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AUGUST 2021

Alliance Advantage

MPUA Annual Conference 2021

Resilient BY DESIGN

October 6-8, 2021

Margaritaville Lake Resort

Osage Beach, Missouri

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MPUA

A Quarterly MPUA Publication

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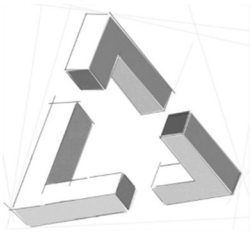

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MPUA CALENDAR

Aug. 23 | 2pm
SWMPEP Committee meeting *(virtual mtg.)*

Sept. 1 | 3:30pm and **Sep. 2 | 8:30am**
JOC & Exec. Committee Budget Meetings
The Broadway Hotel, Columbia

Sept. 6 | MPUA office closed *(Labor Day)*

Sept. 8 | 10am
MPWC Roundtable, Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East *(virtual meeting also)*

Sept. 9 | 11am
MoPEP Committee meeting *(virtual mtg.)*

Sept. 15 | 1pm
MPUA SPP RTO Committee conference call

Sept. 16 | 9am
MPUA MISO RTO Committee conference call

Oct. 3-9
Public Power Week and Public Natural Gas Week

Oct. 6-8 | MPUA Annual Conference
Margaritaville Resort, Osage Beach

Meetings at Annual Conference

- **Oct. 6 | 3pm -** MPUA RTO - MISO & SPP Committees *mtg.*
- **Oct. 6 | 3pm -** MPWC annual meeting
- **Oct. 7 | 7:30am -** JOC & Executive Committees meeting
- **Oct. 8 | 8:30am - MPUA Boards of Directors meeting**

MPUA Board of Directors Meetings

Oct. 8 beginning at 8:30am
MPUA Annual Conference
Margaritaville Resort, Osage Beach, MO

Oct. 6 meetings
3pm: RTO Committees
3pm: MPWC annual mtg.
Margaritaville Resort, Osage Beach, MO

Oct. 8 meetings
8:30am: MAMU, MJMEUC, Alliance, MoPEP, MMMPEP, SWMPEP
Margaritaville Resort, Osage Beach, MO

John Twitty
jtwitty@mpua.org

Making strides, and staying on track

I've been asked by one of our members 'when are we going to catch a break?' To me, it seems like a perfect question. As we've discussed before in this column, this has been a pretty interesting – read challenging – year and with COVID coming back with a vengeance we're still not out of the woods. Despite the pandemic, we've made some remarkable strides over the past several months.

Your approval of the Strategic Plan last year has led to a great deal of effort to work the Action Plans. While we're still in that process, and will be continually, it is already clear there will be many good things that come from our work, not the least of which is the teamwork that has been created and nurtured as each of the Action Plan teams is composed of folks from all across MPUA. We are also starting to emphasize relevant actions that come from our Values and Behavior Sets, part of the Strategic Plan.

"Despite the pandemic, we've made some remarkable strides over the past several months."

As you all are aware, MPUA is going to be in the transmission business, likely before the end of the year. The opportunity to own transmission in Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast Missouri is a real game-changer. Increasingly, transmission service is the lynchpin in the world of the electric utility. Generation has, in many ways, become a commodity, with transmission being that part of the utility value equation that makes a difference to your customers. Additionally, the rate of return on transmission assets will help us offset the rather significant cost increases that are coming our way from the transmission owners that serve us today, and that will continue to serve us in the future. Transmission ownership also gives us greater bulk when representing your interests in the energy marketplace and that should prove to be critical to long-term success.

Just as with transmission ownership, the solar assets that have been developed at 12 member sites will be MPUA-owned over the next two years. The Butler project is the first, with five more to be purchased at the end of 2021 and the remaining six to be purchased at the end of 2022. These generating assets are certainly part of the future and should help position us well in this world of greater dependence on renewable resources. As we become owners of these generating assets, we will also assume new operations and maintenance responsibilities.

COVID has proven to be a most vexing challenge. I was mentioning earlier today that I, likely among many others, had thought this would be a few months issue to be handled and forgotten. How wrong I was. We're now well into the second year of this and the Delta variant appears to be even more dangerous than the original strain. After the initial challenges, including many positive cases, we've settled back into life at the office, but even that is not without issues relating to masking and meeting and morale. We'll continue to meet this head on and hope that we can find light at the end of the tunnel soon.

The Missouri General Assembly regular session is now in the rear -view mirror, and we spent a great deal of effort on new territorial legislation and protecting the Grain Belt Express. While it will take some time to fully understand how this new territorial legislation will impact all of you in the real-world, we believe a good compromise was reached and we are hopeful this is a near-regular issue that can be put to bed for the foreseeable future. We will also need some time to know whether opposition to the Grain Belt Express transmission has subsided, but it does appear clear that many easements have been acquired along the route, with many more in process, and significant construction is occurring. This important project, once complete, is certainly critical to our ability to import renewable wind energy, and therefore, to compete in the future. The conclusion of the General Assembly also brought a remarkable $50 million in no-interest, five-year payback loans for our members adversely impacted by Winter Storm Uri. Some of you have borrowed directly from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, while others have received access to these loans through one of the power pools. Regardless of the mechanism used to access these funds, they have proven to be very important to speed recovery from those 10 days in February. Additionally, we are currently deeply engaged in two efforts being driven by the American Public Power Association, one dealing with the electric side of our business and the FERC and NERC investigations, and the other dealing with structural changes that should be considered with natural gas markets.

We are currently on track to host the Annual Conference at Lake of the Ozarks on October 6-8 and remain hopeful the Conference can be held like in the past, with only minor changes related to the pandemic. But, at the same time, we are keeping a close eye on COVID and the Delta variant in case changes need to be made as we get closer to our dates.

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 two new staff members to our team this spring!

Brad Oliver joined MPUA's IT team on June 22 as Systems Support Specialist. He stepped quickly into his role supporting the ever-growing IT support needs of the Alliance. Before coming to MPUA, Brad served almost 12 years working in Systems Administration and End User Support at the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan in Jefferson City. He earned a B.S of Science in Computer Information Systems from Columbia College.

Brad says he has always been interested in tech, and from an early age started taking things apart to learn how they went back together — and that he still does that now, but the things have gotten more expensive as the years go by.

