tax" compensation than they would have received if the sites were on the property tax rolls.

The proposal also includes a "hold harmless" in the change-over to a capacity-based formula for existing plants, so that no county or municipality will receive less than it was receiving under the existing formula. The cost is small, particularly in light of the skim-off that has occurred for 30 years and will continue even under this bill.

This new bill contains the same provisions that were placed in the budget bill by the Joint Committee on Finance and subsequently passed by both houses of the legislature. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed those provisions, for reasons that are not yet clear. We urge you to become a co-author of this proposal and to speedily pass this proposal again. We plan to work with the Governor and his staff to help them understand this time that this proposal merits his support as well.

MRV:bg  
050065  
note 9-29-05

# WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2038, Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Phone: (608) 257-7181

## Officers

President

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

Vice-President

LAWRENCE J. WILLKOM  
(715) 723-5804  
Chippewa County

Secretary

GLEN SKUBAL  
(920) 755-2748  
Manitowoc County

Treasurer

THOMAS W. MEAUX  
(262) 284-8202  
Ozaukee County

Executive Director

MICHAEL R. VAUGHAN

## Member Counties

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

## EFFECT OF CURRENT PROPOSALS ON PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES

County	Impact of Capacity- Based vs. Property Value Formula	Estimated County Property Tax on General Structures*	Estimated County Property Tax on Substations*
Ashland	\$22,077	\$4,797	\$48,678
Buffalo	No impact	1,283	36,860
Chippewa	301,834	18,696	77,613
Columbia	701,640	12,339	39,804
Douglas <sup>1</sup>	No impact	7,470	25,296
Dunn <sup>1</sup>	No impact	6,633	30,579
Grant	88,086	13,191	39,066
Jefferson	No impact	27,609	20,736
Kenosha	191,251	7,356	57,666
Kewaunee	No impact	2,182	7,305
La Crosse	84,753	70,120	95,841
Manitowoc	718,910	8,671	12,433
Marathon	No impact	18,404	49,389
Marinette	59,708	3,914	38,593
Ozaukee <sup>2</sup>	No impact	465	91,164
Rock	349,621	75,524	168,704
Sheboygan	110,000 est.	13,066	44,825
Vernon	235,403	5,240	28,667
Washington	59,112	773	29,238

\*Assumes county taxes are 20% of total property taxes

NOTE: This table reflects or is based on data contained in a Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo dated November 25, 2003.

<sup>1</sup> No generating plant in county, per LFB.

<sup>2</sup> Only generating plant in county is being rebuilt and will come under "new plant" formula, per LFB.

# **2006 County Draft Resolution**

## **A RESOLUTION URGING ENACTMENT OF FAIR UTILITY TAX-SHARING LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, utility property was once taxed at the local level by counties and local units of government in the same way as most other property; and

**WHEREAS**, the state statutes under which the State taxes utility companies' local operations were written in 1929, in a search for greater efficiency, so that state experts would uniformly value all utility property in the state, levy a property tax on the property and then return 83% of the collected tax receipts to the site counties and local units of government as compensation for their forgone right to impose local property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the State changed this system 30 years ago into a "skim-off" under which only 19% of these tax collections are returned to utility-site counties and municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the State converted the utility tax to a gross receipts tax 22 years ago, but still compensates utility-site counties and municipalities under the same archaic property value-based formula; and

**WHEREAS**, the disparity between state-collected utility tax dollars and the meager state payments to utility-site counties and municipalities stifled needed development of new power generation for years; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2005-2007 Legislature recognized the need to revamp the archaic and punitive system by enacting legislation increasing payments to counties and municipalities for newly constructed plants, but failed to pass 2005 AB 818, and AB 774 in the 2003 session; **NOW THEREFORE**, be it

**RESOLVED** by the \_\_\_\_\_ County Board, that the \_\_\_\_\_ County Board urges the State Legislature to repeal the present outdated statutory system and to enact legislation that fairly compensates counties and local governments for hosting existing power generation sites; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to State Senator \_\_\_\_\_ and Representatives \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with the request that they take the lead to co-sponsor legislation in the 2007-2009 Legislative session, to correct this inequity.

**Note: Please send a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association. PO Box 2038  
Madison ,WI 53701**

### SAMPLE RESOLUTIONS PASSED

<b>WCUTA Member County</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Date Passed</b>
Ashland		
Buffalo		
Chippewa County	Letter sent 1/7 to legislature (need copies); model resolution and letter sent to legislators April 2006	4/18/06
Columbia	Resolution 32-06 – Letter sent to Legislators January 2007	9/20/2006
Douglas		
Dunn		
Grant		
Jefferson	Resolution No. 2005-54 Jefferson County Board passed its list of legislative priorities Feb. 13. The Utility Tax issue is one of our six priorities for the 2007- 2009 biennium. On 2/16/07 met with Sen. Fitzgerald and Reps Nass, Kleefish, and Jorgenson to discuss the utility tax issue. Nass said this would be a good issue for some legislator.	10/11/05
Kenosha		
Kewaunee	Resolution 3-12-07	3/12/07
La Crosse	Resolution Passed	11/2006
Manitowoc	Resolution Passed	12/2006
Marathon	No resolution yet but spoke to Senator Decker	12/18/06
Marinette		
Ozaukee	No 03-02	5/2003
Rock	07-1B-91, letter sent to legislators 1/7/07	1/16/07
Sheboygan	Letter to Sen. Liebham Finance Committee and County Board Chair	2/20/07
Vernon	Resolution	8/28/06
Washington	2006 Resolution 34	12/12/06
WCA	Support utility tax formula changes	Dec. 2006 Magazine



