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April 17, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Michael Thimm has called for a meeting of the Distribution Services Advisory Group of WPPI Energy as follows:

Distribution Services Advisory Group
Wednesday, April 24, 2024
9:00 AM

WPPI Energy Office and Operations Facility
1425 Corporate Center Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

AGENDA

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the Distribution Services Advisory Group meeting held on February 8, 2024 in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin **(Action)**
- II. Distribution Materials Review and Updates **(Action)**
- III. JP Website Integration with Distributors Discussion
- IV. Distribution Services Update

For the Distribution Services Advisory Group members, attached are:

1. Proposed Minutes of the February 8, 2024 Distribution Services Advisory Group Meeting (AGENDA ITEM I)
2. Approved Minutes of the December 12, 2023 Distribution Services Advisory Group Meeting
3. Distribution Services Report to Executive Committee

NOTES:

1. The Distribution Services Advisory Group may take action on various matters related to each of the agenda items.

cc: Wisconsin State Journal

PROPOSED MINUTES

Distribution Services Advisory Group of WPPI Energy

February 8, 2024

Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

9:00 A.M.

A meeting of the Distribution Services Advisory Group (DSAG) of WPPI Energy (WPPI) was called to order by C. Chartier at 9:02 A.M. pursuant to the Notice of Public Meeting sent on February 1, 2024.

In attendance were Distribution Services Advisory Group members S. Adler, W. Arndt, S. Brooks, S. Gald, K. Huse, J. Jack, K. Melchert, J. Rahn, T. Tessmann, and M. Thimm, N. Wozney. WPPI staff members in attendance were D. Adams, C. Chartier, S. Hoang, B. Swain, M. Tadych, and D. Vang. The guests in attendance were D. Pahl (Kaukauna) and L. Ewoldt (Sun Prairie).

C. Chartier began the meeting by welcoming K. Melchert to DSAG and thanking others for attending. Then he proceeded with the officer elections. A motion was made by W. Arndt and seconded by N. Wozney to elect M. Thimm as Chair of DSAG. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by N. Wozney and seconded by S. Gald to elect W. Arndt as Vice Chair of DSAG. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting continued with a motion made by W. Arndt and seconded by N. Wozney to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 meeting held in Sun Prairie, WI. The motion passed unanimously.

Next D. Adams presented the materials update. A meeting was held at Border States (BSE) on January 3, 2024 to discuss stock materials and lead times. It was attended by M. Thimm, C. Charier, D. Adams, and M. Tadych as well as D. Wholean, K. Ebli, and A. Mikulak from BSE. In summary:

- BSE is stocking 120 of our items, not stocking 151 of our low use items
- It takes a year to establish trending in their system
- BSE likes to turn their stock 2-3 times a year/not bring all stock in for the year
- BSE will give members options from other branches if out of our stock
- BSE will supply quarterly updates for stock materials to WPPI staff

DSAG asked if staff could date stamp the price in the catalog or supply a way for users to know when a lead time or price was last updated. Discussion continued with DSAG inquiring if the JP catalog could be automated to pull current information, primarily lead times, from vendor websites/catalogs, as well as possibly integrating PO processing with their systems. Others noted that it might be time to remove materials from the catalog that have not been ordered in more than two years. D. Adams noted that there was an attempt to do that years ago and these materials were taken out of the RFPs but left in the catalog to be priced when ordered. The group agreed to meet again to review the catalog in April.

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Then the group reviewed the 2024 JP catalog pricing/lead time updates. Some distributors requested updates be added on earlier dates instead of the date stated in the instructions, but the rest will be updated by 2/15/2024. Because of this, staff may need to review the timeline for distributor updates and DSAG suggested vendor meetings to clear up any issues. D. Adams shared the 2024 public index summary from Bell Pole. She also noted that their new pricing will apply to any poles that ship after 2/14/2024, not when the order is placed. Some members mentioned that they heard at the MEUW conference that Northern Red Pine poles are failing earlier and at a higher rate than other pole types. An independent pole tester, Dave Karcz, has information on this and will be asked to attend the next meeting. Other notes on lead times:

