

AGENDA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
April 4, 2018
3:00 P.M.

- A. Call to Order

- B. Roll Call

- C. Approve Consent Agenda
 - 1. Approve Agenda
 - 2. Approve Meeting Minutes
 - 3. Payments Report

- D. MMUA Scholarship

- E. AMI Pilot Project

- F. Letter to SMMPA

- G. Adjourn

*Public Utilities Commission
Minutes
March 7, 2018*

Meeting was called to order by Chair Karl Hansen at 3:06 p.m.

Members present: Karl Hansen, George Wilkes, and Tim Kennedy

Staff Present: Mike Roth and Haden Hinchman

The commission reviewed the new bill approval report included on the Consent Agenda. Staff will provide an updated report for next meeting.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Wilkes to approve the Consent Agenda. Approved unanimously.

Discussion was held about the drafted letter in response to SMMPA's visit. The commission concluded that the wording was too harsh and the letter needed a distinct purpose. The commission asked staff and Wilkes to redraft the letter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.



CITY OF GRAND MARAIS

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City of Grand Marais

Payments

Current Period: March 2018

Batch Name	3-30-18 APP	User Dollar Amt	\$23,813.57
	Payments	Computer Dollar Amt	\$23,813.57
			\$0.00 In Balance

Refer 72294 WEX BANK

Cash Payment	E 601-49440-212 Motor Fuels	\$80.69
Invoice	53626470 3/23/2018	
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-212 Motor Fuels	\$72.23
Invoice	53625571 3/23/2018	
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-212 Motor Fuels	\$100.85
Invoice	53630674 3/23/2018	
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-212 Motor Fuels	\$28.81
Invoice	53630674 3/23/2018	
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-212 Motor Fuels	\$28.81
Invoice	53630674 3/23/2018	

Transaction Date	3/27/2018	MAIN CHECKING G 10100	Total	\$311.39
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Fund Summary

10100 MAIN CHECKING GMSB

101 GENERAL FUND	\$22,169.76
601 WATER	\$109.50
602 SEWER	\$28.81
604 ELECTRIC	\$173.08
609 MUNICIPAL LIQUOR FUND	\$1,332.42
	\$23,813.57

Pre-Written Checks	\$0.00
Checks to be Generated by the Computer	\$311.39
Total	\$311.39



CITY OF GRAND MARAIS

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Payments

Current Period: March 2018

Batch Name	3-29-18 AP	User Dollar Amt	\$563,286.20
	Payments	Computer Dollar Amt	\$563,286.20

\$0.00 In Balance

Refer	<u>72219 BOND TRUST SERVICES CORPOR</u>			
Cash Payment	E 604-47030-601 Debt Srv Bond Principal			\$175,000.00
Invoice	40608 3/7/2018			
Cash Payment	E 604-47030-611 Bond Interest			\$12,637.50
Invoice	40608 3/7/2018			
Cash Payment	E 604-47032-601 Debt Srv Bond Principal			\$105,000.00
Invoice	40609 3/7/2018			
Cash Payment	E 604-47032-611 Bond Interest			\$13,725.00
Invoice	40609 3/7/2018			
Cash Payment	E 604-47030-620 Fiscal Agent s Fees			\$450.00
Invoice	40714 3/7/2018			
Transaction Date	3/12/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total \$306,812.50
Refer	<u>72220 HAWKINS, INC.</u>			
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-218 Operating Supplies- Che			\$4,060.41
Invoice	4238545 RI 3/1/2018			
Transaction Date	3/12/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total \$4,060.41
Refer	<u>72221 PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES</u>			
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-300 Professional Srvs (GEN			\$88.62
Invoice	181291425 3/6/2018			
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-300 Professional Srvs (GEN			\$88.62
Invoice	181291667 3/15/2018			
Cash Payment	E 601-49420-300 Professional Srvs (GEN			\$30.80
Invoice	181291668 3/15/2018			
Cash Payment	E 601-49420-300 Professional Srvs (GEN			\$60.00
Invoice	181291669 3/15/2018			
Transaction Date	3/12/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total \$268.04
Refer	<u>72222 SMMPA</u>	<u>Ck# 004201E 3/26/2018</u>		
Cash Payment	E 604-49560-388 Purchase Power			\$179,141.85
Invoice	FEBRUARY 201 3/26/2018			
Transaction Date	3/12/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total \$179,141.85
Refer	<u>72223 STEVE S SPORTS AND AUTO</u>			
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-210 Operating Supplies (GE CITY HALL			\$8.74
Invoice	270685 2/5/2018			
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-210 Operating Supplies (GE WATER/SEWER			\$34.47
Invoice	271154 3/5/2018			
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-220 Repair/Maint Supply (GE ELEC DEPT			\$36.76
Invoice	270685 2/5/2018			
Transaction Date	3/12/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total \$79.97
Refer	<u>72224 NELSON, TOM</u>			
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-330 Transportation/School			\$388.37
Invoice	ST CLOUD CON 3/9/2018			
Transaction Date	3/12/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total \$388.37
Refer	<u>72258 QUILL CORPORATION</u>			