**2014 -2015 WCUTA Membership List alphabetical by County –10-21-14 (new members highlighted)**

<b>County</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
Ashland	Kurilla, Margaret “Peg”	Ashland County Board Chair	201 West Main Street, Room 301 Ashland, WI 54806	715.682.8146	<b>Snail mail</b>
Ashland	Beirl, Jeff	Ashland County Administrator	201 West Main street Ashland, WI 54806	715-682-7015	jeff.beirl@co.ashland.wi.us
Buffalo	Schuh, Lisa	Buffalo County Assistant to Administrator	407 South 2nd Street Alma, WI 54610	608.685.6234	<a href="mailto:lisa.schuh@buffalocounty.wi.us">lisa.schuh@buffalocounty.wi.us</a>
Buffalo	Twidt, Del	Buffalo County Board Chair	W1047 Oak Valley Road Fountain City, WI 54629	608.687.8549	<a href="mailto:del.twidt@buffalocounty.wi.us">del.twidt@buffalocounty.wi.us</a> ; & Snailmail
Chippewa	Michels, Paul	Chippewa County Chair	711 North Bridge Street Chippewa Falls, WI 54729	715-726-4597	<a href="mailto:pmichels@co.chippewa.wi.us">pmichels@co.chippewa.wi.us</a>
Chippewa	Frion, Sandi	Chippewa County Clerk	711 N Bridge Street, #109 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729	715- 726-7980	<a href="mailto:sfrion@co.chippewa.wi.us">sfrion@co.chippewa.wi.us</a>
Chippewa	Willkom, Lawrence	Chippewa County Board Rep	711 North Bridge Street Chippewa Falls, WI 54729	715.723.5804	<a href="mailto:lwillkom@co.chippewa.wi.us">lwillkom@co.chippewa.wi.us</a> Attn.Sandi Frion
Columbia	Tramburg, John	Columbia County Supervisor	346 South Street Fall River, WI 53932	920.484.3534	<a href="mailto:jhtramburg@centurytel.net">jhtramburg@centurytel.net</a> ; <b>Snail mail too</b>
Douglas	Finn, Douglas	Douglas County Board Chair	1004 Cumming Avenue Superior, WI 54480	715.395.1493	<a href="mailto:dgfinn@douglascountywi.org">dgfinn@douglascountywi.org</a>
Dunn	Rasmussen, Steven	Dunn County Board Chair	800 Wilson Avenue Menomonie, WI 54751	715.632.2181	<a href="mailto:srasmussen@co.dunn.wi.us">srasmussen@co.dunn.wi.us</a>
Grant	Robert Keeney	Grant County Board Chair	111 S. Jefferson St. Lancaster, , WI 53813	608.723.2711	<a href="mailto:rkeeney@co.grant.wi.gov">rkeeney@co.grant.wi.gov</a>
Jefferson	Jaeger, Tammie	Jefferson County Courthouse Administrative Assistant	<b>311 S. Center Avenue</b> Jefferson, WI 53549	920.674.8671 920.674.7101	<a href="mailto:tammiej@jeffersoncountywi.gov">tammiej@jeffersoncountywi.gov</a>
<b>Jefferson</b>	<b>Schroeder, Jim</b>	<b>Jefferson County Board Chair</b>	<b>539 E. Reinel Street Jefferson, WI 53549</b>	<b>920.674.8607</b> <b>920.674.5129</b>	<b><a href="mailto:jamess@jeffersoncountywi.gov">jamess@jeffersoncountywi.gov</a></b>
Jefferson 5.7.14	<b>Christensen, Walt</b>	Jefferson County Supervisor	W7057 Pond Road Fort Atkinson, WI 53538	920-723-1320	<a href="mailto:Waltc@jeffersoncountywi.gov">Waltc@jeffersoncountywi.gov</a>
Kenosha	Elverman, Dennis	Kenosha County Board Supervisor	P.O. Box 247 Twin Lakes, WI 53181	262.877.2245	<b>Snail mail</b>
Kewaunee	Dorner, Edward	Kewaunee County Administrator	810 Lincoln Street Kewaunee, WI 54216	920.388.7164	<a href="mailto:dornere@kewauneeco.org">dornere@kewauneeco.org</a>
Kewaunee	Sinkula, Linda	Kewaunee County Board Vice Chair	N890 Town Hall Road Kewaunee, WI 54216	920.388.3251	<a href="mailto:carltonhallls@yahoo.com">carltonhallls@yahoo.com</a>
La Crosse	O’Malley, Steve	LaCrosse County Administrator	400 4th Street North, Room 101 La Crosse, WI 54601	(608) 785-9789	<a href="mailto:Omalley.steve@co.la-crosse.wi.us">Omalley.steve@co.la-crosse.wi.us</a>
La Crosse	Johnson, Tara	La Crosse County Board Chair	400 4th Street North, Room 101 La Crosse, WI 54601	608.785.9563	<a href="mailto:johnson.tara@co.la-crosse.wi.us">johnson.tara@co.la-crosse.wi.us</a>