- Irby prices did not change much, but they listed manufacturer lead times
- Millenium PVC duct went down in price with stock at 2 weeks
- Crescent HDPE duct went down in price
- RESCO lead times went up and no quote on CTs from Peak Demand (will hide the Peak Demand CTs in the catalog)

D. Adams noted that she will research Ritz CTs. Teel Plastics, Inc. has a plant in Baraboo that produces HDPE duct and our distributor, Millenium, asked if DSAG would like a tour. The group agreed to a tour. D. Adams reported on the McWane Pole presentation on ductile iron poles that staff attended at the MEUW conference. They have a lifespan of 75 years, are recyclable, and less costly than fiberglass. D. Adams asked the group if any types of poles other than wood should be researched to possibly be added to the JP catalog but was advised not to because of high cost and not enough volume.

The group took a break from 10:20 A.M. to 10:36 A.M.

D. Adams resumed with the transformer update. B&B Transformer has lowered pricing for 1 phase padmounts and polemounts. RESCO will not yet allow ERMCO polemounts to be added to the JP catalog, but from their presentation at the member meeting there is an optimistic tone about transformer production. J. Rahn mentioned Oconomowoc received and installed some Seti Transformers from South Korea. They seem well built, have a six-month lead time, are packaged well, look nice, and have a three-year warranty from install date.

Next the utility services were discussed. Spring services sign-ups were due February 2 and staff is working on getting those to the vendors. The line clearance services seem to be going well with three members using it so far; members are happy with the work and scheduling. The weed spraying service had a 5% increase in pricing for 2024; members are very happy with their work. Mi-Tech is already in the resource list but has more services available and will also be added to the utility support category.

The DS/JP member meeting was discussed. The meeting saw 58 members from 31 different municipalities as well as some virtual due to the weather. The group thought the presentations were good and well received. Some ideas discussed for next year were having round tables with DSAG bringing up topic ideas or several topic specific breakouts

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with smaller groups. The supply chain has been such a big topic that it might be time to move on to other things such as service rules, rate rules, EV chargers, outage management, etc.

C. Chartier continued with the Distribution Services update. There are some DER workshops coming up hosted by Randy at MEUW. There is additional information on the WPPI website. The GIS application is in process; had over 100 applications and started interviewing last week. The city of Arcadia requested a proposal for our technology suite like Shawano with NorthStar and AMI support. We have a good program, and we are competitive, so we continue to get interest from other municipalities. C. Chartier also mentioned there are some territorial disputes being addressed.

The group mentioned that the round tables have been beneficial and are encouraged to continue.

There being no further business before the Distribution Services Advisory Group, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Michael Thimm
Utility Superintendent

APPROVED MINUTES

Distribution Services Advisory Group of WPPI Energy

December 12, 2023

Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

9:00 A.M.

A meeting of the Distribution Services Advisory Group (DSAG) of WPPI Energy (WPPI) was called to order by M. Thimm at 9:07 A.M. pursuant to the Notice of Public Meeting sent on December 5, 2023.

In attendance were Distribution Services Advisory Group members W. Arndt, S. Gald, K. Huse, J. Jack, J. Rahn, T. Tessmann, and M. Thimm. S. Adler, S. Brooks, A. Hirvela, and N. Wozney were unable to attend. WPPI staff members in attendance were D. Adams, C. Chartier, V. Hewitt, and M. Tadych. The guests in attendance were M. Avanzi (Kaukauna), L. Ewoldt (Sun Prairie), K. Melchert (Menasha), and J. Stawicki (Sturgeon Bay).

The meeting began with a motion made by J. Rahn and seconded by K. Huse to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2023 meeting held in Sun Prairie, WI. The motion passed unanimously.

Next the group reviewed equivalent materials tabled from the last meeting. K. Melchert gave an evaluation of the Aluma-Form arrestors his utility received. The hardware currently included is fine and the new silicone bronze nut replacement will resolve the issue of the nut freezing on. The group approved all Aluma-Form arresters submitted by Power Grid Products.

