Wisconsin Public Utility Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

WPUI Board Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2025

Location: Michael Best, 1 S Pinckney St, Ste 700, Madison, WI 53703 and Online
Next Board meeting: November 24, 2025

Sarah Justus called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present at Michael Best:
Lori Sakk, WPUI; Lawrie Kobza, Boardman Clark; Kristin Gilkes, Customers First!; Becky Valcq, Alliant Energy; Kara Pennoyer, PSCW; Matthew Spencer, MGE; Joel Haubrich, WEC Energy Group; Greg Pils, DNR; Sarah Justus, kp environmental; Tom Content, CUB; Ron Franz, proxy for Joyce Peppin, Dairyland Power Cooperative; Kira Loehr, Perkins Coie
Present via Webex/phone: Mary Blanchard, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WEI; Rep. David Steffen, WI State Assembly; Orrie Walsvik, MBF; Todd Stuart, WIEG; Jeff Kuhn, WRWWLC; Tyrel Zich, Xcel Energy; Robin Lisowski, Slipstream; Drew Vielbig, Ranger Power; Andy Koors, Deloitte; John Garvin, ATC
Also present at Michael Best: Taylor Fritsch, MBF; Sara Langmack, WPUI; Allison Mahvi, UW-Madison
Also present via Webex/phone: Mike Happel, Office of Rep. Steffen, WI State Assembly
Excused: Rep. Lisa Subeck, WI State Assembly; Paul Wilson, UW-Madison COE

Board Administrative Items

- After introductions, Sarah Justus reviewed the August 7, 2025, board meeting agenda.
  - A meeting agenda was provided to board members in advance of the meeting.
- March 7, 2025, board meeting minutes
  - Draft minutes were provided to board members in advance of the meeting.
  - Matthew Spencer moved to approve; Kira Loehr seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Committee

- Sarah Justus reviewed the status of committee leadership and encouraged members to consider joining committees.
- Kira Loehr volunteered for the board vice chair position. Becky Valcq moved to accept; Kara Pennoyer seconded. Motion passed.
- Lori Sakk noted that Kira Loehr has also assumed the chair position of the Compensation and Performance Committee.
- Lori Sakk reviewed the results of the online vote where nine board members were approved to serve a new 3-year term ending June 30, 2028.

Guest Speaker Presentation

- Allison Mahvi, UW-Madison: The role of heat pumps for a sustainable future

Financial Update

- Lori Sakk reviewed WPUI's current financial status and estimates. She reviewed WPUI's Foundation account status.

Charter

- Annual review – Lori Sakk reviewed the few suggested changes. Kristin Gilkes moved to approve the changes; Becky Valcq seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Committee

- Sarah Justus informed the Board the Erik Sonju, president and chair of WPUI Member Organization Power System Engineering, has been nominated to an At-Large seat on the WPUI board. Joel Haubrich moved to accept; Matthew Spencer seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Committee

- Lori Sakk reviewed what was discussed at the most recent committee meeting.
- Lori Sakk provided a membership update for 2025.
- Becky Valcq will be the new chair of the Membership committee.

Program Advisory Committee

- Sarah Justus reviewed the committee's most recent meeting. She encouraged members to attend WPUI's fall programs and to suggest ideas for future programs.
- Lori Sakk discussed this year's RTO programs and discussed possible future changes to EUB's registration fee structure.
- Lori Sakk reviewed WPUI programs for 2025 and discussed possible Members-Only programs for the fall.

Compensation and Performance Committee

- No new business.

General Overview of WPUI Activities

- Lori Sakk provided an overview of WPUI activities.
- Lori Sakk reviewed WPUI staff ongoing work as well as her participation in the MARC and NARUC conferences.
- Tom Content referenced the need to budget more for Lori's travel in future years.
- Lori Sakk reviewed the disappearing NARUC endorsement of WPUI's RTO and EUB programs due to the revision that NARUC is making to how/whether they will endorse any programs.

New Business

- No new business.

Executive Session

- None needed.

Matthew Spencer moved to adjourn; Lawrie Kobza seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Next WPUI Board Meeting*: *November 24, 2025