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Payments

Current Period: March 2018

Cash Payment	E 604-49590-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$43.45
Invoice	5380457	3/7/2018			
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$12.22
Invoice	5380457	3/7/2018			
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$12.21
Invoice	5380457	3/7/2018			
Transaction Date	3/20/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$67.88
Refer	72259 TOSHIBA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS				
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$51.54
Invoice	14372097	3/13/2018			
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$14.49
Invoice	14372097	3/13/2018			
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$14.50
Invoice	14372097	3/13/2018			
Transaction Date	3/20/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$80.53
Refer	72278 G&G SEPTIC				
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-317 Contracted Services				\$145.00
Invoice	15056	3/1/2018			
Transaction Date	3/22/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$145.00
Refer	72287 NEIL HANSEN				
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-439 Licenses				\$23.00
Invoice	EXPENSES	3/22/2018			
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-430 Miscellaneous (GENERA				\$23.00
Invoice	EXPENSES	3/22/2018			
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-330 Transportation/School				\$340.43
Invoice	EXPENSES	3/22/2018			
Transaction Date	3/23/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$386.43

Fund Summary

	10100 MAIN CHECKING GMSB	
101 GENERAL FUND		\$27,453.31
211 LIBRARY		\$291.03
215 LIBRARY RESTRICTED FUND		\$1,604.25
429 PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY		\$14,253.00
601 WATER		\$528.88
602 SEWER		\$4,816.00
604 ELECTRIC		\$486,086.10
609 MUNICIPAL LIQUOR FUND		\$28,253.63
		\$563,286.20

Pre-Written Checks	\$179,141.85
Checks to be Generated by the Computer	\$312,289.13
Total	\$491,430.98



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Payments

Current Period: March 2018

Batch Name 3-16-18 APP User Dollar Amt \$66,460.05
 Payments Computer Dollar Amt \$66,460.05

\$0.00 In Balance

Refer 72225 MII LIFE- HRA Ck# 004202E 3/15/2018
 Cash Payment E 602-49480-131 Employer Paid Health \$133.22
 Invoice 38616020 3/13/2018

Transaction Date 3/13/2018 MAIN CHECKING G 10100 **Total** \$133.22

Refer 72227 CENTURYLINK
 Cash Payment E 601-49440-321 Telephone \$54.96
 Invoice 2183871788 617 3/1/2018

Cash Payment E 601-49440-321 Telephone \$69.36
 Invoice 218D24-1002 213 3/1/2018

Cash Payment E 601-49440-321 Telephone \$69.36
 Invoice 218D24-1001 916 3/1/2018

Transaction Date 3/13/2018 MAIN CHECKING G 10100 **Total** \$193.68

Refer 72235 PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES
 Cash Payment E 602-49480-300 Professional Srvs (GENE) \$88.62
 Invoice 181289822 1/2/2018