In his free time Brad also enjoys being out on the river, going to concerts, and spending time with friends and family. ◄

Josh Youngblood joined the staff of MPUA on July 7 as Environmental and Public Policy Manager on MPUA's Government and External Affairs team. His primary duties will center on environmental advocacy with DNR and EPA, coordinating Missouri Public Water Council activities, and coordination of MPUA RSC's grant funds for member wastewater project needs.

Josh has 14 years of experience with hometown utilities, with his most recent position with the City of Nixa as their Superintendent of Water Quality-Wastewater Systems. He's no stranger to MPUA as he was also an executive board member of MPUA's Missouri Public Water Council.

Josh grew up in Springfield, MO. In his spare time, he enjoys football and hockey, hunting and fishing, and going to the lake with his wife and three children. ◄

Member Spotlight

Carrollton Municipal Utilities

story by Kerry Cordray, kcordray@mpua.org

(photos by CMU, C4, and Kerry Cordray)

Hometown utility fires up growth as town cultivates new Missouri industry

Like many a county seat, Carrollton, Missouri, about 65 miles east of Kansas City, is home to a charming town square with a bronze figure of a local hero standing resolutely before its courthouse. In Carrollton's case, the statue is statesman and general James Shields, who led a U.S. brigade in the Mexican-American War and, later, a Civil War division of Union troops, before settling down to farm near Carrollton in 1866. Shields is the only person in history with the remarkable record of having served as a U.S. senator from three different states – Illinois, Minnesota and Missouri.

Unlike many other such rural hometowns though, this community of 3,750 folks stands on the edge of a hoped-for economic renewal, signaled by a brand-new industry springing up in town. And that industry would not have been able to launch its venture without quick, responsive utility developments provided by Carrollton Municipal Utilities.

A contractor readies a 12-inch water main for installation, part of Carrollton's major water system overhaul.

POWERING UP FOR GROWTH

Missouri voters approved a constitutional amendment in November 2018 permitting medical marijuana. Across the state, so far only 28 licensed cannabis cultivation facilities have been fully approved for operation and production. Carrollton has four of them.

One of the first to become operational, a company called C4, short for Carroll County Cannabis Co., began harvesting from the first of its licensed sites in October 2020. In a Kansas City Star report, C4 facility owner Ty Klein declared Carrollton might soon be known as the 'cannabis capital of Missouri'.

"In 2018, before the first growing facility was preparing its license applications, we were approached asking if our utility could provide the needed amounts of power and water supply," said Clint Mathis, Superintendent of CMU.

Water supply capacity would not be a problem. Power supply was another matter. The facility initially estimated it would need 8,000 amps at 480 volts to meet its power needs. "The facility's estimated power use was going to be about as large as the normal load of the city at that time," Mathis said. The energy used by such facilities is used to power grow-lights, HVAC and dehumidification.

To meet the need, the utility immediately began to plan and design a second larger-capacity substation. "We had to add a 12-megawatt substation with a 22.4 megawatt sustained load," Mathis said. "Line construction started in March of 2019, and the new sub went live in January 2020." Before the substation was completed, the utility provided initial service from existing distribution lines in its industrial park.

The actual power consumption of the industry quickly outstripped its initial plan. "They first said they needed 8,000 amps," said CMU assistant line foreman Eli Windsor. "Luckily, we overcompensated and got a bigger wire size than we thought we needed. It was fortunate that we did, because once our wire was in, they kept adding and adding to their load. I think they're up to 16,000 amps now, double what they first wanted. So fortunately, we oversized both our wire and substation – if we hadn't, we would have been redoing everything."

The emergence of the new industry offers hope for sizeable development in local jobs. "The potential impact of this development is huge," Mathis said. "When they're looking at fully fulfilling all their licensed production, they may have 250, maybe

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300 employees. That's a huge shot in the arm, for a city that hasn't had a new industry in years." As is the story for many rural Missouri towns in recent decades, Carrollton has encountered some struggles in its local economy. The area's biggest driver of commerce is farm agriculture. A Banquet Foods plant that was once the area's largest employer closed in the late 80's, and the local hospital and school system are now the city's largest employers.

A worker tends young plants in a grow room at C4, one of Carrollton's licensed cannabis cultivation facilities *(photo by C4)*

NEAR-TOTAL REBUILD OF WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM UNDERWAY

The revival of local industry happens to catch Carrolton as it was in the middle of a long-planned major infrastructure upgrade, the installation of an almost all-new water-distribution system.

The city passed a $15 million bond issue in 2016 to begin a the long-needed project. In 2021, after more years of planning and design, the city began the first $4.6 million phase of a project that will replace a majority of the city's entire network of water mains. The first phase is primarily funded by a $4.18 million low-interest Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan administered through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Initial discussion of the need for the project had been talked about for years. "I started back in early 2016," said superintendent Mathis. "For five years before that, there was discussion of 'How do we do this? What do we need to change?' We were spending a lot of money and time just putting a band-aid on our old system. So we decided, "Let's not put band-aids on it. Let's try to fix it."

When complete, the entire project of system replacements will encompass nearly three-fourths of the city. In this first phase of the work, taking in one-third of the city and slated to be complete by the summer of 2021, the city is replacing about seven miles of mains. "The bulk of the project involves 12-inch water mains, along with new hydrants, valves, and all the services that come with that," Mathis detailed. "Once we have phase one complete, we'll assess the next priority. It could be five years or more down the road before we start phase two."

GETTING THE JOB DONE

Retooling electric services to meet the needs of a budding new industry while rebuilding a drinking water distribution system from the ground up would try the strength of any utility. And of course, the normal and crucial day-to-day work of maintenance and repair doesn't stop when special projects are underway. New fluoridation equipment was recently installed at the city's water

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ABOUT CARROLLTON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

ELECTRIC: Carrollton Municipal Utilities maintains approximately 220 miles of electric line, 2 substations, and serves 2,051 meters. The city has 3,000 streetlights. The electric utility established service in 1941. It has emergency generation facilities that include five dual -fuel (diesel/natural gas) generators and one diesel-only engine. CMU joined the Missouri Public Energy Pool (MoPEP) in 2005, and purchases its wholesale power through the pool.

