

Grand Rapids Public Utilities

Annual Report

to the

City Council

City of Grand Rapids, MN



**GRAND RAPIDS
PUBLIC UTILITIES**
Service is Our Nature

Julie Kennedy – General Manager

Grand Rapids Public Utilities

September 26, 2022

GRPU Organizational Overview - Commission

Municipal Utility established by the City of Grand Rapids in 1910

5 Commission members appointed by the Mayor to manage the Utility

Commissioner	Term Expires
President Tom Stanley	March 2024
Secretary Luke Francisco	March 2023
Commissioner / Council Liaison Rick Blake	January 2023
Commissioner Rick Smith	March 2025
Commissioner Nancy Saxhaug	March 2026

Commission meetings held at 4 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at GRPU Svc Ctr (video of the meetings can be found on watchictv.org)

Commission work sessions held at 8 a.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the GRPU Svc Ctr

GRPU Organizational Overview

Electric Utility – Distribution

7690 connections (Grand Rapids, LaPrairie, parts of Cohasset, Coleraine & Harris Township)

Water Utility – Supply, Treatment, Storage and Distribution

~1.05 MGD for ~3297 connections (Grand Rapids & LaPrairie)

99.9% complete on conversion to AMI meters

Wastewater Utility - Collection and Treatment

~5.5 MGD for ~3297 connections (Grand Rapids, LaPrairie & Cohasset)

Business Services Department – Customer Service, Billing, Finance, Technology

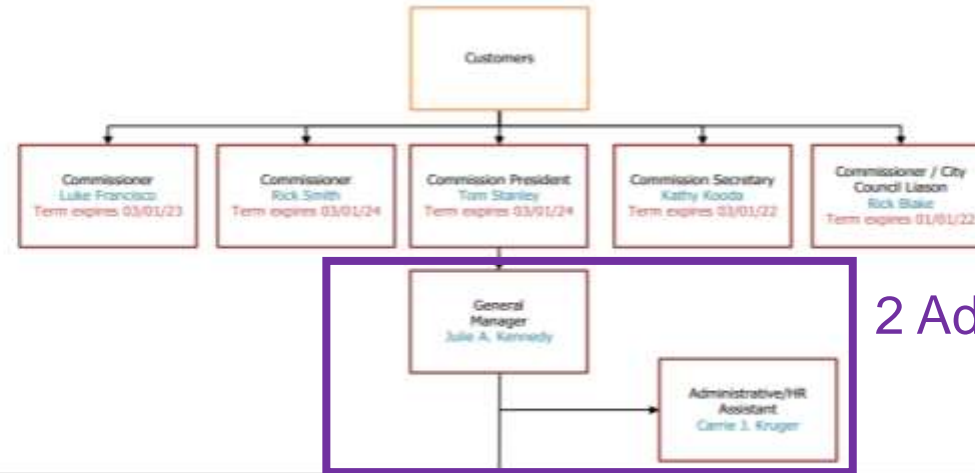
Process ~1800 bills / week (~40% e-bill) and answer ~60 calls / day