<b>County</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
LaCrosse	Hampson, Sharon	First Vice Chair of LaCrosse County Board	2510 Cass St. La Crosse, WI 54601	608-785-2022 cell 608-780-5605	<a href="mailto:shampson@lacrossecounty.org">shampson@lacrossecounty.org</a>
La Crosse	Doyle, Steve	La Crosse County Supervisor	400 4th Street North, Room 101 La Crosse, WI 54601	608.785.9563	<a href="mailto:doyle.steve@co.la-crosse.wi.us">doyle.steve@co.la-crosse.wi.us</a>
Manitowoc	Hoffman, Chuck	Manitowoc County Supervisor	2020 Steiners Corners Rd Two Rivers, WI 54241	920-323-2692	<a href="mailto:chuckhoffman@co.manitowoc.wi.us">chuckhoffman@co.manitowoc.wi.us</a>
Marathon	Wyman, Gary	Marathon County Board Chair	408S Highland Avenue Elderon, WI 54429	(h)715.454-6293 (b)715-454-6500	<a href="mailto:onedrover@yahoo.com">onedrover@yahoo.com</a>
Marathon	Karger, Brad	Marathon County Administrator	500 Forest Street, Room 107 Wausau, WI 54403	715.261.1400	<a href="mailto:brad.karger@co.marathon.wi.us">brad.karger@co.marathon.wi.us</a>
Marinette	Pazynski, Don	Marinette County Supervisor	N2766 Stanley Lane, Marinette, WI 54143	715-735-5585	<a href="mailto:pazynskidb@gmail.com">pazynskidb@gmail.com</a>
Ozaukee	Schlenvogt, Lee	Ozaukee County Board Chair	4250 Cty Rd H Port Washington, WI 53074	(262) 284-5728	<a href="mailto:lpmmsschlener@core.com">lpmmsschlener@core.com</a>
Ozaukee	Meaux, Thomas W.	Ozaukee County Administrator	P.O. Box 994 Port Washington, WI 53074	262.238.8201	<a href="mailto:tmeaux@co.ozaukee.wi.us">tmeaux@co.ozaukee.wi.us</a>
Rock	Osborne, Nick	Rock County Assistant to the County Administrator	51 South Main Street Janesville, WI 53545	608.757.5506	<a href="mailto:osborne@co.rock.wi.us">osborne@co.rock.wi.us</a>
Rock	Ott, Richard	Rock County Representative	4101 Bordeaux Drive Janesville, WI 53546	608.756.2443	<a href="mailto:parkplace40@yahoo.com">parkplace40@yahoo.com</a>
Sheboygan	Goehring, William C.	Sheboygan County Supervisor	N185 County Road DE Random Lake, WI 53075	920.994.4749	<a href="mailto:William.goehring@sheboygancounty.com">William.goehring@sheboygancounty.com</a>
Sheboygan	TeStroete, Roger	Sheboygan County Board Chair	508 New York Avenue, Room 311 Sheboygan, WI 53081	920.459.3103	<a href="mailto:testrrlt@co.sheboygan.wi.us">testrrlt@co.sheboygan.wi.us</a>
Vernon	Cornell, Herbert	Vernon County Board Chair	P.O. Box 551 Hillsboro, WI 54634	608.489.2302	<a href="mailto:hcornell@mwt.net">hcornell@mwt.net</a>
Washington	Schoemann, Josh	Washington County Administrator	432 East Washington Street West Bend, WI 53095	262.306.2200	<a href="mailto:Joshua.Schoemann@co.washington.wi.us">Joshua.Schoemann@co.washington.wi.us</a>
Washington	Tennies, Herb	Washington County Board Chairperson	P.O. Box 1986 West Bend WI 53095	262.335.4307	<a href="mailto:cbdherb@co.washington.wi.us">cbdherb@co.washington.wi.us</a> <a href="mailto:herb.tennies@co.washington.wi.us">herb.tennies@co.washington.wi.us</a>
WCA	Christianson, Kyle	Wisconsin Counties Assn Legislative & Research Assoc		608-663-7120	<a href="mailto:christianson@wicounties.org">christianson@wicounties.org</a>
	O'Connor, Alice	WCUTA Executive Director, Constituency Services, Inc.	44 East Mifflin Street, Suite 609a Madison, WI 53703	608-250-4685	<a href="mailto:aoc@constituencyservices.org">aoc@constituencyservices.org</a>



# The Wheeler Report

Covering the Wisconsin Legislature since 1972

## SCHOOL REFERENDUM SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

SCHOOL DISTRICT	AMOUNT/TYPE	PURPOSE
Altoona	\$23,000,000 Issue Debt	Build new elementary and make capital improvements on current campus.
Black Hawk	\$250,000 Recurring 2014	Update technology, transportation costs, maintain programming.
Black River Falls	\$22,500,000 Issue Debt	New elementary school, additions to high school, security, parking lot construction, demolition of old school and redevelopment.
Dodgeville	\$48,000,000 Issue Debt	Building new high school, remodeling existing high school.
Delavan-Darien	2014-15 - \$1,250,000 2015-16 - \$1,250,000 2016-17 - \$1,250,000 Total \$3,750,000 NR	Support the educational programs and the services of the district.
Durand	\$17,550,000 Issue Debt	Renovation and addition to schools.
Durand	\$1,500,000 Issue Debt	Renovation of football field and track.
East Troy Community	\$20,800,000 Issue Debt	Capital improvements (renovations and additions).
Eleva-Strum	2015-16 - \$700,000 2016-17 - \$700,000 Total \$1,400,000 NR	Non-recurring purposes.
Evansville Community	2014-15 - \$350,000 2015-16 - \$460,000 2016-17 - \$498,897 2017-18 - \$500,000 2018-19 - \$506,200 Total \$2,315,097 NR	Fund costs of enhancing building security/safety and maintaining district facilities.
Evansville Community	2014-15 - \$340,000 2015-16 - \$445,000 2016-17 - \$480,000 2017-18 - \$490,000 2018-19 - \$496,200 Total \$2,251,200 NR	Fund costs of curriculum programming and technology initiatives.
Florence	2015-16 - \$900,000 2016-17 - \$900,000 2017-18 - \$900,000 Total \$2,700,000 NR	Continued operation and maintenance.
Gilman	2014-15 - \$325,000 2015-16 - \$380,000 2016-17 - \$435,000 2017-18 - \$490,000 Total \$1,630,000 NR	Educational programming, expenditures and operations.
Glendale-River Hills	2015-16 - \$980,000 2016-17 - \$980,000 2017-18 - \$980,000 2018-19 - \$980,000	Maintaining current programs.