WATER: Carrollton's water treatment plant was built in 1996. The utility currently serves 1,741 meters. Delivering its water through 15.1 miles of water mains, the system meets current public drinking water standards. The source of the city's water comes from three groundwater wells. Storage includes two water towers, a 1MG storage tank and a clear well tank . Average daily water consumption currently averages about 0.45 million gallons per, with a supply capacity of 2.4 MGD.

SEWER: While CMU operates Carrolton's electric and water utilities, the City of Carrollton operates its own wastewater system separately from CMU. The system serves 1,709 connections. The first sewers in Carrollton were constructed in the early 1930s. The city maintains 56 miles of sewer mains, with 570 manholes. The current (type: activated sludge plant?] wastewater treatment plant was constructed in 1980 with significant upgrades in 2013 and 2019. The WWTP processing average is currently 893,000 gallons-per-day, with a design flow of 1.5 million MGD. The receiving stream is Wakenda Creek.

Governance in Public Power: The Role of Policymakers in Today's Marketplace

Hometown Connections

WHAT IS GOVERNANCE ?

Governance refers to the structures and processes that ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment, and adherence to the rule of law. For public power utilities, governing boards consist of local officials focusing on what matters most: meeting the needs of customers and the community. Board members serve as stewards of all utility functions, including power supply, distribution operations, budgets, rates, capital improvements, finances, customer services, cybersecurity, physical security, and regulatory compliance. The board preserves the benefits delivered by public utilities by ensuring there are resources and direction to address the unique needs of their community. This might include:

- Keeping energy costs low and reliability high
- Meeting customer demands for resilience during extreme weather events or other disturbances, distributed energy resources, EV charging, quicker response times, and instant access to outage and account information
- Prioritizing safety and other areas of regulatory compliance to protect employees, citizens, and the environment
- Attracting businesses and promoting economic development
- Providing transparent communications that meet open records ordinances and reinforce the value of public power

MODELS OF GOVERNANCE

Most community-owned utilities are governed by one of two models:

Independent Utility Governing Board

The sole responsibility of the independent utility governing board is overseeing utility services, which may include electric, water, waste water, and broadband. Governing board members may be appointed by the mayor or city council, or they may be elected by citizens. Among the nation's 2,000 public power utilities, about 40 percent are independently governed.

City Council Governing Board

City Council members are responsible for all municipal activities, including utilities, parks, streets, public transportation, libraries, police, fire, and other city services. Because their responsibilities are so broad, city councils may turn to utility advisory boards for guidance on such issues as rate increases, utility policies, operating and capital budget development, and addressing customer concerns. The advisory board can be a highly beneficial component of the governing process IF roles, responsibilities, and expectations crystal clear and lines of communication with the city council remain open.

WHO DOES WHAT

Key to every community utility's success is a clear understanding by all parties of the differences between governance and management. Management takes care of the daily operations. Governing boards are responsible for oversight and planning, to guide but not manage:

- Hiring, oversight, evaluation of CEO
- Financial oversight
- Developing and approving the utility budget
- Setting rates and financial policies for long-term viability
- Reviewing financial indicators and metrics
- Approving large expenditures
- Approving issuance of debt through bonds
- Strategic planning

The same basic principles of governance apply to all organizations. The micromanagement of daily operations by the governing board is a recipe for failure. Governing bodies must empower utility personnel to perform at their best by enabling the utility to adapt

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to changing industry dynamics and develop long-term plans.

PROMOTING THE PUBLIC POWER ADVANTAGE

Since the first public power systems were formed about 140 years ago, their communities have enjoyed lower rates, greater reliability, local employment, support of local businesses, and reduced local taxes because utility services provide contributions to the city's general fund.

Public power utilities are locally controlled and operated on a not-for-profit basis. Residential customers of public power utilities pay less than customers of investor-owned utilities. Public power utilities also deliver more reliable electric service. Collectively, public power utilities employ 96,000 people in hometown jobs.

But operating utility services is a complex matter. Among the challenges for public power is paying competitive salaries for highly-skilled workers. Neighboring investor-owned utilities or rural electric cooperatives may offer enticements to take over the delivery of utility services, promising economies of scale and relieving city officials of the "burden" of managing utilities. But "selling out" is short sighted. Through the efforts of the utility governing board and staff, citizens must understand the financial and service quality consequences of relinquishing local control of utility services.

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE TODAY

The process of delivering electricity to cities and towns remained largely unchanged for more than a century. But today, governing boards must help utility personnel address a large variety of requirements:

- Deliver environmentally friendly power
- Finance and deploy new technologies and information systems that vastly improve operations and customer service
- Give customers insights into their energy usage and payment options
- Address needs of variety of customer categories (e.g., low income, renters versus homeowners, elderly, English as a second language)
- Comply with expanding state and federal regulations
- Build effective cyber and physical security systems to meet today and tomorrow's threats
- Protect the core values of public power far into the future
- More reliable service at less cost, good paying local jobs, and channeling significant dollars to support municipal parks, streets, libraries, public safety, and other amenities
- Strategic planning

Local utility policymakers must contend with accelerating and increasingly turbulent changes to preserve the benefits of public power. But the rewards of this public service far outweigh the costs. And there are a plethora of educational resources available to help independent governing board and city council members be effective stewards of community-owned utilities.

GOVERNING BOARD DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING BY HOMETOWN CONNECTIONS

Hometown Connections works closely with governing bodies, executives, and staff from scores of utilities across the United States with the common goal of strengthening public utilities and the value they bring to their local communities. We help public power governing officials obtain a clear understanding of the industry's complex technology, regulatory, financial, and human resource issues. Our consultants brief governing officials on industry conditions, best practices for good governance, and how to work with and guide the utility staff.

To discuss your utility's current challenges and how Hometown Connections can help, send an email to info@hometownconnections.com.

"POLICYMAKERS HANDBOOK: A NUTS & BOLTS GUIDE TO GOVERNANCE IN PUBLIC POWER"

Written for the American Public Power Association by Steve VanderMeer of Hometown Connections, this publication explains in detail the duties and responsibilities of public power policymakers (board members, council members, commissioners, and trustees). Containing advice and information useful to both new and experienced board members, the handbook covers board and management relations, strategic planning, monitoring utility performance, governance and utility competition, relationships with local governments, and federal issues impacting public power. It is available in digital and hard copy format.

