



Minnesota  
Chapter

## American Public Works Association Minnesota Chapter

### 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**KRISTIN ASHER, President**

City of Richfield  
(612) 861-9795  
[kasher@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:kasher@richfieldmn.gov)

**AMY GROTHAUS, Vice President**

Braun Intertec  
(651) 487-7014  
[agrothaus@braunintertec.com](mailto:agrothaus@braunintertec.com)

**RUSS MATTHYS, Secretary/Treasurer**

City of Eagan  
(651) 675-5646  
[rmatthys@cityofeagan.com](mailto:rmatthys@cityofeagan.com)

**CHRIS PETREE, Past President**

City of Lakeville  
(952) 985-2701  
[cpetree@lakevillemn.gov](mailto:cpetree@lakevillemn.gov)

**JEANNINE CLANCY, Delegate**

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services  
(651) 602-1210  
[jeannine.clancy@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:jeannine.clancy@metc.state.mn.us)

**LEE GUSTAFSON**

Deputy Treasurer  
WSB & Associates, Inc.  
(763) 762-2821  
[lgustafson@wsbeng.com](mailto:lgustafson@wsbeng.com)

**TIM PLATH**

Director – Engineer/Manager  
City of Eagan  
[tplath@cityofeagan.com](mailto:tplath@cityofeagan.com)

**JOHN OLSON**

Director – Outstate  
City of Hutchinson  
[jolson@ci.hutchinson.mn.us](mailto:jolson@ci.hutchinson.mn.us)

**CHRIS SAGSVEEN**

Director – State/County/Regional Agency  
Hennepin County  
[christopher.sagsveen@hennepin.us](mailto:christopher.sagsveen@hennepin.us)

**HEIDI HAMILTON**

Director – Vendor/Contractor  
Stantec  
[heidi.hamilton@stantec.com](mailto:heidi.hamilton@stantec.com)

**MONICA HEIL**

Director – Consultant  
WSB & Associates, Inc.  
[mheil@wsbeng.com](mailto:mheil@wsbeng.com)

**NICK EGGER**

Director – City Engineer/DPW  
City of Hastings  
[nickegger@hastingsmn.gov](mailto:nickegger@hastingsmn.gov)

**DAN CURLEY**

Director - Superintendent  
City of Shoreview  
[dcurley@shoreviewmn.gov](mailto:dcurley@shoreviewmn.gov)

**EMILY LUETH**

Director – Young Professionals  
WSB & Associates, Inc.  
[elueth@wsbeng.com](mailto:elueth@wsbeng.com)

**PAT SCHUTROP**

Chapter Assistant  
P.O. Box 46266  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-9712  
1-888-407-2650 (toll free)  
[admin@apwa-mn.org](mailto:admin@apwa-mn.org)

June 4, 2018

2018 Awards Program  
American Public Works Association  
1200 Main Street, Suite 1400  
Kansas City, MO 64105-2100

SUBJECT: PACE Award – Minnesota Chapter

Dear APWA Awards Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Chapter, I am very proud to submit for your consideration our application for the Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE). Our application clearly demonstrates how extremely energized and active our Chapter is in its rigorous support of the Public Works profession and our dedicated members through numerous educational, training, and outreach programs and activities.

The Minnesota Chapter is very proud to have received nine national APWA awards in 2017! This adds to the many national awards our Chapter members have received previously, as well as a strong local awards program, all of which are discussed in our submittal.

In 2017, the Minnesota Chapter focused on engaging our younger professionals through supporting the Young Professional group, while continuing to work closely with the MN Student Chapter. Not only have we continued to build upon the momentum gained last year in our efforts to engage young Chapter members, we have also continued with our strong educational focus by supporting and promoting the Underground Utility Construction Inspectors School, the Public Works Certificate Program and the Leadership Academy, to name a few. The Executive Committee believes that these efforts will help to better serve our members and our profession, both now and into the future.

Please accept this application for the 2017 Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence. Our Chapter would once again be much honored to be recognized with this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Kristin Asher  
President, APWA-Minnesota Chapter

Enclosure

P.O. Box 46266  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-9712

**CHAPTER (EXECUTIVE) SUMMARY:**

The Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association is highly involved and active Chapter. In 2017, our Chapter continued to grow in total members and member opportunities. Our total membership in December of 2017 was 1,075, up from 1,069 in December 2016. In 2017, the Chapter recognized the growth and commitment of the Chapter's younger professionals by electing the first Director for the Young Professionals (YP) Committee to sit on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee continues to allocate resources to encourage and promote YP's involvement through scholarships to encourage YP's to participate in National Conferences and/or various educational programs.

The effort with the YP committee strengthens our chapter capacity not only in total number of members but they are also encouraged to be actively involved in conferences, networking, and social activities. The focus the Minnesota Chapter has shown to the YP group illustrates the importance and value our Chapter places on our future leaders in the Public Works industry. The Chapter also partnered with a new organization in 2017, Success Beyond the Classroom (SBC), to continue to support programs that support the future of our work force. SBC helps introduce young students to the public works profession, no program is doing more to encourage the possibility of an engineering career in a Minnesota student's future.

**I. Membership**

**A. Current Membership**

As of December 2017, membership for the chapter was 1,075 members, up from 1,069 in 2016.

