

Kaukauna, WI
January 28, 2026

The regular meeting of Kaukauna Utilities Commission was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Secretary John Moore. Commission members present were John Moore, Pennie Thiele, Sue Hennes, Greg Lenz, Paul Van Berkel, and Tony Penterman. Also present were Michael Avanzi, Dave Pahl, Zach Moureau, Tara Schmitz, Aaron Wallin, Sam Brittnacher, and Amy Brick from KU, Brian Roebke, and Jared Walker-Smith from Boardman Clark.

It was moved by Tony Penterman, seconded by Pennie Thiele to excuse the absence of Commission President Lee Meyerhofer.

Billing & Customer Service Supervisor Dayna Holmes gave a presentation on Kaukauna Utilities Collection Process.

Commission President Lee Meyerhofer arrived at 4:08 p.m.

It was moved by John Moore, seconded by Sue Hennes to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025 Commission meeting.

All members voted aye.

Motion Carried

Environmental & Compliance Manager Zach Moureau informed the Commission that the left forebay wall at the Kaukauna City Plant consists of a masonry structure with a concrete facing. Joints on the concrete facing were repaired over 15 years ago but several of the repairs have deteriorated and additional areas of concrete spalling and deterioration have developed. The condition of the left forebay wall was noted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) during the 2024 annual inspection. The FERC inspection requires KU to repair the left forebay wall by December 31, 2027. The repair plans involve removal of deteriorated concrete, installation of reinforcing anchors, and grout placement. The project was included in the 2026 capital budget in the amount of \$403,430 with costs including KU labor, third party construction materials testing, engineering, and several other items that will remain within the amount budgeted for 2026. Eight bids were received with Lunda Construction being the lowest evaluated bidder. The following eight bids were received:

Contractor	Bid Amount
Lunda Construction Company	\$163,266
Janke General Contractors, Inc.	\$177,809
IEI General Contractors, Inc.	\$204,999
Miron Construction Company, Inc.	\$208,247
Michels Corporation, Inc.	\$215,100
Norcon Corporation	\$246,042
Ballard Marine Construction	\$978,929
Veit & Company, Inc.	\$1,095,420

It was moved by Tony Penterman, seconded by Greg Lenz to authorize the General Manager to award the Kaukauna City Plant Left Forebay Wall Stabilization and Concrete Repairs Project (G26-06) to Lunda Construction Company in the amount of \$163,266.

Roll Call Vote:

Tony Penterman aye
John Moore aye
Paul Van Berkel aye
Sue Hennes aye
Lee Meyerhofer aye
Pennie Thiele aye
Greg Lenz aye

Motion Carried

Environmental & Compliance Manager Zach Moureau informed the Commission that the downstream retaining wall at the Rapide Croche Hydro Plant has shown a consistent trend of movement toward the river and a significant vertical crack has been deteriorating since 2010. The wall currently holds back the riverbank and access road to the plant. Failure of this wall would limit plant access and result in significant downtime for at least two of the hydroelectric generating units. There would also be significant regulatory implications and high construction repair costs. Design for replacement of this wall is currently underway with design completion anticipated in the first quarter of 2026, contractor solicitation in the 4th quarter of 2026, and construction in 2027. To reduce the plant downtime associated with the project, the design for the project was prepared to include a small underwater component completed in 2026. This underwater work will consist of the installation of concrete pilasters to fill in cracks located beneath the water surface along the downstream retaining wall. The project was included in the 2026 capital budget with a budgeted cost of \$160,000 with the remaining construction of the project to be completed in 2027 and is currently budgeted for \$1,085,000. Five bids were received with Ballard Marine Construction being the lowest evaluated bid. The following five bids were received:

Contractor	Bid Amount
Ballard Marine Construction	\$199,993
Underwater Construction Corporation	\$258,950
J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.	\$282,600
Veit & Company, Inc.	\$475,000
Michels Construction, Inc. – Marine Division	\$689,750

The cost is greater than the budgeted cost. However, there was a change in scope discussed with the design engineer in late November that resulted in additional costs to complete the project. Based on the change in scope, the construction cost estimate for this project is \$215,000. In addition, completion of this underwater work will significantly reduce any downtime associated with the construction work planned for 2027.

It was moved by John Moore, seconded by Sue Hennes to authorize the General Manager to award the underwater repair work associated with the Rapide Croche Plant Downstream Retaining Wall Replacement Project (G25-02) to Ballard Marine Construction in the amount of \$199,993.

