

Alliance Advantage



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MPUA CALENDAR

- Feb. 22 | 10:00 am** - MPWC Roundtable & Lead/Copper Rule Webinar #3 (MPUA office, & virtual)
- Feb. 23 | 10:00 am** - MMMPEP Committee meeting (St. Robert)
- Feb. 28-March 2** - APPA Legislative Rally (Washington, DC)
- March 3 | 10:30 am** - SWMPEP Committee meeting (virtual only)
- March 8 | 10:00 am** - MAMU Legislative Committee meeting (315 Governor Office Bldg, & virtual)

The following (March 9 & 10) are at the MPUA Office & Training Center, 2200 Maguire Blvd in Columbia, with virtual meetings also provided:

- March 9 | 8:30 pm** - MPUA RTO - MISO & SPP committees meeting
- March 9 | 10:00 am** - Member Services Committee meeting
- March 9 | 1:30 pm** - MPUA RSC meeting
- March 9 | 2:30 pm** - Joint Operating & Executive Committees meeting
- March 10 | 9:00 am** - MPUA Board of Directors meeting
- March 10 | 11:30 & 12:30** MPUA Member Lunch & Open House



**MPUA Board of
Directors Meeting**

**March 10 beginning at 9:00 am
MPUA Office & Training Center,
2200 Maguire Blvd, Columbia, MO 65201**

MARCH 9 MEETINGS

(MPUA Office, in-person & virtual)

- 8:30am: Joint RTO Committees
- 10am: Member Services Committee - OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS
- 1:30pm: MPUA RSC

2:30pm: JOC & Executive Committees

MARCH 10 MEETING

(MPUA Office, in-person & virtual)

9am: MAMU, MJMEUC, MMMPEP, MoPEP

COVER PHOTOS (by City of Lebanon)

FRONT: City of Lebanon lineworkers Chris Mustard and Chris Nichols replace a substation's transformer bushing.
BACK: One of Lebanon's distinctive water towers salutes both its Route 66 history and the trout fishing at nearby Bennett Springs State Park.



A new home, new issues, and a few perennial concerns

As I write this we are bracing for a significant snowfall in Missouri and following issues relating to the reliability and costs of the bulk electric system in our part of the world. At this point, it does not appear we're in store for the kinds of temperatures we saw last year, and for that we can be grateful, or at least hopeful. It is too bad that more has not been accomplished in Washington DC since URI, and while we continue to make your voices heard about the issues that were revealed last year, I am not especially optimistic about the long-term prospects for the kinds of structural changes that should be made.

As you know, we are in our new home at 2200 Maguire, except for the change over of some of the controls necessary to manage systems around the state. I think it is safe to say your team in Columbia loves this new home and we say a collective THANK YOU. We've had MGCM and MMMPEP meetings here and those of you who attended in person appeared to be most pleased. We are eager for all of you to be here and we would ask that you put March 10 on your calendars for an Open House, in conjunction with the March board meetings.

It is a privilege to report we have applicants for the Superintendent of the Electric Line Service program, and a line truck. The Superintendent will be the first person hired for the program and will be responsible for overall management, and for interfacing with all of you who use the service. Once that person is hired, we will quickly turn to hiring our first journeyman lineworker. Based on my informal discussions with some of you, I think this is going to take off as we hoped. Certainly, more to follow and we are appreciative of your support to get this off the ground.

By the time you read this you will have had the chance to review information about the interlocal agreement and bylaws modifications that are necessary to revamp our governance. As you recall, these changes are being advanced to streamline how your time is spent governing your organizations, including MAMU, MJMEUC, MGCM, and MPUA RSC. This is important work will be on the agenda for the March meetings for your consideration.

Another issue of interest, I believe, is water and wastewater services and training. Almost all of you operate these systems and I've heard from a number of you that greater emphasis on training in these areas is a high priority. We now have our Training Center in place, and we are working on expanding the training opportunities to better serve your needs. I'm excited to report that our upcoming Water and Wastewater Summit (April 12/13) has drawn significant interest from vendors and speakers alike. No doubt they are as

excited as we are to "tryout" the opportunities your new conferencing and training space provides.

Additionally, many of you have expressed interest in getting help with permit and operating issues in your water and wastewater plants and we have talented team members ready, willing, and able to assist. Please let us know how we can be of service.

You have also expressed interest in us providing greater expertise in broadband deployment and electric vehicle (EV) issues. Some of you are already on your way to providing broadband services in your communities, and many of you are on the verge of making those decisions. It seems to me that without high-speed broadband in today's world, you are in about the same place as communities without electric service in the 1930s. We all know that there are very significant federal dollars intended to move this process along, and we plan to assist you to harness those monies to advance the cause for your cities and towns. And while EVs are still a way out in any sort of scale, the preparation for them must begin now. The buildout of a national charging network will be a massive undertaking, but necessary if we are to make the switch to EVs. This network will, of course, include charging stations for local use and those intended more for interstate travel. With major automakers planning to switch almost exclusively to EVs in the next 10-15 years, the planning for and construction of this network must proceed with all due speed.

We are now in full swing at the Capitol in Jefferson City with a number of issues we are watching, certainly including the Grain Belt Express. A hearing in the House of Representatives on Grain Belt has already been heard and the bill awaits further action. We continue to work aggressively to protect the interests of those who will enjoy access to greater supplies of wind energy with this new transmission project. At the same time, we are making excellent progress towards completing the sale of the Nixa transmission assets to MPUA. When this occurs later this winter it will be the first transmission asset you own, and hopefully the first of many. Transmission ownership is becoming increasingly important with the changing landscape in our electric industry, and we continue to seek other opportunities.

As always, we remain at your service and look forward to serving your needs as you serve the needs of your customers. ◀

Welcome new MPUA staff

MPUA is very pleased to welcome three new staff members to our team!