**B. Membership Recruitment Efforts**

The Minnesota Chapter's membership recruitment efforts have proven effective and fruitful both for recruiting new members, and also for service to our existing members. In 2012, members of the Minnesota Chapter helped establish a Student Chapter at the University of Minnesota. The goals of the Student Chapter are to stimulate an interest in and understanding of the dimensions of civil engineering and public works, guide students in the steps required to become successful professionals in our field, promote a spirit of unity, and to serve as a gateway to connect civil engineering students with working professionals. Currently, the Student Chapter has 12 active members and efforts are underway to establish a Student Chapter at St. Thomas as well.

The APWA – MN Student Chapter hosted a series fun and impactful events in 2017. Students got to know chapter members through multiple networking events of various formats, celebrated the end to the school year with a BBQ and kickball, and learned about the reconstruction of US Highway 169 in a technical tour.



*Young Professionals WhirlyBall Event*

The Chapter continues to recognize the YPs with an established Young Professionals Committee. Through a bylaws change in 2016, a Young Professionals director position was established and the first YP Director was elected in 2017. The YP Director is now a part of the Chapter's Executive Committee. In 2017, the Chapter voted to include a Director of

Young Professional role on the Executive Committee. The Young Professionals Committee also hosts their own events, which included an evening of Whirlyball in 2017.

The Chapter Membership committee continues to host a variety of both technical and social events throughout the year for our members. 2017 tours included visits to the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant and the St. Croix Crossing for the final outing before it opened to traffic. Past tours include visits to Target Field Station, the Fairmont Water Treatment Plant, Crashed-Ice Event in St. Paul, and a Green Line Tour.

The Minnesota Chapter of APWA has incorporated both a community outreach and an environmental service event into our membership recruitment efforts. Chapter members join together each year to volunteer with Feed My Starving Children, where they assemble meals to be sent to poverty stricken children in third world countries of the Caribbean and Africa.



*Adopt-a-Highway Service Event – spring 2017*

On May 4, 2017, and then again on October 12, 2017, members gathered at 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Highway 100 in Robbinsdale for the Chapter's second year of the bi-annual Adopt-a-Highway environmental service project.

Annually, the Membership Committee provides:

- ✓ One new member summer golf outing.
- ✓ Membership networking activities at the annual Spring Conference.
- ✓ A vendor sponsored carnival and networking activities at the annual Fall Conference.
- ✓ A membership booth at events highlighting current Chapter initiatives and the various Chapter committees.
- ✓ New member personalized greeting from the Chapter President and a follow invite to breakfast or lunch by a Past President volunteer.
- ✓ A new member breakfast with the Chapter's Past Presidents at the annual Fall Conference and a new member luncheon in the spring.
- ✓ Brochures at conferences/gatherings highlighting Chapter membership benefits.
- ✓ Attendance Discounts – Chapter activities are offered at two cost levels for members and non-members.
- ✓ The Executive Committee monitors agency memberships working to maximize the use of available memberships for respective member agencies.
- ✓ The Membership Committee follows up with dropped members, and encourages future relationships with the Chapter.



*New Executive Members Introduced at 2017 Fall Conference*

### C. Membership Development and Retention Efforts

The Minnesota Chapter has placed an extraordinary emphasis on member development and retention. Multiple networking and educational functions have been offered, with the intent of providing exceptional incentive for members to stay connected to the Chapter. These include:

- ✓ Hosting first ever Public Works Expo (PWX) at the Minneapolis Convention Center in 2016.
  - Record Attendance – 5,709 Registrations, 1,583 Full Registrations, 157 (1-day), 1,206 Exhibits Only, 387 Vendors
- ✓ Hosting the 2007 APWA Snow Conference (St. Paul, Minnesota)
  - Record Attendance – 547 Registrations, 289 (1-day), 807 Exhibits Only, 135 Vendors
- ✓ Hosting the 2005 APWA National Congress – Multiple National Congresses: 1997, 1972, 1961, 1944
- ✓ Development of a Chapter Leadership Academy following the National APWA Initiative – First Implemented during the fall of 2006. The twelfth class graduated in the spring of 2017.
- ✓ Development of a new Student Membership Pilot Program following the National APWA Initiative – Implemented 2006.
- ✓ Development of a Young Professionals Group.
- ✓ Annual Spring and Fall Conferences/Banquets.
- ✓ Annual “Day Before” Fall Conference Training
  - Specialized daylong curriculum focusing on specific public works issues/subjects.
- ✓ Regular Workshop offerings
  - Municipal Underground Utility Inspectors School.
- ✓ Chapter sponsorship/direction of North Hennepin Community College Public Works Certificate Program.
- ✓ Chapter member cities host all “Click, Listen and Learn” webinar sessions.
- ✓ Sponsorship and Chapter participation (curriculum development) in the Spring and Fall Maintenance Expos/Fall Snow Rodeo & Skid Steer Competition.
- ✓ Participation in annual Job Fair Engineering Outreach at the University of Minnesota.