Transaction Date 3/14/2018 MAIN CHECKING G 10100 **Total** \$88.62

Fund Summary

	10100 MAIN CHECKING GMSB	
101 GENERAL FUND		\$51,897.78
601 WATER		\$193.68
602 SEWER		\$221.84
609 MUNICIPAL LIQUOR FUND		\$14,146.75
		<hr/>
		\$66,460.05

Pre-Written Checks	\$133.22
Checks to be Generated by the Computer	\$282.30
Total	<hr/> \$415.52



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Payments

Current Period: March 2018

Batch Name	3-15-18 AP	User Dollar Amt	\$198,759.10		
	Payments	Computer Dollar Amt	\$198,759.10		
				\$0.00	In Balance
Refer	<u>72128 US BANK</u>				
Cash Payment	E 601-47027-611 Bond Interest				\$837.67
	Invoice 123				
Cash Payment	E 601-47027-620 Fiscal Agent s Fees				\$217.70
	Invoice 123				
Transaction Date	2/26/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$1,055.37
Refer	<u>72129 MN DEPT OF HEALTH-DRINKING</u>				
Cash Payment	G 601-20803 State Water Connection Fee				\$1,124.00
	Invoice 1160001 2/13/2018				
Transaction Date	2/26/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$1,124.00
Refer	<u>72131 TOSHIBA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$118.60
	Invoice 14318470 2/21/2018				
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$33.35
	Invoice 14318470 2/21/2018				
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$33.35
	Invoice 14318470 2/21/2018				
Transaction Date	2/26/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$185.30
Refer	<u>72132 QUILL CORPORATION</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$32.36
	Invoice 4807733 2/13/2018				
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$9.10
	Invoice 4807733 2/13/2018				
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$9.09
	Invoice 4807733 2/13/2018				
Transaction Date	2/26/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$50.55
Refer	<u>72159 NORTH SHORE WASTE</u>				
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-384 Refuse/Garbage Dispos				\$92.43
	Invoice 61365 2/28/2018				
Transaction Date	3/1/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$92.43
Refer	<u>72160 PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES</u>				
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-300 Professional Srvs (GENE				\$88.62
	Invoice 181291181 2/23/2018				
Cash Payment	E 601-49420-300 Professional Srvs (GENE				\$23.20
	Invoice 181291182 2/23/2018				
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-300 Professional Srvs (GENE				\$88.62
	Invoice 181291305 2/28/2018				
Transaction Date	3/1/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$200.44
Refer	<u>72161 COMO OIL & PROPANE</u>				
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-217 Heating Fuel				\$591.72
	Invoice 153721 2/27/2018				
Transaction Date	3/1/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$591.72
Refer	<u>72163 GREG LYKINS</u>				



CITY OF GRAND MARAIS

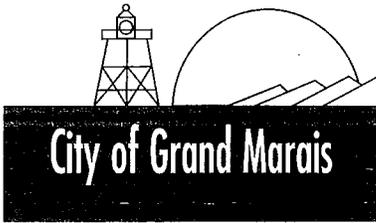
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Payments

