

MWOA Joint Metro/Suburban & South East Section Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2003
Jordan WWTF
Jordan, MN

Morning Technical Sessions

The October 8, 2003 meeting was held at the Jordan, MN WWTF. Steve Griep, Jordan WWTF Operator welcomed the group of 65 to the meeting and gave an overview of the program agenda. In addition Steve gave the group a brief introduction of the Jordan, MN WWTF. Steve then introduced the first technical presenter of the meeting, Steven W. Nyhus, an attorney with Flaherty & Hood. Mr. Nyhus provided the group with a presentation on Rule Updates and Water Quality Initiatives. The Rule Update portion of the presentation focused on (1) The Phosphorus Rule (2) Stormwater NPDES Permitting (3) Water Quality Standards Review which address; eutrophication, mercury, ammonia, fecal coliform/E.coli & Human Health–Based Standards, & (4) Impaired Waters (TMDL's). The Water Quality Initiatives portion of the presentation focused on (1) Governors "Clean Water Cabinet" (2) MPCA Stakeholder Groups (3) Minnesota Environmental Science and Economic Review Board (MESERB) Phosphorus Initiative & (4) Minnesota River Basin Nutrient Trading Project. The programs detail protocols for NPDES permittees to implement strategies and plan to deal with future more stringent water quality objectives through non traditional methods such as nutrient trading. The emphasis is to proactively collaborate with watershed basin partners and self impose pollutant loading reductions to circumvent having a water basin listed as "impaired" requiring a TMDL. Mr. Nyhus can be reached at swnyhus@flaherty-hood.com or by calling (651) 225-8840.

The second presenters of the morning technical program were Dick Bierle of Braun Pump & Controls and Steve Reed of Infratech. Dick and Steve provided the group with an introduction and overview of the requirements to set up a utility service truck for confined space entry and air monitoring. The training session platform was one of Braun Pumps specialty equipped service trucks and was an interactive "hands on" demonstration. Confined entry and hazardous atmospheric environments are commonplace for the sewer worker and a thorough knowledge of the safety equipment available, its proper operation and safety procedure protocols saves lives. If only more sewer workers could have a utility truck so completely equipped.

The third speaker of the morning was Randy Neprash of Bonestroo Rosene Anderlik. Randy presented an update on NPDES Phase II permitting. Randy reviewed the three different types of permits required under NPDES Phase II which include; Construction Activity Permits, Industrial Activity Permits and Municipal/MS4 Permits (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems). The most current Construction Activity Permit went in effect August 1, 2003 and a new requirement is the reduction of acres requiring permitting. This trigger was reduced to a 1 acre trigger for permitting – down from 5

acres. Industrial Activity Permits are in the draft phase and the new draft Permit will be available for comment in the spring of 2004. Presently regulated facilities should operate under an expired permit. The permit that will probably be on the forefront for city operations and maintenance staff will be the Municipal/MS4 Permit. The MPCA is offering four training and assistance sessions during October and November where staff will discuss the MS4 permit application, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP), and the annual report form. Randy can also be reached by email at rneprash@bonestroo.com or by calling (651) 604 4703.

Metro/Suburban Section Business Meeting

- Chairman Linda Mullen called the business meeting of the Metro/Suburban Section to order.
- Secretary Joel Schmidt passed out the April 23, 2003 meeting minutes for membership review. A motion was made by Lawrence Hiles to approve the minutes. Andy Martin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- Secretary Schmidt provided an update on the September meeting of the Wastewater Training Cooperative Committee. The committee tentatively meets three to four times per year to coordinate training activities amongst members in effort to minimize scheduling conflicts. The most recent meeting which was held at the MPCA in September had representatives from the MWOA, CSWEA, MRWA and MPCA. Other organizations represented on the committee include MMUA, MDH & Bio-Solids. The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2003 and the idea on combining the Waster water Training Cooperative Committee with the Training Coalition will be discussed in more detail. If any member has comments they are asked to forward them to Committee Chairman Schmidt.
- Chairman Linda Mullen reported on the operations awards, reminding the members that award nominations will be officially opened at our February 2004 meeting. In addition Chairman Mullen recognized Richard Kraft as the all state Class B Operator of the Year award winner and Randy Poore as the all state Collection Systems Operator of the Year award winner. Chairman Mullen reported that the all state and section level award winners will be presented their awards at the February 2004 section meeting.
- Chairman Linda Mullen reported on some Environmental Laboratory Certification rule changes. Members interested were directed to contact the Minnesota Department of Health for full details.
- Director Randy Poore presented the Past Director Recognition of Leadership and Service Award to Past Director Ken Kuchera. Director Poore stated that under Ken's leadership the members have appreciated a renewed interest and spirit within the metro/suburban section. Past director Kuchera served the association coming up

