



WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2025

11:45 – WMU Auditorium

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) convened its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 11:45 a.m. in the WMU Auditorium. Commissioners in attendance were Shawn Mueske, John Kennedy, Patricia Elizondo, Terrill Sieck, Dave Baumgart, and Bruce DeBlieck. Commissioner Carol Laumer was absent.

Also present were General Manager Jeron Smith, Director of Administration Janell Johnson, Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti, Information Systems Coordinator Mike Sangren, City Council Liaison Tom Gilbertson, Executive Secretary Abby Ahrendt, City Attorney Robert Scott (attending via teleconference), and *West Central Tribune* journalist Jennifer Kotila.

The meeting was called to order by Commission President Mueske, followed by recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. President Mueske then inquired whether there were any changes or additions to the agenda as presented. General Manager Smith provided clarification regarding highlighted line items on the bill payment list. Following review and discussion, Commission President Mueske requested action on the consent agenda. Commissioner Baumgart made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Sieck.

RESOLUTION NO. 21

“BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Utilities Commission of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the consent agenda be approved as presented, which includes:

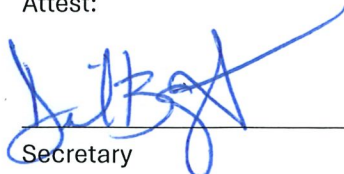
- ❖ Minutes from the June 9, 2025, MUC Meeting;
- ❖ Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2025, Labor Committee Meeting; and
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20250961 to No. 20251014, including associated wire transfers, totaling \$3,294,543.64.”

Dated this 23rd day of June 2025.



President

Attest:



Secretary

The foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of six ayes and zero nays.

Labor Committee Chair DeBlieck provided remarks regarding General Manager Smith's six-month

performance review. He noted that the Labor Committee utilized the General Manager Performance Evaluation Worksheet to conduct a thorough assessment, with ratings ranging from satisfactory to very good. Following this discussion and review, DeBleck offered a motion to approve the six-month review as satisfactory or better and to authorize the corresponding salary adjustment outlined in the General Manager's employment agreement. Commissioner Sieck seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION NO. 22

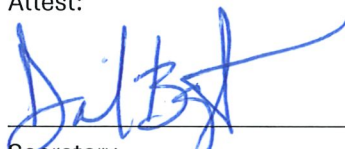
"BE IT RESOLVED that the Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission approves General Manager Jeron Smith's six-month performance review as satisfactory or better and approves the corresponding salary adjustment in accordance with his employment agreement."

Dated this 23rd day of June 2025.



President

Attest:



Secretary

The foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of six ayes and zero nays.

Commissioner DeBleck provided a brief recap of his experience at the 2025 APPA National Conference. He noted that 8–10 sessions were offered each day, allowing attendees to select topics of interest. Among the sessions he attended were "Building Community Trust for Greater Impact" and "Adapting to the Surge of Data Centers and AI Load Growth." His key takeaway emphasized the importance of communicating WMU's role and value to the community in order to build trust and strengthen engagement.

Director of Administration Johnson provided a brief update on the Energy Acquisition Adjustment (EAA). She reported that, based on actual and projected data, WMU's energy costs remain below the \$71/MWh threshold and that no EAA is recommended at this time.

General Manager Smith reminded Commissioners that materials, including updates to the 2025 General Manager Goals, from the June 16th Labor Committee meeting, are available on their tablets. He then provided an overview of the NERC 2025 Summer Reliability Assessment, which highlights an elevated risk of energy shortfalls during extreme weather conditions, driven by increased demand, reduced dispatchable generation, and reliance on intermittent energy sources. In response to Commissioner questions, Smith discussed potential impacts if local utilities are called on to generate electricity and outlined MRES processes. He also stated that the MRES/WMMPA Board Meeting summary is available for anyone who wishes to review it. Additionally, Smith reiterated previous details on the proposed GRE 115 kV transmission line and noted that project maps and related materials are now available. He concluded by thanking Commissioners DeBleck, Elizondo, and Baumgart for participating in the WMU booth at the Willmar Fest Block Party on Thursday evening. WMU was also represented in Saturday's parade with a bucket truck entry.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ 50-Year Membership Milestone Recognition: June 30, 2:30–3:00 p.m., WMU
- ❖ MMUA Summer Conference (Rochester, MN): August 18–20, 2025
- ❖ MRES Municipal Power Leadership Academy (Sioux Falls, SD): September 17–18, 2025

President Mueske asked if there were any additional matters for discussion. Hearing none, Commissioner Baumgart moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy and approved unanimously with a vote of six ayes and zero nays. The meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES


Abby Ahrendt, Executive Secretary

ATTEST:


Secretary