Current Period: March 2018

Cash Payment	E 602-49490-439 Licenses				\$55.00
Invoice Class B Exam	3/23/2018				
Transaction Date	3/1/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$55.00
Refer	<u>72166 ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE</u>				
		Ck#	004190E 3/20/2018		
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-321 Telephone				\$190.92
Invoice	2244 3/20/2018				
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-321 Telephone				\$130.21
Invoice	2121 3/20/2018				
Transaction Date	3/1/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$321.13
Refer	<u>72185 MN DEPT OF COMMERCE</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-390 Conservation Improve	GMPUC #242			\$527.80
Invoice	1000039601 3/1/2018				
Transaction Date	3/5/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$527.80
Refer	<u>72187 COOK COUNTY HOME CENTER</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-220 Repair/Maint Supply (GE	2088-Electric			\$56.77
Invoice	249548 2/28/2018				
Cash Payment	E 601-49420-210 Operating Supplies (GE				\$13.59
Invoice	249272 2/1/2018				
Cash Payment	E 601-49420-210 Operating Supplies (GE				\$78.03
Invoice	249475 2/8/2018				
Cash Payment	E 602-49451-210 Operating Supplies (GE				\$39.98
Invoice	249361 2/5/2018				
Cash Payment	E 602-49451-210 Operating Supplies (GE				\$5.18
Invoice	249445 2/7/2018				
Cash Payment	E 602-49451-210 Operating Supplies (GE				\$23.94
Invoice	249912 2/28/2018				
Transaction Date	3/5/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$217.49
Refer	<u>72195 AE2S</u>				
Cash Payment	E 602-49481-303 Engineering Fees				\$3,622.00
Invoice	56835 2/13/2018				
Cash Payment	E 602-49481-303 Engineering Fees				\$3,861.50
Invoice	56409 1/9/2018				
Transaction Date	3/6/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$7,483.50
Refer	<u>72199 SMMPA</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-200 Office Supplies (GENER	Attn: Chris Schoenherr			\$70.00
Invoice	IPAD				
Transaction Date	3/8/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$70.00
Refer	<u>72204 BUCK S HARDWARE HANK</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-210 Operating Supplies (GE				\$191.94
Invoice	2088 2/28/2018				
Transaction Date	3/8/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$191.94
Refer	<u>72205 GRAND MARAIS SUPERAMERICA</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-212 Motor Fuels				\$50.37
Invoice	1849 3/1/2018				
Transaction Date	3/8/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$50.37
Refer	<u>72211 MN DEPT OF REVENUE-EFTPS</u>				
		Ck#	004198E 3/8/2018		



CITY OF GRAND MARAIS

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Payments

Current Period: March 2018

Cash Payment	G 601-20800 Taxes Due (State MN)			\$782.00
Invoice	0-078-029-504	2/28/2018		
Cash Payment	G 604-20800 Taxes Due (State MN)			\$13,722.00
Invoice	0-078-029-504	2/28/2018		
Transaction Date	3/8/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total \$14,504.00
Refer	<u>72218 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION1 Ck# 004200E 3/26/2018</u>			
Cash Payment	E 602-49451-380 Utility Services (GENER			\$829.35
Invoice	MARCH BILLS	3/1/2018		
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-380 Utility Services (GENER			\$4,643.77
Invoice	MARCH BILLS	3/1/2018		
Cash Payment	E 601-49420-380 Utility Services (GENER			\$2,136.25
Invoice	MARCH BILLS	3/1/2018		
Cash Payment	E 604-49551-380 Utility Services (GENER			\$634.41
Invoice	MARCH BILLS	3/1/2018		
Transaction Date	3/9/2018	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total \$8,243.78

Fund Summary

	10100 MAIN CHECKING GMSB	
101 GENERAL FUND		\$53,511.65
211 LIBRARY		\$1,372.25
215 LIBRARY RESTRICTED FUND		\$2,007.35
429 PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY		\$67,919.00
601 WATER		\$5,254.88
602 SEWER		\$14,114.77
604 ELECTRIC		\$15,595.17
609 MUNICIPAL LIQUOR FUND		\$38,984.03
		<hr/>
		\$198,759.10

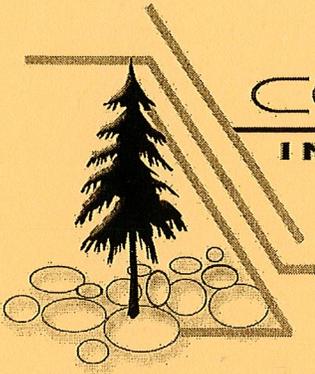
Pre-Written Checks	\$23,068.91
Checks to be Generated by the Computer	\$11,895.91
Total	<hr/> \$34,964.82

City of Grand Marais

MEMO

TO: Chair Hansen
Public Utilities Commissioners
FROM: Michael J. Roth, City Administrator
DATE: April 2, 2018
SUBJECT: MMUA Scholarship Essay

Attached is the scholarship essay we received for the annual MMUA scholarship. We have given prizes as indicated in the attached memo, and sent our winner on to the statewide MMUA contest. Please review the essay and determine the amount, if any, you would like to award the applicant.