Manage a \$24M annual budget

Administration Department – Safety, Human Resources, Technology, Legislative

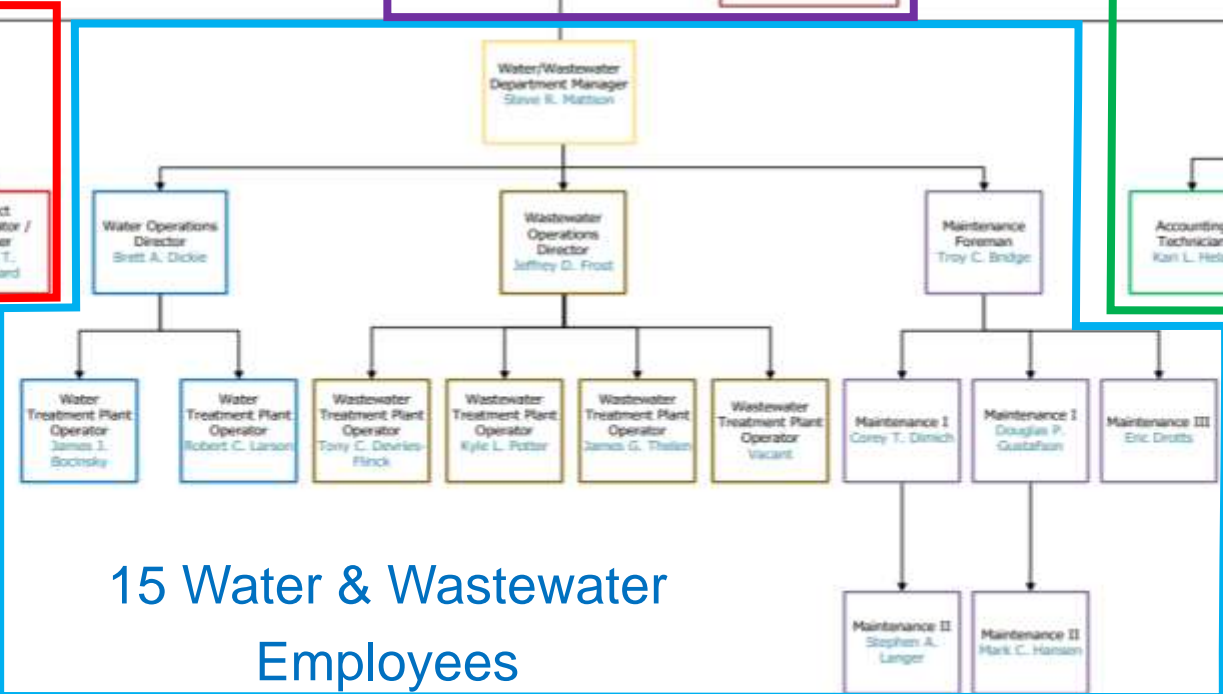
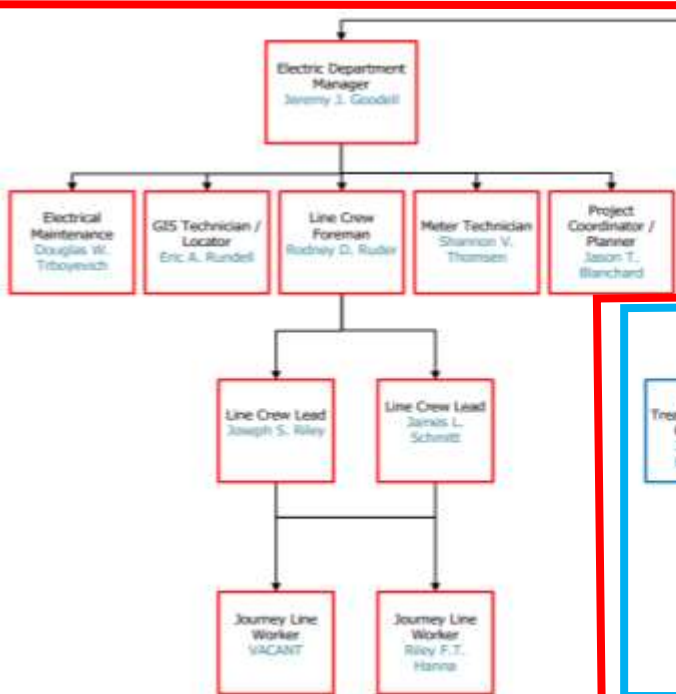
GRPU Organizational Overview - Employees

36 employees (30 AFSCME union)

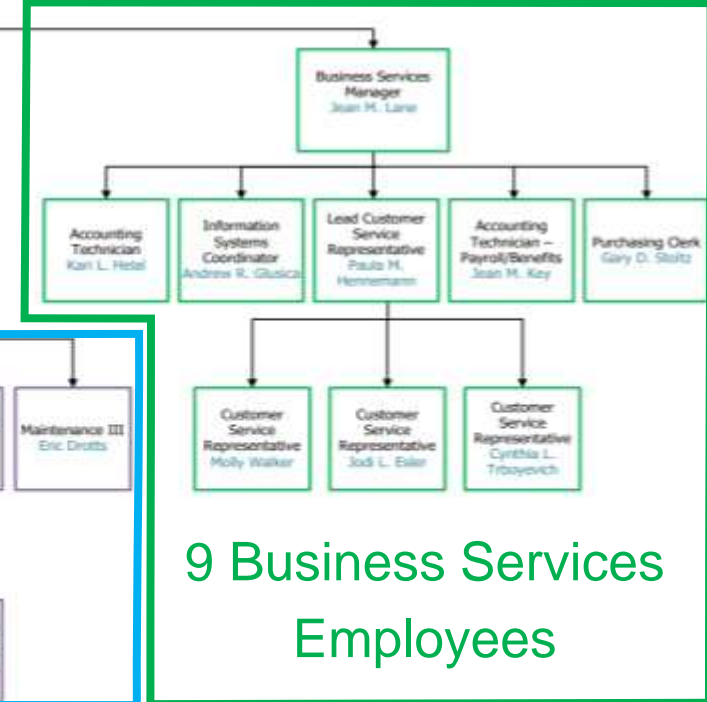


2 Administration Employees

10 Electric Employees



15 Water & Wastewater Employees



9 Business Services Employees

GRPU Administration

2022 was the year of technology testing

>50% mobile workforce

Teams

Intranet

OMS

Cityworks

Yukon

ESRI

KnowBe4

Grand Rapids Public Utilities SharePoint

GRPU Toolbox Personnel PitStop Safety Shop Learning Link Technology Track Organizational OneStop Edit

GRPU Toolbox Edit

Following Share

Published 9/21/2022 Edit

SAFETY, RELIABILITY, CUSTOMER SERVICE

GRPU Toolbox

"No matter what your job title is, you get paid to serve the customer." Glenn Shepard

