

Northeast Section Meeting

A Northeast Section Meeting was held on October 25, 2011, at the City of Hermantown Administration Building. Chairperson Chris Kleist welcomed all to the meeting.

Speakers:

Karen Anderson & Craig Lincoln, WLSSD, Effective Communications

Karen and Craig spoke about Community Relations and the methods that can be used to establish and maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with the communities in which they operate. This has long term benefits including mutual understanding, trust, loyalty and good will. They handed out examples of letters they send to residents when work is going to be done near their homes.

Jen Julsrud, President of the City of Duluth Public Utilities Commission “A Great Way to Bring Stakeholders to the Table”

Jen spoke about the challenges of creating a PUC. She stressed that it is important to get key people involved, from the Mayor to City Staff to the Public. The public is always concerned how a new “Commission” will affect their tax dollars or utility rates.

Larry DiDomeniec, US Coast Guard, “Oil Response with Containment Booms”

Larry gave an interesting presentation about the different types and uses of booms that are used by the Coast Guard.

Chris Kleist and Todd Carlson, City of Duluth, “Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader”

Chris & Todd put on a game show with audience participation based on the television show.

John Selvog, Infratech, “MH Restoration” John spoke about MH restoration and structure inspection reports. He also gave a demonstration of their flexible injection resin.

Jim Miller, MWOA, “History of MWOA”

Jim gave a presentation on the history of the Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association.

Business Meeting

Old Business

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and corrected.

New Business

Treasurer Report – The NE Section switched bank accounts and now has a savings account at the Northern Communities Credit Union. As of 9/30/2011 the balance is \$1083.97.

Elections: Chris Kleist has been our acting Chairperson. He was elected to MWOA Vice-President last July. The Northeast Section needed to elect a new Chairperson, Director, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Director – Greg Guerrero was nominated and elected to serve a 3-year term through 2014.

Chairperson – Dan Berg was nominated and elected to serve a 3-year term through 2014.

Secretary/Treasurer – Sandy Mass was nominated and elected to serve a 3-year term through 2014.

Beginning January 1, 2012 the MWOA is going paperless. The only thing members will receive in the mail are: A postcard reminding them of the upcoming annual conference, a reminder of their membership dues, and the *Wastewatcher*. A reminder that all members need to get MWOA.net to put in their current e-mail address.

The MPCA Collection School will be in January 2012 at the old Thunderbird Hotel.

A lengthy discussion was held about how to increase attendance and participation at the section meetings.

Attendees toured the Hermantown facility.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandy Mass, Secretary, MWOA Northeast Section