You may order it at APPA's website. ◄

Ewell Lawson
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The August 28 effective date, and one bill of interest vetoed

Did you know that when the Missouri General Assembly adjourns, there's more to the legislative process? That's right, even though the lawmakers left Jefferson City by adjourning their general session on May 14, a bill must take a few more steps before it becomes law.

Unlike the expiration date on the milk in your refrigerator, laws in Missouri have an "effective date." This date is August 28, 2021. While that date is just around the corner, bills in Missouri have had to jump through a few hoops to get to the day that they become law, even though they were passed by lawmakers in May.

> ♪♫ *"I'm just a bill - Yes, I'm only a bill - And if they vote for me on Capitol Hill - Well, then I'm off to the White House - Where I'll wait in a line - With a lot of other bills - For the president to sign - And if he signs me, then I'll be a law. - How I hope and pray that he will, - But today I am still just a bill."* ♪♫
>
> *(Schoolhouse Rock, Dave Frishberg, 1975)*

In Missouri, this year lawmakers quit voting for bills in May, but the bills they passed were then sent to the Governor for his approval. The Governor had until July 14 to sign, veto, or not sign bills. If the Governor takes no action on a bill, then it is enacted as if he did sign it. Of the 67 measures passed, the Governor signed 62 bills, vetoed 4, and 1 measure was a resolution (not a bill) that did not require a signature. The Governor did not leave any bills without action required of him.

Of those bills signed, they don't become law by the state constitution until August 28, unless the bill has an "emergency clause" requiring it to become law immediately. An "emergency clause" must be voted on separately from the general vote on the bill to make it effective when the Governor signs it. This action is only allowed in the case of a deemed "emergency." Only 9 bills had sections that became effective immediately with the Governor's signature this year. None of the law changes impacting municipal utilities were in this group.

> ♪♫ *"Boy: You mean even if the whole Congress says you should be a law, the president can still say no?*
>
> *Bill: Yes, that's called a veto. If the President vetoes me, I have to go back to Congress and they vote on me again, and by that time you're so old…*
>
> *Boy: By that time it's very unlikely that you'll become a law. It's not easy to become a law, is it?*
>
> *Bill: No!"* ♪♫
>
> *(Schoolhouse Rock, Dave Frishberg, 1975)*

Of bills vetoed, they then get reported back to the General Assembly to allow lawmakers to "override" the Governor's action. It takes a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate for the bill to become law at this stage. This year, lawmakers return on September 14 for a "veto session." They'll consider the four bills the Governor vetoed outright, along with the partial vetoes that he is allowed to make in appropriation spending bills.

Of the bills reported in the May *Alliance Advantage* impacting municipal utilities, only one was affected by a veto of the Governor. HB362, an omnibus public transparency bill, was vetoed by the Governor because of three provisions unrelated to our issue which was to allow municipal utility customer usage and billing records to be closed. The Governor stated his support for our provision. Unfortunately, unless the legislature overrides the Governor's veto, we will have to come back next year and try again.

The following bills of interest will become law on August 28:

Winter Storm Loans *(HB15/HB6 – MPUA advocated)*: $50M of emergency relief was added for hometown utilities impacted by Winter Storm Uri and its market after-effects. This spending bill was signed by Governor Parson on May 13. Monies have already been lent to aid impacted utilities.

Electric Territories *(HB271/HB734/SB44)*: This compromise bill among all electric providers in the state makes changes to the establishment of service territories during municipal annexation. Watch for an upcoming MPUA webinar on August 12 on this subject.

Broadband *(HB 271 – voluntary broadband districts)*: A bill to encourage municipal broadband taxing districts allows for broadband development partnerships.

BPW Appointments *(HB 271 – 91.450)* – expands BPW appointments to "any resident of the county that receives services from such board" in third- and fourth-class cities. This change may cause some confusion when implementing. Look for MPUA's guidance document found at https://mpua.org/page/ordinances

Budget (HB6) *Multipurpose Water Resource funds*, (HB7) *Broadband grants)*: These appropriations became effective at the start of the budget year on July 1. Monies for water commissions in the amount of $17M+ are available through the Multipurpose Water Resource Program and $10M is available for broadband support grants.

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(ADVOCACY WATCH - continued from previous page)

COVID Liability *(SB 51)* – provides liability protections from COVID-19 exposure, medical liability, product liability, and limits punitive damages.

Energy Source Prohibitions *(HB767/SB44 – 67.309)* – prohibits a political subdivision from adopting policies prohibiting utility service connections based on energy type.

Linear foot fees *(HB 271 – 67.1847)* – prohibits ROW linear foot fees on telecommunication companies, but a gross revenue fee of 5% may be charged instead.

Property Assessed Clean Energy *(HB697)* – changes current PACE law to include consumer protections which identify potential risks of these loans.

> ♪♫ *"Congressman: He signed you, Bill! Now you're a law!*
> *Bill: Oh yes!!!"* ♫♪
> *(Schoolhouse Rock, Dave Frishberg, 1975)*

All members are encouraged to participate in MPUA's Legislative Committee. The next meeting will be on December 14 to review bills filed in preparation for the 2022 state legislative session that begins January 5. ◄

Colin Hansen installed as chair of the APPA Board of Directors; Ditto highlights public power's connectivity

By Paul Ciampoli, News Director, American Public Power Association

Colin Hansen, executive director of Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) in McPherson, Kansas, was installed as chair of the American Public Power Association Board of Directors during APPA's National Conference in Orlando, Florida, on June 23.

"One of the things that makes my job so interesting, but also very challenging, is that the defining characteristic of my membership is the small size," Hansen said in remarks made at the national conference. "I serve 118 public power systems in Kansas and the median size of those 118 public power systems is a utility that serves 932 customers. In fact, only eight of our members serve more than 5,000 customers," he said.

"If you look more broadly across the United States at the 2,000 public power systems, 82 percent of those serve fewer than 10,000 customers and almost half serve fewer than 2,000 meters," Hansen noted.

"So given the unique nature of my organization and the Kansas public power community, one of the primary goals in my year as board chair is to tell the stories of the small public power systems, learn the stories of the small public power systems and shine a light on the innovative, professional, resilient and reliable small systems run by incredibly dedicated and energetic public power professionals all across the country," Hansen said.

"This is not to say that we won't continue to uplift the absolutely amazing work being done by our large public power systems," he went on to say. "From SMUD and GRDA to Austin Energy, SRP, LADWP and so many others" including KMU's largest member, the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities. "Thank you for being public power leaders."

