

MINNESOTA WASTEWATER OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

CENTRAL SECTION MEETING

DECEMBER 11, 2001

ST. CLOUD TECHNICAL COLLEGE

ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

The December 11, 2001 MWOA Central Section meeting was held in St. Cloud at the St. Cloud Technical College conference center. There were 84 in attendance for the meeting. Bill Spain, instructor in the Water Environment Technologies Program, welcomed us to the college and meeting. Bill thanked everyone for attending and participating in the largest ever section meeting at SCTC. Bill also announced that 15 students will be graduating this semester and anyone looking to fill a position may want to encourage students to apply as they are being rapidly employed due to the high demand for trained operators.

The first speaker of the day was Ryan Brandt of North American Wetlands Engineering. Ryan spoke to the group about constructed wetlands and how they work. The constructed wetlands consist of a PVC liner, gravel, airlines, peat and aquatic plants. The wetlands are odor free and do not freeze in the winter months. The typical life of the systems is for 20 years.

Gerry Kaeter, past president of the operator certification council, was the second speaker of the day. Gerry discussed the role of the certification council and how and why it was formed. The council advises on what should be a part of certification, education and coursework for a certificate.

Mike Clemens from Hawkins was the next speaker and talked about the maintenance required on chlorine feed systems. Mike emphasized checking the injectors first when experiencing chlorine feeding problems. Mile also stated the need to be routinely changing the feed lines and seals of the chlorine equipment on a regular basis.

Kathy McMillan, of DPC industries, followed with her talk on Chlorine safety covering everything from the characteristics of chlorine to safety equipment required when handling chlorine. She described how chlorine is shipped and what to look for upon receipt of the cylinders and ton containers.

Joel Schmidt, from Bonestroo, Rosene and Anderlik, spoke on the sludge removal from the Albany Pond System. Albany is a 4-cell pond system. The project removed approximately 35,000,000 pounds of sludge from the pond using an auger, dredge, and piping to the fields.

Susan Wyatt, from the MDH was the last speaker of the morning session. Susan's talk was on the Laboratory certification and inspections. She discussed how the certification process is evaluated through performance evaluation studies, standard operating procedures, quality assurance plans, completed application and fees paid, and previous audit findings.

Following the Italian Buffet lunch (Yummy!), Joel Jasmer of the City of Nisswa, gave his talk on the spray irrigation of the golf course using their plant effluent. The Grand View Resort uses the City's WWTF effluent to irrigate their course using up to 38 million gallons per year over 42 acres of the golf course. Due to the potential for human contact, the water being used to irrigate the golf course must meet stringent standards set by the MPCA.

Our last speaker of the day was Terry Schirro from Vessco. Terry's talk was on ATAD systems (Autothermal Thermophilic Aerobic Digestion). Terry discussed the effectiveness of this type of digestion

for biosolids to be land applied. Terry discussed how this process works and stated where in Minnesota these systems are currently being utilized.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Tanya Schmidt called the business meeting of the Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association Central Section to order at 2:10 pm at the St. Cloud Technical College. The minutes of the last meeting were read. Jim Miller made a correction to the minutes of the last meeting in regards to mesh reflective vests no longer being allowed after January 2002, the minutes had stated 2001. The correction was duly noted and corrected. Dennis McKenzie motion to approve the rest of the minutes and Hershel Blazing seconded the motion.

Old business:

None

New Business:

President of the state of Minnesota MWOA, Ron Hagemeyer was in attendance and gave an update of the upcoming 2002 annual MWOA conference. The conference was initially going to be held in Owatonna at the Holiday Inn, however, due to unexpected problems with the Holiday Inn it was decided to move the meeting location to Treasure Island Casino in Red Wing. Ron stated that they have been very cooperative and accommodating and will give us good pricing on hotel accommodations. Ron also stated that there will be a Biosolids training session at the conference as well as another exam refresher session as held last year, maybe including training for higher level licensing. Ron also took time to thank all our guest speakers for the day at the Central Section Meeting.

Jim Miller gave an update referring to dues renewal. Jim clarified what the numbering and letters on the envelope that members of the MWOA receive in the mail. As an example: CP013 would mean that the membership is corporate (CP) year due is 2001 (01) and the years of service is three (3). Jim stated that much of the information that operators may need could be found on the MWOA web site at www.mwoa.net Jim informed us that the MWOA board has authorized adjustments to the Wastewater by our editor Dan Johnson. We look forward to seeing the changes in the upcoming issues. The innovative Approaches to Wastewater operator problems seminar, held in St. Cloud, on February 26, 2002 will feature Mr. Walleye - Gary Roach, as the keynote speaker. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

President Schmidt stated we needed to vote for operator of the year candidates to represent the Central Section for the state awards. The nominating committee presented a list of candidates to the membership. President Schmidt then asked for nominations from the floor. Following the 3rd call for nominations from the floor, Hershel Blazing motioned to closed nominations and Dennis McKenzie seconded the motion. President Schmidt closed nominations. The following list is the nominees from the Central Section:

2001 – central section nomination list, Operations Awards

Class A

_____ John Forsell, Becker
_____ Dave Simmons, Litchfield
_____ Charlie Gammon, Big Lake

Class "B"

_____ Doug Guse, Green Lake Sanitary District

_____ Harold McAloney, St. Michael

_____ Ron Mergen, Paynesville

Class "C"

_____ Brett Twardy, Pequot Lakes

_____ Joel Jasmer, Nisswa

_____ Nate Reed, Green Lake SD

_____ Ann Anderson, Becker

Class "D"

_____ Randy Czech, Hutchinson

_____ Brent Neisinger, Kimbal

Maintenance

_____ Jim Otremba, Litchfield

_____ Dan Spieker, Long Prairie

_____ Dave Robasse, Buffalo

Collections

_____ Jim Marthaler, St. Joseph

_____ Craig Nelson, Sauk Rapids

_____ Ray Larson, Alexandria

Lab

- _____ Jim Werder, Willmar
- _____ Tracy Hodel , St. Cloud
- _____ Bill Nygaard, Litchfield

Rookie

- _____ Joeseph Kolgraph, Mora
- _____ Toby Koltes, Cold Spring

Special Recognition

The winners of the central Section MWOA Operator of the Year Awards are:

Class “A” – John Forsell from the City of Becker

Class “B” – Ron Mergen from the City of Paynesville

Class “C” - Joel Jasmer from the City of Nisswa

Class “D” – Randy Czech from the City of Hutchinson

Maintenance – Dave Robasse from the City of Buffalo

Collections – Jim Marthaler from the City of St. Joseph

Laboratory – Tracy Hodel from the City of St. Cloud

Rookie of the Year – Toby Koltes from the City of Cold Spring

Congratulations to all our section winners and good luck at the state level. All winners will be receiving further instructions in the near future as how to proceed. A motion was made and seconded to destroy all ballots, the motion passed unanimously.

Brett Twardy of Pequot Lakes volunteered to host the April meeting of the Central Section of the MWOA. The meetings are held the 2nd Tuesdays of the month. We are still looking for another host for the June meeting. Since the meeting was held in St. Cloud on December 14th, Elk River has volunteered to host the June meeting. Look to the MWOA web page for further updates.

President Schmidt pointed out that the section meetings are worth 4 relicensure hours and not six as stated on the certificates handed out at the meeting.

Tim Hagemeyer motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bill Spain seconded the motion. President Schmidt closed the meeting at 3:48 pm.