*2016 PWX Board Reception Committee*



*2017 Minnesota Chapter past Presidents Breakfast*

- ✓ Frequent content changes to the Chapter website.
- ✓ Active Scholarship Program via the Education Committee.
- ✓ Active Awards Program.
- ✓ Diversity Committee with a current focus on City of Minneapolis Public School Outreach.
- ✓ Active Public Awareness Committee with outreach activities that range from STEM Day at the State Fair to various grade and high school career presentations.
- ✓ Active partnerships/collaborations with public professionals (City Engineers Association of Minnesota, Local Road Research Board, University of Minnesota Center for Transportation, Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Water Works Association).
- ✓ Active liaison with League of Minnesota Cities Local Governmental Legislation Lobby representation.
- ✓ Two golf outings held each year.
- ✓ Special activities; bowling or carnival at the Fall Conference.
- ✓ Annual Publication of Membership and Ad Directory.



*STEM Outreach – Creativity Festival for 3rd & 4th Graders*

## II. Service to Chapter Members

### A. Number of Members Attending Meetings

The Minnesota Chapter of APWA continues to experience excellent participation for Chapter events. In addition, attendees for all events and educational offerings are actively encouraged to complete evaluation sheets provided to each attendee. The Chapter’s activities provider carefully monitors this feedback and attendance and works diligently to improve and/or continuously modify offerings in order to provide the best service delivery possible to Chapter members.

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>2017</b>
Fall Conference and “Day Before” Workshop	508
Spring Conference	170

### B. Member-to-Member Outreach

The Minnesota Chapter serves its membership with many member-to-member outreach activities. Among the highlights previously identified, a more in-depth examination of service delivery/outreach to the Chapter is as follows:

- ✓ **Meeting/Event Notices** – Notices of events and meetings are sent to the membership via e-mail blasts, and are posted on the Chapter’s website.

- ✓ **Chapter Website** – [www.apwa-mn.org](http://www.apwa-mn.org) - The Minnesota Chapter offers members an effective website linked through the national APWA website. The Chapter website includes news and information about events, mission statement, historical information and contact information to keep the Chapter’s membership communicating.



**Chapter Website**

- ✓ **Annual Spring Conference** – The Minnesota Chapter celebrated spring in 2017 with the 71st APWA Minnesota Chapter Spring Conference in a relaxed northern Minnesota resort setting. Each year, participants enjoy concentrated educational sessions featuring local and nationally recognized keynote speakers. The typical Spring Conference program includes approximately 12 hours of training/education and an afternoon of networking activities sponsored by the Membership Committee.
- ✓ **Annual Fall Conference** – An effective membership outreach activity for over 30 years, the annual Chapter Fall Conference is offered in the metropolitan Minneapolis/St. Paul area. The 2017 Fall Conference was facilitated by the University of Minnesota, College of Continuing Education, and was again a tremendous success.

The 2017 Fall Conference program offered some very interesting and thought-provoking sessions. Our conference keynote speaker, Craig Zablocki, opened the conference Thursday morning with a session titled “Radical Leadership”. Craig’s session included a non-PowerPointed and highly interactive style, where he challenged attendees to define an effective leader as one who leads by example, takes themselves lightly while leading from purpose, one who is willing to be vulnerable and champion others, who can own their “stuff,” tap into their innate creativity, joy, and passion, and who helps others do the same. Additional sessions included “Creating Bird-Friendly Communities”, “Cooperative Management of Emerald Ash Borer to Protect Public Infrastructure”, “Drinking Water Protection and Sustainability”, “Ethics” as well as numerous other educational sessions. The Minnesota Chapter also hosted its annual awards ceremony which recognized professional associates and projects for outstanding service locally, statewide, and nationally.

- ✓ **Municipal Underground Utilities Inspectors School (UUIS)** – Over the years, the Education and Training Committee of the Minnesota Chapter has hosted this educational outreach program. In 2017 the Chapter’s Education and Training Committee continued its efforts to provide this training, and developed and implemented a revised and sustainable workshop curriculum that was offered for the first time in 2009. This revised curriculum was patterned after the APWA underground inspector training course. The Underground Utilities Construction Inspector School provides practical information to enable people with underground utility inspection responsibilities to expertly and confidently do their jobs. The instructors for each course topic are experienced professionals in each area. The first class of 25 public works employees to take this course graduated during the spring of 2010. In addition, the Chapter has offered to pay the \$600

fee for one individual that graduated from this class to take the online APWA test, and become APWA certified. In 2017, the eighth graduating class was awarded their certificates. The Chapter is looking forward to many more years of successful implementation of this training.

- ✓ **North Hennepin Community College Public Works Certificate Program** – This Chapter outreach has been in existence for over 30 years and has seen hundreds of public works professionals complete the program during that time. For many front line maintenance workers, the program has helped them to advance into public works supervisory roles.

Students each year are provided an opportunity to attend specifically oriented public sector class offerings in a college setting. Moreover, students are given the opportunity to better understand why public agencies function as they do, and how they might be better prepared to be tomorrow's public works leaders. Through this program, students take away new skills and insight enabling them to be more productive members of any work environment. Students are also encouraged to more readily embrace and recognize their full professional potential. Courses are designed to familiarize students with general management principles, technical and operational aspects of public works, human resource issues including screening, interviewing, and hiring in the public sector, and public relations issues among hundreds of other areas of management/oversight.

The program consists of 20 credits. The five public works courses that make up the credits of the program are:

- Office and Professional Skills for Public Works
- Public Works Organization and Administration
- Public Works Management and Communication
- Technical Aspects of Public Works
- Public Works Operations and Maintenance

Virtually all new Public Works managers hired in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area over the past eleven years are graduates of this very successful program. Instructors have historically come from within the Chapter, and are practicing public works managers/professionals in the area.