Cody Edwards joined MPUA's IT team on Dec. 6 as Systems Support Specialist. He hit the ground running in his role helping with IT support needs of the staff, especially in the IT preparations of the new building, as everyone prepared to transition to the new Office & Training Center. Before coming to MPUA, Cody served more than four years working as a helpdesk and System Support Specialist at EDI in Columbia, and before that worked in helpdesk support for SEMCO LLC. He has an Associate of Science degree in Networking Systems Technology from Linn State Technical College and holds a CompTIA Network+ certification. Cody makes his home in Columbia, and says he "collects old things", including crank record players, radios, books and military memorabilia.

Jennifer Lee joined MPUA as a receptionist on Jan. 1. Before joining MPUA, Jennifer worked as an administrative assistant for more than 20 years at the University of Missouri. Born and raised in Columbia, she now lives in Ashland with her husband and two daughters. Among her interests she "likes to craft," with many craft talents including ceramic painting, crochet, knitting, and cross stitch. She also especially enjoys dirt track auto racing, as her Dad built race cars when she was a youngster, and she says she spent many happy weekends at Capital Speedway.



Elizabeth Smith joined MPUA's Advocacy team on Jan. 10 as Manager – Advocacy and Regulatory Analysis. Before coming to MPUA, Elizabeth's previous work includes leadership and relationship management positions in Higher Education, Executive Director of the Hawthorn Foundation and Executive Director of the Rolla Regional Economic Commission. She holds certifications as an economic development professional and in economic development financing, and previously earned a BA degree in Political Science and Public Law, and a Master of Arts in Public Administration, both degrees from Northern Illinois University. Her state government experience includes previous work in Senate Research for two legislative sessions, and she also was a project manager at the Missouri Department of Economic Development. A native of central Missouri, she resides in Rolla. In her free time, she loves to hike and kayak with family members in south Missouri and northern Arkansas. ◀



Welcome New Members

MPUA welcomes members who
have joined since February of 2021

Returning MAMU Municipal Members

- Kimberling City, Missouri
- Plattsburg, Missouri

New Associate Members

- Cross Discipline Engineering
- Independent Electric Machinery
- JCI Industries
- Midwest Infrastructure Coatings LLC
- PFM Asset Management LLC
- S&C Electric Company
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Hometown utility helps drive an industrial powerhouse

If you aren't one of the almost 15,000 people that call Lebanon, Missouri their hometown, you may know it as a busy spot on Interstate 44 almost exactly halfway between Springfield and Rolla. If you're a history lover, maybe you know it as a onetime lodging hotspot along old Route 66. If you're an outdoorsman, maybe you know it as the town-next-door to Bennett Spring State Park, one of Missouri's oldest and best-loved parks.

Or maybe you're more familiar with Missouri industries, and you know that these days, some folks call Lebanon "the aluminum-boat-building capital of the world". Companies like G3/Yamaha, Landau, Lowe, Ranger and Tracker Marine build about 50,000 aluminum boats every year in Lebanon. Cruise through industrial portions of town and you'll pass acre-upon-acre of boat trailers laden with fishing boats, pontoon craft, and canoes. If you own a recently made aluminum fishing boat, chances are good that it was built in Lebanon.

Boat builders aren't Lebanon's only industry, though. An Emerson Electric plant there builds three million air conditioner compressors every year. It's home to Missouri Cooperage, a major maker of oak barrels and staves for the worldwide wine and spirits industry. Other significant manufacturers that call it home include metal parts fabricators, makers of electric motors, electric meters and switches, and a furniture manufacturer.

KEY ACCOUNTS INITIATIVE

A hometown utility exists to serve all facets of its community. At Lebanon utilities, this means a special focus on maintaining the health of these economic building blocks of the community. "Whether it's a residential customer or a large industrial customer, your customer needs to know that the utility is there to support



A Lebanon work crew (Nick Coffman, Garrett Grant, and Tyler Wasmer) install a pressure main into a manhole. (photo: City of Lebanon)

them and their needs," said Richard Shockley, Public Works Director for the City of Lebanon. "For different communities, that means different things. For us, it means we need to help support our manufacturing folks."

In February, the utility is kicking off a program to regularly meet with maintenance personnel of the city's factories, as well as other institutional customers like schools, a hospital and other medical services. "It's a meet and greet, to get to know each other, offer them information on the utilities that serve their facilities, how our system works to be able to provide them utilities, give them a little bit of training and also offer assistance for any questions or concerns they have," Shockley said "It's really a team-building program. We want staff that maintain physical plants to know the utility exists to support their needs. That open line of communication helps their companies, and also helps us."

BOOSTING WASTEWATER PLANT CAPACITY

Lebanon's utilities are expanding to keep up with its economic development. One of the biggest recent points of growth is the capacity of its wastewater plant. This spring Lebanon will complete the second phase of upgrades to the facility, which was built in 1975.

"Phase 1 of the upgrades began back in 2010. We added an oxidation basin and a clarifier, and replaced existing ultraviolet disinfection equipment," said Eric Mork, Lebanon's Environmental Superintendent. "We started Phase 2 in 2020. That has included new digesters and converting sludge holding tanks into digesters. A new disk filter system was added to filter water coming from the clarifiers." The utility also completely replaced

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Lebanon's heritage as a Route 66 landmark is commemorated by a mural along the old route

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all the plant's electrical components with more modern electronics.

The result of the added processes and equipment is a capacity increase of about 33 percent, boosting the average daily flow capacity to 3.45 million gallons a day (MGD). "The impact of the improvements is already huge," said Mork. "We've seen reductions in staff overtime just because the filters handle more flow."

Because the area's porous karst topography abounds with caves, springs and sinkholes, the city invests heavily in reducing the sewer collection system's amount of inflow and infiltration (I&I). A Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study in 2000 helped the city plan improvements. "Based on that study and plan, we systematically work through 20 percent of our system each year, to perform a thorough cleaning, videoing, and smoke testing of the entire collection system over a five-year period," Mork detailed. "We currently also spend right at a half-million dollars a year on cured-in-place pipe (CIPP), and dealing with aging pipes and manholes." On new construction, new pipe and manholes that go in the ground are vacuum pressure tested to make sure new mains are watertight.