GRPU & Industry News See all

Personnel PitStop
Be nice to mailboxes
On Monday our mailbox took a fall...
2 days ago

Personnel PitStop
Staffing Update - Maintenance II Vacancy - Steve Langer
The Maintenance II posting closed...
8 days ago

Organizational OneStop
MMUA Releases 2022 Strategic Plan
As the 2022-23 fiscal year, MMUA L...
September 9

Upcoming Events See all

Cindy Trbojevich
Sat, Sep 24, All day

Gary Stoltz
Mon, Sep 26, All day

Jim Boonsky
Wed, Sep 28, All day

GRPU Commission Work Session
Wed, Sep 28, 8:00 AM

Jim Schmitt
Thu, Sep 29, All day

Community News See all

GRPU TOOLBOX
Community Matters - Southside Canister Site Public...
On October 11th the county board...
7 days ago

GRPU TOOLBOX
Community News - Arbor Wood expansion plans shift...
Arbor Wood's Heyesen said his...
September 12

GRPU TOOLBOX
Community Matters - GREDA 09 09 2022
A preliminary development...
September 9

GRPU Business Services

Learning, researching, revamping, improving...

Stormwater rates change stored process

Employee P-card Purchasing

Complete CIS/FIS Investigation

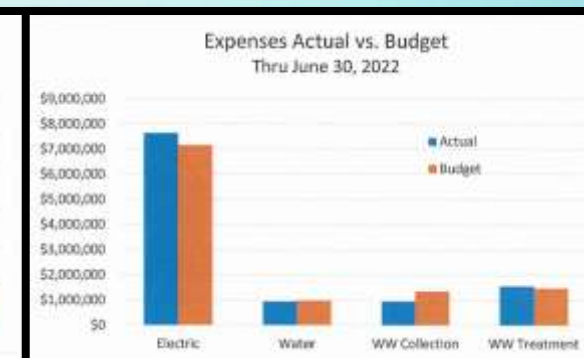
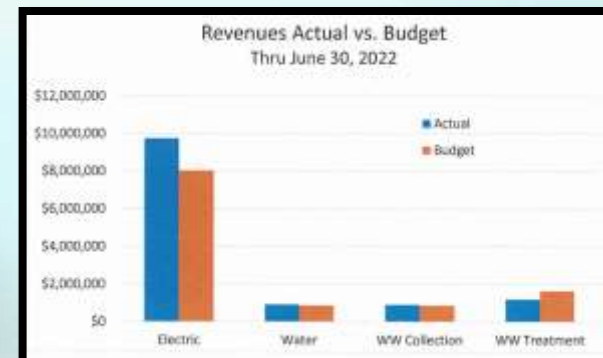
Bill Template Modernization