COOK COUNTY SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 166

Bill DeWitt, K-12 Principal
bdewitt@isd166.org

Mitch Dorr, PK-12 Assistant Principal
mdorr@isd166.org

Success for Each, Respect for All

April 12, 2018

Here are the applications received for your scholarship. Our Awards Day is scheduled for Monday, May 21st starting @ 1:15 pm in the high school gym.

I would like to receive the recipient's name by Wednesday, May 2nd if possible.

I would be happy to make a certificate for your organization if you wish. Also, I will need the name of the person from your organization that will be at Awards Day to present your scholarship. If there is a conflict with your schedule, one of our staff members would be happy to present the scholarship for you.

For questions or more information, please call me @ 218-387-2271 ext 602.

I look forward to seeing you at our Awards Day.

Cindy Everson
ceverson@isd166.org
Cook County High School

Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA)

Scholarship amount:

Local Utilities will award:

1st Place = \$500.00

2nd Place = \$300.00

3rd Place = \$200.00

MMUA will award:

1st Place = \$2,000.00

2nd Place = \$1,500.00

3rd Place = \$1,000.00

4th Place = \$500.00

Deadline: March 22, 2018 – 3 pm

The local governing body will send the winning essay to MMUA for entry into the statewide contest. The MMUA Communications/Member Services Committee select the winners, with an announcement in mid-May

Criteria:

- Graduating senior
- Must have a legal guardian who is a **customer of Grand Marais Public Utilities**
- Plans to attend a post-secondary educational institution
- Need to write an essay of 500 to 1,000 words, typed and double-spaced. All essays must include a cover page, with the writer's name and address.

Distribution of funds:

Scholarship money will be payable upon receipt of fee statement copy from an accredited post-secondary educational institution. The award check will be made payable to the contest winner and the post-secondary institution

Return entry form and essay to Cindy Everson in the Office by 4-22-18.

Municipal Utilities: Good for All of Us

2018 Scholarship Application

Grand Marais, MN

When I was a child, my family and I lived in a small apartment in Minneapolis where we had to pay a lot for rent due to the included utilities. These utilities were inconsistent and unreliable. This was hard for my family because, at the time, we did not have very much money.

When I moved to Grand Marais, Minnesota in 2008, we were unsure if we would be able to stay due all the expenses of moving, renting and utilities, but we found a place that was a decent price and moved in. After living there only a short while we were amazed with the quality and reliability of the public utilities. It was outstandingly better than what we had used in the past.

Municipal utilities are very important to people all over the country, and even more so to those who live in a cold place like Grand Marais. The average annual snowfall in Grand Marais is 43 inches and the temperature can range anywhere from 10 degrees to -50 degrees Fahrenheit and of all the weather stations in Minnesota, Grand Marais reports the coldest temperatures year round. This means for our community the below zero temperatures of winter without heat/public utilities can present life or death situations. Public utilities don't only keep us comfortable but also keep us safe. Many people in my community rely on public utilities for heat in the winter. This is essential for families like mine. We rely on public utilities so our family can live comfortably not only in the winter, but year round.

The Grand Marais Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has also made an effort to formulate a plan with its power provider, the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) to protect our town and the power grid from climate change. In February of this year, the two committees met and discussed what could be done to protect the grid and attempted to come to an agreement. While the PUC was unable to convince SMMPA of the importance of this issue, they vowed to continue to try and convince SMMPA to "take the lead" on this issue. With this information in mind it is encouraging to know that citizens of Grand Marais' PUC are making an effort to be progressive.

Water is also very important to my family and anyone who uses public utilities. Water is one of the basic essentials of life and without it we would not be able to survive. Public utilities makes this very easy for people to have water in their homes to shower, wash clothes and, most importantly, hydrate.