through the ranks as section secretary and section chairman and ultimately being elected as director to serve on the MWOA executive board for three years.

- Director Randy Poore provided an update on the September MWOA executive board meeting held in St. Cloud. Director Poore reported that the primary business conducted concerned the 2004, 2005 & 2006 MWOA annual meetings. The 2004 annual conference will be held in Duluth. In addition there was much deliberation on the production of the association's publication "The Wastewatcher".
- Chairman Mullen opened discussion with the membership on the 2006 MWOA annual conference location. The Metro/Suburban Section is the hosting section of the 2006 annual and Chairman Mullen solicited input from the membership on the idea of moving the meeting out of the metro area. General acceptance by the membership was evident by the input received and the section officers will pursue further planning aspects. Grand Rapids was particularly mentioned as a preferred location and Chairman Mullen will research this in more detail.
- The membership selected February 4, 2004 meeting location to be announced and April 28, 2004 meeting location to be announced for the next two meeting dates. Richard Bristow with US Filter is going to look into the possibility of hosting the meeting. Dick will report back to the section officers.
- A motion for adjournment was brought forward by Lawrence Hiles and seconded by Richard Bristow. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Lunch

Lunch was served and consisted of a BBQ with Burgers, Brats, Hot Dogs, Slaw, Potato Salad, Chips and Beverage. Hats off to Steve Griep for the cooking. GREAT LUNCH!

Afternoon Technical Sessions

The first presenter of the afternoon technical session was William Garwood of Fisher Scientific. Mr. Garwood presented on the Theory, Calibration, and Maintenance of pH Probes and Meters. Some of the hints for measurement include; use fresh buffers, calibrate often, shake electrodes down to remove air bubbles, make sure the electrode level is always above the sample level, stir samples, fill hole often, clean the electrodes and junctions often, Blot – NEVER wipe electrodes due to the static charge that can be transferred. The session was very informative and provided the members with many useful tips to insure accurate measurement. Mr. Garwood can be reached by email at bgarwood@ix.netcom.com or by calling 800 955 9999 X 1063.

The second presenter of the afternoon was Jim Stark of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District. Mr. Stark's presentation provided information on the types of natural and man made areas that mosquitoes like to use as breeding and nursery areas. The design of storm water detention ponds with steep sides was stressed to minimize the

shallow areas that mosquitoes require. In addition minimizing submergent and emergent vegetation will help reduce the propagation of mosquitoes. Mr. Stark can be reached by email at jimstark@visi.com.

The third presenter of the afternoon session was Seth Peterson – Project Engineer with Bolton & Menk. Seth provided an introduction, background and process details for the newly constructed activated sludge WWTF which has replaced the Jordan pond system. The capacity of the treatment facility has an Average Wet Weather Design Flow of 1.289 MGD. In addition the treatment facility is designed to treat 1,045 lbs/day of CBOD and 1160 lbs/day of TSS. The new facility utilizes the old pond system as overflow retention during periods of high flows due to inflow & infiltration in the collection system in addition too incorporating biological phosphorus removal treatment. One of the most interesting and obviously appreciated aspects of the facility is that it also serves as the Public Works full service and maintenance facility. Seth can be reached by email at sethpe@bolton-menk.com or by calling (952) 890-0509.

The day finished off with a tour of the WWTF and a heck of prize raffle!

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

Respectfully Submitted

Joel W. Schmidt – MWOA Metro/Suburban Section Secretary