



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Water and Light Advisory Board

Wednesday, November 12, 2025
8:00 AM

Regular

701 E Broadway
Columbia, MO
Conference Room
1A/1B

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Jennifer Coleman called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Staff: Erin Keys, Utilities Director; Sarah Talbert, Assistant Director Utilities-Rates and Fiscal Planning; Gwen Corches, Assistant Director Utilities-Electric; Maggie Jones, Engineering Supervisor-Water; Ron Wyble, Power Supply Manager; David Storvick, Engineering Manager-Electric; Eric Worts, Engineering Supervisor-Electric; Matthew Everts, Water Production Manager; Todd McVicker, Utility Services Manager; Jason West, Communication and Outreach Supervisor; Matt Nestor, Public Information Specialist; Aubrey Turner, Public Information Specialist; Earl Kraus, Assistant City Counselor; Leslie Nguyen, Fellow from Federal Department of Energy; Christina Weaver, Administrative Technician II

Mike Murphy, CoMo Buzz; Jim Windsor, Public; Betsy Peters, City Council; Laura Wagner, Public

Present: 4 - Thomas Jensen, David Switzer, Philip Fracica and Jennifer Coleman

Absent: 1 - Ryan Westwood

II. INTRODUCTIONS

A round robin was done for introductions.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. David Switzer made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted with a second by Mr. Phillip Fracica. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 8, 2025 meeting minutes and October 29, 2025 public input meeting minutes were approved as submitted with a motion by Mr. David Switzer and a second by Mr. Phillip Fracica. Motion passed unanimously

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes Draft 10 08 25](#)

[Meeting Minutes Draft 10 29 25](#)

V. FINANCIAL REPORTS (as available)

a) Due to an illness in the department, the financial reports were not available.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

a) Review Water Irrigation Ordinance

Mrs. Jennifer Coleman led a discussion and review of the water irrigation ordinance draft. The board and staff reviewed the draft ordinance point by point, asked clarifying questions, and made adjustments. Mr. David Switzer mentioned the concern that was expressed by the public regarding the irrigation of City-owned land and golf courses. Mrs. Erin Keys will get clarification from Parks and Recreation regarding their watering practices. Mrs. Jennifer Coleman recommended increasing the fine for violating the ordinance.

Attachments: [Irrigation Ordinance - DRAFT](#)

b) Transmission Line Cost Estimate

Mrs. Erin Keys provided the cost estimates for the transmission line. The Chapel Hill Route assumes 11 months of construction and has an estimated total of \$43,056,144. The Vawter School Route assumes 8 months of construction and has an estimated total of \$29,987,013. The remaining bond authority is \$29,885,000. The Vawter School Route goes from Chapel Hill Rd down Scott Blvd then across Vawter School, Grindstone to the Grindstone Substation. The Chapel Hill Route goes down Chapel Hill through backyards across Forum and the existing 69kV route. This does not include a substation at Mill Creek. To make the transmission line underground, the totals would increase by 3-5 times the estimate provided. This cost estimate was provided to the board to allow them the opportunity to review it before it goes to City Council.

c) Purchase Power Agreement Review

Mrs. Erin Keys presented 3 solar proposals in MISO Zone 5. They all score similarly in metrics. Two proposals connect to substations in MISO Zone 5; one is 20 megawatts and the other is 40 megawatts. The third proposal is for 140 megawatts and would connect directly to Bolstad, and it's a surplus generation proposal. All three proposals are in the 62-72 dollars per megawatt hour range. The impact on annual operating expenses would range from 2-12%, with the largest proposal being on the higher end of the impact. The contract length for the 20 and 40 megawatt proposals is 8-12 years and the 140 megawatt proposal is a 20 year contract. After discussing the proposals, Mrs. Jennifer Coleman stated the board is not in favor of moving forward with this project based on the financials; if Council is insistent on a project, then the project that would put the least amount of risk on the utility would be the 20 megawatt, 8-12 year contract.

Attachments: [PPA Review](#)

d) Monthly Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Report

Due to time constraints, this agenda item has been pushed to the next meeting date.

Attachments: [PCA Board Report - September 2025](#)

e) Quarterly Utility Disconnection Update

Due to time constraints, this agenda item has been pushed to the next meeting date.

Attachments: [Pending disconnects for WLAB](#)

f) 3rd Quarter Renewable Energy Report

Due to time constraints, this agenda item has been pushed to the next meeting date.