ELECTRIC SYSTEM STRIVES TO STAY UP TO DATE

The city also constantly pushes to improve its electric system and incorporate newer technologies. "Since I stepped into this role in 2018 the biggest thing we've done is to really put an emphasis on our substations," said Lebanon Electric Superintendent Travis Long. "We've started with engineering and gone from the ground grid up. We started with our number one sub and went through every one of them to sub seven, to find any problem, and to upgrade our breakers."

(Continued on page 22)



Lebanon lineworkers Matt Crump, Andrew Bowman, and Steven Vickers replace a distribution pole.
(photo: City of Lebanon)

ABOUT CITY OF LEBANON UTILITIES

ELECTRIC: Lebanon's electric utility established service in 1902. It serves 7,408 meters. The utility owns and maintains seven substations. Its 175 miles of electric line, which includes 135 miles of distribution line and 40 miles of 69KV transmission line. The city has about 1,175 streetlights. Lebanon is a member of the Missouri Public Energy Pool (MoPEP), purchasing all its wholesale power through the pool. Lebanon also hosts a 3.17MW MoPEP solar farm.

SEWER: The first sanitary and storm sewers in Lebanon were constructed in 1903. The city serves 6,315 connections. It maintains 122 miles of collection lines, 2,442 manholes and 47 lift stations. The existing wastewater treatment plant is an extended aeration type plant constructed in 1974. A significant upgrade is being completed in Spring 2022. The WWTP processing average is currently 2.45 million gallons-per-day, with a capacity of 3.6 MGD. The receiving stream is Dry Auglaize Creek.

WATER: Lebanon's municipal water system was established in 1902, and currently serves about 6,699 meters. The system meets current drinking water regulation standards, delivering water through 135 miles of distribution mains. The source of the city's water is groundwater produced by seven deep wells. Storage includes five water towers. Water usage currently averages about 2.45 million gallons per day, with a supply capacity of 6.4 MGD.

28 apprentices graduate to Journeyman Lineworker status

As 2021 came to a close, 28 apprentice lineworkers from Missouri, Arkansas, and Nebraska became certified as Journeyman Lineworkers by completing the academic requirements of the four-year MPUA Apprentice Lineworker Training Program. The graduates receive certificates of completion from MPUA and the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

Since the inception of MPUA's apprentice training program in 1989, 790 apprentices have graduated to become Journeyman Lineworkers.

The 2021 class of apprentice lineworkers in the training program had a total of 105 apprentices enrolled from 48 member cities throughout the state of Missouri; 31 apprentices from six member cities in Arkansas; and four apprentices from a city in Nebraska. To date there are 153 students (118-MO, 34-AR, 1-NE) registered for the 2022 Apprentice Program.

Congratulations to the following students on completing the apprentice program:

MISSOURI (17 new certified journeyman lineworkers from 15 utilities)

- **BETHANY** - Jesse Sanders
- **BUTLER** - Chad Robbins
- **CAMERON** - Joshua Ault
- **CARTHAGE** - Billy Adams
- **COLUMBIA** - Garrett Green
- **KAHOKA** - Luke Sedore
- **LEBANON** - Ricky Alexander, Andrew Bowman, Matthew Crump
- **MOUNT VERNON** - Gregory Angus
- **NIXA** - Brenden Spence
- **WAYNESVILLE** - Cody Vaughn
- **WILLOW SPRINGS** - Nicholas Tooley
- **FARMINGTON** - Matthew Willis
- **KENNETT** - Dustin Harris
- **ROLLA** - Jay Roberts
- **SCOBEE POWERLINE** - Kaleb Bland

ARKANSAS (nine new certified journeyman lineworkers from four utilities)

- **AR VALLEY ELECTRIC** - Caleb Callahan, Lucas Hice, Tyler Sumners
- **CONWAY** - Johnathan Brown, Bryce Hoggard, Brandon Langley
- **PARAGOULD** - Joshua Sisler
- **WEST MEMPHIS** - Samuel Hopper, Braxton Hicks

NEBRASKA - (two new certified journeyman lineworkers from one utility)

- **FALLS CITY** - William Kopf, Eric Kreifels

Congratulations to all these graduates! ◀



Apprentice Lineworkers observe trainer Glen Maugher's skills at a 2020 training session in Fulton.



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- Relay Testing / Upgrade
- Natural Gas System Design

Federal funding, FERC, EV, and EPA updates

A quick overview of what's happening inside the beltway of interest to public power utilities.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT – ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING UPDATES

APPA has created a web page with summaries, funding opportunities, and guidance as it becomes available. Please visit: www.publicpower.org/InfrastructureFunding

BUILD BACK BETTER ACT UPDATE

The Senate did not consider the House-passed Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376) before the holiday break. Also known as the “reconciliation bill,” Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) announced that he would not support the bill as currently drafted. Manchin cited a number of concerns, including inflation, cost, and grid reliability. With unified GOP opposition, Manchin was the crucial 50th vote needed to advance the legislation. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and President Biden have vowed to continue negotiations and return to the bill in February. APPA strongly supports provisions in the bill that would have made public power eligible to receive refundable renewable energy tax credits via direct pay.

MEANWHILE, AT THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION...

Electric Transmission Line Ratings: FERC issued a final rule revising its regulations and the pro forma Open Access Transmission Tariff to require that public utility transmission providers: use ambient-adjusted ratings or seasonal line ratings for certain transactions; that RTOs/ISOs implement systems allowing transmission owners to electronically update transmission line ratings at least hourly; that transmission providers use uniquely determined emergency ratings for contingency analysis and in post-contingency simulations of constraints; and that transmission owners share transmission line rating methodologies with transmission providers, RTO/ISO market monitors, and customers. Transmission providers must submit compliance filings and implement all requirements within three years.

