

MWOA Metro/Suburban Section Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2002
Woodbury City Hall – Meeting Room B
Woodbury, MN

Morning Technical Sessions

The April 2002 meeting was held at the Woodbury City Hall, Woodbury, MN. Ken Kuchera, Metro/Suburban Section Director welcomed the group of 36 to the meeting and gave an overview of the days agenda. Ken then introduced the first technical presenter of the meeting, Tom Ozzello, City of Woodbury Utilities Supervisor. Tom provided the group with an overview of the growth and development that Woodbury has experienced over the last 20 years. Growth has been hot in the City of Woodbury and some would say too hot. Consequently the city has adopted a 600 unit per year cap on new housing development. That is a substantial decrease from the highs of close to 1,700 units per year. Tom also explained the deep tunnel projects that are presently under construction. These large interceptor lines will convey the sewage to MCES treatment plants from the areas yet to be developed. Tom's discussion of these subjects was very informative and lead to a lot of interactive discussion with the group

The second presenter of the morning technical program was Jefferey Brockmann. Jeffery is an Attorney at Law with the League of Minnesota Cities. Jeffery spoke on the legal implications and liabilities with back ups on sanitary sewer lines. It was quite clear that in addition to the need to maintain your cities sewer lines you need to maintain those maintenance and inspection records at least six years. Record keeping is very important in defending a sewer back up lawsuit and the only way to prove that your utility exercised reasonable care. The city is only liable for sewer backups if plaintiffs' prove that the city was negligent in the design, construction, inspection or maintenance of the city's sanitary sewer systems.

The third speaker of the morning was Dianne Navratil of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Dianne gave the group an overview of the operator certification and certificate renewal criteria.

Business Meeting

- Chairman Randy Poore called the business meeting of the Metro/Suburban Section to order.
- Secretary Joel Schmidt skipped the reading of the February 13, 2002 meeting minutes deferring the group to review the minutes as published in the MWOA Wastewatcher and as posted on the MWOA Web Site, MWOA.net. A motion was made by Richard Kraft that the minutes be approved. Mark Pavlick seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

- Chairman Randy Poore opened the awards nominations.

Award nominations are as follows:

Randy Poore nominated Ken Kuchera for the Class A Award

Joel Schmidt nominated Gary Indrehus for the Class B Award

Greg Seeman nominated Jerry Neagbour for the Collections Award

Bob Cockriel nominated Leon Doucette for the Maintenance Award

Steve Wareham nominated Tim Fox for the Rookie of the Year Award

Jay Sockness nominated Joel Schmidt for the Special Recognition Award.

Ken Novak nominated Harry Richter for the Special Recognition Award

Eric Schoon nominated Mary Sifferath for the Special Recognition Award

Randy Poore made a motion that the awards nominations be closed and that the individuals be selected as the MWOA Metro/Suburban Section award recipients, in addition to being forwarded to the statewide awards competition. The motion was seconded by Pat Conrad and approved unanimously.

- Chairman Randy Poore opened the officer elections nominations. The positions of Metro/Suburban Secretary & Chairman were open for election. No nominations from the floor were brought forward.

A motion was made by Tim Miller that Randy Poore be re-elected as Section Chairman. The motion was seconded by Richard Kraft and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ken Kuchera that Joel Schmidt be re-elected as Section Secretary. The motion was seconded by Richard Kraft and passed unanimously.

- Director Kuchera called on Jim Miller to provide the group with an update on the Annual Conference to be held in Red Wing July 23 through July 26th.
- A Motion was made by Mark Pavlick to adjourn. Richard Kraft seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Afternoon Technical Sessions

The first afternoon speaker was Roger Rehbein of Metropolitan Council of Environmental Services (MCES). Roger gave an in depth presentation on the

considerations and mechanics of implementing security measures at the workplace.
Major areas that Roger touched on were as follows:

1. What has changed since 9/11?
2. Threat/Vulnerability/Risk Assessments.
3. What can you do now?
4. Grants/Assistance from Federal/State Sources.

The second and last afternoon speaker was Andy Martin of Pipe Services Corporation. Andy has been a section supporter for years and always answers the call when asked to present. Andy reviewed the checklist of items that need to be incorporated into a maintenance program for Large Diameter Sewers (LDS).

The last agenda item of the day was touring the Woodbury Utilities Services Building. Charlie Swanson graciously showed the group around the utilities.

The group extends a sincere THANK YOU to the Woodbury folks for hosting and making this meeting a big success. Thanks again!

Respectfully Submitted

Joel W. Schmidt – MWOA Metro/Suburban Section Secretary