	2019-20 - \$980,000 Total \$4,900,000 NR	
Hillsboro	\$1,250,000 Issue Debt	Buildings and grounds improvements.
Hillsboro	2014 - \$250,000 2015 - \$100,000 2016 - \$150,000 Total: \$500,000 RR 2014	Maintaining educational programming and maintenance.
Hudson	\$99,965,000 Issue Debt	Construct new high school, remodel existing high school, relocate administrative and support offices.
Hudson	\$6,550,000 Issue Debt	Construct high school auditorium.
Hustisford	\$240,000 RR 2014	Maintain current programs, services, and staffing.
Hustisford	2014-15 - \$150,000 2015-16 - \$150,000 2016-17 - \$150,000 2017-18 - \$150,000 Total \$600,000 NR	Maintaining current programs, staffing, expanding educational opportunities, and purchasing and installing instructional technology.
Manitowoc	\$1,000,000 RR 2014	Maintain current educational programs and services.
Manitowoc	\$600,000 RR 2014	Meet operational needs such as major
Manitowoc	\$400,000 RR 2014	Technological needs like updating classroom technology and replacing computers.
Mondovi	2015-16 - \$300,000 2016-17 - \$300,000 2017-18 - \$300,000 Total \$900,000 NR	Operating Costs to maintain instructional programs and technology
New London	2014-15 - \$500,000 2015-16 - \$500,000 2016-17 - \$500,000 2017-18 - \$500,000 Total \$2,000,000 NR	Roofs and facilities maintenance, security.
North Lake	\$2,260,000 Issue Debt	Capital maintenance projects.
Oak Creek-Franklin	\$59,095,000 Issue Debt	Construct and equip a new elementary school and new secondary school.
Oak Creek-Franklin	\$7,355,000 Issue Debt	Construct, equip and furnish new auditorium.
Oconto	\$1,500,000 Issue Debt	Installing fire sprinkler systems in all buildings.
Oconto	\$7,600,000 Issue Debt	District-wide site improvement, building renovation and maintenance projects.
Oregon	\$355,864 RR 2015	Operation and maintenance associated with new and upgraded facilities.
Oregon	\$54,600,000 Issue Debt	Addition, renovations and improvements; technology improvements; roof replacement.
Osseo-Fairchild	\$5,500,000 Issue Debt	School building renovations; technology upgrades.
Osseo-Fairchild	2016-17 - \$330,000 2017-18 - \$450,000 2018-19 - \$425,000 2019-20 - \$425,000 Total \$1,630,000 NR	Operating costs.

Princeton	2014-15 - \$300,000 2015-16 - \$300,000 2016-17 - \$300,000 Total \$900,000 NR	Operational needs.
Princeton	2014-15 - \$50,000 2015-16 - \$50,000 2016-17 - \$50,000 Total \$150,000 NR	Parking lot maintenance.
Racine	2014-15 - \$8,500,000 2015-16 - \$8,500,000 2016-17 - \$8,500,000 2017-18 - \$8,500,000 2018-19 - \$8,500,000 2019-20 - \$8,500,000 2020-21 - \$8,500,000 2021-22 - \$8,500,000 2022-23 - \$8,500,000 2023-24 - \$8,500,000 2024-25 - \$8,500,000 2025-26 - \$8,500,000 2026-27 - \$8,500,000 2027-28 - \$8,500,000 2028-29 - \$8,500,000 Total \$127,500,000 NR	Building maintenance, safety and security improvements, building modernization, technology enhancement, and debt service for new building projects.
Random Lake	\$8,500,000 Issue Debt	Remodeling and making improvements.
Raymond #14	\$4,640,000 Issue Debt	New two-station gymnasium addition; renovations.
Ripon Area	2015-16 - \$500,000 2016-17 - \$500,000 2017-18 - \$500,000 2018-19 - \$500,000 2019-20 - \$500,000 2020-21 - \$500,000 Total \$3,000,000 NR	Updating curriculum, updating technology, performing maintenance and replacing vehicles.
Ripon Area	\$29,100,000 Issue Debt	Additions to, renovations and remodeling high school and middle school; building demolish; security.
River Ridge	\$13,000,000 Issue Debt	Create on P-12 campus.
Saint Croix Central	\$300,000 RR 2015	District operation and maintenance costs.
Saint Croix Central	\$23,950,000 Issue Debt	Addition, renovation, remodeling and site improvements to each of the District's school buildings.
Southern Door County	\$390,000 NR 2015	Maintain current educational programs.
Sparta Area	2015-16 - \$750,000 2016-17 - \$750,000 2017-18 - \$750,000 Total \$2,250,000 NR	Supporting community learning centers; funding for safety and security projects; purchase of technology and instruction materials.
Stone Bank	\$2,500,000 Issue Debt	Capital improvements; safety and security.
Waunakee Community	2014 - \$540,000 2015 - \$540,000 2016 - \$540,000 2017 - \$540,000 Total: \$2,160,000 RR 2014	Operating costs for expanded facilities and increased technology and maintenance spending.

Waunakee Community	\$44,800,000 Issue Debt	Build new Intermediate School, expand and remodel elementary schools.
White Lake	2014-15 - \$250,000 2015-16 - \$250,000 2016-17 - \$250,000 Total \$750,000 NR	Ongoing operational and maintenance expenses.
Whitewater	2015-16 - \$1,200,000 2016-17 - \$1,200,000 2017-18 - \$1,200,000 2018-19 - \$1,200,000 Total \$4,800,000 NR	Maintaining elementary class sizes, student support services, comprehensive instructional programs, co-curricular programs, technology infrastructure and facilities maintenance.
Williams Bay	\$19,900,000 Issue Debt	Constructing, equipping and furnishing a new elementary school, addition to junior high, and demolition of the current elementary school.