Reactive Power Capability Compensation: National trade groups, including APPA, secured an extension on the comment deadline for a Notice of Inquiry on various issues concerning reactive power capability and market design. Policy changes could affect transmission rates for reactive power that public power utilities pay (or collect). Initial comments are now due February 22 with reply comments due March 23. APPA may file comments and is interested in receiving member input.

Trade Association Dues: FERC released another Notice of Inquiry regarding the rate recovery, reporting, and accounting treatment of industry association dues and certain civic and

political expenses. APPA is reviewing and will follow-up with additional information for members soon.

APPA TO RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT

The Department of Transportation is developing guidance for the \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle Formula Program for states and the \$2.5 billion in competitive discretionary grants through the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program to deploy public EV charging, hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling infrastructure (as part of the bipartisan infrastructure bill). APPA plans to submit comments highlighting how public power is assisting with transportation electrification by January 28.

U.S. SUPREME COURT TO REVIEW AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY RULE

Petitioners filed initial briefs in the West Virginia v. EPA case challenging the D.C. Circuit appellate court decision, which struck down the Affordable Clean Energy rule. Oral arguments will be held on February 28. The briefs focus on the D.C. Circuit's finding that EPA has authority under Clean Air Act Section 111d to set the best system of emissions reduction by looking “beyond the fence line” of existing sources, rather than only at the unit. Petitioners argue that this interpretation provides EPA with unlimited powers to regulate national electricity and energy markets without a clear authorization from Congress. ◀



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MPUA prepares for upcoming federal engagement

Later this month and into the beginning of March, MPUA and its members will make their annual trip to Washington, DC to visit with Capitol Hill staff and Missouri's congressional delegation. While we frequently see our elected leaders in-state, this trip provides an important occasion for us as hometown utilities to make the trek to our nation's capital as a show of commitment to our purpose and to connect with our leaders' policymaking staffs. It's also an opportunity for us to meet and connect with other local hometown utility leaders from other regions and states to share in one voice the challenges our industry and specific utility sector face.

On February 8, MPUA's Legislative Committee met to finalize the key messages we will take to Washington and share with our region's congressional delegations. Your advocacy team has worked to identify five areas of discussion. These areas include:

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Any new legislative or regulatory proposal to address greenhouse gas emissions must balance environmental goals with the state of technology, the time necessary to transition to new technologies, the need for long-term investments like transmission, the impact on existing investments, and the consequences on utilities with different business models. Failure to adequately balance these issues will result in unnecessarily higher costs to consumers.

PROMOTING TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS

Municipalities can be an important partner in the national effort to eliminate the digital divide in the country. MPUA supports local control in pole attachments and rights-of-way. Hometown utilities

must be able to manage system poles, ducts, and conduits safely, efficiently and in a neutral manner while recovering full use costs and a return on investment. MPUA opposes one-size-fits all mandates and repeal of the congressional exemption from FCC regulation of hometown utilities.

MUNICIPAL TAX POLICY

Hometown utilities use municipal bonds for infrastructure investments that enable their communities to thrive. Federal energy tax policy should allow for efficient and fair investment in energy infrastructure. Congress should eliminate the ban on advanced refunding, authorize tax-credit bonds for energy infrastructure investments, and change tax incentives like the production tax credit so that all energy market participants get equal benefits.

MAINTAINING CYBER VIGILANCE

Missouri utilities continue to evolve their cyber response capabilities and are working with the federal government to stay ahead of cyber threats. Federal support through information sharing and threat identification is critical to these efforts. MPUA supports the existing electric sector mandatory and enforceable federal cyber standards and the process for reforming and updating those standards.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Municipalities will be a central player in promoting economic development through community investment. However, current

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supply chain disruptions are delaying and increasing the cost for key products. Adding to this price pressure, many utilities suffered a serious economic loss when Winter Storm Uri caused a breakdown of generally well-functioning natural gas markets. In response, MPUA encourages Congress to mitigate the impacts of inflation and supply chain constraints by:

- Fully funding LIHEAP to address costs increase impacts on low-income customers.
- Developing and implementing programs and policies that alleviate current supply chain constraints.
- Providing flexibility in regulatory compliance and grant completion deadlines to address delays caused by supply chain disruptions.

Further, MPUA supports federal legislation authorizing a natural gas market cap mechanism to be utilized during periods of acute supply shortage or to otherwise limit excessive wholesale prices.

While in Washington, MPUA will be engaging with the American Public Power Association to finalize resolutions that will direct the hometown utility sector for the electric industry. Several resolutions will be considered, including directives on climate change, natural gas regulation, transmission ownership, and pole attachments. MPUA is co-sponsoring several of the measures. We will report back on these actions during upcoming meetings of MPUA and through Legislative Committee updates.

STATE MATTERS

The Missouri General Assembly is now in full swing and the Governor gave his State of the State message on Jan. 19. The Governor's message and budget recommendations included significant dollars for investment in the state's utility infrastructure, namely in areas of water, wastewater, stormwater, and broadband development. MPUA is monitoring the budget process and speaking out in support of several of these funding areas to encourage and maintain budgetary focus on these investment areas.

Additionally, MPUA has engaged in legislative hearings to date in opposition to anti-Grain Belt legislation and fire hydrant costs for new developments being placed on current utility customers. MPUA has been tallied as supportive of state regulatory changes for IOU advance cost recovery measures for nuclear generation development and a state broadband development task force.

Several matters are yet to be discussed, but MPUA will be tracking and engaging lawmakers when warranted. These issues include broadband spending guiderails, pole attachment make ready work, local employee residency requirements, clean water fees and enforcement, municipal bond practices, natural gas safety implementation, customer data protection, net metering, and electric transmission rights. ◀

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Brushing up on Sunshine Law Requirements

Providing transparency to your communities is an important responsibility of local governments. In addition to assigning a Custodian of Records, it is important for all municipal staff members and elected officials to know the parameters of the Missouri laws to avoid legal issues. To assist hometown utilities in their education efforts, below are some tips for compliance along with a training opportunity in April.

