

The Utility Service Board met Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at 1111 McClure Road chaired by Patrick Andrews. Other board members present were: Cheryl McAvoy, Barry Turner, Nicholas Browning and Melissa Lin. Also present were: Roger Kelso, Executive Director; Ashley Getz, Associate Director of Engineering; Travis Calhoun, Associate Director of Treatment Operations; Heather Holzem, Associate Director of Finance & Business Operations; Robyn Ingram, Executive Administrative Assistant; Stan Gamso, counsel.

VISITORS

Visitors attending were: Matt McCauley, Strand Associates; Mark Cvetkovich, Bowen; Ian Bower, Bowen; Darren Wells, Commonwealth; Bill Porter, TYLin; Joe Lohmeyer, Southwestern Water; Darlene Keller, Southwestern Water; Eric Schneider, Southwestern Water

REGULAR MINUTES

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 18, 2026, as prepared. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Cheryl McAvoy made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 11, 2026, as prepared. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Q2 2026 AR ANALYSIS

Heather Holzem presented the Q2 2026 accounts receivable (AR) analysis. AR increased from Q1 to Q2 from \$2.31 million to \$2.73 million. Total number of accounts was 17,498 with a total of 1,846 accounts having amounts past 30 days totaling 10.5% of all accounts. The average AR balance per account was \$156.

No action.

eBILLING UPDATE

Heather Holzem presented the eBilling campaign update; 31% of active-billing customers are receiving electronic statements. The eBilling campaign has utilized mass email notifications and Facebook ads to communicate and encourage customers to switch to eBilling from paper billing.

Board members inquired about setting a realistic goal of a target for customers on billing. Also, discussion on utilizing an annual campaign approach to customers signing up for eBilling. More customers on eBilling and autopay saves money with charges incurred.

No action.

SOUTHWESTERN BARTHOLOMEW WATER CORPORATION WATER PURCHASE CONTRACT OF 2026

Stan Gamso presented the additional walk on agenda item for the Water Purchase Contract of 2026 for Southwestern Bartholomew Water Corporation. Stan shared that Southwestern has been a client for many years with us. They need a new 40-year contract for some projects they have coming up. Rural Development does not generally grant money to smaller utilities unless they have a long-term contract with whom they purchase water from.

Joe Lohmeyer from Southwestern presented the information regarding the past relationship with CCU and the previous agreements. They are requesting grants from Rural Development to borrow money, and they do require a long-term contract for the water supply. Joe stated that the relationship has been good with CCU and does not see that changing.

Patrick Andrews made a motion to approve the Southwestern Bartholomew Water Contract of 2026 contingent upon the adjustments to section 4 and 13 of the presented agreement as discussed. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The visitors from Southwestern exited the meeting at this time, 12:00 pm

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 14-2026 TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN ACCOUNTS FOR JUNE 2026

Heather Holzem presented a resolution prepared by Stan Gamso to authorize transfers made in June 2026 between various accounts. A copy of the transfers was attached. Transfers were made within the bounds of standard routine accounting practices for the purpose of satisfying ongoing obligations. Heather confirmed the transfer information presented was a true and accurate summary of the actual transfers as made by the Columbus Utilities staff and management, and all were within the normal course of Utility business.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve Resolution 14-2026 authorizing account transfers as presented. Patrick Andrews seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

WRITE-OFF BAD DEBT, Q2 2026

Heather Holzem presented the report and requested that the board approve \$943.65 to be written off as bad debt for Q2 2026. The list of accounts was provided. The \$943.65 are from accounts that have filed bankruptcy, are deceased or were returned as uncollectible by Allied.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve the write-off for the accounts presented on the write-off as presented. Patrick Andrews seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

MANAGED SERVICES AGREEMENT – MATRIX INTEGRATION

Roger Kelso recommended the Board approve the Agreement for Services, Amendment No.2 with Strand. Under this amendment to the agreement, the compensation cost will be increased by \$50,000. This will allow for work efforts related to IT/OT cybersecurity support for security tool integration, cybersecurity software event review, risk assessment, staff training, ongoing mentoring, and assistance with selecting an IT managed service provider. Also, to provide training for CCU personnel regarding CCU's SCADA system.

Patrick Andrews made the motion to approve the Managed Services Agreement with Matrix Integration, LLC for a 36-month term, at a monthly recurring rate of \$8,262 for a total contract amount of \$297,432, and further authorize the Executive Director to execute the final agreement and any necessary related documentation on behalf of the utility. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING – RECOMMENDATION OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE AGREEMENT

Ashley Getz announced the pause of the regular meeting at 12:10 pm. The public hearing for the public-private agreement with Bowen Engineering began and was opened for public comment. No comments were received, the public hearing closed at 12:11 pm, at which time the regular meeting resumed.

WTP 2 CHEMICAL FEED IMPROVEMENTS AND TANKS 1, 2, AND 3 MODIFICATIONS GMAX PROPOSAL – BOWEN ENGINEERING

Ashley presented the Bowen Engineering contract and said most of the construction is for safety issues. The proposal includes chemical feed improvements at Water Treatment Plant No. 2, replacement of Tank No. 1, valve replacements at Tank No. 2, and demolition of Tank No. 3. The projects are in the Master Plan and will be funded through a new SRF water loan that closed in December 2025. The proposal combines portions of two projects, modified to stay within the budget of the SRF loan. CCU staff, engineering consultants, and Bowen have reviewed all projects and pricing, and CCU staff met to discuss project priorities.