Electronic Payment to Vendors

Financial Reporting – Qtrlys, PAFR

Simplified City ↔ GRPU billing

Joint RFP for ERP with City Finance Dept



GRPU Rate Study

5-year Rate Design for Electric, Water, & Wastewater to be completed by EOY

AMI Data used

Cost-of-Service Basis

Wholesale Power Agmt

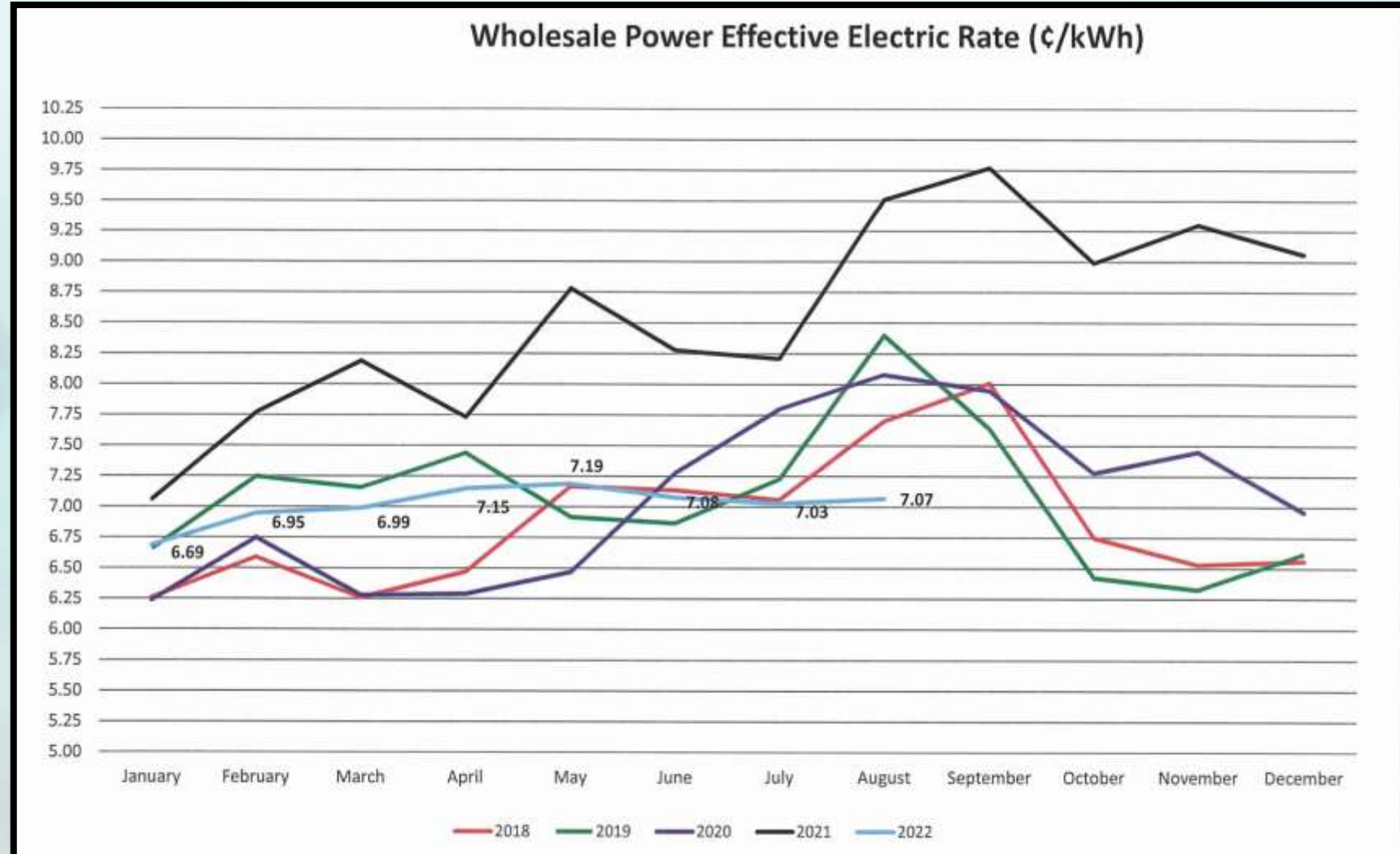
Supply Chain Cost Hikes

Conservation Impacts

DER – Solar, EVs, etc.