The group reviewed the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the new CREE Guideway series LED Luminaires. D. Adams explained that CREE part numbers needed to be updated after the RFP went out. A new RFP was sent out with the correct CREE part numbers and two distributors placed quotes, but one used the original part numbers. The group reviewed RFP 50/Group 8 and awarded it to Cresent for 2024 through the end of 2025.

Review of the 2024 utility services extension proposals was next.

- Lamp recycling was approved with the proposed pricing from Logistic Recycling Inc. Minimum invoice is now the same for all members with the transportation charges being different per state. D. Adams stated some of the members using the service and other recycling companies that are being used by other members that may be added to the bidders list if they can serve all member locations.
- Line clearance was approved with the proposed pricing from Zielies Tree Service, Inc. Staff was directed to find out who is using the service.
- Rubber goods testing was approved with the proposed pricing from Electrical Testing Lab. The quality of the Salisbury gloves was discussed because of more failures. D Adams reported that another testing facility had not seen any more failures than normal.

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- Transformer oil testing was approved with the proposed pricing from Alternative Technologies, Inc.
- Weed spraying pricing for 2024 from 4 Control, Inc. was not yet available, but the group will approve reasonable pricing.
- Truck testing is valid through the end of 2024 with Utility Sales & Service. D. Adams informed the group that Custom Truck One Source out of Union Grove, WI is the company that recently built a bucket truck for a member, and they can also do in-house and field truck testing.

The group took a break from 10:15 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

D. Adams started the distribution materials updates by discussing the HDPE duct pricing. Crescent was asked to update their awarded duct pricing before 2024 as the market pricing had gone down over the last few months. Lower pricing was received and added to the Joint Purchasing (JP) catalog.

Then the group reviewed the 2023 year to date total dollar amount of distribution materials that 25 members provided versus their total dollar amount purchased through the JP website. There was a lot of variation in how members use the catalog. Sometimes a certain brand is preferred causing members to order outside of the catalog, but recently long lead times for some materials have caused this when needing materials sooner. With retirements and new staff, some members are using the catalog more or less than before.

A member inquired about adding Buy American Certificates to the JP catalog because of the need for these when using grant funds. D. Adams checked with distributors and informed the group that the certificates need to be asked for when placing project orders since manufacturers usually have a specific catalog with special pricing for these materials.

The group discussed the Border States issues about availability of stock materials, lead times, and different pricing and shipping for materials from other branches to fill POs when stock is not available. Because of these issues, some members do not want to order Border States materials from the JP catalog or if they do place orders, they may have to spend extra time discussing orders with Border States or end up looking elsewhere for these materials. After some discussion, the group decided it would be beneficial to have staff and the DSAG chair meet with Border States in person to discuss concerns and find solutions.

Next D. Adams mentioned that the spreadsheets with awarded materials will be sent to distributors to update with 2024 pricing and lead times. DSAG will review the spreadsheets in early February and the JP catalog will be updated by the middle of February.

Wintroy Supply asked about their alignment with the Joint Purchasing program. D. Adams stated that they are currently listed on the resource list but would like to be on the bidder list. Recently, J. Jack has been including them when getting quotes and will report pricing information to DSAG. They may be asked to present at a DSAG meeting at a later date.

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D. Adams presented a survey to receive member feedback about their usage of the JP catalog and any concerns or suggestions. The group discussed the survey and decided it should go out in April after pricing and lead times have been updated in the JP catalog. There were some comments about JP website integration or automation with vendors' systems to update lead times, ship dates, POs, etc.

The 12.47 and 24.9 user group meetings held on November 14, 2023 were next. The user group members discussed transformers, some materials with longer lead times, poles other than wood, and some projects. Since the supply chain has gotten better, there is not as much need for these groups to meet as often. Members feel the meetings are good to see what is going on, so the groups may meet again in the spring of 2024.

