



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Water and Light Advisory Board

Wednesday, August 13, 2025
8:00 AM

Regular

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Philip Fracica called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Staff: Sarah Talbert, Assistant Director Utilities-Rates and Fiscal Planning; Erin Keys, Acting Utilities Director; Maggie Jones, Assistant Director-Water; Ron Wyble, Electric Production Superintendent; Todd McVicker, Utilities Services Manager; Jason West, Communication and Outreach Supervisor; Matt Nestor, Public Information Specialist; Earl Krauss, Assistant City Counselor; Christina Weaver, Administrative Technician II

Jay Hasheider, Public; Mike Murphy, CoMo Buzz

Present: 4 - David Switzer, Philip Fracica, Jennifer Coleman and Ryan Westwood

Absent: 1 - Thomas Jensen

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 Mrs. Jennifer Coleman. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 9, 2025 meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Mr. Phillip Fracica and a second by Mr. David Switzer. Motion passed unanimously.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes Draft 07 09 25](#)

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Philip Fracica made a motion to elect Mrs. Jennifer Coleman as Chair with a second by Mr. Ryan Westwood. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Philip Fracica made a motion to elect Mr. Ryan Westwood as Vice Chair with a second by Mr. David Switzer. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. INTEGRATED ELECTRIC RESOURCE & MASTER PLAN (IERMP) TASK FORCE - VALUE OF SOLAR

Mr. Jay Hasheider presented the Integrated Electric Resource and Master Plan Task Force Report. One of the priority recommendations for the Integrated Resource Plan includes a value of solar study. The task force recommends Council not rely on this value of solar study to represent the total value of solar in Columbia and recommend a follow-up study to be conducted to include a wider set of input variables to reflect the interests of the community, primarily environmental and societal valuations. A true value of net-metered solar study should include: benefits that arise from environmental attributes (non-polluting, climate friendly source of power), economic assessment that integrates local economic benefits (through long term jobs and retail expenditures) as a benefit to the utility and ratepayers, relief to Water & Light's local distribution infrastructure (transformers and substations) during peak hours, and basing savings from wholesale power and capacity costs over the life of the solar system (using present value assessment instead of one historical base year). The Water and Light Advisory Board could request that such a study be conducted. The WLAB should be aware that the state of Missouri has funded a value of solar study, to be conducted this fiscal year, and could play a helpful role by monitoring and participating via public input.

Mrs. Erin Keys stated that the last time the rate was updated was in 2023 when the last cost-of-service study was performed and they're usually done every 5 years, and it's not in the IRP at this time.

Mr. Todd McVicker informed the board that the City is not currently using any information from the value of solar study to determine reimbursement for net-metering or community solar.

Attachments: [Presentation to WLAB Aug 13 2025](#)

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS as available

Mrs. Sarah Talbert presented the Quarterly Financial Reports through June 2025. For cash and cash equivalents, water and electric are down from March 2025; overall, it's down by about \$1 million. For monthly billed usage, water usage is up from March 2025 but lower than June 2024. Electric usage is down from March 2025 but lower than June 2024. Water operating revenues are up about \$1 million from June 2024 and electric operating revenues are up about \$7 million from June 2024. Water and electric operating expenses are up from June 2024. June 2025 represents 7% of the budget year. Water operating revenues are currently at 64.3% of the budget; same time last year was at 68.7% of the budget. Electric operating revenues are currently at 72.6% of the budget; same time last year was at 72.3% of the budget. Water operating expenditures are currently at 6.1% of the budget; same time last year was at 59.5% of the budget. Electric operating expenditures are currently at 70.7% of the budget; same time last year was at 64.9% of the budget. Residential and Commercial/Industrial water operating revenues have increased from FY 2024, and overall billed usage is up 1.8%. Water operating expenses for power and pumping have decreased from FY 2024 due to a decrease in lime sludge hauling, and water operating expenses for maintenance have increased from FY 2024 due to water main

repairs. Residential and Commercial/Industrial electric operating revenues have increased from FY 2024, and overall billed usage is up 1.4%. Electric operating expenses for production/maintenance have decreased from FY 2024, and production for other has increased significantly from FY 2024 due to increased purchased power.

Attachments: [June 2025 Financial Statements](#)
[FY 2025 Summary Change in Billed usage for Water and Electric](#)
[09-June 2025 Statement Memo](#)