Hansen said that like large public power systems, smaller public power systems are "doing some really incredible things too."

By way of example, Hansen noted that the City of Lindsborg, Kansas, a town of 3,500 people, has an "innovative and progressive small public power system. The city leads the way for other Kansas public power systems on adoption of electric vehicles, with the city even purchasing its own Tesla and charging stations to encourage greater tourism in Kansas and load growth for the utility."

Sioux Center, Iowa, which serves 2,700 electric customers, "has been defined by quietly demonstrating bold planning and

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MPUA Annual Conference 2021

Resilient: an ability to recover from or adjust easily to adversity or change.

Resilient
BY DESIGN

October 6 - 8, 2021

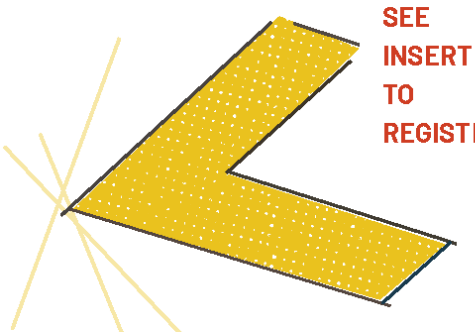
Margaritaville Lake Resort

Osage Beach, Missouri

COVID PRECAUTIONS

As always, we are taking safety at our event seriously. MPUA will follow the most current CDC guidelines for COVID safety in place at the time of the event. This includes but is not limited to having more distance between seats, alternate ways of serving food and locating the exhibitor booths in a larger room. Check with us if you have questions or comments about how we are addressing the safety aspect of an in-person event. As the situation evolves, so will our approach to keeping you safe. We thank you for your patience and flexibility as we manage this event.

MPUA
Missouri Public Utility Alliance



In the utility world, resiliency is a guiding force in our work to provide low cost, reliable service. Between a pandemic and an energy emergency, all of our adaptability skills were tested. Join MPUA at our annual conference to get the tools you need to weather challenges and position your utility for future success. The MPUA conference will also be a great way to reconnect with your industry peers to work smarter, not harder.

FEATURED PRESENTATION TOPICS

- Climate Change Regulations: potential impacts on utility services (APPA President, Joy Ditto)
- Lessons Learned from the February Energy Emergency (NERC, SPP, and MISO presentations)
- Missouri Legislative Panel: predictions for future legislation
- Special concurrent tracks:
  - General utility operations: sunshine laws & rate design
  - Water/Wastewater: bond funding & lead/copper/PFAS overview
  - Electric: mining AMI data & electric vehicles

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SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 6
- Golf or Trap Shooting
- RTO Committee Meeting
- Water Council Meeting
- Vendor Expo
- Opening Reception

Thursday, October 7
- JOC/Executive Committee
- Conference Sessions
- Alliance Awards Luncheon
- Dinner & Casino Night

Friday, October 8
- Board of Directors & Power Pool Meetings

NETWORKING

Find new solutions through our fun networking opportunities.

Wednesday
Golf or trap shooting.

Wednesday evening
Opening Reception

Thursday Awards Luncheon
Honoring outstanding member utilities and their employees.

Thursday Evening
Join us for dinner and casino night to connect with your peers and have some fun.

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MC POWER Companies

(Washington Report ,- continued from page 12)

visionary thinking for well over half a century. All the way back in the 1950s, the city began purchasing hydropower from dams on the Missouri River and even had some years where a hundred percent of the city's power was provided via hydropower," Hansen said. In the 1960s, the city moved to convert the electric distribution system to underground lines to improve the utility's reliability and the city's aesthetics, he noted.

Another example is the City of Norway, Mich., Hansen said. "Norway is a city of fewer than 3,000 people in Northern Michigan, where they operate their own Sturgeon Falls hydro electric plant and can provide up to 95 percent of their electricity using renewable and carbon free resources," Hansen said.

"In many small public power systems all across the country, the city took on providing these services because they would have had to do without otherwise," he noted. "Norway, for example, was one of the first communities in the nation to build its own cable TV system."

Meanwhile, streetlights were switched on with electricity for the first time in May 1920 "and they have been lighting downtown Jackson Center, Ohio, ever since. Today, Jackson Center has a population of nearly 1,500 and even though they're located in a rural area, approximately 1,700 people commute daily to work in the village." Hansen noted that "the city boasts a great deal of industry including Airstream, the American iconic aluminum travel trailers. Airstream began manufacturing their trailers in Jackson Center in 1952. Today, the company employs more than 1,000 people and turns out over a hundred trailers a week."

While Kansas-based McPherson Board of Public Utilities only serves just over 8,000 customers in Central Kansas, it has 235 megawatts of generating capacity, Hansen said. He noted that 77 percent of its electric sales are to industrial customers. "With industrial rates 26 percent lower than the national average – not to mention the reliability ratings of 99.99 percent through a fully redundant electric system – the utility has spurred incredible economic development in Central Kansas, serving a vibrant and diverse industrial base that includes plastics, fiberglass insulation and pharmaceuticals."

Hansen also provided examples of how small public power systems have proven their resilience and grit, as well as noting that both large and small public power systems are "about visionary and urgent leadership and living with urgency."

(Continued on page 26)

Connie Ford
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How will MPUA support members through future challenges?

Over the last year since MPUA members adopted the Strategic Plan, MPUA staff has accomplished many goal-oriented initiatives. Similar to what utilities do in their own hometowns, MPUA is using the strategic plan and survey results to formulate a long-term plan. The goal of the long-term plan is to develop a path for MPUA to help utility members better face hurdles on the horizon through service offerings.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The MPUA Strategic Plan committee and senior staff updated the vision and mission statements to show what MPUA aspires to do and how the vision is achieved. After identifying the target markets for MPUA, the committee developed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) list from the results of member and staff surveys. MPUA uses its strengths and opportunities to overcome the weaknesses and threats. From there, the strategic priorities and goals were developed. Reviving the annual member survey ensured that the action items to meet the goals were inclusive of what members need.