County	DOR 2015 Tax Forecast Utility Payment
Adams County	\$80,198.02
Ashland County	\$185,983.41
Barron County	\$53,649.29
Bayfield County	\$11,496.05
Brown County	\$777,607.02
Buffalo County	\$510,600.85
Burnett County	\$47,817.98
Calumet County	\$176,832.80
Chippewa County	\$1,287,716.53
Clark County	\$120,186.41
Columbia County	\$1,995,713.57
Crawford County	\$41,535.81
Dane County	\$2,407,234.01
Dodge County	\$463,375.91
Door County	\$85,616.45
Douglas County	\$63,028.65
Dunn County	\$90,325.09
Eau Claire County	\$260,260.02
Florence County	\$73,567.13
Fond du Lac County	\$1,377,093.14
Forest County	\$11,985.26
Grant County	\$360,892.62
Green County	\$28,840.96
Green Lake County	\$38,171.48
Iowa County	\$188,691.88
Iron County	\$46,526.91
Jackson County	\$61,715.00
Jefferson County	\$914,827.15
Juneau County	\$179,773.93
Kenosha County	\$1,646,379.70
Kewaunee County	\$977,541.54
La Crosse County	\$511,510.35
Lafayette County	\$38,256.85
Langlade County	\$28,764.71
Lincoln County	\$56,424.60
Manitowoc County	\$1,611,529.29

Marathon County	\$1,642,108.83
Marinette County	\$480,792.89
Marquette County	\$17,048.63
Menominee County	\$1,910.97
Milwaukee County	\$4,275,871.20
Monroe County	\$158,061.62
Oconto County	\$132,327.03
Oneida County	\$101,038.72
Outagamie County	\$1,399,086.83
Ozaukee County	\$1,516,770.79
Pepin County	\$5,059.47
Pierce County	\$61,484.90
Polk County	\$163,642.16
Portage County	\$158,409.43
Price County	\$59,662.16
Racine County	\$189,820.98
Richland County	\$26,053.57
Rock County	\$2,120,085.92
Rusk County	\$134,944.47
Saint Croix County	\$148,073.57
Sauk County	\$259,820.60
Sawyer County	\$147,326.52
Shawano County	\$196,847.85
Sheboygan County	\$1,263,967.88
Taylor County	\$22,982.47
Trempealeau County	\$77,719.30
Vernon County	\$593,589.88
Vilas County	\$103,918.42
Walworth County	\$174,830.63
Washburn County	\$31,523.14
Washington County	\$412,338.17
Waukesha County	\$514,867.67
Waupaca County	\$67,791.94
Waushara County	\$39,678.94
Winnebago County	\$638,837.35
Wood County	\$177,827.90
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$34,327,793.17</b>





# The Wheeler Report

Covering the Wisconsin Legislature since 1972

## WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

<b>Senate District 1</b> ✓ Frank Lasee (R-I) Dean Debroux (D)	<b>Senate District 19</b> Penny Bernard Schaber (D) ✓ Roger Roth (R)
<b>Senate District 3</b> ✓ Tim Carpenter (D-I)	<b>Senate District 21</b> Randy Bryce (D) ✓ Van Wanggaard (R)
<b>Senate District 5</b> ✓ Leah Vukmir (R-I) Wendy Friedrich (L)	<b>Senate District 23</b> ✓ Terry Moulton (R-I) Phil Swanhorst (D)
<b>Senate District 7</b> ✓ Chris Larson (D-I) Jason Arnold (R)	<b>Senate District 25</b> ✓ Janet Bewley (D) Dane Deutsch (R)
<b>Senate District 9</b> Martha Laning (D) ✓ Devin LeMahieu (R)	<b>Senate District 27</b> ✓ Jon Erpenbach (D-I)
<b>Senate District 11</b> Dan Kilkenny (D) ✓ Steve Nass (R)	<b>Senate District 29</b> ✓ Jerry Petrowski (R-I) Paul Demain (D)
<b>Senate District 13</b> ✓ Scott Fitzgerald (R-I) Michelle Zahn (D)	<b>Senate District 31</b> ✓ Kathleen Vinehout (D-I) Mel Pittman (R)
<b>Senate District 15</b> ✓ Janis Ringhand (D) Brian Fitzgerald (R)	<b>Senate District 33</b> ✓ Paul Farrow (R-I) Sherryl Shaddock (D)
<b>Senate District 17</b> Pat Bomhack (D) ✓ Howard Marklein (R)	

**WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION**

44 East Mifflin Street, Suite 605A, Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Phone: (608) 250-4685

**MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2014 MEETING**

**Call to Order**

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

The following members were present: John Tramburg, Columbia County, Lawrence Willkom, Chippewa County; William Goehring, Sheboygan County; Richard Ott, Rock County, Linda Sinkula, Kewaunee County; Chuck Hoffman, Manitowoc County, Herb Tennis, Washington County, Walt Christensen, Jefferson County

**Via Phone:** Sharon Hampson, LaCrosse County, Don Pazynski, Marinette County

**Excused:** Herbert Cornell, Ed Dorner, Thomas Meaux, Nick Osborne, Steve Rasmussen, Lisa Schuh, Josh Schoenmann

**Staff:** Alice O'Connor, WCUTA and Kyle Christianson, WCA

**Minutes -** The minutes of March 31, 2014 were accepted on motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Sinkula.