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

a) Review of FY2026 Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Budget

Mrs. Sarah Talbert provided a Review of FY 2026 Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Budget. All positions are budgeted at their actual rate of pay and vacant positions are budgeted at 25% of the pay grade. There was a discrepancy in the FY25 budget amounts; some of the pay rates were budgeted inaccurately so correcting that contributes to the increase for FY26. The majority of the increases and decreases in the Materials and Supplies category have been caused by a reallocation of funds between projects. Intragovernmental, building maintenance and utility charges are calculated by Finance based on the methodology that is provided with the O&M Budget document. Under services, \$28,000 has been allocated for legal fees and contractual services, primarily for the MU and Columbia Interconnection Agreement. Under transfers, the 2016 SO Bond is the transfer that is the portion of the utility payment that the City makes back for the City Hall building, so it's the principal and interest payment portion back to the debt of the building, and that debt payment should fall off in 2028 or 2029. The transfer to the general fund is paying for the office of sustainability and an amount that goes to the boards and commissions for travel and training. There is a transfer to parks every year to pay for a portion of the CARES program. For electric rate analysis, funds were reallocated for travel and training to give staff the opportunities to go to the utility billing system conference. All of the categories for Utility Customer Service are at \$0 because the department has been moved out from under Utilities to now fall under Finance. For utility services, there has been a reallocation of funds to cover the costs of repairing aging fleet vehicles and for additional travel and training for staff. There's a big decrease under services as there was a one-time expense related to an agreement with Columbia Housing Authority for solar installation and it will fall off the budget in 2026. For engineering, under materials and supplies, there's an \$8,000 increase that is being taken care of with a NDI for an electric vehicle charging station that will be put up in the parking garage. There's been a reallocation of funds for travel and training as there are several new electrical engineering staff members who will need training. Contractual services increased because the integrated resource plan is going to be updated in FY26. There's a large transfer to the general fund of \$14 million for PILOT fees. For electric production, there's one item under purchase power for natural gas for the municipal power plant. Several items have decreased as there were one-time purchases made in

FY25 that don't need to be budgeted for in FY26. The Columbia Energy Center had been appropriated \$7 million for purchase power for several years, but the budgeted amount was not being spent so about \$4 million was reallocated. About \$4.8 million has been reallocated to the overall purchase power expense for the transmission section, which is where all PPAs are paid from. The vehicle equipment replacement fund has increased as 3 of utility services' vehicles are needing to be replaced, and electric engineering has a vehicle that needs replaced. For water administration, services has increased to pay for the printing and mailing of the utility bills; this has previously been budgeted for utility customer service but they now fall under finance and no longer will cover this cost. The transfers are budgeted the same as electric administration. Additional funds have been budgeted for new positions at the water plant: Maintenance Mechanic III and Water Treatment Plant Operator II. There's an increase in contractual services for tower and reservoir maintenance. The vehicle equipment replacement fund has been allocated \$52 thousand to replace 2 vehicles with 1 new one for engineering; for transmission and distribution, \$413 thousand has been budgeted to purchase 3 F1-50s, a F2-50, a Dodge Ram, and a 7-ton trailer. The water revenue report's large increases includes the proposed 12%, investment income went up and was left at the FY24 amount, and miscellaneous/non-operating went down because they were revenues that went to utility customer service and will go into their fund.

Attachments: [Electric FY 2026 Detail Budget By Division](#)
[Electric FY 2026 O&M Budget by Division](#)
[Electric FY 2026 Revenue Report](#)
[Intragov Fee Methodology](#)
[Water FY 2026 Detail Budget By Division](#)
[Water FY 2026 O&M Budget by Division](#)
[Water FY 2026 Revenue Report](#)

b) Review of FY2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget

Mrs. Sarah Talbert provided a Review of FY 2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget. Nothing has changed on the electric CIP report since it was previously presented to the board earlier this year. They're asking for \$4.7 million in new funding; \$4 million is for transformers. Several projects' funds are being reallocated to other projects. New money is being added to Perche Creek, Perche T1, and Westbury. Nothing has changed on the water CIP report either. They're asking for \$3.25 million in new funding; \$2 million is for I-70 Crossings.

Attachments: [FY 2026 Electric CIP](#)
[FY 2026 Water CIP](#)

c) Monthly Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Report

Mrs. Sarah Talbert presented the Monthly Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Report. It's been capped out since February. Purchased power was forecasted at \$72 million and was \$84 million in June 2025. Transmission expenses were up about \$1 million

from what was forecasted, and natural gas was up \$500 thousand from what was forecasted. In total, the difference is about \$11 million behind what was forecasted. The energy sold is about 4 million off from what was forecasted, and the total power cost recovery is about \$9.3 million behind.

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

d) Quarterly Utility Disconnection Update

Mrs. Sarah Talbert discussed the Quarterly Utility Disconnection Update. On July 25, there were 4,295 accounts pending delinquencies, which is 6.3% of the active utility accounts, and there were a total of 735 accounts pending disconnection, which is 1.08% of the active utility accounts. Due to the heat and the weather rule, disconnections were not occurring the past couple of weeks. Customers have received about \$900 thousand in pledges from various entities and programs.

Attachments: [Pending disconnects for WLAB](#)

e) 3rd Quarter CIP Progress Report

Mrs. Sarah Talbert provided the 3rd Quarter Electric and Water CIP Progress Reports. Bolstad and Perche are moving forward and equipment has been purchased and/or delivered. Mrs. Erin Keys stated that the switchgear for Perche T3 has been delivered and set, and the transformer for T3 is supposed to be delivered in the upcoming weeks.

