



WPUI Board Meeting

March 19, 2018

Location: Michael Best, 1 S Pinckney St, Ste 700, Madison, WI 53703

P.J. Distefano called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Present:

Lori Sakk, WPUI; P.J. DiStefano, Deloitte; Brian Rude, Dairyland; Jeff Ripp, Alliant Energy; John Sumi, MGE; Deb Erwin, Xcel Energy; Dave Siebert, DNR; Garrett Huffman, Office of Rep. Mike Kuglitsch; Steve Peters, Office of Rep. Eric Genrich; Kira Loehr, Perkins Coie; Sarah Justus, ATC; Lawrie Kobza, Boardman & Clark; Bill Jordahl, Public Service Commission; Tim Donohue, Wisconsin Energy Institute; Earl Gustafson, Wisconsin Paper Council; Tom Content, Citizens Utility Board; Jordan Hemaïdan, Michael Best & Friedrich; Nilaksh Kothari, Manitowoc Public Utilities

Also present:

Mary Blanchard, Wisconsin Energy Institute; Sara Langmack, WPUI

Excused:

Frank Greb, Seventhwave; Ronda Ferguson, WEC Energy Group; Kristin Gilkes, Customers First Coalition; Cheryl Parrino, Parrino Strategic Consulting Group; Rodney Stevenson, UW-Madison School of Business

Special Guest speakers: Martin Day, Administrator, Division of Energy Regulation, PSCW

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

- A meeting agenda was provided to board members in advance of the board meeting; no additions/changes to agenda.
- Sarah Justus moved to approve the minutes from the November 2017 board meeting. Brian Rude seconded. The motion carried.

Presentation

Martin Day, Division of Energy Regulation with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, gave a presentation titled "Highlights on the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's Work on Grid Modernization and Impact of Tax Legislation."

Board Membership

The board voted online in December 2017 to renew two members' terms and to extend the chair and vice chair position terms as follows:

Ronda Ferguson and Brian Rude new terms – through June 2020

P.J. DiStefano – extend position as chair through June 2019

Brian Rude – extend position as vice chair through June 2019

Budget Update

- Lori Sakk reviewed actual expenses and revenues for CY 2017 and projections for CY 2018, as compared with previous years from CY 2014-present. Lori Sakk also gave overview of the fund balance and highlighted CY 2018 plans to boost revenues and decrease expenses.
- P.J. DiStefano commented that the increased CY 2017 expense was largely due to change in directors and the board was made aware of this in advance.
- P.J. DiStefano asked about the 2017 membership fees received in 2016 (\$20,000); Lori Sakk explained that this was due to timing of the mailing of membership materials.

Membership

- Lori Sakk reviewed 2018 membership status to date.

General overview of WPUI activities and 2018 program update

- Lori Sakk reviewed current WPUI activities and programs and provided a breakdown of programs and revenues and direct expenses associated with each program (not including staff time).

Proposed move of WPUI -- whether to move WPUI's administrative home from College of Engineering (COE) to Office of Vice Chancellor of Graduate Research and Education (OVCRGE), or to keep WPUI's administrative home with COE and physically move WPUI offices back to COE Engineering Physics Department

- Mary Blanchard and Tim Donohue provided some background on the proposal and explained that WEI's administrative home is now with OVCRGE.
- P.J. DiStefano briefly reviewed WPUI's history and thanked WEI for being a great partner to WPUI.
- Mary Blanchard and Tim Donohue stepped out of meeting to allow the remaining WPUI board members to discuss the options.
- The remaining WPUI board members discussed the pros and cons of each proposal and asked questions.
- John Sumi moved that WPUI keep its administrative home with COE and physically move offices back into the EP Department with an amendment to provide a board seat to a WEI representative. Jordan Hemaïdan seconded. The motion carried.

Committee updates

- **Executive:** P.J. Distefano and Brian Rude reported that they continue to meet regularly with Lori Sakk to provide advice and review details about programming, revenues, and expenses going forward.
- **Program Advisory:** No meeting since last board meeting.
- **Nominations:** No meeting since last board meeting.
- **Membership:**
 - The membership committee did not have a formal meeting but exchanged emails to discuss and propose criteria for possible membership waiver requests.
 - Lori Sakk and Deb Erwin presented to the board the waiver-request criteria that the membership committee recommended.

- Board discussed the waiver criteria as well as a request received from the Wisconsin Paper Council.
 - Board determined that the membership committee should first review this proposal and then make a recommendation to board. Board will then vote to approve/deny this request.
 - Lori Sakk will schedule a membership committee meeting before the next board meeting.
 - Lori Sakk pointed out that there is still an open board seat for a non-utility energy provider.
- **Compensation and Performance:**
 - No meeting since last board meeting.
 - Lori Sakk had her evaluation with her UW supervisor Mary Blanchard.
- **Ad hoc Strategic Planning:**
 - Board members completed an online board self-evaluation survey. Lori Sakk reviewed the results and noted potential areas of improvement. These potential areas of improvement will be incorporated into the strategic planning process.
 - The strategic planning committee met via conference call on February 2, 2018, to discuss the scope of the WPUI strategic planning effort and next steps. The committee decided that an extensive strategic planning process was not necessary and that the committee really wanted to focus on what WPUI members want and whether WPUI is meeting their needs.
 - Brian Rude provided additional background on the strategic planning committee's call.
 - Lori Sakk reviewed the strategic plan outline and highlighted WPUI's priorities, next steps and timeline.
 - Jeff Ripp suggested that the board and committee may want to take into consideration regarding the impact of the board's decision that WPUI will remain with COE. There was general agreement among board members.
 - P.J. DiStefano and Lori Sakk also commented that the charter will need to be reviewed at the July board meeting.

New business

- Lori Sakk asked for input on the practice of posting of board materials electronically only.
 - There was general agreement among board members that process worked well.
 - There was a request for and discussion about posting historical board documents online. WPUI staff will post historical documents dating back to July 2017 board meeting.
 - Additionally, electronic copies of board meeting minutes are posted on the public website pages and hard copies also are retained by WPUI.
- Lawrie Kobza commented that she is interested in talking about programming dealing with payments by credit card for water bills – customer expectations, changes in that, whether there is a discussion to be had?
 - Jeff Ripp also has been thinking about PayPal, etc. – a program on the commercial or payment aspects of being a utility customer.
 - Tom Content added that customers are talking about that too.

- P.J. DiStefano talked about blockchain technology and what Deloitte is seeing across industries about the benefits (potential) and that many industries seem to be coming together to discuss this future change. Jordan Hemaïdan also talked about blockchain, as did Mary Blanchard.
- Deb Erwin observed that board appeared to be forming a program on this, so she pointed out that customer/consumer protection considerations should be looked at as well. Jeff Ripp added that the program could look at existing Commission rules, which haven't changed in years -- what is different and not fitting into those rules?

Next Board Meeting

- The next board meeting is planned for July 2018. A poll will be sent to board members to choose a date.
- Lawrie Kobza offered to host the next WPUI board meeting at Boardman & Clark's Madison office. Jordan Hemaïdan also offered to host at Michael Best again.

Adjournment

Nilaksh Kothari moved to adjourn the meeting. P.J. DiStefano seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.