- ✓ **Roadway Maintenance Training and Demo Day** – The Minnesota Chapter has actively supported this educational activity primarily designed to target frontline public works employees for more than 16 years. Working in cooperation with the MN Local Road Research Board, the Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program and the Minnesota Department of Transportation; The Roadway Maintenance Training and Demo Day is a one-day event that is held at a single location, which rotates throughout the state annually. The event offers a half-day of classroom roadway maintenance training, followed by a half-day of outdoor maintenance activity demonstrations Chapter members help provide training to almost 3,000 maintenance employees and managers annually. Seminar sessions include topics such as safety, vegetation management, gravel road maintenance, asphalt preservation and snow & ice technology ice operations.

- ✓ **Annual Membership Golf Outings** – As previously mentioned, the Chapter’s spring golf outing is a member outreach function providing networking opportunities for members. The annual Chapter summer golf outing is also a member outreach function with an additional emphasis on recruiting new members. Current Chapter members are encouraged to bring new potential members and introduce them to the Minnesota Chapter in a social setting. Free golf is offered the following year for 10 new memberships. The typical summer golf outing consists of 36 foursomes (144 golfers) and the majority of the golf holes are sponsored by Allied Chapter members. Everyone leaves with one of the many prizes, and the events are always very successful.



- ✓ **New Member Breakfast** – Each year the Chapter hosts a new member breakfast outreach as part of the Fall Conference. The event is hosted by the Membership Committee. A message board located in a well-traveled area is prepared welcoming and identifying all new member names. During the breakfast, new members and representatives from the Executive Committee and the Chapter President get to know one another. Typical attendance is 8 to 12 new members. After breakfast, new members enjoy a short presentation on Chapter opportunities, publications and newsletters, committees, and other benefits of membership.
- ✓ **Leadership Academy** – Following the national initiative brought forward during 2004, Minnesota Chapter members participated in national APWA meetings where many Chapters brought the best of their training efforts to the table in order to develop a “prototype” for a Leadership Academy format. The Minnesota Chapter subsequently entered into an agreement with the Hamline University Graduate School of Public Administration and Management in St. Paul, Minnesota to develop the new training program that began with a class of 24 in the fall of 2006. The training occurs annually over an eight-month period with 90 hours of graduate school level education required for the certificate. In 2017, students from the eleventh graduating class of the Leadership Academy were awarded their certificates. The Leadership Academy is a mini-masters program covering topics ranging from personnel management to technical skills, to understanding financial relationships among federal, state, and local governments.

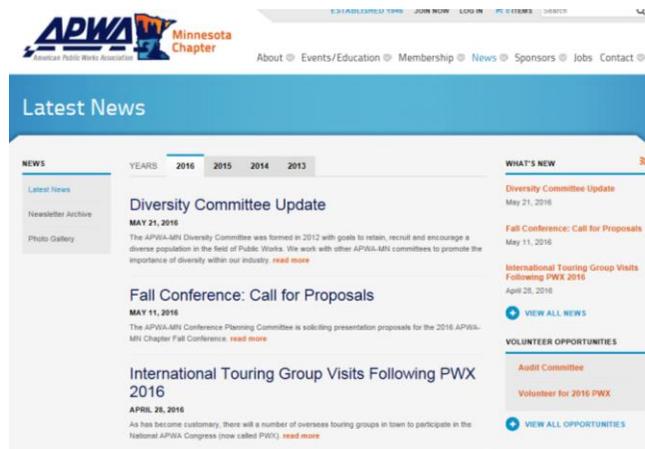
### C. Chapter Best Practices Compliance

The Minnesota Chapter was extremely pleased to be provided the “template for success” created by national APWA in the form of a listing of Chapter Best Practices. This document has helped focus energy and resources at our local level during semi-annual goal setting Executive Committee retreats. Attached to this submittal is the Best Practices for APWA Chapter Capacity Building. The Minnesota Chapter is pleased to check “yes” to nearly all of the items included in the list. Items that garner further comment are noted below.

- Number 14 - *The chapter treasurer serves a minimum of two years and has a transition plan for a successor.* The Minnesota Chapter Treasurer serves a term of one year. However, the person elected to Treasurer continues to serve as the Chapter’s Vice President, President, and Past-President. Altogether it’s a four-year commitment. The four-year leadership track provides continuity at the Executive Committee level, and serves as a transition plan for incoming officers. Newly elected Treasurers are able to rely on the Vice-President, President, and Past-President’s in order to get up to speed quickly on the Chapter finances. In 2013, a deputy treasurer position was created to ensure consistency in financial reporting. The deputy

position will likely be held by one individual for a 4-5 year period in which time he or she will work closely with the treasurer in performing the daily functions of depositing revenue, making payments and reimbursements, and reconciling the budget.

- Number 48 - *The chapter has a regular newsletter it distributes to members.* In an effort to go “green”, the Minnesota Chapter ended the distribution of a quarterly newsletter. Today, members receive a **Latest News** email blast that is sent approximately once a month. The email highlights various news items that can be found on the Chapter website. By clicking on a provided link to **Read More**, members feel more engaged and are provided with more timely communication than was previously occurring with the newsletter.



