

MWOA Metro/Suburban Section Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2001

MCES "Pigs Eye" Metro Plant

Morning Technical Sessions

The February 14, 2001 meeting was held at the MCES Pigs Eye Metro Wastewater Treatment Facility. Lisa Thompson of the Met Council of Environmental Services welcomed the group of 40 to the meeting and gave an overview of the Metro Plant. Lisa extended a welcoming hand to the group and we thank Lisa and the MCES for the hospitality and providing the meeting facilities.

The first technical speaker of the morning was Dan Johnson of Northern Dewatering. Dan felt at home with the group of 40 commenting that it was like old times when he started out training operators at the metro plant years ago on the operation and maintenance of pumps. Dan presented to the group on Emergency by-pass Pumping. Dan conveyed necessary information such as flow rates expected and depths of manholes to be considered in implementing a contingency by-pass pumping plan. Many case histories we reviewed and the session ended with a video on some of the by-pass pumping projects that Northern has been contracted with to complete. This was a very informative session with many technical questions fielded by Dan.

The second speaker was MWOA President Randy Stetler. President Stetler brought the group up to date on some MWOA initiatives. In particular, the new committee appointed to working with the other training extensions such as the MN Rural Water Association, MPCA and CSWEA. President Stetler pointed out that with cut backs on training from the MPCA a coordinated approach to meeting the operator training needs must be given top priority by the MWOA Executive Board. MWOA Secretary/Treasurer Jim Miller was present and elaborated further on this subject. President Stetler then discussed the upcoming MWOA annual conference, which will be held at the Kelly Inn at St. Cloud on July 24, 2001 through July 27, 2001.

Business Meeting

After President Stetler spoke the business meeting of the Metro/Suburban Section was called to order by Chairman Randy Poore.

The September 27, 2000 meeting minutes were read by Secretary Joel Schmidt. A motion was made by Bryan Backes that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Greg Seeman and the minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Class A – Ken Kuchera, MCES Empire Plant

Class B – Gary Indrehus, MCES Blue Lake Plant

Class C – Bryan Backes, St Francis Plant

Additional nominations will be accepted through the next section meeting to be held in April 2001. The group was encouraged to pick up a nomination form and nominate a fellow operator they know to be worthy of this prestigious recognition. The forms can be obtained by contacting any of the section officers.

Chairman Poore discussed meeting location and agenda goals. The possibility of the April 2001 Section meeting to be held at Oakdale, Anoka or the new Zigler Power Systems Facility was discussed.

Secretary Schmidt advised Chairman Poore that a meeting location could be selected by executive decision over lunch sometime in the near future. Suggested topics were solicited from the group.

Director Kuchera was absent; his report concerning the latest Executive Board meeting was deferred to the next section meeting.

A motion was made by Randy Poore to Adjourn the Business Meeting. Randy Stetler seconded the motion and the Business Meeting was adjourned.

The second technical speaker of the morning was Loren Bahls. Loren is the Senior Sales Manager with Ziegler Power Systems. Loren presented to the group on the new products available for emergency powers systems. Loren had a very well prepared and informative power point presentation on the different products for the monitoring and transfer to emergency power systems. Ziegler Power Systems is a leader in this area and it was interesting to learn that their systems will interface with the Xcel Energy power grid actually providing power as a major generator during peak load times. These systems are adaptable to sewage gas (methane) as a fuel and are typically installed in landfill applications where the gas produced by the decomposing garbage is collected. This was a very informative technical session and Loren was challenged with many questions.

Afternoon Technical Sessions

The afternoon speaker was Wayne Andersen of the MCES Metro Plant. Wayne has been with MCES for over 30 years and in fact Wayne's father worked on the massive underground interceptor that conveys the majority of the metropolitan sewage to the Pigs Eye Treatment Facility. Wayne gave a history of the Metro Plant and we were staggered to hear things like:

The facility is one of the 10 largest facilities in the nation.

The facility was the first wastewater treatment facility on the Mississippi River.

The electrical bill to run Pigs Eye is \$800,000.00 per month.

They treat on average 250 MGD and up to 650 MGD.

The treat 700 wet tons of residual solids each day converting it to 70 dry tons of ash through incineration.

There are 5 miles of underground tunnels and pipe galleries.

30 miles of handrails.

Wayne informed the group about the federal initiative to clean the river, which lead to the installation of the interceptor to convey the sewage and the addition of primary treatment in the late 1930's. Progress was made with the addition of secondary treatment in the 1960's. Presently the MCES is undergoing major work with a new primary complex and the decommissioning of the Zimpro solids conditioning process to a new centrifuged thickening process. Wayne indicated that they were likely going to be spending 500 million dollars on improvements in the next 5 years. The history and statistical information was truly overwhelming. After Wayne finished two videos were shown and then the group was broke up for a very cursory tour of the facility. Wayne Andersen and Taylor Valincourt were our tour guides.

Respectfully Submitted

Joel W. Schmidt – MWOA Metro/Suburban Section Secretary