

MWOA Metro/Suburban Section Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2001

Bloomington Fire Station Number 1

Morning Technical Sessions

The April 25, 2001 meeting was held at the City of Bloomington Fire Station Number One Facility. Ken Kuchera, MWOA Metro/Suburban Section Director welcomed the group of 15 to the meeting. Ken gave an overview of the days meeting agenda. Ken explained that there were changes in the afternoon technical sessions due to Bill Voegler being unable to make the meeting. However Ray Anderson of General Repair was able to have the sessions covered with presentations on mechanical seals and metalization.

The first technical speaker of the morning was Les Lange with the City of Willmar, MN. Les presented on the operational strategies implemented to control growth on the Trickling Filter and the chronology of events that led to the ultimate collapse of the media in the Trickling Filter. Les continued his presentation with the design changes that were incorporated in the replacement of the media and the retrofit of a Motor Actuated Rotary Distributor (MARD) from a Gravity Actuated Rotary Distributor (GARD). The session was very informative and provided the group with some ideas for upgrading Trickling Filters and optimizing the control by varying the dosing rates.

The second technical speaker of the morning was Terry Neuman with the City of Bloomington. Terry presented on the use of GIS for collection systems management. Terry gave a very informative presentation of the GIS Small World System that the City of Bloomington is implementing into their Utility. The possibilities of this system seem almost limit less for utility management. Presently Terry is undertaking an initiative which will separate the city into "districts", these districts will have sub map directories which in theory can be accessed in the field through wireless technology and a lab top computer. The maintenance staff will be able to access the utility locations, such as curb stops, manholes, water main valves, etc., and conduct the maintenance on the appurtenance. Upon completing the maintenance, staff would then open a sub directory for the particular utility and edit in information. This will provide a permanent record of the respective utility. This session was quite interesting and Terry fielded many questions.

The third technical presentation of the morning was Jeff Keljik, New Programs Director, of Dunwoody Institute. Jeff presented on electrical safety in the work place. Jeff's presentation followed along OSHA guidelines and the training program that he has helped Met Council of Environmental Services implement at their wastewater treatment facilities and pumping stations. The information was a good reminder of how critical it is to follow proper safety procedures when working on or around electrical equipment.

Business Meeting

The business meeting of the Metro/Suburban Section was called to order by Chairman Randy Poore.

The February 14, 2001 meeting minutes were read by Secretary Joel Schmidt. A motion was made by Randy Poore that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Bryan Backes and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairman Poore discussed meeting locations and agenda goals. It was agreed that Chairman Poore would contact Zigler Power Systems to host the October 2001 section meeting. Tentatively Anoka has been selected as the February 2002 meeting location. The group was solicited to submit discussion topics for upcoming meetings. The time frame for getting out the meeting agendas was reviewed by Secretary Schmidt. A recap of the time frames are as follows:

1. February Meeting – Secretary, Director & Chairman formally adopt meeting date/agenda by the end of December. Secretary sends completed agenda to MWOA Secretary/Treasurer for print and mailing 1 1/2 months prior to the February meeting date.
2. April Meeting – Secretary, Director & Chairman formally adopt meeting date/agenda by the end of February. Secretary sends completed agenda to MWOA Secretary/Treasurer for print and mailing 1 1/2 months prior to the April meeting date.
3. October Meeting – Secretary, Director & Chairman formally adopt meeting date/agenda by the end of August. Secretary sends completed agenda to MWOA Secretary/Treasurer for print and mailing 1 1/2 months prior to the October meeting date.

Chairman Poore discussed Operations Awards. Nominations were accepted as follows:

Class A – Ken Kuchera, MCES Empire Plant

Class B – Gary Indrehus, MCES Empire Plant

Class B – Richard Kraft – MCES Stillwater Plant

Class C – Bryan Backes, St Francis Plant

Collection Systems – Pat Gordon, City of Apple Valley

An election was held for the Class B Award. Richard Kraft of the MCES Stillwater Plant was the successful candidate.

Chairman Poore will now submit to Steve Duerre the successful candidates of the awards for consideration in the overall state MWOA Operator Awards. The ultimate winners of the state level awards will be announced at the MWOA Annual Conference Banquet to be held July 26, 2001 at the Kelly Inn in St Cloud.

Director Kuchera provided the group with a report on MWOA Executive Board activities and initiatives.

Director Kuchera explained that the MPCA and the MWOA are looking at a cooperative initiative to have the MWOA deliver training for Bio-Solids management. It appears that possibly by 2003 the MPCA would be dropping its training for Bio-Solids management. These discussions are ongoing and ultimate decisions are yet to be made.

Director Kuchera explained that the Wastewatcher Editors... Kurt and Renee Bertilson have resigned as editors. Kurt and Renee however will continue working with the new Editor... Dan Johnson during the transition to ensure that The Wastewatcher publication continues to be delivered to the membership in the quality fashion that has been the norm. The MWOA Executive Board recently appointed Dan Johnson to the Editor position. Director Kuchera asked Secretary Schmidt to draft a letter of appreciation from the Metro/Suburban Section to be sent to Kurt and Renee expressing the sections thanks and appreciation for their dedicated efforts while serving as editors.

Officer Elections:

The positions of Metro/Suburban Section 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 reelected as Section Chairman. Bryan Backes seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bryan Backes that Joel Schmidt be reelected as Section Secretary. Kathy McMillan seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Randy Poore to adjourn the meeting. Bryan Backes seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Afternoon Technical Sessions

The first afternoon speaker was Ray Griner of General Repair Service. Ray gave an in depth presentation on the considerations for replacement of mechanical seals on pumping systems. The different product lines were reviewed along with the benefits/disadvantages of the various types. The presentation included video of actual seal replacements

The second afternoon speaker was Joe Anco of General Repair Service. Joe presented on the metalizing possibilities for the rebuilding of pumping components. One big advantage of this alternative versus the conventional new part replacement alternative is turn around or down time. Often many of these components are not shelf items and OEM parts can often take weeks if not months to be obtained. With the full machine shop and metalizing capabilities at General Repair, custom metalizing of components to the customers needs is priority one. The presentation was very interesting and Joe fielded many questions.

Respectfully Submitted

Joel W. Schmidt – MWOA Metro/Suburban Section Secretary