Time of Use

Economic Development



GRPU Electric – Outage Management System

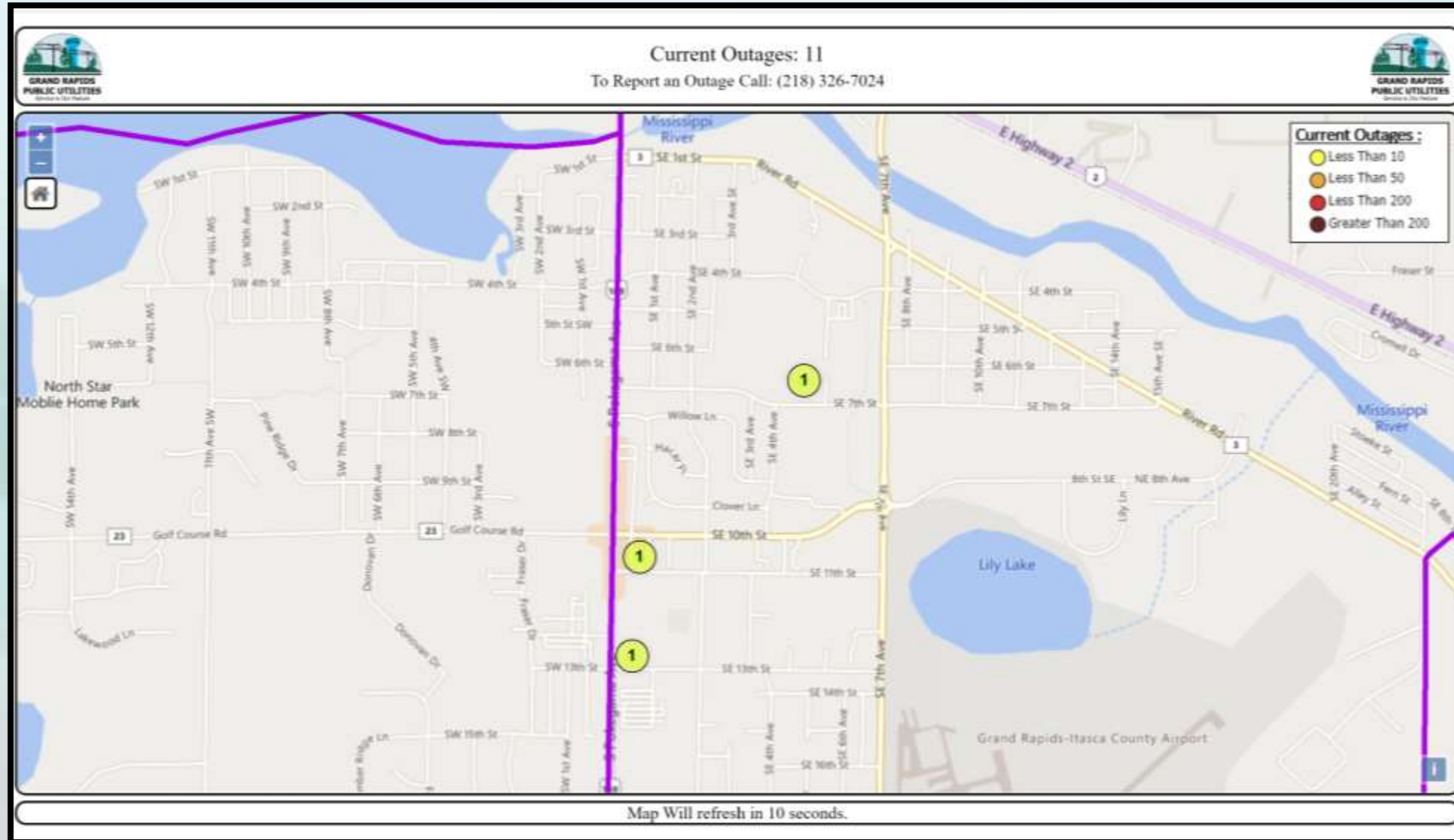
Public facing web map

Integrated with CIS and AMI systems

View outages in our service area

Customers able to report outages online

Estimated to go live late this fall



GRPU Electric – Solar Plus Battery Storage Project

Details

2 MW PV solar array coupled with a 1 MW - 2.5 hr lithium ion battery



Outreach

Presentations – APPA (national), MMUA (statewide), GRACC, Rotary, etc. (local)

Agreement Structure

US Solar Develops & Owns Project

25 yr PPA

Minnesota Power Passes Through Pricing and Energy

25 yr ISA

GRPU Uses Energy to Serve Customers and Reduce Costs

GRPU Electric – Solar Plus Battery Storage Project

Solar Production

Began producing in April 2022

Public Web Portal (available in a few months)
[USS Itasca Clean Energy LLC](#)

Example Sunny Day: Sept 7

POWER

Solar produces ~1.8 MW of power
City demand is 20-30 MW with avg ~26 MW

TIME

~9 hours of full sun + tails

ENERGY

Solar generation ~16.2 MWh
City demand ~450 MWh avg day (24 hrs)

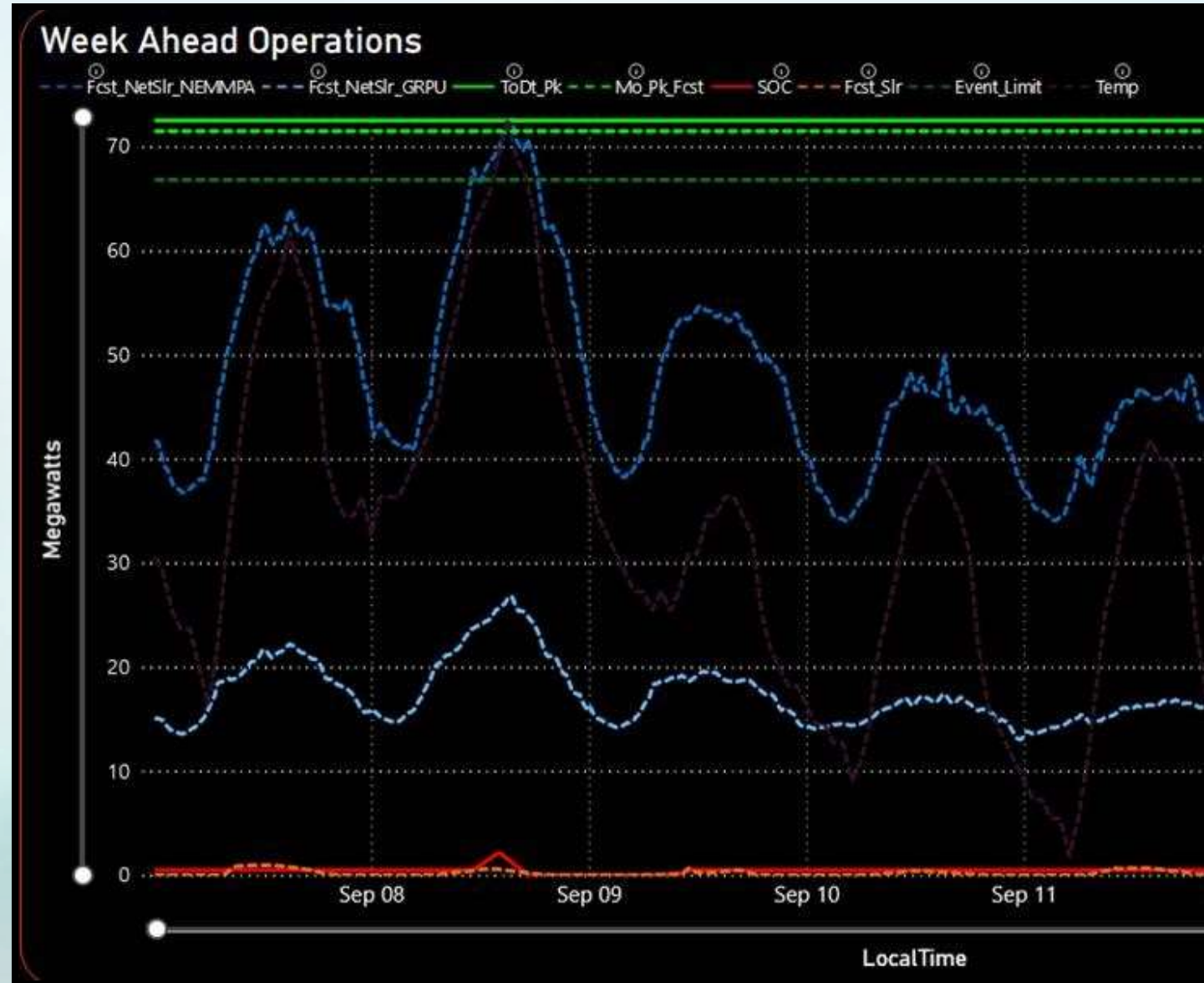
Solar provides ~3.5-4% of city daily demand



