Madison Water Utility

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MEMORANDUM

Date: July 21, 2026

To: Mayor Satya-Rhodes Conway

City of Madison Common Council

City of Madison Finance Committee

City of Madison Water Utility Board

From: Jody Berndt, Community Outreach Specialist

Marcus Pearson, Public Information Officer
January Vang, Interim General Manager

Subject: Authorizing the City of Madison to accept, if awarded, a private grant of up to $10,000 from the Alliant Energy Foundation, and authorizing the Water Utility General Manager to enter into a grant agreement and sign related document(s) authorizing acceptance of the grant and the transfer of funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending acceptance of an Alliant Energy Foundation grant, if awarded, for up to $10,000 for fabrication and buildout of the Madison Water Utility Water on Wheels (WU-WOW) mobile educational outreach vehicle.

BACKGROUND

Madison Water Utility (MWU) is seeking support to create the WU-WOW, an interactive mobile education center that will bring hands-on water science, conservation, and workforce education directly into neighborhoods, schools, community centers, and public events throughout Madison.

Developed in partnership with the Madison Children's Museum, the WU-WOW will transform a utility box truck into a traveling learning laboratory featuring interactive exhibits, tap water access, and educational experiences focused on groundwater protection, drinking water quality, conservation, and careers in the water industry.

The Madison Children’s Museum has estimated costs of fabrication from the interior buildout of the WU-WOW to be no greater than $31,800. MWU has written a private grant request to the

Alliant Energy Foundation for $10,000 to help offset these costs. The grant decision is scheduled to be announced by 8/15/2026.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City of Madison Water Utility 2026 Capital Budget will be amended to appropriate the grant revenue and expenses for fabrication and buildout of the WU-WOW to up to $10,000.

LEGISLATIVE PATH

7/21/26 – Common Council (Introduction)
7/27/26 – Finance Committee
7/28/26 – Water Utility Board
8/04/26 – Common Council (Final Approval)