



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, July 06, 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 by Shannon Derby

2. **ROLL CALL**

Committee Members: Shannon Derby, Tim Petri; Darla LeClair - remote

Staff & Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Brian Dellemann, Andrew Sukowaty, Shawn Taddy, Kyle Kordell, Tracey Koach

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the June 1, 2026, Public Utilities Committee Meeting

Tim Petri made a motion to approve the June 1, 2026, Public Utilities Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Shannon Derby. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT** – N/A

5. **PROJECT STATUS UPDATES**

A. **2025 LSL Project**

Essential Sewer and Water is nearing completion of its contract, with approximately 30 lead service replacements remaining. Public Works crews continue working to catch up on pavement restoration associated with the project; however, those efforts were delayed by the May 17 windstorm and the subsequent debris cleanup operations.

B. **2026 LSL Project**

Mammoth Construction is scheduled to begin construction during the first week of June. Work will start on 23rd Street near Jefferson Street and progress west towards Forest Avenue. As construction advances, the contractor will notify property owners within each work area of anticipated impacts, including potential delays and temporary access restrictions to their properties. Public Works crews will transition from the east side pavement restoration work to this project area and complete pavement restoration as soon as practicable following the contractor's work.

6. **WASTEWATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION**

A. **WDNR PFAS Report**

As discussed during the May 25 City Council Work Session, the Wastewater Utility is required under its Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) discharge permit to collect and analyze samples of treated wastewater (effluent) leaving the treatment plant. In addition, the utility is required to sample its wastewater sludge annually. The results of these sampling efforts must be compiled into a report and submitted to the WDNR by the end of July 2026.

The ongoing sampling requirements, coupled with agricultural landowners' reluctance to accept wastewater sludge that may contain detectable contaminants for land application, have created a significant challenge for the Utility in identifying a sustainable short-term sludge disposal solution. Staff continues to evaluate all feasible alternatives and remains open to suggestions as potential options moving forward.

B. Capacity, Management, Operation, Maintenance (CMOM) Plan Update

Staff completed a comprehensive revision of the Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) Plan and submitted the updated document to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff in 2024. The WDNR responded that the plan was more detailed than necessary and requested that it be simplified to more closely resemble the City's original CMOM Plan.

Staff submitted the revised, simplified CMOM Plan to the WDNR in June. Following its review, the WDNR requested additional detail and revisions to several sections of the plan, as well as updates to the City's entire Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Plan (SSORP). Staff has until mid-July to complete the requested revisions and resubmit both documents to the WDNR.

C. Riverside Foods Update

Staff is pleased to report that progress appears to be occurring, as the Wastewater Treatment Plant is experiencing reduced impacts from industrial wastewater loadings. A review of sampling data from Riverside Foods also indicates a decrease in wastewater loadings. In addition, Riverside Foods has developed a plan to further reduce its wastewater contributions, which is expected to provide continued improvements to the treatment process.

D. Poly Trials and Lab Testing Providers

Shawn Taddy informed the committee that a vendor approached the Wastewater Utility to conduct a short-term pilot study evaluating whether a change to the existing polymer additive used in the sludge treatment process could produce drier sludge while also reducing polymer costs. A preliminary jar test showed promising results; however, the initial field trial did not achieve the expected results.

The vendor has proposed testing a slightly different polymer blend in a second trial to determine if improved results can be achieved. This additional trial is anticipated to occur later in June. Staff noted that the utility has been using the same polymer supplier for an extended period and is exploring alternative vendors and products as a potential opportunity for cost savings and improved sludge dewatering performance.

E. SCADA Update

Due to Windows 10 no longer providing routine security updates, the Wastewater Utility has identified a concern with its remote monitoring and alert system. The portion of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system responsible for notifying staff of issues within the collection system or treatment plant is only compatible with Windows 10.

At this time, the affected SCADA component cannot be replaced independently, and the initial solution considered was a complete SCADA system replacement at an estimated cost of approximately \$130,000. While a full system replacement will ultimately be necessary, staff is exploring a more cost-effective short-term solution.

All In Technology has identified a potential option to purchase a temporary Windows 10 security update extension at a cost of less than \$1,000. Staff is currently evaluating this option,

with possible implementation in June, to provide additional time before a full SCADA system replacement is required.