610.011, RSMo.: "It is the public policy of this state that meetings, records, votes, actions, and deliberations of public governmental bodies be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law. Sections 610.010 to 610.200 shall be liberally construed and their exceptions strictly construed to promote this public policy."

SUNSHINE LAW: TOP 10 THINGS TO KNOW

Provided by the Missouri Attorney General's Office. For additional information: <https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/publications/missourisunshinelaw.pdf>

- When in doubt, a meeting or record of a public body should be opened to the public.
- The Sunshine Law applies to all records, regardless of what form they are kept in, and to all meetings, regardless of the manner in which they are held.
- The Sunshine Law allows a public body to close meetings and records to the public in some limited circumstances, but it almost never requires a public body to do so.
- Except in emergency situations, a public body must give at least 24 hours' public notice before holding a meeting. If the meeting will be closed to the public, the notice must state the specific provision within Section 610.021, RSMo., that allows the meeting to be closed.
- Each public body must have a written Sunshine Law policy and a custodian of records whose name is available to the public upon request.
- The Sunshine Law requires a custodian of records to respond to a records request as soon as possible but no later than three business days after the custodian receives it.

- The Sunshine Law deals with whether a public body's records must be open to the public, but it generally does not state what records the body must keep or for how long. A body cannot, however, avoid a records request by destroying records after it receives a request for those records. For more information concerning records retention schedules, please visit the Missouri Secretary of State's Website – the Local Records Division for local public governmental bodies, and the Records Management Division for state agencies.
- The Sunshine Law allows for public meetings to be both audio and video recorded by attendees. Each public governmental body may set up guidelines regarding the recording process. These guidelines can be found in the body's Sunshine Law Policy. No one is allowed to record a closed meeting, if they are not given permission to do so.
- When responding to a request for copies of its records, the Sunshine Law limits how much a public body can charge – per page, and per hour – for copying and research costs.
- There are specific provisions governing access to law enforcement and judicial records. ◀

Missouri Sunshine Law Overview Training Tuesday, April 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

MPUA Office & Training Center
Kincheloe Training Center
2200 Maguire Boulevard, Columbia, MO

free event for MPUA utility members

Overview: A two-hour overview of Sunshine Laws by Casey Lawrence, Director of Sunshine Law Compliance and Records Management, with the Missouri Attorney General's office. This is a more in-depth training, so it is the perfect opportunity for newly elected officials or new city employees. Due to the complicated nature of open records laws, it will also be a good refresher course.

Registration: Fill out the registration form at [MPUA.org](https://mpua.org)

- <https://mpua.org/resource/resmgr/docs/SunshineLawTrainingRegistrat.pdf>

Return the form to training@mpua.org before the end of the day on April 8, 2022.



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April 12, 2022

- Registration/Sign In Begins
- Welcome and Tours of New MPUA Center
- Member Presentations
- **Special Keynote Speaker:** Dru Buntin, Director of Missouri Department of Natural Resources



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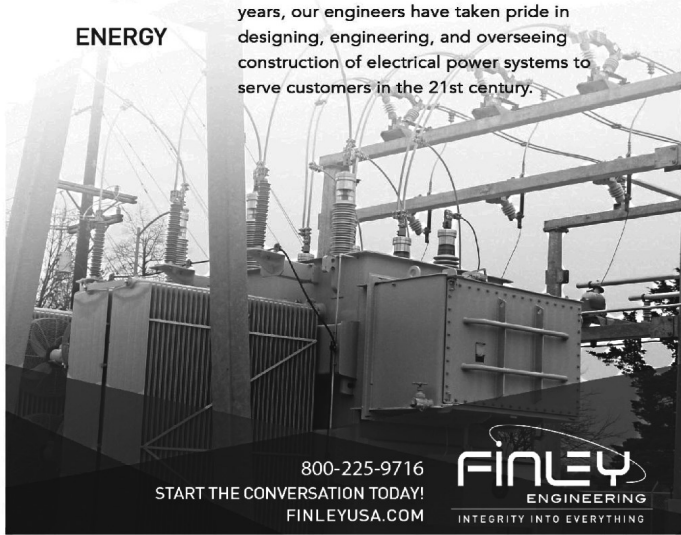
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Public financing tips: are grants always the best way to go?

When a municipality plans for a new project, options regarding how to finance it are prime factors to consider early in the development stages. Financial planning for any given project can include looking into reserves and using internal funds to proceed, borrowing the funds, or applying in full, or part, for grants. At face value, the concept of pursuing a grant appears to be an obvious choice because you will receive financial support with no strings attached. Correct?

No, not very frequently. Grants typically come with financial or non-financial binding conditions to consider when pursuing them. You will need to evaluate these commitments to determine if you are prepared to accommodate them and then, determine if accepting the grant is still a desired idea. It is wise to read all supporting documents in the grant announcement and pay attention to the fine print. Let us talk about three common binding conditions found in grants.

The first type of binding condition that you may encounter is a requirement to meet a match, usually identified as “cash” or “in-kind.” A cash match is a requirement that the grantee must provide funding to match a percentage of the grant amount. Matches may come at various levels from just a small percentage to as high as 100 percent. Providing an in-kind match means to provide the “value” of something. For instance, if you had labor expense in performing work towards the project, then the “value” of that labor may be utilized to meet an identified match. In-kind matches can typically come from the grantee or be donated with the assistance of a third party, such as volunteer labor.