Attachments: [3rd Quarter Renewable Report](#)

g) 4th Quarter CIP Progress Report

Due to time constraints, this agenda item has been pushed to the next meeting date.

Attachments: [4th Quarter Electric CIP Report](#)
[4th Quarter Water CIP Report](#)

h) 2018 Water Ballot Project Quarterly Update

Mr. Matthew Everts explained that at the Water Treatment Plant, Train 3 and Train 4 are in operation, a 24” mag meter is installed, the chemical building’s floors and walls are epoxy coated, the operation building’s electrical panel is installed, and filters 7 and 8 underdrains are installed and grouted. Basin 1 demo is scheduled for the second week of November. Additional items currently in progress are: the chemical building’s HVAC, mechanical, plumbing, and duct work, as well as admin building updates. Photos of the progress were provided.

Mrs. Maggie Jones informed the board that West Ash Pump Station’s mobilization began October 20, 2025. Demolition for the new transformer and generator, and demolition of monorail and exterior doors are currently in progress. The Southeast Pump, Southwest Water Tower, and Well Platforms are on hold until funding can be allocated.

Attachments: [Water Bond Proj Status 2025-11-05](#)

i) Council Item Update

Mrs. Sarah Talbert stated that there wasn’t much for the Council item updates, and there are no items for the October 20 or November 3 meetings.

Attachments: [Council Item Updates - October 2025](#)

j) APPA Training

Mrs. Sarah Talbert announced that the APPA training will be held virtually in City Hall’s Conference Room 1A/1B on December 16 from 1:00-4:30 p.m.

VII. CHAIRMANS' REPORTS**a) Public Input Meeting Follow-Up**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item has been pushed to the next meeting date.

b) Advisory Board Report to Council

Due to time constraints, this agenda item has been pushed to the next meeting date.

Attachments: [WLAB FY2025 Annual Report](#)

c) WLAB 2025/2026 Goals

Due to time constraints, this agenda item has been pushed to the next meeting date.

Attachments: [WLAB Goals](#)

d) Rolling Calendar

Due to time constraints, this agenda item has been pushed to the next meeting date.

Attachments: [WL Rolling Agenda November](#)

VIII. PUBLIC EMAIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Sarah Talbert stated that many of the points from John Conway's email are addressed in the meeting agenda and packet attachments. Caroline Amparan's email regarding the irrigation ordinance was addressed while the board discussed the irrigation ordinance draft. Howard Fenster's email was submitted too close to the public input meeting to be addressed at the meeting.

Attachments: [Comments for this evening_s public input - Fenster](#)
[WLAB Public Input Meeting on Oct - Amparan](#)
[WLABPublic Public Input Meeting - Conway](#)

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Jim Windsor stated that the original transmission line route was passed by Council in July of 2013, and many people who turned out for it were Boone Electric customers. He hopes the board clearly states the need for this to move forward. On the Chapel Hill route, there's a distribution line that has to be addressed before anything can be done for the transmission line. According to his memory, the University of Missouri had wanted to bring power in from the outside and partner up to Hinkson-Creek, but they decided to build a substation instead. Additionally, he asked who said the community wants renewable energy. If you look at the results of the survey, the community wants reliability and affordability. The question on the survey that asked if they 100% support renewable energy is a leading question; he would love 100% renewable energy, but he understands the difference between capacity and energy. There are better ways to spend money that will decrease climate impact; smart meters would have more of an impact because you could send price signals that say 'don't use at this time' or 'reduce your usage.' You also have to address the capacity and transmission issues, so there are better ways to spend money. Just say no to data centers. The job creation per megawatt is almost nonexistent and we would be putting our system at risk for almost no jobs. The general administration fee puts the burden on utilities, and he hopes that the board starts looking at some of these in more detail as a part of their fiduciary responsibility to rate payers.

Mrs. Erin Keys introduced Matthew Everts, the new Water Production Manager, and Gwen Corches, the new Assistant Director of Electric Utilities.

Mr. David Switzer inquired about what the board needs to do with the email comments they receive and whether the board needs to respond to them via email or in person. The board will discuss how they wish to handle public email comments at a later date when all members of the board are present.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

December 10, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m. on a motion by Mr. David Switzer and a second by Mr. Phillip Fracica. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

To submit questions or comments to the Water & Light Advisory Board, please email wlabpublic@como.gov.

All media inquiries should be submitted to Matt Nestor at Matthew.Nestor@como.gov or Jason West at Jason.West@como.gov.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573.874.CITY (2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit CoMo.gov/upload.