NEXT STEPS: LONG-TERM PLANNING

The MPUA Strategic Planning team will convene again this summer and fall to further develop plans for assisting hometown utilities meet the goal of delivering affordable and reliable utility service in their hometowns. The items facing the utility industry will be key in developing a five-year plan with key strategies. Some of the factors driving industry changes are shifting regulatory environment, market forces, risk management, aging infrastructure, new technologies, evolving customer preferences, workforce/policy maker issues, increasing financial pressures, etc. MPUA's strategic plan lays the foundation for the long-term plan and combined together they will be a roadmap on where MPUA needs to head and how to get there.

MPUA VISION

[what MPUA aspires to do]

Improving local quality of life through hometown utilities.

MISSION

[how MPUA will meet the vision]

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

Help us help you? What challenges are you facing and how can MPUA help? Send your ideas to info@mpua.org ◄

MPUA STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL SCORECARD	STATUS
Maintain Organizational Capability	
GOAL: Develop an MPUA workforce development plan completed to ensure an excellent, diverse, inclusive, and engaged workforce	underway/Q4'21
GOAL: Collaborate with peers to expand and exchange expertise. SUBGOAL: Identify and formalize relationships with associations/agencies/consultants and others to collaborate	underway/Q3'21
GOAL: Maintain MPUA financial and operational strength with cost competitiveness	completed/ongoing
GOAL: Expand utility and associate member involvement and grow membership	completed/ongoing
Advocate the Value of Hometown Utilities	
GOAL: Influence legislative, executive, regulatory and RTO/ISO decision-making	completed/ongoing
GOAL: Implement a strategy that increases community understanding of hometown utilities value	completed/ongoing
Provide High-Value Services	
GOAL: Identify member needs to prioritize and expand innovative training, services, operations, technology, and education opportunities for each utility sector	underway/continuing
GOAL: Improve economies of scale for agency and member assets in operations and resource planning	underway/Q4'21 & Q4'24

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." Alice's Adventures in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll

Josh Youngblood
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Water, wastewater, and the future

In the past year of the pandemic, we have seen the need for essential utilities to maintain health and sanitation. Our essential utility workers have been faced with an extraordinary task of providing clean water for the community, collection and treatment of the sewer, and maintaining their own health and wellbeing. A majority of these communities are doing this while being understaffed all while the critical tasks are continuing to come in. I first want to commend and thank each and every one of you for your continued dedication and work maintain critical infrastructure. With Covid-19 and the variants still lingering our work is still not done but we shall continue forward.

By now, all communities should have submitted their Risk and Resilience Assessment as required by the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). MPUA was able to contract with HDR to provide a toolkit to many of the members that serve a population of less than 50,000 to meet the requirements set forth in AWIA. As laid out in the Act, an Emergency Response Plan is due 6 months after the Risk and Resiliency Assessment is submitted.

Missouri's 100th Assembly passed legislation that has been titled "Missouri's Water Safety and Security Act" which applies to all public drinking water systems that serve at least fifteen service connections and is operated on a year-round basis or regularly serves at least twenty-five residents on a year-round basis, up to a population of 30,000 people. The act states that by August 28, 2021, required public drinking water operations must create a plan that establishes both policies and procedures for identifying and mitigating cyber security risks. The work completed through America's Water and Infrastructure Act ensures compliance with this mandate for communities over 3,300 people. If public drinking water facilities do not use an internet-connected control system however, they are exempt from creating a plan that establishes policies and procedures for cybersecurity risk management, prevention, and mitigation. If your community is less than 3,300 people and uses internet-connected control systems, mitigating cybersecurity and compliance with this Missouri's Water Safety and Security Act may be something new for your community. MPUA offers several cyber security services to help in compliance with this mandate. Contact Kevin Fulks (kfulks@mpua.org) or Josh Youngblood (Jyoungblood@mpua.org) for more information.

In addition to the cybersecurity measures under Missouri's Water Safety and Security Act, applicable public drinking water systems must create a valve and hydrant inspection program by August 28, 2021. Valve inspection programs shall include: (1) Inspection of all valves every ten years; (2) Scheduled repair or replacement of broken valves; and (3) By August 28, 2025, identification of each shut off valve location using a geographic information system or an alternative physical mapping system that accurately identifies the location of each valve. Hydrant inspection programs shall include: (1) Annual testing of every hydrant in the community water system; (2) Scheduled repair or replacement of broken hydrants; (3) A plan to flush every hydrant and dead-end main; (4) Maintenance of records of inspections, tests, and flushing for six years; and (5) Within five years of the effective date of this section, identification of each hydrant location using a geographic information system or an alternative physical mapping system that accurately identifies the location of each hydrant.

As the end of the year is nearing, many communities are planning for projects and upgrades for the coming years. MPUA has been facilitating a grant through the Department of Natural Resources that has helped 13 communities with Integrated Management Plans, Asset Management Plans, Multiple Discharge Variances, and so forth. MPUA will be applying for the grant again through the Department of Natural Resources. MPUA also has a Finance Program for competitive lease-purchase agreements to help fund any tax exempt, capital project or equipment. DNR is in the process of finalizing the 2022 SRF program as well for both Drinking Water and Clean Water. MPUA can facilitate applying for those funds as well. ◄

Plan to attend the
2021 Annual Conference
"Resilient by Design"
Oct. 6-8 at Osage Beach's Margaritaville Resort
see more on **p14-15**

FERC Orders 719 and 2222

What Every Municipal Electric Utility System Should Know

FERC Orders 719 and 2222 deal with how customer demand response programs can be bid into the electric marketplaces, similar to how electric generation is bid daily. The concept is to have measurable curtailments of demand during high usage periods to help with supply and demand issues.

Order 719 provided for the participation of Demand Response (DR) in wholesale energy markets such as SPP's and has been around since 2008

- The majority of the current DR resources being used by municipal utilities are managed within the utility, and do not participate at the wholesale market level.

Order 2222 allows for the participation in a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) by Distributed Energy Resources (DER) through aggregations registered by Distributed Energy Resource Aggregators (DERAs). The resources can be either generation or load.

- DERs includes Demand Response, storage, distributed generation, energy efficiency, thermal storage, and electric vehicles and their supply equipment.
- Order 2222 provides an opportunity for smaller resources to participate as the minimum size for an aggregation is 100kW

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOUR UTILITY?

