

**Minnesota Waste Operator Association**  
**Central Section Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12, 2006**

The central section of the Minnesota Waste Operator Association held their fall of 2006 meeting in the Isanti Fire Hall on September 12, 2006. The group was welcomed the mayor of Isanti, Dave Apitz. He spoke about the challenges facing the public works department with rapid expansion due to urban sprawl. Last year the city issued about 200 building permits.

Ron Sager, Isanti Police Chief, gave a presentation on the impact of illegal drugs on the waste treatment employees. Like many communities, meth has rapidly become a huge issue for the law enforcement officials. Sgt. Sager gave the group some things to look for to identify meth operations including strange smells, a lot of cold pills, coffee filters, tin foil, glass tubes, curtains pulled, and psychotic people. He also stated the cocaine in becoming more "normal" again.

Jim Miller from Bonestro ran a video tape on confined space to fill in for presenter that was a no-show. The video reiterated the definition of confined space, what is permitted and non-permitted areas, and the roles of the operators. Knowledge is the most important factor in confined space entry.

After a short break, Debra Barringer RN from Isanti County Public Health Services Department gave a power point presentation on various hepatitis strains and how it relates to waste water operators. She also gave an abbreviated presentation on avian and pandemic influenza.

Jim Johnson from MacQueen Equipment showed the group some of the new types of jetter nozzles. He also demonstrated a new DVD video camera for sewer lines.

After lunch, Rick Wanner from American Flow Control demonstrated the proper way of repairing a fire hydrant.

The business meeting was called to order by out-going chair Glen Bauer at 1:45. The minutes from the June 13, 2006 were read by secretary, Brian Mehr. Ken Bakke, Cokato, made a motion s/Steve Daniels, St. Cloud, to approve the minutes as read. Chairperson Bauer asked for nominations for the new secretary of the central section. Dan Zarembinski, Chisago City, was nominated by Clay Watson, Gold'n Plump. No other nominations. John McCluth, Tech Sales, made a motion s/Ron Mergen, Paynesville, to approve Dan as the new secretary. Chairperson Bauer asked to group for volunteers to host up-coming meetings. St. Cloud Tech College will host the December meeting, Ron Mergen offered Paynesville for the April meeting if no others stepped forward, and Pine River would be willing to host the June of 2007 meeting. Jim Miller, Bonestro, suggested that the hosting city may want to contact Keith Redmond from MWOA Educational Committee for potential topics. Clay Watson, District Advisor, gave the group an up-date on the Annual Meeting held in Grand Rapids. He stated that Tanya Schmidt, Cold Spring, won the Class C Operator of the Year and Clay Watson, Gold'n Plump, won Class A Operator of the Year from the central section. He then presented all

the nominations from the central section an award certificate. On the executive committee, Pat Meyer, Isanti, was elected as Vice President and Colleen Thompson, Willmar, was elected Trustee. Clay Watson gave the group an up-date on the next annual meeting to be held in Willmar in July of 2007. They are currently working on the technical program with many of the arrangements for the recreational and social programs already in place. Jim Miller told the group that the annual meeting was profitable and we are no longer going to be conducting a raffle to fund the MWOA library because the MWOA does not have a gambling license. He informed us about the upcoming events including the board meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud and the joint collection system training with WEF on October 18<sup>th</sup> in Mankato. With no other business, Pat Meyer made a motion s/Ken Bakke to adjourn the meeting at 2:05.

Respectfully Submitted  
Brian Mehr  
Central Section Secretary