**President's report -** Supervisor Tramburg acknowledged the service of the following two supervisors who won their elections but changes were made by the respective county board chairs. Supervisor Tramburg thanked Kaye Shillin, Kewaunee County, and Amy Rinard, Jefferson County for their many years of service and dedication to the Association. Supervisor Tramburg welcomed Supervisor Bill Goehring back to the Board because he was reappointed. He welcomed Supervisor Walt Christensen from Jefferson County.

**Nominating Committee Report -** the officers presented by the Nominating Committee were approved by consensus for 2015. They are: President - Lawrence Willkom, Chippewa County; Vice President - John Tramburg, Columbia County; Secretary - William Goehring, Sheboygan County; and Treasurer - Linda Sinkula, Kewaunee County.

Supervisor Willkom asked Board Chair Tramburg to make a few comments. Supervisor Tramburg said it was time for him to slow down and he was supporting Supervisor Willkom as the new Board Chair.

Supervisor Tramburg asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the 2014-15 officers were approved on a motion from Representative Ott; seconded by Supervisor Sinkula.

**Audit Committee Report – Supervisor Linda Sinkula and Supervisor Bill Goehring.**

The Association assets (checking and CDs) through April 30, 2014 are \$68,655.54.

The Association checking account as of April 30, 2014 with invoices paid through February 2014 is \$32,460.35.

Since last year, dues generated regular income of \$26,336.27 in a money market checking account.

A one year CD that matured on May 18, 2012 was rolled over in 2013 with its next maturity date of March 18, 2014 (Park Bank account number 7381806) with interest it is \$10,065.91.

A six month CD (Park Bank #7379279) in the amount of \$40,192.58 has continuously rolled over since the initial \$40,000 was invested October 13, 2011. It was last renewed January 1, 2014 and was rolled over with its next maturity date June 31, 2014. When it renewed January 31, 2014, interest was \$10.14. The CD is currently at \$40,242.77.

Dues have been held at .0015 since 2012 and have continued at that rate since then.

A motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Goehring requests future audit reports to be presented on a calendar year basis with a balance sheet for purposes of reporting with a chart of accounts that will break out fees, postage, food and telephone. Alice will prepare this.

The audit committee report as presented was accepted on a motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Goehring.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Supervisor Linda Sinkula**

Supervisor Linda Sinkula presented the Treasurer's Report and she said the checkbook balance as of April 30, 2014 was \$32,460.35. Expenses for March and April 2014 were \$4,074.58. The total balance in all WCUTA accounts as of April 30, 2014 was \$68,655.54. The balance in CD #737927 is \$40,2421.77.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted on a motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Goehring.

#### **WCA Report – Kyle Christianson and Dan Bahr**

Kyle Christianson and Dan Bahr both shared DOR graphs that they say challenge the assertion by the Towns Association that property values are decreasing faster than county property values where wind towers are cited in a community. Both stressed the WCA would support towns getting more money to assist with wind tower expansion in towns if they went after "new" money, instead of trying to take money from the county utility tax pot of money. Alice reminded the Board the Department of Revenue retains approximately 83% and of all funds collected for power plants and substations that pay no local property tax. The utility tax money split among counties is only approximately 17% of all money collected.

Kyle shared a draft resolution and urged supervisors to tweak it or give him feedback. The goal would be to have individual counties pass this resolution before the end of the year (see attachment)

Those Supervisors who are also town representatives urged the WCA to work with the Towns Association. WC representatives said the WCA does on many issues.

Mr. Christianson and Mr. Bahr stressed their only job was to represent counties and they worked collaboratively with the towns where possible, rather than against one another.

Kyle also reported a new issue emerging with retiring power plants units. He referred to a prior Legislation Fiscal Bureau (LFB) paper previously shared with WCUTA that raises the revenue issue for counties. The state wants to look at gross receipts not name plate capacity, and would reduce revenue accordingly.

He reported other issues for counties that will be in the next budget include: 911 consolidation and funding, road maintenance since the DOT segregated fund that has a \$700 million structural deficit. Fuel efficient cars won't be able to make this hole, whole. He said counties are also questioning how funding for decommissioning power plants will work.

**Speaker Dan Sage, PSC Administrator, Gas and Energy Division** - Badger Coulee Transmission project. He shared the project flow chart (attached) and said the PSC formal review process.

The PSC will be completed by April 30, 2015 with three public comment periods, six local hearings and environmental impact statement (EIS). The PSC mailing list is over 5,000 individuals, including those who own property along the 180 miles project from LaCrosse to Madison.

He then discussed the NE Appleton Morgan Bay Lake Project in Outagamie/Winnebago Counties where ATC wants to install three lines side by side. The process will evaluate reliability and need factors.

Mr. Sage stressed that their evaluation includes looking outside of Wisconsin geography and including the energy needs of 18 states who participate in the Midwest system operations. This will be wrapped up by April 15, 2015. During the discussion, Mr. Sage reported electricity use is declining due to energy efficiencies and the focus is now on energy distribution. This is why more power lines are going up.

Mr. Sage said any utility who wants to build must make their case and define the need for a new line. Energy growth at the local level is not relevant for the PSC evaluation. The PSC now refers to new projects as “multivalued value” projects. Rates are set at the federal level.

Mr. Sage also discussed the Enbridge Project (9300-GF-184) and said the PSC had no jurisdiction over a liquid pipeline. Only the federal government does. The only rule the PSC plays is under Chapter 32(32.02), the eminent domain statute.

Enbridge can petition the PSC for a grant to authorize condemnation of property. The PSC in recent member has only used eminent domain to condemn property, twice. Enbridge is not a utility so the company must pay for easements to the property. He said the PSC has been given no guidance by the federal government so they are likely to revert back to a public hearing process to obtain input. The PSC always prefers to reach agreements with property owners.

