PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 04, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Committee Room - City Hall, 3rd Floor 1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:00 pm Shannon Derby called the meeting to order

2. **ROLL CALL**
   Committee Members: **Present:** Shannon Derby, Tim Petri; **Excused:** Darla LeClair
   Staff & Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl, Brian Dellemann, Andrew Sukowaty, Shawn Taddy, Kyle Kordell

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   Minutes from the April 6, 2026, Public Utilities Committee meeting

   Tim Petri made a motion to approve the April 6, 2026, Public Utilities Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Shannon Derby. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT** – N/A

5. **PROJECT STATUS UPDATES**

   A. 2025 CIPP

   Visu-Sewer has been making progress; however, work has been delayed due to excessive flows entering the sanitary sewer system from private laterals discharging clear water from foundation drains. The committee will need to hold a future discussion regarding methods to address clear water infiltration into the sanitary sewer system and strategies for its eventual elimination.

   B. 2026 CIPP

   Three (3) bids were received last week and will award this year's contract to Visu-Sewer.

   C. 2025 LSL Contract

   Essential Sewer & Water temporarily pulled off the project with approximately 60 services remaining to be completed.

   D. 2026 LSL Contract

   A preconstruction meeting will need to be scheduled for this contract as it appears Mammoth Construction is preparing to begin work on this year's contract in May.

   E. 2026 Water System Improvement

The preconstruction meeting is still pending and will help provide a better understanding of when Vinton Construction intends to begin work on this project.

6. WASTEWATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION

A. Sludge Disposal

Historically, the City had multiple farmers willing to accept wastewater sludge. Moving into 2026, that number had been reduced to two, and one farmer has recently provided notice that they are no longer willing to accept sludge due to the presence of PFOS/PFOA compounds.

As a result, the City has begun evaluating City-owned property within the Woodland Industrial Park as a potential disposal option. Key points discussed included:

- Approximately 70 acres of usable land may be available, depending on crop conditions.
- The site has recently received approval from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Discussions will need to occur with the farmer currently leasing the land to determine crop rotation schedules and the intended end use of the crops, both of which may limit the suitability of the property for sludge disposal activities.

At this time, the City is effectively down to one remaining farmer willing to accept sludge, and that individual is considering retirement. It remains unknown whether the farmland will continue to be farmed by a family member, leased, or sold. Additionally, due to PFOS/PFOA levels detected in the sludge, Waste Management Ridgeview Landfill has indicated that it will not accept the material.

The City is actively exploring alternative disposal options before reaching a point after the fall of 2026 where no viable sludge disposal options remain available.

B. East Primary Sludge Pump Failure

The Water Utility recently cleaned its filter backwash settling basin for the first time in many years, resulting in a substantial accumulation of silty grit being discharged into the sanitary sewer system. At the same time, the wastewater treatment plant had temporarily taken the de-gritter offline due to ongoing issues with flow backing up and not properly reaching the primary clarifiers.

Compounding the issue, a diaphragm pump experienced a tear in the diaphragm and failed to operate, resulting in silty grit blockages accumulating at the bottom of the primary clarifier. The situation was further complicated by extremely high flows caused by significant rainfall events occurring several days earlier. The primary clarifiers were beginning to turn septic.

Staff repaired the diaphragm pump and manually monitored a fire hose inserted into the bottom of the clarifier to fluidize and suspend the silty grit allowing the pump to move the material forward for further treatment. Staff successfully managed and overcame the issue over an estimated 7-to-10-day period.

It was noted that the failed diaphragm pump had been in service for approximately three years, which is considered typical for this type of equipment. In response, staff will begin implementing an annual inspection program for all six diaphragm pumps in an effort to

better predict potential failures and take a more proactive rather than reactive approach to maintenance.

C. Staffing Update

1. Ed Gilmer passed the Performing Laboratory Analysis/Testing exam.
2. Kevin Gerceau has been certified as an Advance Operator.
3. Shawn Taddy has been reclassified from basic Collection System Operator to Advance Collection System Operator.

