



**May 19, 2025
Regular Board Meeting**

The Regular Meeting of Madison Utilities convened at the Madison Utilities' Office located at 101 Ray Sanderson Drive with Chairman Terris Tatum presiding. Vice Chairman Kerry Straub, Director Connie Spears, Director Al Sullivan, and Director Larry Miles were in attendance. Also, present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and recording Clerk Jodie Parker.

Others present were Water Manager David Moore, Wastewater Manager Mark Bland, Finance Manager Gary Sparks, Customer Service Manager Misty Leftwich, New Development Coordinator Reece Lee, Assistant Finance Manager Drew Greene, and Attorney Woody Sanderson.

Chairman Terris Tatum called the Regular Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Registered public in attendance: Dr. Jim Hatcher

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Five members of the public addressed the Board during the public comment section of the meeting regarding the issue of whether the Board should continue to fluoridate water produced for its customers. After all public comments were heard, Chairman Tatum closed the public comments and proceeded with the agenda as outlined.

2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. May 19, 2025 Current Agenda

The agenda for the May 19, 2025 Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Miles moved to approve the May 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Sullivan moved to approve the May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. May 13, 2025 Public Hearing Minutes

The minutes for the May 13, 2025 Public Hearing were presented to the Board. Director Miles moved to approve the May 13, 2025 Public Hearing Minutes; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. PLATS/BONDS

a. Preliminary Project Approval
None

b. Dedication and Improvements

i. Collier at Clift Farm

Director Spears moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Collier at Clift Farm; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Pay Plan Proposal dated 5-16-2025 effective 5-20-2025

Finance Manager Sparks explained to the Board that a recent analysis of Capital Project's inspection costs revealed the process could be performed in-house for significantly less money. Vice Chairman Straub asked if this would be an additional person and Finance Manager Sparks confirmed that it would

be. Director Spears asked if the position would have enough additional duties and Finance Manager Sparks said they would in the short term, and it may need to be reevaluated in 5 to 7 years.

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Pay Plan Proposal effective 5-20-2025; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. LEGAL

Attorney Sanderson stated there was not much to report on as he is waiting on responses on a few ongoing open items.

7. WATER REPORT

Water Manager Moore stated that the high-rate filter study was complete, and he is in the process of compiling the data to send to ADEM.

8. WASTEWATER REPORT

Wastewater Manager Bland stated a progress meeting on the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade had been held and the contractor is on schedule. He added that the new screen is working well.

9. FINANCE REPORT

Finance Manager Sparks noted the review from Moody's rating agency should be available on May 29, 2025.

10. CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer Service Manager Leftwich stated that two offers had been made to fill the open customer service representative positions and if all goes well, customer service will be fully staffed in a few weeks.

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager DeBord commented that New Development Coordinator Lee had volunteered to put together a quarterly newsletter detailing ongoing projects and developments at Madison Utilities. Additionally, he mentioned that it would be reviewed by Staff and then posted on the website. Director Miles and Director Sullivan thought having an outside consultant for public relation purposes would also be helpful and General Manager DeBord replied that he would look into that.

General Manager DeBord also stated that Staff would be meeting with Simple Helix to discuss IT opportunities; lastly, he mentioned that once the first portion of the master plan study was completed, a Board workshop would be scheduled to present the information to the Board.

12. VICE CHAIRMAN STRAUB

None

13. DIRECTOR SULLIVAN

None

14. DIRECTOR MILES

None

15. DIRECTOR SPEARS

Director Spears mentioned that she attended a conference the previous week regarding PFAS funding available for mitigation and asked Attorney Sanderson if he was up to date on the recent litigation; she provided him a website with additional information.

Director Spears moved to rescind the Board vote to eliminate fluoride in the water; there was not a second. Chairman Tatum stated that the motion died for lack of a second.

Director Spears moved to pause any action to remove fluoride until additional information could be obtained and verified; Chairman Tatum seconded the motion. Director Miles called for a roll call vote. Clerk Parker called each member to state their vote:

Director Miles	nay
Vice Chairman Straub	nay
Chairman Tatum	yea
Director Sullivan	nay
Director Spears	yea

Chairman Tatum noted that the motion failed.

Director Spears stated that she would like Madison Utilities to consider a change to policy. She continued that even though the state guidelines were followed, she felt it was not enough for MU customers and that the public hearing should have been held prior to making changes. Attorney Sanderson stated the change would really only apply to fluoride but that the statute could be changed. Director Sullivan commented that the perception that this topic was not discussed at length is untrue.

16. CHAIRMAN TATUM

Chairman Tatum stated to those attending that the Board meetings are always held on the first and third Mondays unless a change is posted and that the public are always welcome to attend. He encouraged them to continue to stay involved. Chairman Tatum added that at times difficult decisions must be made but are done so with the public and MU employees in mind.

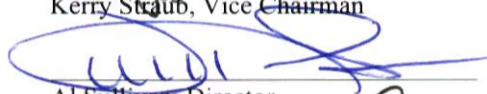
17. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:15 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

Approved,



Terris Tatum, Chairman

Kerry Straub, Vice Chairman

Al Sullivan, Director

Larry Miles, Director

Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer