

Meet the 2010 APWA-MN Executive Committee

At the APWA-MN Fall Conference, the results of the 2010 elections were announced. The newly-elected Executive Committee members are:

- President: *Dave Hutton*, SRF Consulting
- Vice President: *Mark Maloney*, City of Shoreview
- Secretary/Treasurer: *Jeannine Clancy*, City of Golden Valley
- Director-Engineer/DPW: *Klayton Eckles*, City of Woodbury
- Director-Outstate Agency: *Jon Erichson*, City of Austin
- Director-Consultant: *Sue Mason*, S.E.H.
- Director-State/County Agency: *David Redig*, Mn/DOT



Front row: Angela Popenhagen, Klayton Eckles, Susan Mason, Dave Hutton. Back row: Amy Grothaus, Lee Gustafson, Bob Cockriel, Mark Maloney, Dave Redig, Jeannine Clancy, Jon Erichson, Dan Gage

Chapter President Dan Gage appointed *Angela Popenhagen* as the new Chapter Delegate. She will replace Joel Schilling who has completed his three-year term. Special thanks and appreciation to Joel Schilling for serving in this capacity for the last four years. Nice job, Joel, representing us at APWA and looking out for our interests!

With the installation of the 2010 Executive Committee, we're extremely fortunate and grateful to have another strong and diverse group of directors and officers who will carry on the strong national tradition of success and accountability for the Minnesota Chapter of the American

In addition, the 2010 Executive Committee includes the following returning members:

- Past President: *Dan Gage*, Mac Queen Equipment
- Director-Engineer/Manager: *Lee Gustafson*, City of Minnetonka
- Director-Vender: *Amy Grothaus*, Goodpointe Technology
- Director-Superintendent: *Bob Cockriel*, City of Bloomington

Public Works Association.

Finally, as an organization we have much to be thankful for during this holiday season, including the individual contributions of several Executive Committee members whose terms of service have ended:

- *Jim Grube*, Hennepin County (Past President)
- *Greg Stonehouse*, HDR Engineering (Director-Consultant)
- *Mike Rardin*, City of St. Louis Park (Director-Engineer/DPR)
- *Bev Farraher*, Mn/DOT (Director-State/County Agency)
- *Mike Cousino*, Olmsted County (Director-Outstate Agency)

We accomplished a lot in 2009 and you were a vital part of our success. Best of luck to all outgoing board members. We hope you stay active in the Chapter through committee work or other activities.

To learn more about the Executive Committee and organizational structure, visit the APWA-MN web site at minnesota.apwa.net.

In This Issue

Calendar of Events	2
President's Message	3
Highlights of Fall Conference	4
Award winners	6
Where are they now: Greg Knutsen	9

Submitted by **Dave Hutton**
 APWA-MN Incoming President

Calendar of Events

January 7	Awards Committee meeting (SRF Consulting)
January 13	Executive Committee meeting (SRF Consulting)
February 10	Long Term Strategic Planning meeting (Officers Only) (TBA)
February 11	Education & Training Committee meeting (Barr Engineering)
February 24	MN Fall Expo Committee meeting (St. Cloud)
March 3	Executive Committee meeting (SRF Consulting)
March 20	Feed My Starving Children Event Chanhassen, Coon Rapids or Eagan

For the latest information or to register for training opportunities, visit the APWA-MN Chapter website at minnesota.apwa.net.

Save the Dates:



- Chapter members will again have the chance to help pack food for the world's hungriest children during the **2010 Feed My Starving Children volunteer event**. Mark your calendar for **March 20, 6-7:30 p.m.**, and plan to help at either the Chanhassen, Coon Rapids, or Eagan location. Watch for more details in the *Chalkline* and on the APWA-MN Chapter website at minnesota.apwa.net.
- APWA will hold a **Sustainability in Public Works Conference, June 8-10, 2010, at the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis**. The conference is one of several regional sustainability conferences scheduled by APWA.

The conference will explore and promote the evolving role of public works professionals in the creation of sustainable communities. Sustainability is a concept that touches all aspects of public works. The demands for economic, social, and environmental responsibility are increasing daily. All of these issues are addressed through efforts to improve the sustainability of public works operations.

The conference will include sessions on creating sustainability plans, successful practices for energy efficiency, transportation and traffic, operations and maintenance, facility design and management, solid waste management, fleet management, water and wastewater facilities and treatment, stormwater management, leadership development, and securing buy-in for sustainability efforts.

To view the conference schedule, session descriptions, and register online, visit: <http://sites.apwa.net/sustainability/2010/home.aspx>.

Chalkline is going green

Beginning in 2010, the *Chalkline* newsletter will be electronically distributed to all Chapter members with e-mail addresses. By going green, we will reduce our mailing from approximately 875 pieces to 150! Not only does this reduce the amount of paper used and help the environment, it will decrease our costs.

Once the newsletter is available, members will receive an e-mail that includes a link to the pdf version posted on the APWA-MN website at minnesota.apwa.net. Members who do not have e-mail addresses listed on the APWA roster will continue to receive the newsletter by mail.