D. Jessie Street Lift Station

1. Hired Sabel Mechanical to inspect and exercise the valves in the lift station as the pumps were constantly running because the check valves were not preventing the backflow of pumped water. Replaced the ball check valves and it is now back to working normally.
2. The shut off values were exercised and found to be in good operating condition.

E. RV Dump Station

The facility was placed into service on May 1st. Additional usage may occur as Point Beach State Forest has its RV dump station out of service through mid-May due to ongoing upgrades at the State Forest.

7. ELECTRIC AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITIES: DIRECTOR UPDATES AND ACTION, IF APPLICABLE

A. WPPI Loan Update

As of April 28th, all loan documents had been signed and returned. The loan could be closed as early as April 30th. Staff will follow up with finance during the week of May 4th to verify whether the funds have been deposited.

B. Substation Maintenance Schedule

The original inspection and maintenance work had been scheduled for June; however, the contractor had an opening during the week of May 4th. Staff began transferring electrical loads to the alternate transformers in preparation for the work. The planned maintenance is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

C. Utility Scholarship Program

The Electric Utility received seven (7) scholarship applications, which is two more than last year; however, the total remains considerably lower than in past years when as many as 20 applications were received. The applications were forwarded to WPPI Energy to serve as an impartial reviewer. Two (2) $500 scholarships will be awarded during the high school awards ceremony.

8. WATER UTILITY: DIRECTOR UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED

A. Reservoir Project Update

The project involves reconfiguring the reservoir overflow piping and structure. Exterior concrete and grading work has been completed prior to draining the reservoir and modifying the interior piping. Installation work is expected to occur within the next couple of weeks, with the project anticipated to be completed prior to Memorial Day.

B. Tower Painting Update

The east water tower tank is in need of repainting and is tentatively scheduled for August. Additional updates will be provided as the project timeframe approaches.

C. Risk and Resilience

This is a required report that must be submitted to the WDNR every five (5) years. Strand Associates is assisting the Water Utility with preparation of the report, which is expected to be completed prior to June 30th.

D. Water Quality Report

The annual report is available on the Utility's website and Facebook page. Residents without internet access may request a printed copy of the report by contacting the Water Utility.

In addition, the Utility must prepare and distribute the required annual letters/notices to properties identified as having lead, galvanized, or unknown material water service lines.

E. Community Outreach Grant

The Water Utility has been awarded a **$33,000 grant** dedicated to public education regarding lead in the water system, specifically focusing on lead and galvanized service lines.

In coordination with this funding, the Utility will collaborate with **Andy Jacque** to produce a series of educational videos, ranging from 3 to 10 minutes in length. These videos will illustrate how the specific water treatment chemicals currently in use function to prevent lead from migrating into the water supply.

F. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) update

The Water Utility is awaiting completion of a preliminary study from a vendor to determine whether implementation of an AMI system would be feasible and beneficial. It is anticipated that this discussion will return to Committee at the June meeting.

9. STORM WATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION, AS NEEDED

A. MS4 Stormwater Master Plan Update

The City has five (5) watersheds that needed to be studied and modeled:

1. Lake Michigan (direct discharge into the lake)
2. East Twin River
3. West Twin River
4. Molash Creek (by the high school)
5. "Forget-Me-Not Creek"

Table 3-1: TMDL Percent Reductions

TMDL Sub-Watershed	TSS Reduction from No-Controls	TP Reduction from No-Controls
West Twin River	36%	15%
East Twin River	20%	28%
Lake Michigan	0%	0%
Forget-Me-Not Creek	20%	50%
Molash Creek	20%	74%

The area within the City that ultimately discharges to Molash Creek is not conveyed through the City's MS4 infrastructure, including storm sewer systems or roadway ditch networks, and is therefore considered Riparian or MS4 "A" to MS4 "B."

In addition, Eggers Industries discharges into Wisconsin Department of Transportation roadside ditches that are conveyed to Molash Creek, with similar discharge conditions occurring from the high school area. As a result, the City of Two Rivers should not be responsible for managing stormwater originating from that area.

This determination reduces the City's stormwater management concerns to four (4) remaining drainage subbasins.