As an example, your city's biggest industry generally peaks around 2MW. They sign up 1MW with a demand response aggregator. You as the electric provider do not know when this one MW will be dropped from your system so you must plan for it to be there like normal. Thus, your capacity costs don't decrease, and you'll find yourself over hedged for electric supply on days when demand response is used in the electric markets. When the aggregator calls on demand response measures from your customer that coincide with your peak, the industry will get paid by the aggregator and show a lower demand for their retail bills, shifting costs to other customers. If instead, you as the provider oversee a customer program, you can incorporate the demand response resource in your resource adequacy plans and incorporate any events in your energy schedules without having to separately register a demand response resource. Now, imagine instead of one industrial customer you have 300 residential customers in the program with the aggregator controlling their thermostat or paying for solar panels/batteries, the complexity magnifies. MPUA is reviewing demand response programs and is looking into a pilot program for our hometown utility members. Look for more information in the coming months.

BASIC POINTS OF FERC ORDERS 719 AND 2222

Exemption and Opt-In

- Under Orders 719 and 2222, "small utilities", those that distributed 4 million MWh or less to retail customers in the prior year, are exempt from being required to participate in Orders 719 and 2222, but have the right to "opt in" by taking affirmative action.
  - The affirmative action to opt in must be taken by the Relevant Electric Retail Regulatory Authority (RERRA). For municipals, this would be your utility board or city council.
  - FERC created these opt-in provisions being mindful of the potential for the costs of implementing and administering DR and DER programs to exceed the benefits, and the difficulty of small utilities having the resources for these types of programs.
  - If you choose to opt in, make sure it is clear whether you are opting in to Order 719, Order 2222, or both, as the processes and requirements are not identical.

Exercising the "opt-in" – Outstanding Questions and Issues

- Once a small utility "opts-in", there are questions and potential legal implications regarding opting back out.
- Can an "opt-in" be limited to or selected on a single aggregator basis, or does opting-in open the door to all potential aggregators.
- "Opting-in" can create a separation of responsibility for the resources between participating in DR/DER for market purposes and transmission service, with the transmission service customer having no information regarding how the resources are being used in the market
- Aggregators will have the ability to pick the resources they want to aggregate, resulting in possible disparate treatment of similar resources.
- Order 2222 allows for a resource to participate in DR in both a wholesale market and in retail programs; however, the resource can't provide the same service and be compensated in both markets.
  - Many of the types of resources useful as DR or DER are already participating in load management or DR programs at the retail level.
  - If a small utility "opts-in", it will have to track resources and aggregations of resources in sufficient detail to ensure they are not providing and being compensated for the same service at the time at both the retail and wholesale level (referred to as

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double counting) -- this may be both difficult and expensive.

  - There are differences in requirements and processes for participation in accordance with Order 719 and Order 2222.

- With respect to Order 2222, RTO compliance filing with FERC detailing process proposals won't be final and implemented until 2024.
- Between now and 2024, the rules could change – it is advisable to wait and see how the final rules develop before making any decision regarding an "opt-in."

Other Issues of Significance

- NERC Compliance and Reliability Standards are typically implemented and applicable at the Bulk Electric System (BES) level.
  - FERC Order 2222 is at the distribution level.
  - Aggregations could create a need for NERC standards at the distribution level, and what might be the costs and impacts of such standards on distribution utilities.
  - How will load shedding and/or Under-Frequency Load Shed (UFLS) be addressed with respect to circuits with DR or DER aggregations connected.
- Reminder: As a small utility, be thoughtful regarding how your utility's programs and rates are structured so that the utility can provide benefits at the retail level to these types of resources without the need for participation in a wholesale market program. ◄

(Carrollton Municipal Utilities, continued from page 7)

treatment plant. The city is also engaged in a long-term project to replace both electric and water meters in preparation for an eventual upgrade to automated metering infrastructure (AMI). "And one of our biggest priorities is just replacing utility poles," said assistant line foreman Windsor. "It's an everyday project just replacing our aging utility poles around town."

But Carrolton Municipal Utilities is rising to the test. "We have great people on our staff, and we have a great community standing behind us," Clint Mathis said. "We're up for the challenge, and we're getting it done!" ◄

Above: CMU assistant line foreman Eli Windsor prepares to work on a 3-phase bank. *(photo by CMU)*

Left: Detail from a mural in downtown Carrollton depicts life in a simpler time.

Missouri SAFHR For Renters

Fact Sheet for Utility Partners

What is SAFHR for Renters?

- SAFHR for Renters is a rent and utility assistance program, administered by the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) and funded by the COVID stimulus packages passed by the federal government.
- SAFHR stands for State Assistance for Housing Relief
- This name applies for the Missouri state program only; other states or Missouri grantees may have different names for their programs.

How should we refer to the program with our customers?

- "SAFHR for Renters" is the name you should use for the rent + utility assistance program.
- "SAFHR" should not be used by itself, except to refer to the full set of assistance programs for the state of Missouri. If variations of this program are launched – e.g., for homeowners or landlords – they will use names like SAFHR for Landlords or SAFHR for Homeowners.

What's the "elevator pitch" for the program, that we can tell our customers in need?

- SAFHR for Renters is a rent and utility assistance program for Missouri renters who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It covers up to 12 total months of rent and utility bills (per service), including up to 3 months of forward rent. Utilities include gas, electric, water, sewage/waste water, fuel (propane, wood, etc.), and trash.
- You can apply for just utility assistance, but you must still be a renter.
- There are three eligibility requirements:

  1) You must be renting property in Missouri.

  2) You or someone in your household must also have experienced a financial hardship due to the pandemic – increased expenses, reduced income, lost your job, etc. And you must be at risk of housing instability or losing your housing as a result of the hardship.

  3) Your income must be less than 80% of the median income in your area – defined by your county and household size. You can look this information up at mohousingresources.com/safhr
- If eligible, you can apply at mohousingresources.com. If approved, payment typically takes place in 2-4 weeks directly to your landlord and/or utility companies.
- If you need help, or don't have internet access, you can call **1-888-471-1029**.

What information can we send customers?