A second type of binding condition you may find includes the requirement of various performance measures attached to the grant from the funding agency. Performance measures can range from the very obscure and minimal, such as requiring the use of paper with a minimal recycled content, to very resource-demanding such as measuring demographic components of the area the grant serves. Additionally, you may find conditional

situations, such as the grant recipient providing all equipment necessary to perform the grant project. In that instance, you would have to consider the direct expense of any equipment needed against the value of receiving the grant. Likewise, other performance measures may require unfunded staff time to accomplish.

A third type of binding condition that is much more subjective to evaluate is the concept that once you accept grant funds then you may be required to perform the project within the grantor’s specifications. This is an obvious but often overlooked expectation and should receive due evaluation. Will accepting this grant compromise how you see the project developing? Are there conditions that would drive your project in a direction you would prefer to not go? Does accepting the grant funds cause you to compromise your intentions in any way?

These are simple tips to remember should you consider pursuing a grant to finance your project, whether it is utility-based or a community project. Please take the time to reach out to me with a phone call, or email me at rnorden@mpua.org, anytime you’d like to discuss financial options or look for help making informed decisions about the best routes to pursue. ◀

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Road map for the future

Since moving into the new MPAU Office and Training Center there has been a lot of hustle and bustle getting everything settled, and discussions of the future. MPAU staff is working hard to organize exciting and informative meetings and content for you. One of those offerings is the all-new Water and Wastewater Technical Summit happening April 12 and 13. This will be an informative technical event with both presentations and vendors to present and discuss topics of interest. MPAU staff is working with the Department of Natural Resources to provide operator certification credit hours for the event. There are also some great event sponsors helping to make this event possible.

The Missouri Public Water Council will continue this year with the first meeting to be held here in Columbia on February 22. This will be in conjunction with the final installment of the Lead and Copper Rule Revision Webinar Series. If you have a topic or a place where you would like to host a meeting in the coming year, please reach out to staff. The future dates are May 25, August 10, and October 5 at the Annual Conference.

On regulatory updates, the Department of Natural Resources has started the process of developing a statewide Total Phosphorus rule for all wastewater dischargers. The initial development is targeting a discharge of 1 mg/L Total P. Most facilities in Southwest Missouri have had a phosphorus limit of 0.5 mg/L in place for some time, so there is technology available and processes to meet the department's goal of 1.0 mg/L. Now is the time to start some preliminary testing of your effluent discharges to start monitoring what level you are currently returning to the receiving waters. MPAU has the staff to help utilities facilitate operational changes to their facilities. Through MPAU's Finance Program, communities also have the ability to use the Lease Purchase program to make those capital investments over time.

MPUA staff recently completed the facilitation of a \$500,000 multi-year Technical Assistance Grant. This grant was awarded to MPAU in 2020 to assist communities in projects to prepare them for SRF funding if needed. MPAU staff has assisted with the completion of Asset Management Toolkits, Integrated Management Plans, engineering reports, SCEAP grants, and application assistance. MPAU staff provided this assistance to 13 communities throughout the state. With board approval, staff has recently applied for another 3-year, \$1.5 Million technical assistance grant, which has potential for a 2-year extension with an additional \$1 million. If approved, this grant will focus on helping utility front office personnel with managerial and financial capacity, and infrastructure planning. This will be essential in being able to navigate and plan for resources coming from federal funding sources, such as ARPA and the Infrastructure Bill.

Lastly, I want to remind readers that MPAU staff is heavily engaged with the Department of Natural Resources Clean Water Commission, Safe Drinking Water Commission, and the Clean Water Forum. MPAU staff is also starting to attend the Air Conservation Commission and the Air Advisory Forum to better serve our members. These are opportune times for your needs to be addressed to the department and regulators and to get answers to questions or concerns you may have. You can also email those topics to jyoungblood@mpua.org and I will be happy to follow up with you after the meetings. ◀

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Transmission projects and joint ownership continue to move forward

MPUA MOVES FORWARD ON TRANSMISSION PROJECTS

2022 will be a hallmark year for MPUA. In the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), MPUA is in the process of purchasing the Nixa transmission assets from GridLiance pursuant to a court order. Not only will this result in more than \$130,000 in savings per month for customers within the SPP Southwest Power Administration zone, it will also mark the first transmission assets that MPUA will own. Additionally, the MPUA Resource Services Corporation (RSC) will provide line services for the assets.

Currently, we are awaiting on regulatory approvals from both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Missouri Public Service Commission (MoPSC), as well as routine due diligence items before closing on the transmission assets. GridLiance has filed an application to terminate their Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) in Missouri, and the MoPSC staff issued a positive recommendation to the MoPSC commissioners regarding approving that application. At FERC, GridLiance has filed an application for approval to sell their transmission assets to MPUA, and MPUA has filed their transmission formula rate for approval by FERC. No party has

directly opposed the regulatory filings at FERC or the MoPSC, and we are hopeful to have those approvals in hand before our next board meeting.

In the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), we have two transmission projects that we are developing with Ameren. The Hannibal project is expected to be completed before the end of the year and will be MPUA's first jointly-owned transmission assets. That project will provide benefits to Hannibal, MPUA and Ameren.

In addition to Hannibal, Ameren has recently filed for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) at the MoPSC for the Sikeston – New Madrid project. MPUA is supporting Ameren's application for a CCN, and we hope that regulatory approval will be granted in the near future as that project continues to move forward. That project will allow access to MISO by New Madrid and will give Sikeston additional flexibility for their system resources. Ameren will also be positioned to connect their transmission assets more efficiently within the bootheel.

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

These milestones are important, and we hope to have additional opportunities to enhance member access to the transmission system, while also ensuring future rate competitiveness for our members.

TAPS MEETING WITH FERC COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE TRANSMISSION ANOPR AND JOINT OWNERSHIP

The Transmission Access Study Policy Group (TAPS) recently met with the FERC Commissioners and Staff to discuss the FERC Transmission Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR). TAPS was represented in these meetings by myself, Dan O'Hagan (FMPA), Colten Mitchell (IMPA), Chris Norton (AMP), Tom Hanrahan (WPPI), Steve Kaminski (NHEC), Scott Tomashefsky (NCPA), and Megan Wisersky (MGE), along with Terry Huval (TAPS Executive Director) and Cynthia Bogorad (Spiegel & McDiarmid).

