



## WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – October 27, 2025

11:45 a.m. WMU Auditorium

The Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 27, 2025, at 11:45 a.m. in the WMU Auditorium. Commissioners present included Shawn Mueske (President), John Kennedy, Terrill Sieck, Dave Baumgart, Carol Laumer, Bruce DeBlieck, and Patricia Elizondo.

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

City Council Liaison Tom Gilbertson participated via teleconference for the first 15 minutes of the meeting and then joined the Commission in person upon his arrival at 12:01 p.m.

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 Jeron Smith highlighted items within the payment of bills. Following review and discussion, Commissioner Carol Laumer moved, and Commissioner Dave Baumgart seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 46**

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

- ❖ Minutes from the October 13, 2025, MUC Meeting
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20251600 through No. 20251646, including associated wire transfers, totaling \$2,994,404.46.

Dated this 27th day of October, 2025.

  
President

Attest:

  
Secretary

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

General Manager Jeron Smith provided a recap of the MRES Area Meeting held in Alexandria, MN. These Area Meetings give member utilities the opportunity to learn about upcoming programs and services, gain insight into rate and budget planning, and receive updates on industry initiatives. They also provide time for member representatives to connect informally with one another and with MRES staff. Smith highlighted several key topics discussed, including the strategic outlook for MRES and the public-power industry, legislative and regulatory updates, operational planning, financial, power supply agreements, and member engagement.

initiatives. Smith also mentioned that the Light Up Navajo volunteer initiative was included in the member-engagement portion of the presentation, noting that MRES will be sponsoring 15–16 line-crew volunteers in the spring to assist with electrification efforts on the Navajo Nation. Those in attendance were Commissioner Carol Laumer, Commissioner Bruce DeBlieck, Director of Administration Janell Johnson, Finance and Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker, and General Manager Jeron Smith.

General Manager Jeron Smith informed the Commission that the September MRES Board Summary is available for review on their iPads. He also introduced the draft Municipal Utilities Commission Bylaws. Smith noted that the Governance Committee first convened in January to begin developing bylaws following participation in APPA governance training, as the Commission did not previously have formal bylaws in place. It is the consensus of the Governance Committee to present the draft to the full Commission for initial review and discussion.

**Upcoming Events:**


- ❖ WMU Customer Survey – September 22 – November 21
- ❖ MMUA Governance in Action (St. Cloud, MN) – January 23, 2026
- ❖ APPA Legislative Rally (Washington, D.C.) – February 23-25, 2026

President Mueske asked for any additional discussion. Hearing none, Sieck moved to adjourn, and Baumgart seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

  
Abby Ahrendt, Executive Secretary

ATTEST:

  
Secretary