In conclusion, I think municipal utilities are important because they provide great services for communities like mine to help us live comfortably year round and keep the people in my town safe. This is why I have faith that my towns public utilities will continue to prosper and present their customers with top notch service that they show time and time again.

City of Grand Marais

MEMO

TO: Chair Hansen
Public Utilities Commissioners
FROM: Michael J. Roth, City Administrator
DATE: April 2, 2018
SUBJECT: Advanced Metering Infrastructure Pilot Project

Summary

The PUC and staff have been considering how best to implement Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). AMI consists of meters that provide a two-way, real-time data link and the necessary network to collect and manage the data. The business case for AMI is clear: (1) provide a technology backbone for an effective load control system, (2) save considerable staff time currently used to manually read meters and for data entry, (3) reduce data entry errors, and (4) provide real time data that system operators will use and that customers have come to expect.

In 2017 SMMPA assembled a working group to evaluate whether the agency had a useful role to play in AMI projects for member communities. One outcome of this working group was looking at SMMPA or another 3rd party to host the software and data collected by the AMI systems. SMMPA entered into conversation with Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), another agency with 60 members. MRES hosts the headend AMI software and provides the communications system, along with operational and IT support, and has negotiated discounts on the hardware for participating members. They are interested in growing the number of communities they support to increase economies of scale. SMMPA proposed to their working group establishing pilot programs with interested cities to partner with MRES, with SMMPA developing the ability to provide support. Lake City has begun planning a pilot for 2018.

Grand Marais Pilot

Implementing a pilot project in Grand Marais provides multiple benefits with few costs. First, we desire a relationship with a 3rd party to host the software and data. Working through SMMPA and with an established provider in MRES is a good fit. Second, a pilot project allows us to implement all of the necessary communication infrastructure to operate an AMI system without committing to full build out. This allows us to troubleshoot our system with less at stake. The main cost of implementing a pilot is time. It means we are intending to take multiple seasons to build out our system, and will have to maintain manual reads concurrent with AMI for a period of time.

Next Steps

In April, staff will firm up a pilot project scope, timeline, budget and partnership documentation. We intend to bring this information to the PUC for a decision in May. Plan on 30-45 minutes to review the project details.



Grand Marais
Public Utilities Commission

April 2, 2018

Dear SMMPA Board and Member Representatives,

We thank you for hearing our concerns about climate change and SMMPA's position in relation to climate change. In particular we are appreciative of the time spent discussing this issue at last year's board retreat, and the recent visit to Grand Marais by Dave Geschwind and Mark Fritsch.

What we are hearing from the SMMPA Board is that 1) SMMPA is declining to acknowledge climate change because it's a politicized issue, and 2) SMMPA's current carbon emissions reduction efforts are sufficient to meet our (SMMPA's) standard of "environmental responsibility."

We believe that our collective refusal to acknowledge climate change is detrimental to SMMPA communities. In addition, refusing to acknowledge climate change while at the same time espousing the "benefit" of carbon emissions reduction begs a question. Why, if not because of climate change, are we so proud of our carbon emissions reduction efforts?

Mark asked for concrete suggestions on action that we can take as an agency. Since it is clear that we as an agency are not in agreement on the urgency, or even the existence, of the issue, we suggest that the board direct SMMPA staff to research and provide data and analysis on the risks to the agency and our member communities of climate change. We are confident our staff will do their usual high quality job, and hope that we can all learn together more about how climate change is affecting the agency. In other words, treat climate change like we treat any other issue with the profound ability to affect the agency. In the meantime, we hope you will allow us time at meetings to present some of the evidence that we found so convincing and concerning.

We also wanted to respond to the idea that SMMPA would consider providing a low-carbon option for the Grand Marais power supply. We appreciate the suggestion and may ask for more clarity on how that would look down the road when our City Climate Action Plan is completed later this year.

We look forward to continued dialog on this important topic, and thank you for your considered attention. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with our sister cities towards greater sustainability including a viable and effective solution to climate change.

Grand Marais Public Utilities Commission