**Latest News Email Blast**

#### D. Chapter to Chapter Outreach

The Minnesota Chapter extends a warm and gracious welcome to neighboring Chapters for virtually all events and offerings. We share Chapter newsletters, the House of Delegates, and the members of the APWA Wisconsin and Dakota Chapters that are regionally close by taking advantage of our educational outreach. In the past, the Minnesota Chapter has shared Chapter dinner facilities with the Dakota Chapters; in addition, members of our board have attended the joint Mid-America conference.

#### E. Chapter Diversity

Through the efforts of individual chapter members, the Minnesota Chapter Diversity Committee was revitalized in 2012. The Minnesota Chapter was very supportive of individual efforts on behalf of minorities, and in the past has provided scholarships to encourage students to pursue college engineering degrees. In 2012, the Chapter decided it wanted to do more, throughout the State, in promoting outreach to minorities and underprivileged populations. Because of this, the Diversity Committee was re-formed in 2012 at the Chapter level.

The Diversity Committee consists of 8 active members. Their established mission is summarized as follows:

- To advance inclusiveness throughout the APWA-MN Chapter – placing value on all individuals and their different perspectives, and promoting the process for all to be part of the chapter.

The Diversity Committee’s goals are to retain, recruit, and encourage diverse populations to the field of public works.

The Chapter’s Diversity Committee meets on a monthly basis, one month they meet as goal sub-groups, and the next month they meet as a full committee.

## F. Young/Emerging Professionals

In 2016, the Chapter recognized the growth and commitment of the Chapter’s younger professionals by establishing a Young Professionals (YP) Committee. Through a bylaws change in 2016, a Young Professionals director position was established and the first YP Director was elected in 2017. The YP Director is now a part of the Chapter’s Executive Committee. The Executive Committee continues to allocate resources to encourage and promote YP’s involvement through scholarships to encourage YP’s to participate in National Conferences and/or various educational programs.

The YP Group is composed of fun and outgoing public works professionals interested in building new networking connections. The group gives members the opportunity to have fun, meet, and spend time with other public works colleagues outside of the traditional work setting. The group encourages public works professionals in their 20s and 30s to become active in this group as time allows.

## III. Advancement of Public Works

### A. Chapter Awards/Recognition Programs for Members/Non-members

The Minnesota Chapter has had an annual awards program for more than 30 years. The program includes both project and personnel award categories and presentations for the awards take place at the annual Chapter Fall Conference.

Each year the Minnesota Chapter presents the Hugo G. Erickson Award for Chapter Service. This award is presented to an individual who has provided years of superior service to the Chapter, as well as assisted in furthering the Chapter’s successful operation and goals.

In 2017, Dave Hutton from Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc. received the **Hugo G. Erickson Award for Chapter Service**. Dave has been actively involved in APWA for a number of years, including serving as Chapter President in 2010. In addition to Dave’s service on the Executive Committee, he has served on a number of committees including: Awards, Conference Planning, Public Awareness, and the Education & Training Committee. Dave was also instrumental in re-initiating the Chapter’s History Committee, which he still chairs.



*Hugo G. Erickson Award Recipient  
Dave Hutton*

A number of Personnel Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals at all levels within public works agencies. Besides presenting the award to the individual at the annual Fall Conference, committee members offer public recognition at local City Council and/or governing board meetings, as well as through press releases sent to the local newspapers. This process not only provides greater recognition to outstanding public works employees, but also provides greater recognition to the public works profession as a whole.

The 2017 Minnesota Chapter Awards were presented for the following public works employee classifications:

- ✓ Director or Manager of the Year
- ✓ Superintendent of the Year
- ✓ Supervisor of the Year
- ✓ Maintenance Person of the Year

The Awards Committee has established the following criteria for selection of these individuals:

- ✓ Innovative applications of new or existing technologies and equipment.
- ✓ Innovative applications of new or existing project management and service delivery systems.
- ✓ Outstanding service to citizens that enhances the public perception of public works services.
- ✓ Outstanding efforts in career and personal growth and development.
- ✓ Outstanding efforts in development of teamwork and cooperative working relationships.

Individual Personnel Awards presented by the Minnesota Chapter in 2017 included:

**Director of the Year – Craig Eldred, City of Waconia**

- ✓ Works with neighboring jurisdictions and around the U.S. to teach others about the use of brine to maximize effectiveness of snow and ice control programs.
- ✓ Led effort to construct multiple stormwater reuse systems within the City to improve water quality and lessen impact on City's drinking water supply.
- ✓ Implemented an Enhanced Street Sweeping Program to maximize efficiency of solids and nutrients removal while minimizing City expense.



*Director of the Year  
Craig Eldred*

**Superintendent of the Year – Ray Hanson, City of Mound**

- ✓ Advanced from Planning and Engineering Field Representative into Public Works Foreman and then combined Public Works/Parks Superintendent while retaining Planning and Engineering responsibilities seamlessly.
- ✓ He's a diligent renewal advocate and has sustained continued investment in infrastructure through 15-year program with 1 year remaining for 100% infrastructure replacement throughout community.
- ✓ He's modernizing our knowledge management systems and fleets. Example -- one of first in Metro to specify short-wheelbase, single-axel, 4-wheel drive chassis for snow plowing with is now adopted throughout.