He also clarified in response to a question -- that the state does receive revenue for transmission lines but he did not know if the state received revenue for pipelines.

He said property owners should pay much better attention to what specific languages are inserted into easement language so the property owner knows if it includes any pipelines across sections of their property.

### **Executive Director Report – Alice O’Connor**

Alice reported that with the number of incumbent lawmakers who have announced they are not running again, almost 40% of the next legislature will be new.

She also shared a LFB memo that summarized the tax law changes since January 2011. She mentioned the approximate \$30 million rainy day fund, the largest in the state’s history.

She said she anticipated legislation next session would be looking at changes to the utility tax formula calculation that determine how local governments (towns, cities and counties) are reimbursed for power plants and substations within their jurisdiction.

### **Future Speakers Suggestions**

It was agreed future potential speakers could discuss:

- PSC Speaker – any updates on court decisions.
- Updates on Badger Coulee Transmission project.
- PSC future electricity generating needs of Wisconsin,
- Sen. Lasee or Rep. Thiesfeldt to discuss formula language for wind regulations.
- Kyle to discuss WCA model resolution status.
- Department of Revenue – 2015 budget.

The next meeting will be held October 10, 2014 at the Wisconsin Counties Association, 22 E. Mifflin Street, Suite 900, Madison, WI. The parking ramp is the same one used by Alice so directions for this meeting will be the same as the next meeting, except for entering a building that is more in the middle of the block.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. on a motion by Supervisor Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor Sinkula.



# The Wheeler Report

Covering the Wisconsin Legislature since 1972

## WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

<b>Assembly District 1</b> Joe Majeski (D) ✓ Joel Kitchens (R)	<b>Assembly District 34</b> ✓ Rob Swearingen (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 67</b> ✓ Tom Larson (R-I) Gary Stene (D)
<b>Assembly District 2</b> ✓ Andre Jacque (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 35</b> ✓ Mary Czaja (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 68</b> ✓ Kathy Bernier (R-I) Jeff Peck (D)
<b>Assembly District 3</b> ✓ Al Ott (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 36</b> ✓ Jeff Mursau (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 69</b> ✓ Bob Kulp (R-I) Norbert Salamonski (D)
<b>Assembly District 4</b> Chris Plaunt (D) ✓ David Steffen (R)	<b>Assembly District 37</b> ✓ John Jagler (R-I) Mary Arnold (D)	<b>Assembly District 70</b> Amy Sue Vruwink (D-I) ✓ Nancy Vander Meer (R)
<b>Assembly District 5</b> ✓ Jim Steineke (R-I) Jeff McCabe (D)	<b>Assembly District 38</b> ✓ Joel Kleefisch (R-I) Tom Chojnacki (D)	<b>Assembly District 71</b> ✓ Katrina Shankland (D-I)
<b>Assembly District 6</b> ✓ Gary Tauchen (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 39</b> ✓ Mark Born (R-I) Richard Bennett (I)	<b>Assembly District 72</b> ✓ Scott Krug (R-I) Dana Duncan (D)
<b>Assembly District 7</b> ✓ Daniel Riemer (D-I) Scott Espeseth (R)	<b>Assembly District 40</b> ✓ Kevin Petersen (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 73</b> ✓ Nick Milroy (D-I)
<b>Assembly District 8</b> ✓ JoCasta Zamarripa (D-I) Vincent Synowicz (R)	<b>Assembly District 41</b> ✓ Joan Ballweg (R-I) Joe Kallas (D)	<b>Assembly District 74</b> ✓ Beth Meyers (D) Jamey Francis (R)
<b>Assembly District 9</b> ✓ Josh Zepnick (D-I)	<b>Assembly District 42</b> ✓ Keith Ripp (R-I) George Ferriter (D)	<b>Assembly District 75</b> Stephen Smith (D-I) ✓ Romaine Quinn (R)
<b>Assembly District 10</b> ✓ David Bowen (D)	<b>Assembly District 43</b> ✓ Andy Jorgensen (D-I) Herschel Brodkey (R)	<b>Assembly District 76</b> ✓ Chris Taylor (D-I)
<b>Assembly District 11</b> ✓ Mandela Barnes (D-I)	<b>Assembly District 44</b> ✓ Debra Kolste (D-I) Jacob Dorsey (R)	<b>Assembly District 77</b> ✓ Terese Berceau (D-I)

<b>Assembly District 12</b> ✓Fred Kessler (D-I)	<b>Assembly District 45</b> ✓Mark Spreitzer (D)	<b>Assembly District 78</b> ✓Lisa Subeck (D)
<b>Assembly District 13</b> ✓Rob Hutton (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 46</b> ✓Gary Hebl (D-I)	<b>Assembly District 79</b> ✓Dianne Hesselbein (D-I) Brent Renteria (R)
<b>Assembly District 14</b> ✓Dale Kooyenga (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 47</b> ✓Robb Kahl (D-I) Phillip Anderson (L)	<b>Assembly District 80</b> ✓Sondy Pope (D-I)
<b>Assembly District 15</b> ✓Joe Sanfelippo (R-I) John Weishan (D)	<b>Assembly District 48</b> ✓Melissa Sargent (D-I)	<b>Assembly District 81</b> ✓Dave Considine (D) Ashton Kirsch (R)
<b>Assembly District 16</b> ✓Leon Young (D-I)	<b>Assembly District 49</b> ✓Travis Tranel (R-I) Chad Henneman (D)	<b>Assembly District 82</b> ✓Ken Skowronski (R-I)
<b>Assembly District 17</b> ✓La Tonya Johnson (D-I) Eugenie Stackowitz (I)	<b>Assembly District 50</b> ✓Ed Brooks (R-I) Christopher Miller (D)	<b>Assembly District 83</b> ✓Dave Craig (R-I) Jim Brownlow (D)
<b>Assembly District 18</b> ✓Evan Goyke (D-I)	<b>Assembly District 51</b> Dick Cates Jr. (D) 10,560 Todd Novak (R) 10,619 Adam Laufenberg (L) 1,177	<b>Assembly District 84</b> ✓Mike Kuglitsch (R-I)
<b>Assembly District 19</b> ✓Jonathan Brostoff (D) Joseph Klein (I)	<b>Assembly District 52</b> ✓Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 85</b> Mandy Wright (D-I) 11,073 Dave Heaton (R) 11,159
<b>Assembly District 20</b> ✓Christine Sinicki (D-I) Molly McGartland (R)	<b>Assembly District 53</b> ✓Michael Schraa (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 86</b> ✓John Spiros (R-I) Nancy Stencil (D)
<b>Assembly District 21</b> ✓Jessie Rodriguez (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 54</b> ✓Gordon Hintz (D-I) Mark Elliott (R)	<b>Assembly District 87</b> Richard Pulcher (D) ✓James Edming (R)
<b>Assembly District 22</b> Jessie Read (D) ✓Janel Brandtjen (R)	<b>Assembly District 55</b> Mark Westphal (D) ✓Mike Rohrkaste (R)	<b>Assembly District 88</b> Dan Robinson (D) ✓John Macco (R)

