

CENTRAL SECTION MEETING

APRIL 9, 2002

CITY OF PEQUOT LAKES, CITY HALL

The Central Section of the Minnesota Wastewater Operators held their first quarter meeting of 2002 at Pequot Lakes on April 9th. There were 36 in attendance for the meeting. Brett Twardy, Operator for the City of Pequot Lakes provided the agenda for the meeting. Wasting no time, the meeting began with the first speaker of the day.

Mr. Dave Braun, Braun Pump and Controls, was the first speaker. Dave provided those in attendance with a brief review of his career and credentials relating to lift station maintenance. Braun Company has been in service since 1993. Dave began his talk with an overview of what an annual inspection should consist of on lift stations. This included seals, impellers, wearing failures, relays and capacitors, Bearings, abnormal noises, megger checks, moisture intrusion, fuses, H/O/A controls, single and 3 phase systems, amp draws, float switches and level sensors to name a few. Dave also covered, in detail, all the components in a wet well and how to maintain and keep the lift station running reliably. It was emphasized that stainless steel should be used whenever possible due to the highly corrosive nature of the wastewater. All components were reviewed and a few pointers were given on particular problems that arise with various pumps used in lift stations. Dave discussed what makes a pump intrinsically safe and also pointed out that anytime an intrinsically safe casting is damaged, it must be discarded and replaced with a new one to retain the intrinsically safe rating. Check valves, hour-meters, back flushing (or why not to do this), and pump curves were also reviewed. Given the time allotted, Dave did an excellent job of overviewing what an operator needs to do to keep a lift station in good, reliable running order.

Following Dave, Tim Polipnick of Breezy Point gave a talk on budgeting, how and why operators should have an active role in any community when budget time rolls around. Tim's advice was to think of running a city like a business. Even though Cities are a non-profit organization, we still need to break even in the end. A suggestion was to try and finance project yourself when you can. This requires preplanning and the main message provided by Tim was to plan for the future and the long haul. Tim provided an example of a budget used by himself with the City of Breezy Point. All expenses and sources of income are laid out as close as possible and when the next years budget comes around, Tim is able to use the previous year to estimate the next years budget. This information is also used to set sewer rates for the City on an annual basis. Tim pointed out how successful he has been in the past with his budgeting method and is currently assisting Brett and the City of Pequot Lakes with budgeting procedures.

Our 3rd and last topic of the morning session was provided by Bill Spain, from the St. Cloud Technical College. Bill distributed a basic level exam consisting of 25 multiple-choice questions. All in attendance were given 20 minutes to complete the quiz and then dismissed for lunch.

Following Lunch, Linda Brooks of the MPCA information management unit, discussed the requirements of completing a discharge monitoring report including preprints and supplemental forms. Linda pointed out some common errors made in submitting these reports and what to watch for when completing the forms for submission. Linda provided all in attendance with a power point presentation covering her topic and highlighted her main points and encouraged operators to take more care when preparing the forms for submission to the MPCA. It was pointed out that the reports are required to be post marked by the 21st day following the reporting period. Operators should consult their NPDES permit as to what is required by their facility for reporting purposes and if you do not know where the permit is, you should spend a little extra time looking for your permit when you get back to your facility.

Following Linda, as the last topic of the day, Bill Spain reviewed the tests taken earlier in the morning. Unfortunately and to the dismay of many, NOBODY, got all 25 questions right. As a matter of fact, the highest grade was 2 wrong, and Rich Summerville received a flashlight for being the “brightest bulb of the bunch”. Congratulations Rich, you must have had a good instructor.

BUSINESS MEETING

Due to the SCTC student bus leaving early, door prizes were drawn before the meeting. A hint

To the early winners of the drawing: A \$30.00 shirt has more value than a 5-dollar bill!!!

President Tanya Schmidt called the business meeting of the Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association, Central Section, to order at 2:15 PM at the Pequot Lakes City Hall. The minutes of the last meeting were read. Pat Meyer motion to approve the minutes and Ron Hagemeyer Seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Director of the Central Section MWOA, Pat Meyer, gave an update of what is happening at the state level of the MWOA with a briefing on the annual meeting to be held in July. Pat also inquired on the status of the nominees from the December meeting and reminded us that the information forms are due soon to the MPCA. Ron Hagemeyer, Jim Miller and Pat also encouraged operators to submit articles, pictures, projects or anything else of interest to the Wastewatcher and web page for publication. Ron also stated that Jorjia will likely be writing an article or column on Biosolids for the Wastewatcher. Ron also remind us that the Annual conference will be held the last full week in July. Jim Miller provided an update on the spouses social program and is trying to figure a way he can attend those sessions during the conference. They are waiting to hear about a picnic at the marina. There will be a social program involving a 3-hour riverboat ride and a historic tour of downtown Red Wing on Thursday. We also were told that the 2003 Annual conference will be held in Moorhead at the new Marriott scheduled to open

around Christmas of 2002. Sounds like we are off to a good start already for the 2003 conference. Jim also stated we have about 90 people with outstanding dues, he will be sending out letters soon on the delinquency and will drop those members that do not respond to the notice.

The Central Section MWOA secretary/treasurer position became available as of the end of the April 2002 meeting. Brian Mehr, a current student and employee of the City of Cold Spring volunteered to fill the position. With no opposition from the membership present and the lack of interest by any other members for the position, Pat Meyer made the motion to close the position for secretary/treasurer; Ted Strand seconded the motion. The motion passed and the membership voted unanimously to make Brian our next secretary treasurer. Thank You Brian and good luck over the next year.

Keith Redmond gave the membership an update on the WETT Program at SCTC and the extension program at Eden Prairie and blue Lake WWTF. Everything is on track and looking good. The Program is full for the fall semester in St. Cloud and filling fast for the metro section. Keith also gave an update on the student club and their activities for the first year in existence. The students are doing a great job of being involved and getting the WAMM club on its feet.

Locations of the next meetings were discussed. Unfortunately, Elk River had to back out of the June meeting due to scheduling conflicts with the meeting site. The Bemidji MPCA location was offered by staff of the MPCA provided they can schedule a room. They will let us know soon as to the availability of that location for the June meeting. Stay posted for further information on the site for the June meeting. Pat Meyer, tentatively, offered to host the September meeting and will get back to us as well. It is his hope that their expansion project will be completed by that date.

Brett Twardy motioned to adjourn the business meeting at 3:00PM and Randy Ramsdell seconded the motion, Hearing nothing to the contrary, President Schmidt closed the meeting.

Because we elected a new secretary/treasurer and based on the bylaws of the MWOA, Keith Redmond will assume the chair position of the Central Section and relinquish his position of secretary/treasurer to Brian Mehr. I would like to thank Tanya and her processors for their dedication to the MWOA over the past several years as they have served consecutive terms due to a lack of interest of the membership for the positions. Tanya has been a great help to me personally over the past year as secretary/treasurer and I appreciate her patience and understanding for my lack of experience with this position. I can only hope I will be able to uphold the standards and expectations of the membership as demonstrated by Tanya over her past years of service to this organization. Thank You Tanya, you deserve a break from me and the duties you have been held to. You did a great job!!

Respectfully submitted, Keith Redmond, Secretary, MWOA Central Section