

# Executive Council of Cities & Villages Served by Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)

Thursday, October 3, 2024

1 p.m.

Virtual meeting (via Zoom)

## Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85177392678?pwd=l75vP9eOEwHDlxe9tUdmXJ3AYKfc8.1>

Meeting ID: 851 7739 2678

Passcode: 221478

## Or join by phone:

1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 851 7739 2678

Passcode: 221478

*\*\* Please enter your first and last name, as well as your city or village,  
when you enter the Zoom meeting.*

## AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – (Council Chair Carolyn Clow, V. of McFarland)
- II. Introductions of the Executive Council Members and Other Attendees
- III. Review, Amendment and Approval of the Proposed Agenda (Discussion \ Actionable Item).
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from July 15, 2024, and September 16, 2024. (Actionable Items)
- V. 2025 MMSD Proposed Budget Review and Position Statement (Discussion/Actionable Item)
- VI. Council Representative to the MMSD Executive Director Search Interviews (Discussion/Actionable Item)
- VII. Future Council Meeting Schedule and Identify Next Meeting Date, Time and Location (Discussion Item/Actionable Item)

**VIII.** Other Decision Items to Be Considered \ Acted Upon by the Executive Council  
(Discussion \ Actionable Item)

**IX.** Adjournment.

POSTED: Dane County Cities and Villages Association website  
MMSD Website  
City/County Building  
Wisconsin State Journal legal notice

## MINUTES

**Executive Council of  
Cities & Villages Served by Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District  
12 p.m. Monday, September 16, 2024  
Virtual meeting (Zoom)**

### ATTENDANCE

#### Cities:

Fitchburg Mayor Julia Arata-Fratta, Administrator Chad Brecklin, PWD Tim Voelker  
Middleton  
Monona Mayor Mary O'Connor, Administrator Neil Stechschulte, PWD Dan  
Stephany  
Verona Mayor Luke Diaz, Alder Patrick Lytle

#### Villages:

Cottage Grove  
Dane President Don Postler, Trustee Roger Schmidt  
DeForest Administrator Bill Chang, PWD Judd Blau  
Maple Bluff  
McFarland President Carolyn Clow, Administrator Matt Schuenke  
Shorewood Hills Administrator Brian Mooney  
Waunakee Mayor Kristin Runge, Administrator Todd Schmidt  
Windsor Clerk Christine Capstran

**Other Attendees:** Forbes McIntosh & Ann Gryphan, Dane County Cities & Villages  
Association  
Ken Clark, MMSD Commissioner  
Bill Walker, Ben Nerad, Amanda Wegner, MMSD

#### 1. Call to Order/Introductions.

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Council Chair Carolyn Clow (V. of McFarland). Nine cities/villages were present, which is a quorum.

#### 2. Introductions of the Executive Council Members and Other Attendees.

#### 3. Background/History of the Executive Council.

#### 4. Review, Amendment and Approval of the Proposed Agenda.

No action.

**5. Approval of the Minutes from July 15, 2024.**

No action.

**6. Reports of MMSD Appointees.**

**7. Review Nominations Received for Appointment to Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Commission.**

The Council received two nominations for one seat to the MMSD Commission (three-year term). Nominations were made as follows: Sara Eskrich, current MMSD Commissioner from Middleton, nominated by Middleton Mayor Emily Kuhn; and Patrick Lytle, City of Verona Alder, nominated by Verona Mayor Luke Diaz.

Patrick Lytle made a few comments about his background, and Luke Diaz also said a few words on his behalf.

Sara Eskrich was not in attendance due to a previous commitment.

Carolyn Clow reminded the Council that each city/village on the Council has one vote in this appointment process. Voting will be done electronically via email. Chief elected officials are asked to cast their vote via email to [admin@dccva.org](mailto:admin@dccva.org) by noon Friday, Sept. 20.

**8. Approval of Executive Council Nominations to MMSD Commission.**

No action.

**9. MMSD Operations and Budget Update.**

Bed Nerad of MMSD gave a presentation on the proposed 2025 MMSD operation budget and capital improvements plan. The full proposed budget is available on the MMSD website. MMSD staff is proposing an average sewer service charge increase of 7.5 percent for 2025. He projects 7-8 percent annual increases through 2030. The 2025 proposed budget amounts to an annual average charge to households of \$283.81, an increase of \$17.19 or 6.4 percent, not taking into account industrial billing. By comparison, Nerad said the Midwest average annual household charge is \$547. Spending drivers include: aging infrastructure, population growth throughout Dane County, loan interest rates, maintenance, new positions and wage market adjustments. MMSD is proposing a few new positions and a 3 percent wage adjustment, resulting in \$591,000 in additional operating expenses in 2025. Nerad said staff worked with financial advisers to review its reserve amounts and draw-on best practices.

Carolyn Clow, Council Chair (V. of McFarland), expressed concern that the trajectory of spending doesn't seem to have changed, despite earlier concerns brought forward by owner communities.

Forbes McIntosh noted that the increase in service charges for 2025 amount to about \$4 million in new revenue for 2025. For reference, the proposed budgets for 2025 are: \$63.6 million for operating, \$44.9 million for capital projects and \$16 million for debt service, totaling \$100.9 million in expenditures.