All five Commissioners expressed familiarity with TAPS' position on joint ownership. The discussions with Commissioners and their staff on this topic were very encouraging, as were their questions. FERC Staff was also very engaged on the topic of joint ownership of the transmission system and interested in how joint ownership could be implemented.

This interest by FERC Commissioners and Staff is very encouraging, and something that TAPS has worked diligently at for many years. FERC Commissioners were very interested in our Hannibal project with Ameren, and how that resulted in benefits for Ameren, Hannibal and MPUA.

Other topics discussed with the FERC Commissioners and FERC Staff included local planning that addresses the needs of load serving entities, concerns with the participant funding proposal currently being advanced in the ANOPR, the role of potential transmission investment monitors in RTOs to oversee and limit the cost of transmission expansion, crediting of transmission upgrades, and TAPS's opposition to broad cost allocation. ◀

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(City of Lebanon, continued from page 7)

The city installed automated metering infrastructure (AMI) in 2016, and since then has also revamped its SCADA controls. “More recently, we’ve also replaced many outdated relays to more advanced equipment that our SCADA can get better quality data from,” said Public Works Director Shockley.

Improving the system also means incorporating newer component materials. “We’re putting up composite crossarms, starting to use more composite insulators,” said Long. We’re getting away from the glass and getting the plastic stuff up.” The city is also testing single phase runs of an aerial cable system with thin rubber and plastic coatings, reducing outages caused by tree limbs and wildlife in areas with more mature tree cover. “We’re happy with that new material – installing it is not as expensive or as hard a job as we first thought it was going to be,” said Long.

On May 4, 2020, during one of the first heavy surges of the COVID pandemic, a tornado struck Lebanon. “It hit us right in the thick of the COVID, not long after a 2-week shutdown nationwide,” said Shockley. “We lost about a half-mile of 69kV transmission line, and had more than 200 damaged distribution poles to replace.” About 50 percent of the city was out of power as crews from nine MPUA cities, plus a local power co-op, responded to calls for mutual aid and materials. “Mutual aid came through in the middle of all that, with organizations that had travel restrictions on employees and all kinds of other restrictions, of course, because we were all concerned about protecting utility personnel against the virus,” said Shockley. “We were overwhelmed with the support of those providing mutual aid and



Above: The sun sets on mutual aid lineworkers responding to Lebanon after the tornado of May 2020 *(photo: City of Lebanon)*

Below left: Lebanon equipment operators Nick Coffman and Glen Broadus install a sanitary sewer line. *(photo: City of Lebanon)*

materials in our time of need. It was a real testament to the dedication and commitment of hometown utilities.”

NEW CHALLENGES

Two years after the tornado, a lingering effect of the pandemic remains a concern for many utilities – the supply chain challenge of getting materials when they are needed. “We’re seeing astounding lead times for delivery of even common materials and supplies,” said electric superintendent Long. “It takes 52 weeks on a house meter. Transformers, our pad-mount transformers, we’re also starting to see lead times of a year. On underground sectionalizing boxes, 58 weeks lead time. Some of our underground primary wire, we’re seeing eight months to a year.” ◀



Generation Spotlight:

Wind farms generate growing share of power supply

The amount of generation from MJMEUC contracted wind resources hit a new high in 2021. The amount of wind generation has been climbing since MJMEUC's first wind PPA started in 2008.

Why do we have more wind? Wind generation is cost competitive, provides fuel diversity, and decreases risk associated with greenhouse gas legislation.

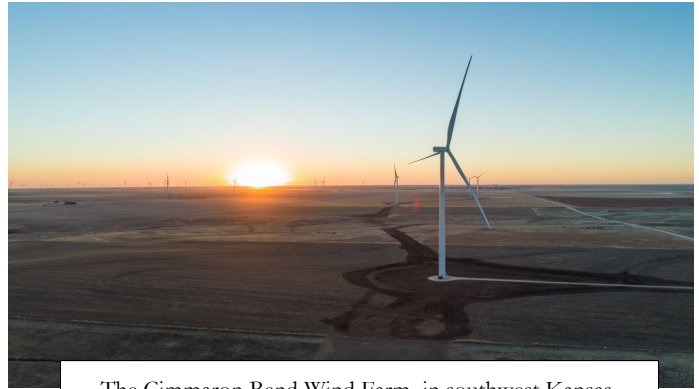
MJMEUC now contracts for wind energy off four separate wind farms in Missouri and Kansas. These resources/contracts include:

YEAR	FARM NAME	LOCATION	POOL	MW
2008	Loess Hills Wind Farm	near Rock Port, MO	MoPEP	5 MW
2016	Marshall Wind Farm	Marshall County, KS	MoPEP	20 MW
2020	Meridian Way Wind Farm	Cloud County, KS	SWMPEP	20 MW
2021	Cimmaron Bend III Wind Farm	Clark County, KS	MoPEP	30 MW

The trend of increased wind generation is a similar story throughout the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). Wind has made up as much as 84 percent of the SPP system load at a given point in time. Over the last several years the price of wind has fallen and the capacity factors that the farms are capable of can now exceed 50 percent in some locations.

Why has the cost of wind come down? The average construction cost for wind farms has decreased over the years, most significantly for farms larger than 200 MWs. In addition to lower construction costs, bigger turbines and improved technology has helped to increase the capacity factor of newer wind farms.

