

Minutes  
4/8/08 - MWOA Central Section Meeting  
Cold Spring

8:30 - Welcome by host Paul Hoeschen, Public Works Director at Cold Spring; followed by a presentation from Larry Lahr, Cold Spring City Administrator. Mr. Lahr presented Cold Spring's water and sewer survey. They first established a better definition of ongoing expenses and potential future funding requirements. Then possible rate structures were studied with specific costs to different customers being highlighted. The better definition of current and future needs was presented to the City Council along with rate options. Armed with all this information, the Council was able to reach consensus on a rate plan.

9:00 – Don Adams from Stearns County Environmental spoke about failed septic systems. After addressing regulation, inspection and enforcement; Don talked about options for failed systems including replacement, combined cluster systems, formation of subordinate service districts with cooperative cities or hookup to municipal service

9:45 Networking Break

10:00 – Ben Ruley of Bonestroo Engineering presented information about GIS mapping in Cold Spring. Information available includes sewer and manhole locations, well-head locations and more.

10:25 – Harold Desautel of Preferred Controls talked about SCADA system trends. Today's SCADA systems are moving to PC based dialers, more distinction in alarms, cell phone access and internet access.

11:00 – Jeff Dale from MN Rural Water presented information about the new MNWARN mutual aid system. The MNWARN system was set up in response to the SE Minnesota floods. The system provides cities help in the event of a disaster. The MPCA duty officer is authorized declare a disaster for the purposes of mutual aid, FEMA will recognize a disaster declared in this way and will reimburse all expenses. There are no fees to be a member and there is no obligation to respond. Thirteen cities are already members.

11:35 – Les Lange from Agro Tech Labs talked about supernatant treatment. He explained how Wilmer deals with digester space shortage, improves volatiles reduction and increases percentage solids.

12:00 - Lunch on-site at the Blue Heron Supper Club

1:00 – Central Section Business Meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Hoeschen.

-Minutes from 12/11/07 meeting read, motion and second to approve as read, passed on a voice vote.

- Director's Report (Brian Mehr)
    - Financial Report
    - Report on Executive Board Meeting in Mankato
      - Focus will be on growing membership and in attracting water operators new to the field
      - The SE section will contribute \$600 to toward the purchase of a new laptop computer
    - 5.5 hours will be awarded to today's meeting.
  - Jim Miller updated those in attendance about the Annual Conference.
- No Old Business
- New Business
- Scott Gilbertson announced a certification update meeting on June 2 at the Snelling Office Building (on Energy Park Drive).
  - Motion and second to close business meeting passed on a voice vote.

1:25 – Mark Oberhelman from Hawkins Chemical spoke to the group about bioaugmentation. He described the use of bacteria to address issues such as grease, odor, filamentous organisms and ammonia.

2:00 – Networking Break

2:15 – Tony Strande and Brian Mehr described how membrane technology is used in wastewater treatment. Membranes are an activated sludge process with a small footprint, having a Mixed Liquor around 10,000 mg / L. (“noodles” were provided as a “visual aid”)

2:45 – Paul Hoeschen described the effects beer brewing has on Wastewater treatment in Cold Spring.

At 3:00 the meeting was adjourned to be reconvened the Cold Spring Brewery (recently known as Gluek Brewing”) for a tour of both the pretreatment facility and of the hospitality room.