F. Plant and Lift Station Annual Maintenance

Wastewater staff completed cleaning of the west clarifier in May and will be drawing down the east clarifier for maintenance, cleaning, and inspection. Staff will also be cleaning the outer weir ring, which, according to staff, has not been completed in approximately 20 years. Moving forward, this task will become part of the utility's annual maintenance routine. These proactive cleaning efforts have had a positive impact on the overall performance and operation of the wastewater treatment plant.

Staff have also completed cleaning six of the 17 city-owned lift stations as part of their ongoing maintenance program.

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

A. Grant Application

The most recent power outage appears to have been caused by a bird nesting on a large utility pole near the West Twin River. To help reduce the likelihood of similar outages in the future, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Electric Utility are collaborating on a grant application to the Bird Foundation. The proposed project includes the installation of four bird nesting platforms in the area, along with educational features that encourage the public to observe nesting birds. The goal is to promote nesting on the designated platforms rather than on utility poles. The grant request will be for approximately \$13,000.

B. Customer Program Updates

Customer expectations continue to evolve, prompting the Electric Utility to evaluate and adapt its programs and services to better meet community needs and expectations. Examples of programs currently being reviewed include:

- Shade tree planting program
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations
- Sourcing materials and supplies
- Solar assistance programs

C. Current Activities

Electric Utility crews continue to make progress on post-May 17 storm restoration efforts, with the remaining work nearing completion. Crews are also addressing trees that continue to impact the three-phase power lines along the southerly railroad track corridor. In addition, the department is completing several underground electrical installations and grant-funded primary line extensions. Staff is also evaluating the feasibility of constructing a second electrical feed to the Woodland Industrial Park, which is currently served by a single feeder originating from the Columbus Street Substation. This additional feed would improve system reliability and redundancy for the industrial park

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

A. Water Treatment Discussion

Water Utility Director Andrew Sukowaty reported that the Water Utility currently adds three

chemicals during the drinking water treatment process:

- Chlorine for disinfection.
- Orthophosphate to reduce lead leaching from pipe materials.
- Fluoride to promote oral health.

Director Sukowaty explained that fluoride is the only treatment chemical added voluntarily, as it is not required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). He noted that the city began fluoridating its water supply in the 1950s to improve children's oral health. He also discussed several considerations related to continued fluoridation, including the hazardous nature of handling concentrated fluoride chemicals, the availability of alternative fluoride delivery methods such as toothpaste, mouthwash, and dissolvable tablets, and whether those alternatives provide individuals with greater choice. He questioned whether the city should continue its longstanding practice of fluoridating the water supply and suggested the topic may warrant further discussion at the City Council level.

Committee member Shannon Derby expressed support for continuing water fluoridation, citing its oral health benefits, particularly for children. She noted that access to dental care is limited for some residents, as there are no local dental practices accepting BadgerCare patients, requiring families to travel outside the community for treatment. She also expressed concern that some families may not consistently purchase or use alternative fluoride products if fluoridation were discontinued.

Director Sukowaty stated that the city could explore expanding assistance programs for underprivileged children to help offset the cost of fluoride-containing products if fluoridation were discontinued. He also noted that, in his view, there is no conclusive position regarding the present-day benefits or impacts of community water fluoridation and reiterated the question of whether residents should have the ability to make an individual choice regarding fluoride exposure.

Committee member Darla LeClair expressed concern about placing the decision before the City Council, stating that it could create a difficult situation for elected officials. She suggested that additional public education regarding the City's fluoridation practices, along with the potential benefits and risks, would be beneficial. She also commented that much of the available research focuses on newborns and young children rather than teenagers or adults and suggested the matter could be addressed at the committee level.

Committee member Tim Petri stated that he believes it is appropriate to discontinue adding fluoride to the City's drinking water. He suggested that the cost savings from ending fluoridation could instead be directed toward programs that help provide fluoride-containing products to residents, allowing individuals to make their own decisions regarding fluoride use.

Following additional discussion, the Committee reached a consensus that the topic should be forwarded to a City Council Work Session for further discussion and possible action.

9. STORM WATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION AS NEEDED – N/A

10. SOLID WASTE UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION AS NEEDED

A future agenda item may include a discussion regarding the placement of garbage and bulk items at the curb prior to the scheduled collection date, as well as situations where ineligible items remain at the curb for several days after the scheduled pickup. The Committee expressed interest in exploring whether any changes to current practices or enforcement may be appropriate. No further discussion took place.

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, August 3, 2026, at 5:00 pm

NOTE: Brian Dellemann will not be at the August 3rd meeting.

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