When there is significant wind generation on the system, the energy cost is depressed; however, in some cases there is significant transmission congestion that increases prices. The wind rich areas of the footprint are not where the consumption is located, so transmission often gets constrained when



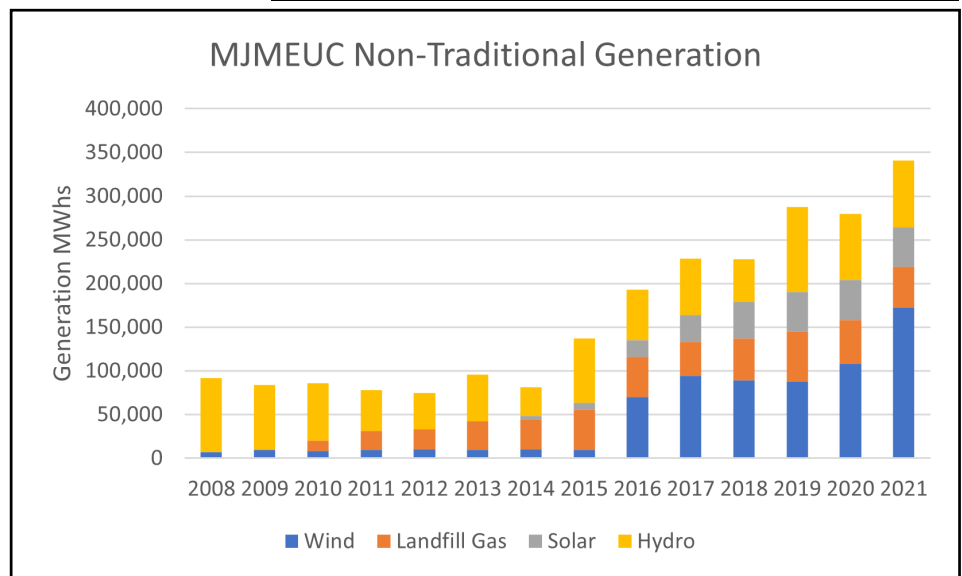
The Cimmaron Bend Wind Farm, in southwest Kansas.

trying to deliver power. Building transmission to relieve this congestion takes time. This is one of the major benefits of the Grain Belt Express project, delivery of high-capacity factor wind energy into Missouri.

Since wind is intermittent, relying more on this type of resource is resulting in greater price volatility as rampable resources are needed to come on and offline to balance load. Hybrid resources are beginning to emerge that partner wind with battery storage to store the wind generation when wind is plentiful and discharge as the wind dies down. High voltage DC lines, like Grain Belt, can provide a benefit of geographic diversity; although it might be windy in Kansas where the generation is located, Missouri might not have the same conditions, making the wind more valuable than if delivered in Kansas.

A diversified generation portfolio is an increasingly important goal, as utilities seek effective ways to hedge fuel cost and prepare for the likelihood of GHG legislation. Wind generation is an important piece in that puzzle, offering low-cost energy without emissions. ◀

Since 2008, the share of wind-generated electricity in the MJMEUC portfolio has grown to more than 150,000 MWhs





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2. ENERGY ADVISOR ENTERPRISE

Energy Advisor Enterprise can be billing-integrated or powered by batch processing billing histories. Featuring home ratings, comparisons to homes like mine, dollarized recommendations, energy forecasting, and the option to add links to special purpose calculators, rebates, libraries, videos and more. With bill analysis, features include comparison of current bill to last month's and to last year's.

3. ENVOY

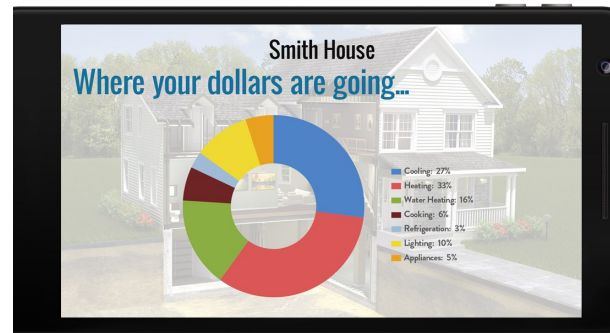
Apogee's proactive engagement solution, Envoy is a package of add-on tools available to utilities using Energy Advisor Enterprise with billing integration. Envoy provides further opportunities for proactive, customizable engagement. A version for both larger and smaller utilities is available.

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“Management Minute” features short collections of tips and advice on utility management topics from MPUA member advisor Paul Jensen.

Meters and Streetlights

VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF YOUR METERS

Some electric meter installations use current transformers (CTs) and possibly potential transformers (PTs) to reduce the amperage and voltage seen by the actual meter. When such a metering installation is first installed, it is important to verify the reasonableness of the metered consumption. Do the demand and energy readings seem reasonable for the customer? It is possible that the installation is faulty. As the metering installation gains some age, a CT, PT, or wiring can fail, causing inaccurate metering. Many hometown utilities test the condition of all the components behind these meters on a periodic basis. Time intervals for these tests typically vary from five to ten years.

REVIEW METER MULTIPLIERS

Meters for your larger customers often have a multiplier to convert the meter reading to the actual amount of electricity, water, or gas the customer used. Using an incorrect multiplier is probably the most common billing error. These errors can be caused by a

number of situations. For example, sometimes the multiplier is just not transferred to a new customer. Sometimes a change is made to the meter installation but the billing people are not notified of the multiplier change. Sometimes there is simple human error. To avoid the overbilling or underbilling caused by using an incorrect multiplier, it is wise to verify all meter multipliers periodically, perhaps as often as annually.

METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

We all know the importance of having accurate meters. The accuracy becomes more important with customers that use more electricity, water, or gas. Mechanical meters typically get slower with age. A meter that is ten years old will probably have lost at least some of its original accuracy. Generally speaking, the accuracy of a meter that has been in service twenty years will likely be below an acceptable range. In order to maintain metering accuracy, many cities have an ongoing, planned meter replacement program designed to replace all meters every so many years; ten years being a fairly common time frame. ◀



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MPUA Mission: Delivering industry-leading solutions, robust advocacy, and collaboration to advance local excellence, local control, and local benefit.

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