Table 3-2: TMDL Pollutant Analysis – Baseline Condition (WisSLAMM)

		Total Suspended Solids (TSS)			Total Phosphorus (TP)		
			Required TMDL Load Reduction			Required TMDL Load Reduction	
Sub-Watershed	Urban Area (acres)	Baseline Load (lbs.yr)	(%)	(lbs.yr)	Baseline Load (lbs./yr)	(%)	(lbs.yr)
West Twin River	690	192,277	36.0%	69,220	542	15.0%	81
East Twin River	835	183,892	20.0%	36,778	578	28.0%	162
Lake Michigan	457	120,022	0.0%	0	343	0.0%	0
Forest-Me-Not Creek	15	3,578	20.0%	715	12	50.0%	6

Table 3-3: TMDL Pollutant Analysis – 2025 BMPs (WisSLAMM)

		Total Suspended Solids (TSS)			Total Phosphorus (TP)		
			Load Reduction			Load Reduction	
Sub-Watershed	City MS4 (acres)	Baseline Load (lbs.yr)	(%)	(lbs.yr)	Baseline Load (lbs./yr)	(%)	(lbs.yr)
West Twin River	690	192,277	39.6%	76,137	542	30.4%	165.0
East Twin River	835	183,892	9.9%	18,163	578	9.8%	56.7
Lake Michigan	457	120,022	7.6%	9,104	343	8.9%	30.6
Forest-Me-Not Creek	15	3,578	2.8%	100	12	3.0%	0.4

Recommended actions include:

1. Continue to maintain our existing Best Management Practices (BMPS)
2. Street sweeping occurs twice per month within the East Twin River watershed and once per month within all other watersheds. No parking controls are currently in place during

sweeping operations, making the program less effective than it could be if overnight parking restrictions or similar controls were implemented.

3. Construct three (3) new wet detention ponds, two with enhanced settling systems (coagulant dosing of polymers – new standard for WDNR)
   a. Lake View Avenue Pond - $188,000-$250,000 for 0.50 acre pond
   b. 25th Street Pond (Scare USA) - $645,000 - $1,000,000 for 1.1 acre pond
   c. Riverview Pond - $1,746,000 - $2,500,000 for 2.0 acre pond
   d. $2,579,000 to $3,750,000 capital costs based upon 2025 estimates.
4. Evaluate potential modifications to the City's leaf collection practices, including terrace storage versus street storage, as part of future phosphorus reduction efforts. These potential modifications were not evaluated as part of this study.

10. SOLID WASTE UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION, AS NEEDED

A. Recycling Grant Annual Report

The annual recycling report has been submitted to WDNR. Upon review of this year's report, a significant downward trend in total tons collected was identified. After some additional investigation, it was found that we have been over reporting due to the way our tracking spreadsheet was established. Overall, we are holding steady with the total number of tons as compared to adjusted past years.

B. Landfill Update

The wastewater treatment plant is required to collect PFOS/PFOA samples from its effluent discharge every other month, with a report due to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in July 2026. Sample results may result in the WDNR requiring the City to complete a PFOS minimization plan, which would identify potential PFOS sources and require efforts to mitigate those sources.

The City has been proactive in attempting to identify potential major contributors, with indications suggesting the landfills may be a significant source. Testing results confirmed this suspicion with PFOA concentrations identified at levels approximately 200 to 250 times greater than the wastewater treatment plant's effluent.

Because these elevated concentrations are directly impacting both the wastewater plant effluent and resulting sludge, the Engineering Department is reaching out to consultants to explore possible methods to reduce or eliminate these chemicals from landfill leachate and potentially from the wastewater effluent itself. A virtual meeting with a consultant has been scheduled for May 5th to discuss the City's situation, with additional information to follow.

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS OR ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, WITH DISCUSSION AND ACTION – N/A

12. SET DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING
Proposed for Monday, June 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm

13. ADJOURNMENT: 5:55 pm

Tim Petri by made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shannon Derby. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: *Matthew R. Heckenlaible*

Public Works Director/City Engineer