*Superintendent of the Year  
Ray Hanson*

### Supervisor of the Year – Michael Lusian, City of St. Paul

- ✓ Began his career with the City of St. Paul in 2011 as a temporary electrician and was hired permanently in 2012. In 2015 he was chosen to be the Lead Electrician/Supervisor.
- ✓ His poise and calm demeanor, coupled with his technical, listening and judgement skills have earned him great respect.
- ✓ He has managed an enormous workload with a diminished staff with increasing expectations placed on him for field innovation and business improvements.
- ✓ He cares for his staff while appropriately supervising them; he holds people accountable, recognizes their great work, and works to develop them.
- ✓ He cares strongly about being a good public servant and ensuring that the public receives value for funds provided.



*Supervisor of the Year  
Michael Lusian*

### Maintenance Person of the Year – Joshual Dix, City of Roseville

- ✓ This individual has proven himself a leader within his department and was promoted to Working Foreman in 2015.
- ✓ He led the effort for the City of Roseville to become one of the first Level 2 certified cities in the MN PCA Smart Salt Training program and became a trusted instructor for these courses.
- ✓ He secured an Environmental Leadership Award from the Freshwater Society for the City's extensive efforts to reduce the amount of chlorides applied to City streets in the winter.
- ✓ He embraces new technology and helped push the department to fully embrace the City's Asset Management system.



*Maintenance Person of the Year  
Joshua Dix*

In conjunction with the Environmental Committee, the Chapter offers an **Environmental Stewardship Award**. The award recognizes those in the field of Public Works who are working hard to protect the environment. Criteria for the award include:

- ✓ A sustained effort that demonstrates a commitment by a group, individual or organization to environmental conservation or protection,
- ✓ Benefits to the community and to the environment, and
- ✓ Consideration of Public Works values, including cost effectiveness and long-term operation and maintenance.

In addition to recognizing high quality public works personnel, the completion of successful projects is also essential to providing outstanding public works services. The Chapter Awards Program recognizes this fact by offering an annual award for a state/local Public Works Project of the Year.

The **Project of the Year Award** is intended to recognize outstanding projects, both large and small, that highlight the many diverse facets of public works projects, while incorporating innovative applications of new or existing technologies. These projects typically involve innovative project management, financing, and multi-agency participation and provide future value to the public works profession and perception by the public. They also take social, economic, and sustainable design considerations into account.

In 2017, the Chapter awarded the Project of the Year award to the City of Cottage Grove's, Interim Water Treatment Facilities.

The City of Cottage Grove worked quickly after eight of the City's 11 wells exceeded newly established hazard index standards. The MN Department of Health issued new, lower health-based recommendations in May of 2017. In late May, Cottage Grove utilized only 3 wells to provide water for the community to ensure full compliance with the new standards. Staff from the City, their engineering consultant, and numerous regulatory agencies met to discuss the options to address eight of the City's 11 drinking water wells that did not meet the new standards. Design and construction on two of the eight wells began just eight days after receiving news of the revised standards.



*2017 Project of the Year Award Recipients  
City of Cottage Grove, Interim Water Treatment Facilities*

Nine projects submitted write-ups for Project of the Year and the Awards Committee thought it was important to also recognize two Honorable Mention Projects of the Year. The City of Hastings' Riverfront Renaissance Improvements and the City of Lake Elmo and Washington County's CSAH Corridor Management and Safety Improvements were presented with this award.

The local recipients of APWA National Awards are also recognized at the Fall Conference as we realize that not all of the chapter members are able to attend the APWA National Conference every year. Additionally, Chapter members who attain the status of APWA Life Member are recognized.

The Minnesota Chapter of APWA actively supports the APWA awards program with multiple submittals to national annually. Below are listed the 2017 Minnesota Chapter National APWA award submittals. Recipients of APWA National Awards are highlighted in red.

- ✓ Excellence in Snow & Ice Control, City of Woodbury
- ✓ **Top Ten Award, Lee Gustafson, WSB & Associates**
- ✓ **Exceptional Performance Award (Journalism - Chapter), APWA-MN 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video**
- ✓ Exceptional Performance Award (Journalism), MCES Communications Program
- ✓ Project of the Year – Transportation \$5M - \$25M, City of Buffalo,

- ✓ **Project of the Year – Environmental, <\$5M, City of Mankato, Water Treatment Backwash**
- ✓ Project of the Year – Historical Restoration, \$5M-\$25M, Elm Creek Dam
- ✓ **Project of the Year – Historical Restoration, \$25M-\$75M, Hennepin County, Franklin Avenue Bridge**
- ✓ Project of the Year – Small Cities/Rural Communities, City of Redwing, Mainstreet Improvements
- ✓ **Donald C. Stone Award for Excellence in Education (Chapter) – APWA-MN**
- ✓ Community Involvement Award – Russ Matthys, City of Eagan
- ✓ **PACE, Minnesota Chapter**
- ✓ **Technical Innovation Award, Bridge Inspections using Unmanned Aircraft Systems, MnDOT**
- ✓ Professional Manager of the Year – Transportation, Beth Engum, Ramsey County
- ✓ **Professional Manager of the Year – Water Resources, Tim Kelly, Coon Creek**
- ✓ **Myron Calkins Young Leader of the Year, Mark Ray**

Also recognized at the award ceremony are scholarship recipients and graduates of our North Hennepin Community College Certificate program, many of whom are not yet members of APWA. The Membership and Outreach Committees make a concerted effort to follow up with these recipients, and encourage them to join and/or become active in our Chapter.