GRPU Electric – Solar Plus Battery Storage Project

Solar + Battery Modeling

- Solar production forecast
- Battery state of charge
- GRPU forecasted peak
- NEMMPA forecasted peak
- To-date peak
- Temperature



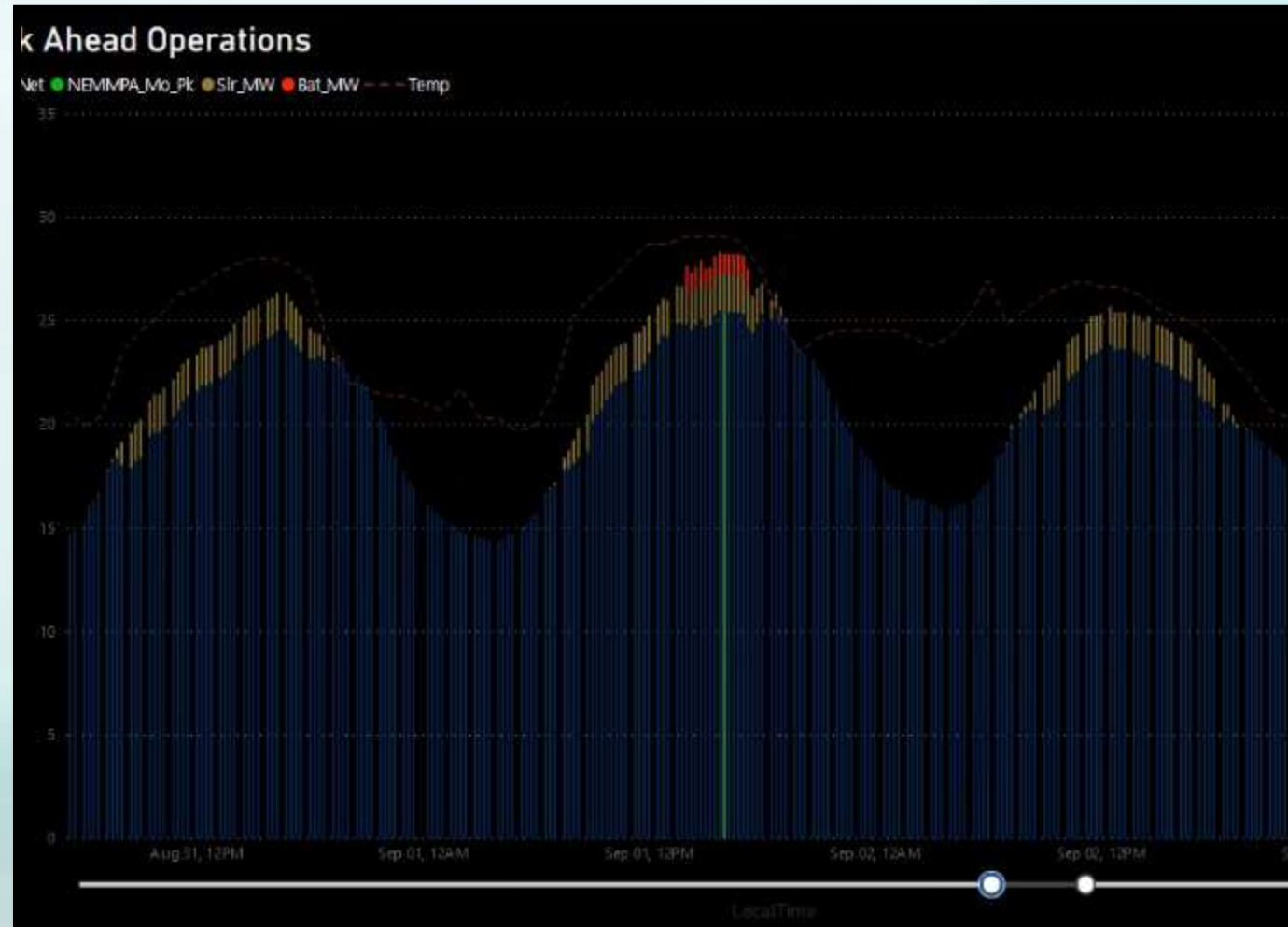
GRPU Electric – Solar Plus Battery Storage Project