Next was the transformer update and discussion. D. Adams stated that there was no information from RESCO about having the ERMCO 1 phase polemounts in the catalog. The RFQ award letter with B&B Transformer was discussed and staff was directed to check with legal to verify there would be no concerns adding another group of polemounts to the catalog. The B&B 3 phase transformers now have an 80-week lead time and 1 phase polemounts and padmounts are still at 52 weeks.

The DS/JP member meeting final agenda was reviewed. Topics were discussed for the roundtable discussion with interest in different types of poles, concerns with Border States, and standardization being approved. D. Adams will add these to the slide presentation.

Next the DSAG membership terms were reviewed. Four members have terms that will expire in January 2024. They were reminded of the deadline to apply if interested in another three-year term.

The distribution services update was next. C. Chartier discussed the new Geographical Information System (GIS) Support Service. Three members have signed contracts for a total of fifty percent of an employee. The position for a GIS specialist has been posted with plans to hire a person in January. Forty resumes have been submitted so far and an interview team will be set up soon. Electric vehicles (EVs) were briefly discussed since the member meeting will have a presentation with more information.

There being no further business before the Distribution Services Advisory Group, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Michael Thimm

Michael Thimm
Utility Superintendent

DISTRIBUTION SERVICES

Report to the Executive Committee

April 17, 2024

Report Highlights

- DSAG Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024
- Electric Distribution Maintenance and Construction Service
- Shared Meter Technician Service
- Territorial Program
- Geographic Information Systems Service
- Wholesale Delivery Points
- Joint Purchasing Program

Electric Distribution Maintenance and Construction Service

Work continues in L'Anse and Baraga. We are reconstructing a 12kV substation with an in-service date of 2023. Concrete foundations for the power transformer and UG reclosure are poured, and the equipment is set. Conductors have been installed and we are aiming to energize in early spring 2024. Many new pole replacements as well as replacement of aged equipment. We hired a contractor to replace 4 poles per year in each village as well.

Shared Meter Technician Service

Forty-five members have signed up with 130% of FTE participation in the service. Independence is the most recent in 2024 to sign up for the service. We have another one or two members that are looking to join the service in 2024.

Services to non-members are calculated differently than to members, and results in over double the member rate.

Total non-member commitment is an additional 2% of FTE participation. **Trempealeau** recently signed up for 2 days of Non-Member Shared Meter Tech Service in 2024. **Argyle** and **Shullsburg** are both planning to sign another one-day contract for Shared Meter Tech Service in 2024.

Territorial Program

We are currently working with several members on territorial issues. A reminder that the program allows for reimbursement of dollars for certain legal fees. We are currently in discussions with Alliant on a long-term solution to territory issues. Contact Chris for more details.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Service

We have hired a Manager of GIS, Tyler Callum will start on April 16th, 2024, with service being provided shortly thereafter. Tyler currently works for Power System Engineering and performs all the work for Oconomowoc and other non-WPPI members. He will be bringing significant experience and will be a huge asset to get the GIS Service off the ground. Currently, we have 5 members under contract accounting for 80% of a fulltime employee. We fully suspect we will have 100% participation by the end of 2024.

Wholesale Delivery Points

There are several new ATC interconnections in the queue for which we are providing support. We have consistently worked with members that were distribution-served from investor-owned utilities to interconnect with ATC, and the few that remain look promising in moving forward. New interconnections with ATC include Mount Horeb, Negaunee, Plymouth, and Oconto Falls. Cuba City and Evansville have plans for revised interconnections with ATC.

Joint Purchasing Program

At the next DSAG meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, the group will review the JP catalog to determine which materials that have not been ordered for over two years should be removed and assess the rest of the catalog for any needed updates.

Staff is investigating different ideas to keep the catalog lead times more accurate, as well as working with the JP website technology company to see if there are any types of vendor integration available to help with lead time updates or to automate other processes. Questionnaires have been sent to distributors to find out their capabilities for integration and automation.

Staff is preparing spreadsheets with product information and statistics for the JP catalog review at the next DSAG meeting.

Staff continues to review and make needed updates to the JP catalog, as well as looking at the whole JP website for possible upgrades.