*North Hennepin Community College  
Certificate Graduates*

Also deserving recognition are the numerous individuals who spend many volunteer hours every year working to ensure the continued successful operation of the Chapter. These people serve on committees ranging from the Executive Committee to committees working on issues such as Education & Training, Conference Planning, Membership, Awards, Communications, History, Diversity, etc. Chapter Committee members are also recognized at the annual Fall Conference.

## **B. Public Works Promotion**

The Minnesota Chapter has had significant success with the promotional/educational outreach component of National Public Works Week.

Chapter leaders have worked together with the Minnesota governor's office annually to procure a proclamation recognizing APWA and National Public Works Week highlighting the valuable services we bring to our communities. Minnesota Chapter president Chris Petree was successful in 2017 in getting Minnesota's Governor to sign a 2017 National Public Works Week proclamation.

The Minnesota Chapter organized Minnesota 2050 (MN2050) modeled after America's 2050. The goal of the initiative was to articulate a convincing case for increased infrastructure investment across

Minnesota. As part of their efforts, MN205 partnered with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) to produce a series of three videos addressing five categories of infrastructure.

During 2006, The Minnesota Chapter of APWA, along with the City Engineers Association of Minnesota, the League of Minnesota Cities, and the Minnesota County Engineers Association produced and distributed a forty-four page Transportation “Primer” called The End of the Road – Challenges of Funding Minnesota’s Local Road and Bridge Network. Chapter members are currently using this informational resource to raise awareness at the Legislature about the urgency of infrastructure funding shortfalls.

In 2017, the Minnesota Chapter of APWA also promoted the Minneapolis Public Schools and Big Brothers Big Sisters “plug and play” volunteer opportunities that exist for individuals as well as agencies. This provides us the opportunity to help educate young people about career opportunities and to share the stories of positive impacts that our work has on our daily lives.



The Minnesota Chapter of APWA also partnered with *Success Beyond the Classroom (SBC)* in 2017. SBC is a nonprofit organization that brings innovative programs, inspiring events, and challenging academic competitions to students in the Twin Cities Area. SBC helps introduce young students to the public works profession. Chapter members volunteered to participate in SBC’s Creativity Festival, a STEM festival for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. In addition, goodwill donations were taken, in addition to proceeds from the Carnival event, at the Chapter’s Fall Conference and donated to SBC.



### C. Professional Development

The Minnesota Chapter bi-annually completes a daylong Executive Committee Retreat to evaluate service delivery and examine short term and long-term goals. An Out-State Development Committee was created to serve out-state public agencies and broaden the Minnesota Chapter membership statewide. A History Committee was identified, and Directors identified numerous additional funding initiatives to help meet the established goal of hosting a major conference every 4 years. (PWX every 8 years–Snow Conference every 8 years–alternating 4-year intervals).

The Minnesota Chapter of APWA is continuously reevaluating, examining committees and task forces to reflect on the purpose and mission of each. Primarily in and through our service delivery to Chapter members is the high priority of offering exemplary professional development opportunities.

The Minnesota Chapter provides a host of educational opportunities to its members as identified in this submittal. (Spring and Fall Conferences, “Day Before” Conference, Municipal Underground Utility Inspectors Training, Spring and Fall Maintenance Expos, North Hennepin Community College Public Works Certificate Program, and the Leadership Academy).

The Minnesota Chapter has long operated a very effective scholarship program. Overseen by the Education and Training Committee, the Chapter Scholarship Program typically provides both College and Technical School Scholarships annually. In 2017, one \$2,500, five \$1,500, and five \$1,000 scholarships were given to future public works/engineering students. Special consideration is given to the family of Chapter members.

### **2017 Chapter Scholarships**

#### **Dewey Kasma Scholarship**

- Nathan Renner - \$2,500

#### **College Scholarships**

- Lauren Hagen - \$1,500
- Katherine Raab-\$1,500
- Lucas Rubash - \$1,500
- Brendan Barnes - \$1,500
- Lucas Kaari - \$1,500
- Joshua Nohner - \$1,000
- Rena Weis - \$1,000

#### **Technical School Scholarships**

- James Houth - \$1,000
- Eric Ptacek - \$1,000
- Adam Glisczynski - \$1,000

## **D. Creative Innovation**

The Minnesota Chapter is proud to be a group of professionals that's always looking forward. In 2009, Chapter leaders lead the formation of Minnesota 2050, a task force consisting of fourteen statewide agencies that are working together to explore what Minnesota will look like in the year 2050. The group has gained great enthusiasm from various organizations and now has a dedicated website ([mn2050.org](http://mn2050.org)) and mission statement. In 2015, the Chapter received a National Journalism award for the development of the MN2050 TPT videos.



Another great example of Chapter activities that demonstrated this pro-active approach is the Chapter's Public Awareness (formerly Public Policy) Committee. Led by Chapter member Russ Matthys, this group holds periodic meetings of Public Works Directors, City Engineers, and Public Policy makers in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and throughout the State of Minnesota. These public officials meet to discuss shared problems, seek successful solutions, and initiate and respond to legislative actions. They perform projects and take on assignments related to public works and infrastructure management policy in Minnesota. This group also tracks and influences legislative issues in cooperation with the City Engineers Association of Minnesota.