Battery Dispatch

Began dispatching in September 2022

Example Peak Day: Sept 7

- GRPU grid provided power
- Solar provided power
- Battery provided power
- NEMMPA coincident peak



GRPU Water & Wastewater– Service Line Warranties

Separate Water & Sanitary Sewer Programs - completely voluntary

Look for the City Logo and Service Line Warranties - GRPU endorsed

www.slwofa.com

Response Requested

<<MR. SAMPLE A SAMPLE_XX>>
<<MAIL_ADDRESS1_XXXXXXX>>
<<MAIL_ADDRESS2_XXXXXXX>>
<<MAIL_CITY_XX, ST ZIP>>

**** Important Informat**

Dear <<Sample A. Sample_XXXX>>,
Recently we wrote to you about sewer/septic li
decided to accept this coverage and we'd like to

ACCEPTANCE FORM

For fastest processing, please visit www.slwofa.com.

Service Line Warranties

Exterior Water Service Line Coverage

Let Exterior Water Service Line Coverage help protect you from expensive repairs to the line that brings water to your home.

This plan includes:

\$5.33/mo.

Add To Cart

Exterior Sewer/Septic Line Coverage

Your home's below-ground sewer or septic line can clog or break, due to tree root intrusion or shifting soil. Help keep what's underground covered with a home service plan.

This plan includes:

\$7.33/mo.

Add To Cart

Interior Plumbing and Drainage System Coverage

Plumbing and drainage line problems can be complicated and expensive to fix. Help protect yourself against the high cost of repairs with a home repair plan.

This plan includes:

\$6.58/mo.

Add To Cart

GRPU Water System

“Clean Water is the New Gold”

WTP Renovation Project

LaPrairie Contracts

Leak Study

Cellular Tower Contracts

Hydrant Meter Policy & Procedure

Enbridge deactivation

Conservation Enforcement during droughts conditions



GRAND RAPIDS WATER TREATMENT PLANT RENOVATION PROJECT

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC UTILITIES
Serving Our Region

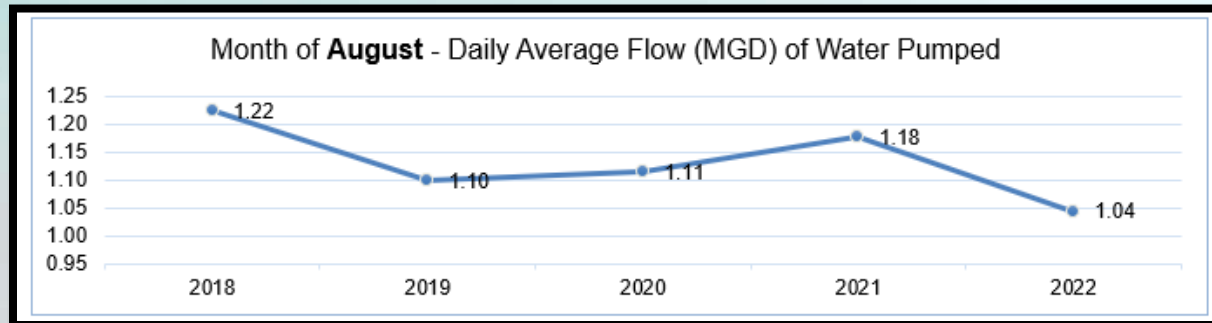
500 SE Fourth Street • Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744

Project Summary
The proposed Grand Rapids Water Treatment Plant Renovation Project includes the necessary upgrades to provide the living greater Grand Rapids community with reliable, efficient, high-quality, potable water.



Project Background

- Grand Rapids Public Utilities (GRPU) provides water service to the cities of Grand Rapids and LaPrairie, and the Todd Community College/University of Minnesota campus. The population served is ~12,000.
- The water system relies on five wells and one treatment plant to produce one to two million gallons per day. Treatment consists of aeration, granular filtration, flocculation, and active carbon adsorption for softening.
- GRPU conducted a Comprehensive Water Plan in 2020 that analyzed the existing water system facilities and evaluated the future needs based on projected growth within the City of Grand Rapids.
- Expected growth and redevelopment, in and around Grand Rapids, would add approximately 5,000 people and a significant expansion of commercial and industrial users to the GRPU water system.
- The existing 33-year old treatment facility, with its original equipment, has served the community well for three decades, but it is reaching the end of its useful life and an upgrade is vital to ensure the ability to serve the future demands of the growing Grand Rapids community without suffering water shortages.
- The 1987 treatment building itself is sound, however, it needs a new roof, HVAC and lighting upgrades.
- Pre-design investigation shows that through thoughtful process and equipment upgrades, the increased capacity needed can be obtained within the footprint of the existing facilities with the Renovation Project.
- The Project includes upgrading well pumps to increase well efficiency, and ensure well houses will be constructed at two wells as identified in the recent America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) study.
- The Project includes upgrades to equipment that has far lower efficiencies than today's pumps. High efficiency pumps with VFDs will not only increase capacity, but will also increase the energy efficiency of the treatment operations and provide an additional savings of over \$1,300 per month.
- The Project includes replacing the outdated motor control center and SCADA instrumentation with modern equipment to help reduce maintenance downtime, improve reliability, and lower operating costs.



