

Minutes for Central Section Meeting

The winter MWOA Central Section meeting was held in Little Falls on 12/09/14. There were 27 registered attendees. The training agenda included a welcoming message from Greg Kimmon, Public Works Director, followed by Dwayne Heinen, Assistant Superintendent of the Water Plant, talking about what the impacts of the water supply are to the waste treatment facility in Little Falls. In addition, Jim Kuebelbeck from Kuebelbeck Dowsing talked about locating potential water supply wells while utilizing a non-typical dowsing service approach with great success.

Steve Green from WW Goetsch spoke about the impact that rags make with clogging standard designed lift station pump impellers. He is promoting vortex styled pumps in problematic areas. The downside to this style of pumps is they are less efficient.

Craig Shafer from MPCA followed with an excellent presentation about Emergency Response and By-Pass reporting. He encouraged operators to utilize the Duty Officer to help obtain the necessary resources to combat emergencies including MN WARN.

The business meeting was held after lunch and it was called to order at 1:00 by Brian Mehr, Director, due to the absence of Chairperson, Corey Franek and Secretary, Chad Johnson. The previous meeting's minutes were read. Motion was made by Herschel Blasing seconded by Matt Achmann and approved. Mehr's Director's Report included stating the Executive Board held their meeting in St Cloud on December 3rd. The board approved their budget for 2015, the Lab Committee Chair, Erin McMahon presented their recommendation of hosting just one event in St Cloud Annually instead of two events as was done in the past (St Peter and Grand Rapids). The board suggested they offer abbreviated sessions in Grand Rapids at the MWOA Annual Conference and in Brooklyn Park at the MPCA Annual Conference. Erin seemed to be agreeable, but she would bring it back to their committee. In addition, the Executive Board discussed the changes to the Annual Conference including eliminating the entertainment after the banquet and adding an "Ops Challenge" event.

Old business: none

New Business: Director Mehr called for nominations for the various operator awards categories. The nominations will be accepted until the April Meeting where they will be voted on at that time. Also, candidates for the Section Secretary position will be voted on at that time. The membership committee chair, Del Haag, was not present but all members were reminded of the contest going on with the person having the largest number of sponsored memberships winning an android tablet.

After the Business meeting, a presentation was given by Steven Nyhus from Flaherty and Hood representing MESERB. Steven presented up-dates of the changes happening in the regulated community in regards to the river nutrient standards, and the pending standards for nitrogen, chlorides, and sulfates. He also spoke about changes with the variance process, and WQBEL's. Steve commented that there are many changes going on right now and it is important to understand these changes and get involved.

There was a motion by Matt Achmann and second by Herschel Blasing to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Mehr, Director-Central Section