<b>Assembly District 23</b> ✓Jim Ott (R-I) Beth Lueck (D)	<b>Assembly District 56</b> ✓Dave Murphy (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 89</b> ✓John Nygren (R-I)
<b>Assembly District 24</b> ✓Dan Knodl (R)	<b>Assembly District 57</b> ✓Amanda Stuck (D) Chris Klein (R)	<b>Assembly District 90</b> ✓Eric Genrich (D-I) Eric Wimberger (R) Shae Sortwell (I)
<b>Assembly District 25</b> ✓Paul Tittl (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 58</b> ✓Bob Gannon (R)	<b>Assembly District 91</b> ✓Dana Wachs (D-I)
<b>Assembly District 26</b> Terry Van Akkeren (D) ✓Terry Katsma (R)	<b>Assembly District 59</b> ✓Jesse Kremer (R)	<b>Assembly District 92</b> ✓Chris Danou (D-I) Isaac Weix (R)
<b>Assembly District 27</b> Scott Heining (D) ✓Tyler Vorpapel (R)	<b>Assembly District 60</b> ✓Robert Brooks (R)	<b>Assembly District 93</b> ✓Warren Petryk (R-I) Jeff Smith (D)
<b>Assembly District 28</b> Travis Schachtner (D) ✓Adam Jarchow (R)	<b>Assembly District 61</b> ✓Sam Kerkman (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 94</b> ✓Steve Doyle (D-I) Tracie Happel (R)
<b>Assembly District 29</b> ✓John Murtha (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 62</b> ✓Thomas Weatherston (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 95</b> ✓Jill Billings (D-I)
<b>Assembly District 30</b> ✓Dean Knudson (R-I) Darrel Laumann (D) Laurie Kroeger (L)	<b>Assembly District 63</b> ✓Robin Vos (R-I) Andy Mitchell (D)	<b>Assembly District 96</b> ✓Lee Nerison (R-I) Peter Flesch (D)
<b>Assembly District 31</b> ✓Amy Loudenberg (R-I)	<b>Assembly District 64</b> ✓Peter Barca (D-I)	<b>Assembly District 97</b> ✓Scott Allen (R)
<b>Assembly District 32</b> ✓Tyler August (R-I) Alan Kupsik (D)	<b>Assembly District 65</b> ✓Tod Ohnstad (D-I)	<b>Assembly District 98</b> ✓Adam Neylon (R-I)
<b>Assembly District 33</b> ✓Cody Horlacher (R)	<b>Assembly District 66</b> ✓Cory Mason (D-I) George Meyers (L)	<b>Assembly District 99</b> ✓Chris Kapenga (R-I) Alice Jensen (D)





# The Wheeler Report

Covering the Wisconsin Legislature since 1972

## STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES & CONGRESS

<b>Governor</b> ✓ Scott Walker (R-I) Mary Burke (D) Robert Burke (L) Dennis Fehr (I)	<b>Congressional District 1</b> ✓ Paul Ryan (R-I) Rob Zerban (D)
	<b>Congressional District 2</b> ✓ Mark Pocan (D-I) Peter Theron (R)
<b>Lt. Governor</b> ✓ Rebecca Kleefisch (R-I) John Lehman (D) Joseph Brost (L)	<b>Congressional District 3</b> ✓ Ron Kind (D-I) Tony Kurtz (R)
<b>Secretary of State</b> ✓ Doug La Follette (D-I) Julian Bradley (R) Jerry Broitzman (I) Andy Craig (L)	<b>Congressional District 4</b> ✓ Gwen Moore (D-I) Daniel Sebring (R) Robert Raymond (I)
<b>State Treasurer</b> ✓ Matt Adamczyk (R) David Sartori (D) Jerry Shidell (L) Andrew Zuelke (I) Ron Hardy (I)	<b>Congressional District 5</b> ✓ James Sensenbrenner (R-I) Chris Rockwood (D)
	<b>Congressional District 6</b> ✓ Glenn Grothman (R) Mark Harris (D) Gus Fahrenndorf (L)
<b>Attorney General</b> ✓ Brad Schimel (R) Susan Happ (D) Thomas Nelson Sr (L)	<b>Congressional District 7</b> ✓ Sean Duffy (R-I) Kelly Westlund (D) Lawrence Dale (I)
	<b>Congressional District 8</b> ✓ Reid Ribble (R-I) Ron Gruett (D)