- Brochure – bit.ly/SAFHRforRenters
- Website – mohousingresources.com

The SAFHR Program is funded through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (Dec. 27, 2020) (the "Act") and provided to the State of Missouri from the U.S. Department of the Treasury for emergency rental assistance. This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number ERA-2101112507 awarded to Missouri Department of Economic Development by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The Missouri Housing Development Commission is administering this project on behalf of the Missouri Department of Economic Development. https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/emergency-rental-assistance-program

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The transmission ownership advantage

BENEFITS TO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES OF JOINT OWNERSHIP OF THE TRANSMISSION GRID

Currently in Missouri, the majority of the transmission systems operated by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) are owned by investor-owned utilities (IOUs). Generally, municipal systems do not have an ownership interest in the transmission system that serves their load. The economic struggle that municipals are facing is that as IOUs continue to invest in their systems within MISO and SPP, the transmission rates in those zones continue to increase. As IOUs' wholesale transmission systems often serve both their own retail customers and the wholesale load of municipals within their footprint, IOUs experience a net profit when they invest in their systems, as the revenue they receive from the investment over the life of the transmission assets exceeds the additional cost to their own retail customers. When IOUs invest in their transmission systems, municipal systems experience the inverse – their transmission expenses continue to rise, and they have no corresponding transmission revenue to offset those expenses. When non-profit utilities own their own transmission systems they have the ability to hedge those risks and protect their members. An example of this is the successful business model employed by AECI.

Over time, as this transmission expense gap continues to widen, the municipal business model will continue to face increasing pressure. If municipals obtain ownership of transmission, ideally closely related to their overall load on the system, the deleterious financial effects of continued investment in the transmission system will be lessened.

FERC ANOPR REFORMING TRANSMISSION PLANNING, COST ALLOCATION, AND GENERATOR INTERCONNECTION RULES

Just recently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a wide-ranging Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR) to reform its transmission planning, cost allocation, and generator interconnection rules. This rulemaking is being done ten years after Order 1000, which, by general consensus, has not achieved its desired goals of allowing more ownership opportunities for non-incumbent transmission system owners. Order 1000 in turn was built upon Order 890, which reformed the pro forma OATT, and that was in turn built upon 1996's Order 888, which generally opened transmission systems for use by all load serving entities and introduced transparency into transmission system pricing and planning.

One of the issues being examined in the ANOPR is whether existing regional transmission planning, cost allocation, and generator interconnection processes adequately account for the transmission needs of the changing resource mix, or whether reforms are necessary to ensure that transmission rates remain just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential.

This ANOPR will likely result in a change in how transmission investments are made, who makes them, and the financial returns associated with those investments. According to the ANOPR, FERC may be reexamining the rationale behind FERC's interconnection pricing policy, particularly participant funding, and the potential future benefits of resource interconnections. This examination of cost allocation, which has traditionally been loosely based on causation, may move to a more nebulous benefits test that not only examines the benefits to load, but to future generators. This could also be in line with a move by FERC towards a more regional basis for rate allocation.

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Some of the additional oversights being considered include independent transmission monitors, additional state PSC oversight, and changes to how abandoned plant cost is recovered.

The ANOPR initial comments are due October 12, 2021, with reply comments due November 9, 2021. MJMEUC, through TAPS, will be involved in this process.

TAPS MEETING WITH FERC COMMISSIONERS REGARDING JOINT OWNERSHIP

The Transmission Access Study Policy Group (TAPS) also recently met with the FERC Commissioners to discuss joint ownership of the transmission system and the need for this for transmission dependent utilities. TAPS was represented 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), Bill Gallagher, and Cynthia Bogorad (Spiegel & McDiarmid). The TAPS group discussed the 2012 FERC Policy Statement on transmission, the 2020 Incentives NOPR, and the advance NOPR on transmission planning, cost allocation and generation interconnection. The discussions with the FERC Commissioners regarding the concept of joint ownership of the transmission grid was well received, and we engaged in substantive conversations with nearly all the Commissioners on this topic. This is further indication that large changes are likely on the horizon. ◄

Management Minute
Administration

Paul Jensen
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"Management Minute" features short collections of tips and advice on municipal utility management topics, from MPUA member advisor Paul Jensen., who once served as General Manager of Marshall Municipal Utilities and Macon Municipal Utilities.

ADMINISTRATION

When a new situation arises, write policy

From time to time a new situation will come up; something for which there is no clear precedent or policy. After you have addressed the situation to your satisfaction, write a policy to address similar situations that may come up in the future. After this policy has been approved, file it with other policies in a readily accessible location.

Perception versus reality

How you and your employees are perceived can be much more important than reality. Remember this and remind your employees about perceptions. Think: "What will our customer/owners think if someone sees me doing this?" ◄

(Washington Report - continued from page 17)

DITTO HIGHLIGHTS HOW PUBLIC POWER'S CONNECTIVITY HELPS TO EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO CHALLENGE

Whether it is successfully responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters or building a more united and comprehensive response to the evolving threat of cyberattacks, connectivity has provided the public power community with the ability to successfully respond to these challenges, said Joy Ditto, President and CEO of APPA, at the National Conference.

Public power's connectivity "is important because we are a community," Ditto said. "That is an important part of who we are. I say that not just to tout the importance of APPA, although of course your membership and participation are crucial, but because it defines who we are as part of the broader electric sector."

For over 80 years, the entire public power community "has not only shared information and insights into best practices but have grappled with difficult federal policy issues. Issues such as transmission rates, regional transmission organizations and wholesale electricity markets, comparable tax incentives, environmental regulation, cyber security, and climate change policy, to name several."

On the issue of climate change, "in early 2020 you all coalesced around a broad position that Congress should act on climate change in federal legislation. You've made it clear that that legislation should ensure that the affordability and reliability of electricity must be weighed equally with greenhouse gas emissions reductions – this is a three-legged stool."

Ditto noted that she often remarks that public power utilities "are representatives of the variety of perspectives embodied in our great country – and if your blue, red and purple communities in large cities and very small towns can come together around difficult policy positions like this one, then anything is possible. It gives me hope."

In addition, public power's connectivity "helps us to have a more united and comprehensive response to another evolving threat: cyber-attacks. From threats garnering national headlines such as the SolarWinds compromise and the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attacks – our communities are seeing how critical infrastructure is threatened by cyber criminals and nation-state adversaries thousands of miles away," Ditto said.

"As far as we know, a cyber-attack has not yet resulted in a power outage in the U.S. to date, but we do know that public power utilities are not immune to such attacks, and we are dedicated to helping you mitigate your risk."

"By curating the most critical information, finding ways to tailor industry information for public power, and connecting regularly as a community – our connectivity helps to protect us," Ditto said. ◄

Meeting **Missouri** Demand

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