Cheryl McAvoy made the motion to accept the GMAX proposal for the Water Treatment Plant 2 Chemical Feed Improvements and Tanks 1, 2, and 3 Modifications from Bowen Engineering for \$15,744,222 and enter into a public-private agreement for the project. Patrick Andrews seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

STATE OF THE WATER INDUSTRY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

Ashley Getz presented the report and identified some key items and how they related to CCU. American Water Works Association facilitates the survey and the findings.

The key items were 50% of the executives surveyed are planning to raise rates in the next 5 years mostly due to infrastructure renewal and replacement. That lines up with us. Cybersecurity is a high priority and that aligns with CCU as well. Water supply was a concern for most utilities. We are set up well for long-term water supply as we are situated on a very productive aquifer. Our biggest concern is securing land for new wells. Workforce challenges ranked in the top 10 concerns for utilities. Succession planning and retirements are some specific areas, both of which are also concerns at CCU. The last thing Ashley mentioned was the survey of respondents focused on public understanding and outreach. Strengthening public trust is shown to be important with a lot of misinformation that tends to go viral on social media. Over the past year, CCU has been making a more organized effort to improve public outreach.

No action.

DUKE ENERGY INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS FOR NORTH AND SOUTH SOLAR FACILITIES

Roger Kelso presented the two Level 2/Level 3 Interconnection Agreements with Duke Energy Indiana, LLC for the North and South Solar Facilities. Securing these agreements will allow our solar generation equipment to safely operate in parallel with Duke Energy's electric distribution system.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve the Level 2/Level 3 Interconnection Agreements with Duke Energy Indiana, LLC for both the North Solar Facility (ID No: MN116859) and the South Solar Facility (ID No: MN116432). Furthermore, to authorize the total expenditure of \$44,000 to cover the estimated interconnection facilities charges—consisting of \$22,000 for the North Facility and \$22,000 for the South Facility—and to authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary documents to advance these projects. Patrick Andrews seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CLAIMS

The June water claims were presented by Heather Holzem for approval.

Patrick Andrews made the motion to approve the water summary of claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The June wastewater claims were presented by Heather Holzem for approval.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve the wastewater summary of claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either

contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The June SRF claims were presented by Ashley Getz for approval.

Cheryl McAvoy made the motion to approve the SRF summary of claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The City of Columbus wastewater claims were presented by Heather Holzem for approval.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve the City of Columbus summary of wastewater claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Patrick Andrews seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The City of Columbus water claims were presented by Heather Holzem for approval.

Cheryl McAvoy made the motion to approve the City of Columbus summary of water claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Patrick Andrews seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous

FINANCE REPORT

The written finance report was presented by Heather Holzem. Heather reported that water revenue June 2026 YTD is \$4,959k. This is 3.3% favorable to 2026 budget and 21.1% favorable to prior year. June 2026 YTD expenses of \$2,611k. This is 4.9% favorable to the 2026 budget and 4.6% favorable to prior year.

Wastewater revenue June 2026 YTD revenue of \$10,409k. This is 0.3% unfavorable to 2026 budget and 7.2% favorable to prior year. June 2026 YTD expenses of \$3,882k. This is 5.1% favorable to 2026 budget and 8.9% unfavorable to prior year.

Internal Audit report was prepared by Charlie Pride. Roger Kelso reported no significant findings.

ENGINEERING REPORT

The written engineering report was presented by Ashley Getz. Ashley provided project and design updates for ongoing water and wastewater capital projects.

Ashley mentioned a couple of items that were not in the report. One is an upcoming sewer use ordinance update. This part of our 5 year MPDES permit. It will go through EPA and then also take the opportunity to add some protections for utilities for all the boring damage we receive.

TREATMENT OPERATIONS REPORT

The written treatment operations report was presented by Travis Calhoun. Travis reported no permit violations in 2026.

Travis Calhoun gave updates on the maintenance and bio-solids hauling. He shared that the lab passed their microbiology and chemistry certification from the Indiana State Department of Health. Industrial down \$32k with Ninth Ave being the main reason as they were down \$31k because of suspended solids and surcharges.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The written director's report was presented by Roger Kelso. He reviewed the cybersecurity/IT services. Ongoing Vulnerability Scanning Services via Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) were done and no distinct vulnerabilities were found in these scans.

Roger mentioned our public outreach and internal training. The first booth at the Farmer's Market was on June 27th. The hands-on activity seemed to be a hit and generated a lot of engagement with families. July 23rd a class will be held at the WWTP. Wastewater Microbiology & Laboratory Techniques 2-Unit Training Class led by Alliance of Indiana Rural Water and Toni Glymph.

Roger shared Staff is currently working on the 2027 Water and Sewer Budgets for first presentation to the USB in the August regular meeting. This year's budget process will be a bit different as not only are we budgeting for 2027, but we are projecting out thru 2030 so we are planning for the impacts of the upcoming Drinking Water refresh/upgrades. Also, as we are budgeting for personnel, we are looking at our job descriptions, org chart, service delivery model, and pay scales to see how they all align with our short- and long-term goals. Also looking at any additional costs due to upgraded cybersecurity including increase insurance costs.

ADJOURNMENT

Nicholas Browning made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

JULY MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

Patrick Andrews, Chairman
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD

Cheryl McAvoy, Secretary
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD