



WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2025

11:45 a.m. – WMU Auditorium

The Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 11:45 a.m. in the WMU Auditorium. Present were Commissioners Shawn Mueske (President), John Kennedy, Terrill Sieck, Dave Baumgart, Carol Laumer, Bruce DeBlieck, and Patricia Elizondo.

Staff present included Jeron Smith, General Manager; Janell Johnson, Director of Administration; Kevin Marti, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor; Andrea Prekker, Finance & Office Services Supervisor; Mike Sangren, Information Systems Coordinator; Abby Ahrendt, Executive Secretary; and Tom Gilbertson, City Council Liaison. Robert Scott, City Attorney, attended via teleconference. Jennifer Kotila of the West Central Tribune was also present.

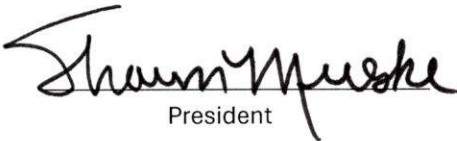
President Mueske called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. With no changes to the agenda, he proceeded to the Consent Agenda. General Manager Smith highlighted items within the payment of bills. Following review and discussion, Commissioner Laumer moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Baumgart.

RESOLUTION NO. 36

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Utilities Commission of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented, including:

- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20251321 through No. 20251415, including associated wire transfers, totaling \$1,373,386.43.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2025.


President

Attest:


Secretary

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

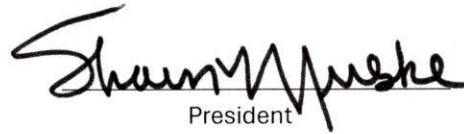
Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker presented the July 2025 Financial Reports, which included a summary of the Income Statement covering revenues and expenses, retained earnings, and comparative data for both the Electric and Water Divisions, along with the Investment Portfolio and Cost of Power Report as of July 31, 2025.

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker presented the proposed 2026 WMU Budget. The total budget is \$36,857,615, with Purchased Power remaining the largest expense at \$17,674,818. The Capital Budget totals \$19,083,154. A Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan Statement of Cash Flows for both the Electric and Water Divisions was also reviewed.

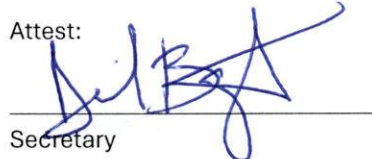
RESOLUTION NO. 37

BE IT RESOLVED by the Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission that the proposed 2026 Willmar Municipal Utilities Operating Budget in the amount of \$36,857,615, and Capital Budget of \$19,083,154, is hereby approved and adopted as presented.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2025.


President

Attest:


Secretary

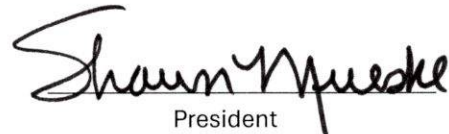
The foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays.

General Manager Smith presented the proposal from Braun Intertec for implementation of the MPCA-approved Response Action Plan/Construction Contingency Plan (RAP/CCP) related to the diesel generating plant addition. The scope includes on-site environmental oversight, soil sampling and testing, documentation, and final reporting to ensure compliance with MPCA requirements. The estimated cost of services is \$85,225. Motion by DeBlieck, seconded by Baumgart, to approve the proposal.

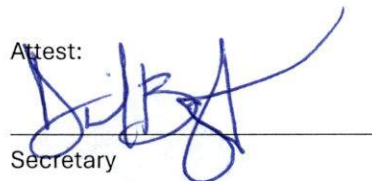
RESOLUTION NO. 38

BE IT RESOLVED by the Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission that the Commission approves the proposal from Braun Intertec in the amount of \$85,225 to implement the MPCA-approved Response Action Plan/Construction Contingency Plan (RAP/CCP) for the diesel generating plant addition.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2025.


President

Attest:


Secretary

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

Commissioners Laumer and DeBlieck, along with General Manager Smith, attended the MMUA Summer Conference and shared key takeaways from the sessions they participated in. Commissioner Laumer noted discussions around performance measurement, the role of artificial intelligence in utilities, and the importance of staying proactive with tariffs and communications. Commissioner DeBlieck highlighted insights from facility tours in Rochester, including geothermal heating applications, system dispatch practices, and sessions on rate studies and renewable integration. General Manager Smith reported on legislative and regulatory updates, tariff impacts, leadership training, and trends in both electric and water

rate planning. Overall, the conference provided valuable information and learning opportunities for all three attendees.

General Manager Smith noted that the MRES Toronto News Release announced plans for a new 145-megawatt natural gas facility in Toronto, South Dakota, designed to provide reliable and affordable energy for member communities. He also shared that the MRES July Board Summary is available for review. Smith reported action at the September 2 City Council meeting which tabled the Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission's August 25 minutes pending clarification on the Advantages of Public Power committee's scope of work or job description.

Following the General Manager's report, Commissioner Laumer requested that City Council Liaison Gilbertson provide periodic updates on City Council work sessions. Liaison Gilbertson confirmed he would relay this information to the Commission as appropriate.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Marshall Solar Plus Tour – September 11, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ MRES Municipal Power Leadership Academy (Sioux Falls, SD) – September 17–18, 2025
- ❖ Employee Recognition Luncheon – October 8 at 12:00 p.m.

President Mueske asked for any additional discussion. Hearing none, Laumer moved to adjourn, and Baumgart seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES


Abby Ahrendt, Executive Secretary

ATTEST:


Secretary