APWA Minnesota Public Awareness Committee Mission/Vision: Work to educate others so that they can choose to advocate for public works at all ages and in all places. We accomplish this by leveraging existing resources and being creative in bringing public works issues to people's attention.

Over the years, the Chapter's Public Awareness Committee has provided a strong presence at the Minnesota State Capital promoting, educating, and influencing lawmakers about the benefits of a Local Street Utility. The group has worked hard with the City Engineers Association of Minnesota and the League of Minnesota Cities to advocate for a Street/Transportation Utility during the last four sessions of the Minnesota State Legislature. During the 2008 Minnesota State Legislative Session, ground breaking transportation funding legislation successfully moved into reality thanks to years of hard work by this group. In 2011, Chapter members Lee Gustafson and Wayne Sandberg testified at the state capital on the effects on local governments and public works construction projects due to the 2011 Minnesota state government shutdown.

Another Chapter leader, Klayton Eckles, was the Minnesota Chapter's representative in 2011 on the recently created Minimal Impact Design Standards Committee (MIDS) created by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). MIDS represents the next generation of stormwater management and contains three main elements that address current challenges: 1) A higher clean water performance goal, 2) New modeling methods and credit calculations, and 3) A credits system and ordinance package. Through the proactive involvement of Chapter members such as Klayton, the Minnesota Chapter has been ensured a place at the table when it comes to discussing new environmental policy issues.

## **IV. Service to the Community**

### **A. Educational Outreach Programs**

The Minnesota Chapter of APWA is very involved in service to our communities. Many Chapter members give back time and resources with public liaison opportunities, instruction and teaching and participation at many levels of local government.

Chapter members commit time to provide mentorship to middle school students through the Future City Competition, attend STEM Expo (Minneapolis Public Schools), attend high school career fairs, and present to elementary, middle and high school students throughout the year about careers in Public Works.

For more than five years, opening day at the Minnesota State Fair has also meant STEM Day at the state fair. STEM, short for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, is arguably the most talked about education and workforce development topic today, as it should be. In search of an opportunity for public outreach at the grand-daddy of all state fairs for the past few years, the Minnesota chapter's Public Awareness Committee thought they may have found the perfect fit. APWA and STEM. From all accounts, they did just that.

Participation as a vendor/exhibitor at STEM Day is limited and requires a successful application. Due to the chapter's membership consisting of STEM professions and including members from across the entire state, the selection committee agreed that APWA should join the team. Flanked by students testing their self-propelled rocket making skills and demonstrations by high school robotics teams, the APWA roundabout test drive, otherwise known as "Godzilla versus Roundabout," was the highlight of STEM Day for many of the students as they tested their driving skills. Attendance at this one day event set at Carousel Park within the fairgrounds, continues to grow in popularity, and provides the perfect audience for the chapter's outreach effort at the fair.



*MN State Fair "Godzilla vs. Roundabout"*

Minnesota Chapter's Public Awareness Committee develops communication and education to help influence legislative issues that impact all APWA member agencies. This committee provides a strong presence at the Minnesota State Capital promoting, educating, and influencing lawmakers. One of the most recent topics addressed is the benefits of a Local Street Utility. The group has worked hard with the City Engineers Association of Minnesota and the League of Minnesota Cities to advocate for a Street/Transportation Utility during the last several sessions of the Minnesota State Legislature.

To increase the interest in the public works profession and encourage young people to seek opportunities in public works, the MN-Chapter annually awards several academic scholarships to financially assist students in civil engineering, public administration and /or other related academic and civil engineering technology programs.

## **B. Community Service Programs**

Many chapter members contribute hundreds of volunteer hours in service to the community. The Minnesota Chapter incorporates a proactive community service approach into our membership recruitment efforts. Chapter members joined together in 2017 to volunteer at the Feed My Starving Children organization. Volunteers assembled meals, packaged and prepared for shipping to provide poverty stricken children in third world countries with needed nutrition and meals.



*Chapter Members Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children*

The Chapter also continued its "Adopt-A-Highway" program with its commitment to cleaning a segment of MN State Highway 100 through bi-annual trash collection along a 2-mile stretch of Highway.

Once again, chapter members participated in the Toys for Tots campaign, delivering toys to community members in need.

### C. Environmental Considerations

The Minnesota Chapter has a thriving Environmental Committee that is participating in numerous ways to help promote energy conservation, green fleets, and environmental causes throughout the Midwest, and within professional settings that are represented by APWA and the Minnesota Chapter.

The Minnesota Chapter is proud to have developed a local “Environmental Stewardship Award.” This is an annual award that is aimed to recognize public works agencies for their “passion” and stewardship in caring for and maintaining our environment. Each year, judging the numerous nominations proves to be very difficult, and clearly shows that public works agencies in Minnesota are committed to being good stewards of our environment.

In an effort to go “green”, the decision was made in 2011 to no longer print the quarterly newsletter, *the Chalkline*, and to provide updates to members via email blasts linked to the Chapter website.

#### **2017 Chapter Environmental Service Project – Gull Lake Recreation Area**

For the second year in a row, the Environment and Sustainability Committee organized and held the annual service project at Gull Lake Recreation Area. On May 11<sup>th</sup> a group of APWA-MN volunteers partnered the Gull Lake Recreation Area, managed by the US Army Corp of Engineers, to help them plant over 1,000 seedlings after the area lost over 2,000 trees in 2015 due to a severe storm.

