

WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION

Two East Mifflin Street, Suite 600, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Phone: (608) 255-8891

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

May 18, 2012

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

2010-2011 Officers

President

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

Vice President

LAWRENCE WILLKOM
(715) 723-5804
Chippewa County

Secretary

PAUL TITTL
(920) 682-6203
Manitowoc 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:

Jim Ehram
William Goehring
Doug Johnson
Richard Ott
Amy Rinard
Kaye Shillin
Linda Sinkula
Jan Rooou
Herb Tennes
Paul Tittl
John Tramburg
Del Twidt
Lawrence Willkom

La Crosse County
Sheboygan County
Washington County
Rock County
Jefferson County
Kewaunee County
Kewaunee County
Jefferson County
Washington County
Manitowoc County
Columbia County
Buffalo County
Chippewa County

David Callender
Jon Hochkammer

WCA
WCA Legislative Director

Member Counties

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

Via Phone: Don Pazynski

Excused: Thomas Meaux

Staff: Alice O'Connor, WCUTA and David Callender, WCA

Chair Tramburg called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He welcomed the new supervisors, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He said 90 windmills are now in operation in Columbia County.

He indicated the unresolved issue with the IRS now requires another \$400 check. Alice O'Connor shared an email from DeWitt Ross & Stevens Attorney Brian Anderson who said the IRS has changed its form to Form 8940 which is different from Form 1024 for yet another IRS Determination that WCUTA is tax exempt under 501(c)(6). Alice reported an IRS agent had called Mr. Anderson several months ago to affirm WCUTA is already tax exempt. Mr. Anderson has asked the IRS to return Form 1024 and our \$850 check but the IRS has not done so.

A motion by Supervisor Tramburg, seconded by Supervisor Willkom to approve the \$400 check to the IRS was approved. Supervisor Tramburg also reported WCUTA now has 100% dues paid for 1012.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 3, 2012 meeting were approved on a motion from Supervisor Tittl, seconded by Supervisor Tennies.

Treasurer's Report

Supervisor Sinkula said there was \$26,759.96 in the checking account as of April 30, 2012. Alice was directed to put another \$10,000 into a CD and put the reduction of dues for 2013 on the October agenda. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion from Supervisor Tittl, seconded by La Crosse County Representative Jim Ehram.

Audit Committee

The Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Audit Committee, consisting of Supervisor Paul Tittl, Linda Sinkula and John Patcle who resigned from WCUTA and therefore did not serve on the committee, audited the books of the Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association from June 1, 2011 (the date of the last audit) to April 30, 2012. The opening balance consists of the Association's Money Market Account and a certificate of deposit.

Since last year, dues generated regular income of \$25,342.74 in a money market checking account. A \$2,050.00 legal and IRS filing fee was spent to again prove to the IRS that WCUTA is a legitimate tax exempt organization and therefore should not have to file an annual tax exempt filing report.

A six month CD (#7341276) with interest matured August 2011 was \$15,270.04. The beginning balance in the checking account on September 30, 2011 including the matured CD was \$61,845.58. A \$40,000 (CD #7379279) matured on March 31, 2012 with interest of \$83.29.

Dues for 2012 was reduced to .0015 of estimated Department of Revenue utility tax payment. The Association assets (checking and CD) through April 30, 2012 are \$66,843.25.

The audit committee report was approved on a motion by Mr. Ehram, seconded by Supervisor Sinkula.

Nominating Committee – Chair Doug Johnson

Administrator Doug Johnson presented the slate of offices for 2013 who will remain the same as 2012. They are:

President	John Tramburg	Columbia County
Vice President	Lawrence Willkom	Chippewa County
Secretary	Paul Tittl	Manitowoc County
Treasurer	Linda Sinkula	Kewaunee County

The officers were accepted on a motion by Rock County Representative Richard Ott, seconded by Supervisor Tennes.

Executive Director's Report

Alice indicated she had received correspondence from Grant and La Crosse Counties confused by recent solicitation for "dues membership" in the Wisconsin Utility Tax Association. After discussion, Alice was directed to send a letter to WUTA and request they cease immediately soliciting county membership in what is primarily a towns' association which their Association historically has been at odds with a county agenda. On a motion from Supervisor Tittl, seconded by Representative Ehram, Alice will send the letter and copy members of the WCUTA and Wisconsin Counties Association.

WCA Report Dave Callender

Jon Hochkammer is the new WCA Legislative Director and he will be overseeing all policy issues for the WCA. David Callender will continue to be the liaison to WCUTA from WCA.

Jon indicated a recent Marquette poll showed Scott Walker has 50%, Tom Barrett 44% and with 18 days to go, three percent remain undecided. In additional polling questions, Walker polled 48% as being a better job creator. With students gone for the summer, Democrats are concerned the new voter ID law will have them lose the student vote.

Hockamer said the state will end up with a surplus (net \$165 million at the end of the biennium). In their recent meeting with Rep. Robin Vos, he acknowledged the surplus and said the legislature will have to decide from prior cuts where they wish to restore funding. Items like the UW System, Corrections or Counties are among the issues that will be considered, according to Rep. Vos.

Counties have had a 43% cut in shared revenue since 2011. Dave Callender reported counties need flexibility when there are so many funding cuts. Two of the biggest issues for counties are tax rates and levy limits.

At the October meeting, Alice is to invite Claudia Lys and Secretary Rick Chandler from the Department of Revenue to talk about the utility tax.

Speaker: Rebecca Larsen, Excel Energy provided a report on hydraulic fracturing and sand mining in Wisconsin, and how EPA rules will drive state gas discovery. Her presentation was provided as a handout.

Old Business

No old business.

A motion by Jim Ehram, seconded by Supervisor Bill Goehring to hold the next WCUTA Board meeting October 12, 2012 at DeWitt, Ross & Stevens, and adjourn this meeting at 12:15 was accepted.