Roll Call Vote:

John Moore aye
Pennie Thiele aye
Greg Lenz aye
Lee Meyerhofer aye
Paul Van Berkel aye
Sue Hennes aye

Tony Penterman aye

Motion Carried

Engineering & Operations Director Dave Pahl discussed replacement of the 2022 Ditch Witch RT80 trencher informing the commission that although the unit is relatively new, there are documented reliability issues and operational constraints that have limited its usefulness. He provided some history stating in 2022, KU purchased the trencher for \$121,000 to support underground electric construction and maintenance activities. When purchased, the unit was expected to meet KU’s trenching needs across a range of soil and seasonal conditions. Since being placed into service, the trencher has experienced ongoing mechanical issues and performance limitations. Staff have concluded that continued reliance on the trencher presents increasing operational and reliability risk. The RT80 has been maintained in accordance with, and in many cases exceeding, the manufacturer’s recommended preventative maintenance schedule. Despite this, the unit has experienced recurring mechanical and hydraulic problems. Several of these issues occurred while the unit was still under warranty, with additional repairs required after warranty expiration. The RT80 trencher is not well suited for trenching through frost exceeding two inches and has difficulty maintaining consistent performance in gravel driveways and roadways. As a result, projects take longer to complete and may require workarounds, additional labor, or equipment substitutions. Staff evaluated available replacement options capable of meeting Kaukauna Utilities’ trenching requirements. Based on this review, only two manufacturers—Ditch Witch and Vermeer—were determined to offer equipment appropriate for the utility’s operational needs. Staff obtained pricing for a Vermeer RTX750 Quad Track trencher that is similar in size to the RT80 but utilizes a quad track system rather than wheels. Staff conducted hands-on evaluation of the model and observed improved performance under conditions where the RT80 has struggled. The recommended replacement is intended to stabilize operations, reduce unplanned downtime, and ensure the utility has equipment capable of performing required work safely and efficiently under typical local conditions.

It was moved by Greg Lenz, seconded by Paul Van Berkel to authorize the General Manager to purchase the Vermeer RTX750 Quad Track trencher in the amount of \$199,500.

Roll Call Vote:

Sue Hennes	aye
Lee Meyerhofer	aye
Greg Lenz	aye
Pennie Thiele	aye
Paul Van Berkel	aye
John Moore	aye
Tony Penterman	aye

Motion Carried

Engineering & Operations Director Dave Pahl informed the Commission the WisDOT has approached KU regarding the acquisition of a small portion of property at 2700 East Frontage Road, the location Kaukauna North Substation resides. An appraisal was completed by Valbridge Property Advisors with a market value of \$0.80 per square foot (\$700 total) recommended for property of this type. A concern staff has with the sale is that the property fence is currently located on the proposed property for purchase. WisDOT has confirmed this and is going to survey the fence to provide KU with a perpetual waiver to allow the fence to remain in place. Any utilities will also be surveyed and easements will be granted.

It was moved by Tony Penterman, seconded by John Moore to authorize the sale of 870 square feet of property on parcel #332, at 2700 East Frontage Road, to the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation in the amount of \$700, contingent upon the reception of a perpetual waiver to allow the property fence to remain in place.

All members voted aye.

Motion Carried

General Manager Michael Avanzi reviewed the 2026 Key Performance Indicators with the Commission.

It was moved by Sue Hennes, seconded by Greg Lenz to approve the 2026 Key Performance Indicators as amended.

All members voted aye.

Motion Carried

General Manager Michael Avanzi reviewed the 2025 Work Plan and Key Performance Indicators.

The Commission reviewed the Electric and Water Financial Statements and the monthly reports.

General Manager Michael Avanzi reviewed highlights from the monthly department updates informing the Commission all supervisors are busy finalizing 2025 reviews and setting 2026 goals with their teams. The Finance & Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet on February 20th to go over the 2025 merit program. Zach Kriesel has been hired for the Financial Analyst position and will be starting on February 9th. The Department of Energy (DOE) reached out to KU indicating the start of the Cyber Security Grant. A significant water break was repaired on January 16th at the corner of Idlewild Street and Janet Street.

The Commission chose not to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. State Statute 19.85(f) for review of data Kaukauna Utilities is prohibited from making public under Wis. Stat. 196.137, including Kaukauna Utilities Write Off Journal details, Check Register details and Customer Usage and Billing.

It was moved by John Moore, seconded by Greg Lenz to approve the December accounts receivable write-offs.

Roll Call Vote:

Tony Penterman	aye
John Moore	aye
Paul Van Berkel	aye
Sue Hennes	aye
Lee Meyerhofer	aye
Pennie Thiele	aye
Greg Lenz	aye

Motion Carried

It was moved by Pennie Thiele, seconded by John Moore that checks numbered 1942 through 1964, 1968, 11188 through 11296, 82326, and checks numbered 82329 through 82384 in the amount of \$9,944,179.52 be approved for payment.

Roll Call Vote:

John Moore	aye
Pennie Thiele	aye

Secretary

Minutes prepared by Amy Brick