Nerad noted the lack of federal funding and reduced opportunities for Clean Water Fund loans.

The Executive Council asked MMSD staff to calculate 1) the total dollar amount for the proposed 3 percent wage adjustment and 2) what the average impact to households would be without the proposed new positions.

**10. Future Council Meeting Schedule and Identify Next Meeting Date, Time and Location.**

No discussion.

**11. Other Decision Items to be Considered/Acted Upon by the Executive Council.**

No discussion.

**12. Adjournment.**

Kristin Runge (V. of Waunakee) made a motion to adjourn at 1:09 p.m., seconded by Julia Arata-Fratta (C. of Fitchburg) and approved on a voice vote.

## MINUTES

**Executive Council of  
Cities & Villages Served by Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District  
4 p.m. Monday, July 15, 2024  
Virtual meeting (Zoom)**

### ATTENDANCE

#### Cities:

Fitchburg	
Middleton	Administrator Bryan Gadow
Monona	Mayor Mary O'Connor, Administrator Neil Stechschulte
Verona	Administrator Jamie Aulik

#### Villages:

Cottage Grove	Administrator Matt Giese, Deputy Administrator JJ Larson
Dane	Trustee Roger Schmidt
DeForest	Administrator Bill Chang
Maple Bluff	
McFarland	President Carolyn Clow
Shorewood Hills	
Waunakee	Administrator Todd Schmidt
Windsor	President Bob Wipperfurth

#### Other Attendees:

Forbes McIntosh & Ann Gryphan, Dane County Cities & Villages Association  
Ken Clark, MMSD Commissioner  
Sara Eskrich, MMSD Commissioner  
Christie Baumel, City of Madison Deputy Mayor

### 1. Call to Order/Introductions.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Council Chair Carolyn Clow (V. of McFarland). Nine cities/villages were present, which is a quorum.

### 2. Introductions of the Executive Council Members and Other Attendees.

Carolyn Clow introduced Ken Clark and Sara Eskrich, two of this council's three appointees to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Commission.

### 3. Background/History of the Executive Council.

No discussion.

**4. Approval of the Minutes from Sept. 14, 2023, Sept. 27, 2023, and April 23, 2024.**

Carolyn Clow made a motion to approve the minutes from Sept. 14, 2023, Sept. 27, 2023, and April 23, 2024, seconded by Bob Wipperfurth (V. of Windsor) and approved on a voice vote.

**5. Discussion of Upcoming MMSD Capital Improvement Plan and Annual Budget Process.**

The Council held a general discussion about the relationship between cities/villages served by MMSD and MMSD Commissioners/staff. Bob Wipperfurth (V. of Windsor) said he believes there is a disconnect between the Executive Council and its appointed Commissioners. He and other Council members expressed concern about MMSD service charge rate increases and the owner communities' lack of input into the MMSD annual budget process. Wipperfurth and Neil Stechschulte (C. of Monona) said the public hearing on the capital improvements plan and budget are held late in the budget process when many of the decisions that will dictate the budget have already been made, and they advocated for improved communications to cities/villages earlier in the annual budget process. Carolyn Clow (V. of McFarland) said 9 percent annual service charge rate increases are not sustainable, and she said MMSD should report not only budgeted spending but actual spending and what projects have actually been completed.

Commissioner Ken Clark said trying to prioritize capital improvement projects could possibly help reduce the 9 percent annual increases but also that MMSD would not want to "kick the can down the road" on some projects. Commissioner Sara Eskrich agreed that MMSD could do a better job at reporting if or how they hit their project milestones. She also supported different tiers of budget reviews: a technical review (public works staff) and a financial review (elected officials/administrators) and improving its performance metric reporting.

The Council and Commissioners also discussed managing expectations and whether future rate increases could go above and beyond the forecast 8-9 percent, specifically with the Clean Water Fund issue and related higher bonding / borrowing costs.

Bill Chang (V. of DeForest) asked the Commissioners whether MMSD staff could provide cities/villages with a one-pager or informational documents that could be shared with ratepayers to succinctly explain their MMSD service charge fees and how those funds are being spent. Ken Clark and Sara Eskrich agreed that could be provided.

**6. Discussion of MMSD Process for Hiring a New MMSD Executive Director.**

No discussion.

**7. Nominations Open for Appointment to MMSD Commission Seat/Discussion.**

This council has one seat up for reappointment to the MMSD Commission this fall, that of Sara Eskrich. Forbes McIntosh said Eskrich is willing to be considered for reappointment. Chief elected officials who wish to make other nominations for consideration should send their nominations to Forbes McIntosh via email by Sept. 6, 2024.

**8. Future Council Meeting Schedule and Identify Next Meeting Date, Time and Location/Discussion.**

MMSD will hold an owner community meeting on August 13, and all officials from city/village owner communities are invited to attend.

The next meeting of the Executive Council of Cities and Villages Served by MMSD will be held sometime after August 13, to be determined.

**9. Other Decision Items to be Considered/Acted Upon by the Executive Council.**

None.

**10. Adjournment.**

Mary O'Connor (C. of Monona) made a motion to adjourn at 4:50 p.m., seconded by Jamie Aulik (C. of Verona) and approved on a voice vote.