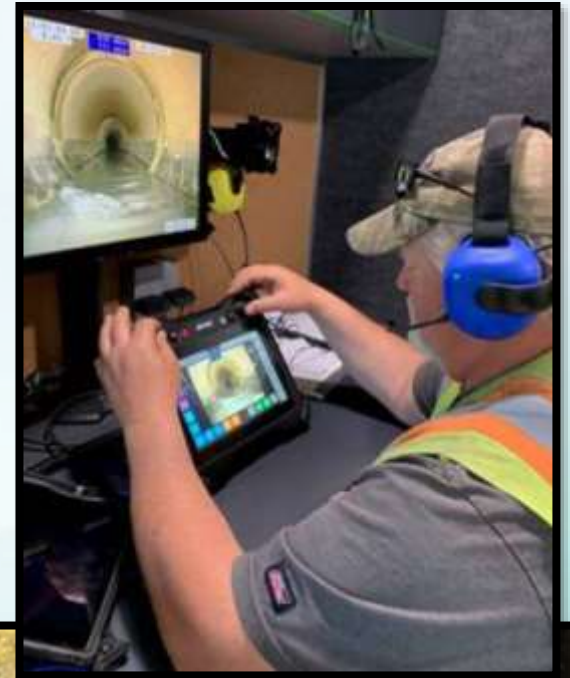
GRPU Wastewater Collection

PROTECT OUR PIPES!



Anti-Clog's reminder...
If you use any kind of wipes,
throw them in the trash,
not in the toilet!

Over 20
miles of
sanitary
sewer
cleaned and
jetted this
year



GRPU Wastewater Treatment

Often Overlooked Details

150–190 million gallons of water treated monthly

Removal of over 99% of TSS and BOD

3500-4500 cubic yards of sludge solids hauled monthly

Up to 2.5 million gallons of leachate hauled monthly

Looking to the Future

Transition in Hours of Operation

SCADA enhancements



GRPU in the Community

Safety Camp

In Kind Labor Donations >\$7500

Riverfest

Grand Jam

Frozen Fairways


Northwoods Pond Hockey

YMCA ice rink



GRPU in the Community

GRPU Community Caring Fund Program

 <p>GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC UTILITIES Service is Our Nature</p>	<p>COMMISSION POLICY <small>Item 10.</small></p> <p>Grand Rapids Public Utilities Community Caring Fund Program</p>
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Category: Governance	Subcategory: Community Involvement	Policy Number: 1.5.025
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1.0 PURPOSE

In 2011, Grand Rapids Public Utilities (GRPU) created the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Community Caring Fund at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (GRACF) in which contributions to the fund come from GRPU customers who "round up" their utility bill payments. The fund is for GRPU customers in order to prevent a crisis situation from becoming chronic, by serving immediate, last resort, crisis needs such as utility bills.

2.0 POLICY

With this policy, the Commission communicates expectations for the General Manager's understanding of the administration of the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Community Caring Fund Program (the Program) at GRACF. The General Manager, shall ensure the Program at GRACF maintains the following format:

Program Guidelines

- The maximum total spending from the fund per year = \$1,000
- The maximum individual customer account gift per year = \$100
- The (up to) \$100 gift to recipient can be used to pay for utility deposit and/or outstanding utility bills (including any fees) for electric, water, wastewater, and storm water. The gift funds are transferred from GRACF to GRPU on behalf of the recipient.
- The Program is tracked and analyzed on a calendar year basis

Recipient Eligibility Guidelines

- The recipient is currently or applying to be a GRPU RESIDENTIAL customer
- The recipient has been screened through a nonprofit organization or government social service establishing a need for utility payment assistance (i.e. Kootasca)

City of Grand Rapids Climate Action Plan

Councilor Blake introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 22-14

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

WHEREAS Grand Rapids has just this past year experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now;

WHEREAS extreme weather will create new challenges for Grand Rapids' infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

WHEREAS the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the

.....

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Grand Rapids declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Grand Rapids commits to working for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Complete and Implement a Climate Action Plan
- Fully Implement our autonomous electric vehicle shuttle pilot program
- Continue serving as a regional leader and share our experience with the Grand Rapids Solar Garden project and autonomous electric vehicle project so other communities may learn from us and implement similar ideas

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Grand Rapids calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Grand Rapids calls on the federal government to immediately

GRPU in the Community

Tall Timber Days – 1st Place for Most Unique Business Representation



Comments / Questions

Grand Rapids Public Utilities



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Email: info@grpuc.org

Phone: 218.326.7024