

Currents & Waves

FALL 2024



Water Works & Lighting Commission Public Power Week Open House

Wisconsin Rapids Water Works & Lighting Commission (WW&LC) would like to invite you to our open house celebrating Public Power Week. Public Power Week is a national event sponsored in conjunction with American Public Power Association (APPA) in Washington, D.C. APPA is the trade service organization for the country's nearly 2000 community-owned electric utilities.

When: Thursday, October 10th

Where: 221 16th St S (Water Works & Lighting Commission)

Time: 2:00 PM—5:00 PM

WW&LC has served the community for over 100 years, delivering electric and water services to our local community. WW&LC strives to provide reliable, safe and affordable electric and water service.

Learn more about the benefits, new programs, and incentives WW&LC has to offer. Come and join the fun!

Activities Include:

- ⇒ *Lift Truck Rides.*
- ⇒ *Giveaways & Drawings.*
- ⇒ *Electric Safety Demonstrations.*
- ⇒ *Focus on Energy Program Incentives.*
- ⇒ *SmartHub (online options) Demonstration.*
- ⇒ *Solar Information.*
- ⇒ *Pizza, Snacks and Beverages will be available.*

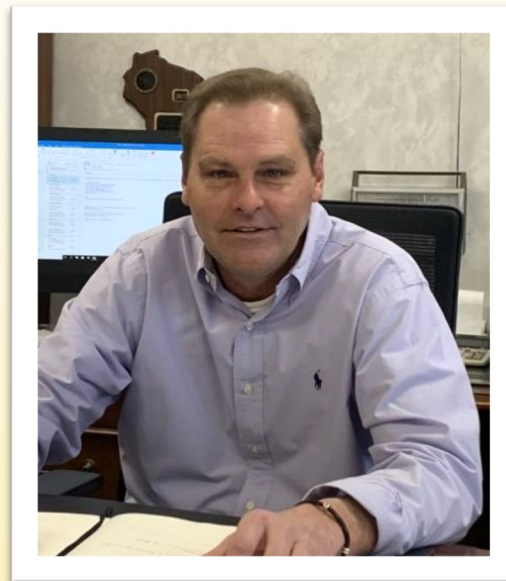
Remembering Jem Brown

Our General Manager, Jem Brown, passed away on July 25, 2024. Jem was the second-longest serving General Manager in the history of the Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting Commission. His sixteen years of service rank only behind Vilas Baker, who oversaw the Commission's significant infrastructure expansion during the 1940s and 1950s after World War II.

During Jem's tenure, the utility underwent some of its most ambitious upgrades since that time, with over \$75,000,000 invested in capital improvements. Under his guidance, the utility implemented numerous enhancements, including two new substations, more than fourteen miles of water main replacement, the installation of AMI meters, and many other updates to the electric distribution system. He also was the General Manager during the infamous July 2019 storm, which left much of the area without power for several days and was one of the largest municipal electric mutual aid events in Wisconsin history.

Jem was a respected utility professional, working in the utility industry for more than 30 years. Jem served as Chair of Great Lakes Utilities, a Board Member of Wisconsin Public Utility Institute, and held various positions within Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin, including Chairperson in 2014. As the Chair of Great Lakes Utilities, Jem worked hard to keep power supply costs low, saving our customers millions of dollars in electric costs with favorable power agreements.

Jem will be greatly missed, but he also assembled a great staff who has a strong commitment for public utilities and our community. As we look to the future, we will continue to build on this solid foundation, maintaining strong infrastructure, affordable rates, minimal outages, and safe working conditions, while serving as a valuable asset and benefit to our community.



Winter is Coming!

As much as we all hate to see the warm temperatures of summer go, now is also a great time to prepare for the upcoming cold weather. Ensure your water pipes are ready for winter by following these tips:

- **Disconnect and drain hoses from outside faucets.**
- **Turn off and drain irrigation systems and backflow assemblies.**
- **Insulate pipes in unheated spaces, such as garages, crawl spaces and attics. Pipes that freeze can split which can result in an extensive water leak.**
- **If you will be away for any extended period of time in the winter, make sure you or members in your home know how to turn off the water to the house in case of an emergency. For snowbirds, we can shut your water off at the curb, just give us a call!**



www.wrlc.com

Contact Us

Customer Service: 715-423-6300
Report an Outage: 715-423-6310
Address: 221 16th St S
Fax: 715-423-2831
Diggers Hotline:
811 or 1-800-242-8511