Attachments: [3rd Quarter Electric CIP Report](#)
[3rd Quarter Water CIP Report](#)

g) 2018 Water Bond Project Quarterly

Mrs. Maggie Jones presented the 2018 Water Bond Quarterly Status Report. At the McBaine Water Treatment Plant, filters 1 and 2 backwash piping has been installed, blower has been installed and tested. Additional items that have been completed include: the chemical building sidewalk, top slab, the chlorine scrubber has been installed, Primary Clarifier 3 lime piping, slide gates with actuators have been installed, clarifier has been installed, and the HVAC equipment in the operations building. The work items currently in progress are: Primary Clarifier 3 start up, chemical building painting and roofing, and admin building atrium. West Ash Pump Station submittal review is in progress; estimated mobilization in October 2025. Southeast Pump project is on hold until funding can be allocated. Southwest Water Tower staff is evaluating next steps. Well Platforms funding was appropriated to the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project and future well platform upgrades will be completed as operational projects.

Attachments: [Water Bond Proj Status 2025-08-01](#)

h) Council Item Update

Mrs. Sarah Talbert discussed the Council Item Updates. At the meeting on July 7, Council Bill 143-25, Council Bill 144-25, and Resolution 94-25 were approved, and

Council Bill 166-25 was introduced. At the meeting on July 21, there was Public Hearing 22-25, Council Bill 166-25 and Resolution 101-25 were approved, Resolution 98-25 and Report 37-25 were discussed, and Council Bill 170-25 was introduced. At the meeting on August 4, there was a Public Hearing, Council Bill 170-25 has been tabled and will be voted on August 18, Resolution 107-25 was discussed, and Council Bill 184-25, Council Bill 183-25, and Council Bill 203-25 were introduced.

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

i) Upcoming Conferences

Mrs. Sarah Talbert informed the board of upcoming conferences.

- a. The MPUA Conference is October 1-3 at the Lake of the Ozarks.
- b. The MISO User Group Meeting is October 22-24 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

j) Fall Training

Mrs. Sarah Talbert informed the board of available training with APPA. The board are interested in Basic Cost of Service & Key Financial Targets for fall of 2025 and How Data Center Demand and Artificial Intelligence Affects Power Grids for spring of 2026.

Attachments: [APPA Training Opportunities](#)

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

a) Public Input Meeting

Mrs. Sarah Talbert announced that the Public Input Meeting is scheduled for October 29 at 6 pm in the Council Chambers. The meeting will be recorded and available online for those unable to attend.

b) Rolling Calendar

Mrs. Sarah Talbert discussed the Rolling Calendar, and no changes were made.

Attachments: [WL Rolling Agenda August](#)

X. PUBLIC EMAIL COMMENTS

“Dear WLAB,

I noted the item on the City Council agenda today related to the Balancing Authority update to the contract with the City of Sikeston. I know that Sikeston has been discussing plans to replace their old coal-fired plant with natural gas and solar as soon as 2029. Have you been informed of a date yet? It is imperative that the City of Columbia make plans to replace this energy source with clean, renewable energy. As we all know, power purchase contracts can take multiple years from concept to energy delivery.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Amparan

Chair

Mid-Missouri Group
Sierra Club”

Patricia Casey sent the Water and Light Advisory board a link to the CoMoBuz.com article concerning energy & capacity concerns: “Columbia’s Looming Power Crisis: A City at Risk as Energy Reality Clashes with Renewable Aspirations” by Mike Murphy.

Attachments: City of Columbia, MO Columbia’s looming power crisis_ A
city...aspirations _ Government _ comobuz
City of Columbia, MO Mail - WLABPublic_ city power and rates
City of Columbia, MO Mail - WLABPublic_ timeframe for closure of
the Sikeston Coal-fired Power Plant

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mrs. Erin Keys announced that the SERC audit is in progress. It was mentioned at the council meeting that there are two solar offers that are being evaluated. The task order for the electrical integrated resource plan is being finalized and will be brought to Council once it’s finalized. Matt Everett is being hired as Water Production Manager and will be starting in September.

XII. MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

A roll call vote was taken to go into a closed session. Mrs. Jennifer Coleman, Mr. David Switzer, Mr. Ryan Westwood, and Mr. Phillip Fracica voted “yes.” Motion passed unanimously.

Confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys pursuant to Section 610.021(1), RSMo and matters which are otherwise protected from disclosure by law pursuant to Section 610.021(14), RSMo, and 18 CFR 388.113 regarding critical energy/electric infrastructure.

XIII. MOTION FOR THE WATER & LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD TO COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

A roll call vote was taken to come out of a closed session. Mrs. Jennifer Coleman, Mr. David Switzer, Mr. Ryan Westwood, and Mr. Phillip Fracica voted “yes.” Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

September 10, 2025

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Phillip Fracica and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Coleman. Motion passed unanimously.

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.