If you submitted an e-mail address to APWA when you joined, you will receive the email notification and link to the online newsletter. If you have not been getting e-mail updates from APWA, and would like to, please go the APWA website and update your profile. Unfortunately, the Minnesota Chapter cannot update your personal information.

Members with e-mail addresses who would prefer to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, should email *Kathy Warren* at kwarren@usinternet.com. She will add your name to the mailing list.

You may continue to send newsworthy information to Kathy Warren at the above email address.

Chalkline is a quarterly publication of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA-Minnesota Chapter). Publication dates are March, June, September, and December. Articles for the Spring 2010 issue may be submitted for consideration by February 12 to *Kathy Warren* at kwarren@usinternet.com. Past issues of the *Chalkline* are available in PDF format on the MPWA web site at minnesota.apwa.net.



APWA-MN
President
Dan Gage

Message from the President

Thank you for the opportunity to serve APWA-MN

The year is coming to an end and so is my term as president of our great organization. I want to thank all of the members for the opportunity to serve in the executive positions over the last three years and especially this past year as president.

Not often does one have the chance to represent customers and business associates in a professional organization in which they sell into on a daily basis. You have given me that chance. I have met a lot of new people over the last three years, past business associates have become friends, and older friends have become closer.

I think the biggest thing is that I have learned so much — about this organization, myself, and the things that keep moving the effort of the APWA-MN forward. Our organization has a great history of volunteers who have passion and drive to make sure APWA-MN succeeds. Just look at this year's Past President's Breakfast. Twenty-two past presidents took time to come and talk about their years of service and to welcome our newest members (see photo below). As a chapter, we are 64 years young. That means we had over one-third of past presidents in attendance. Do you think their time of service was important to them? I do!

We will welcome the new directors and Executive Committee members during our December orientation meeting. I ask that you give them the support that you have given me over the past years. They are a great group of people, and I look forward to the upcoming months as the transition takes place.

The bar is always set high with this group. I encourage all members to get involved, be creative, and be a part of the enthusiasm moving forward.

Thank you again for the opportunity.

Dan Gage, APWA-MN President



Welcome new APWA-MN members!



Past presidents of APWA-MN Chapter

Fall Conference lives up to its advance billing

More than 300 Chapter members attended the APWA-MN Fall Conference, which got off to a very engaging and uplifting start with *Mike Veeck*, owner of the Saint Paul Saints and five other minor league teams, sharing his philosophy about having fun and passion in your work life. He included examples from his own career, with stories about Bill Murray, Daryl Strawberry, and, of course, his dad, Bill Veeck, former owner of the Chicago White Sox. He stayed around afterwards to sign his book, *Fun is Good*, and to chat with attendees.

Prior to Mr. Veeck's presentation, the Chapter gave our highest award, the Hugo Erickson Award, to Tom Klatt, SEH, for excellence in Chapter service. (See page 6 for awards details.)

Thursday's 10 concurrent sessions were the result of technical papers submitted by Chapter members and included tracks on water, streets, people, energy, and a potpourri session.

Friday morning featured a variety of interesting topics and speakers, including:

- *Jim Foti*, Star Tribune "Roadguy" columnist, discussed transportation signing and how confusing it can be to the average motorist through actual letters and calls he has gotten over the years and challenged us to become more user-friendly.
- *Tom Sorel*, Mn/DOT Commissioner, shared an update on his vision for Mn/DOT.
- *John Adams*, University of Minnesota professor, explained the complicated "New Age" of housing and how it will impact infrastructure planning and investments.

The conference ended with two outstanding presentations:

- *Ann Johnson*, with the University of Minnesota and Solar Decathlon project manager, shared the accomplishments of her team of students. It was obviously a life changing moment for Ann and we thank her for sharing her story. (See article below for details.)
- The last session was about how to design a major sports stadium to "fit on a postage stamp." *Chuck Ballantine*, Hennepin County project manager, and *Bruce Miller*, Populous designer, shared the infrastructure and site planning side of the design and construction.

The conference started with Mike Veeck talking about passion and fun in the workplace, and ended with Ann Johnson showing us how it is done by her passion and fun — not to mention blood, sweat and tears — in guiding students on a truly remarkable journey.

Thanks to everyone who helped organize the conference and make it a success, including Conference Co-Chair *Bob Cockriel*, planning committee members, *Gene Anderson* and the University of Minnesota staff, speakers, and vendors. Thanks also to Chapter members who attended to learn, network, and socialize, further reinforcing that ours is the best chapter in the country.

Submitted by Dave Hutton
APWA-MN Vice President & Conference
Co-Chair

Congratulations, U of MN Solar Decathlon Team!

At the APWA-MN Fall Conference, Ann Johnson highlighted her experiences as project manager for the University of Minnesota's Solar Decathlon Team. The team was one of only 20 international teams chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy to compete in the 2009 Solar Decathlon, and the first and only Minnesota team to ever participate in this competition.

The university team placed fifth overall, and first in the engineering and lighting competitions. The team engineered and designed a livable, working, energy-efficient, and marketable home powered by cutting-edge, currently-available solar energy technology. Their aim was to have the thousands of people that visited the house during the competition to think, "Wow, these are nice homes that I could really live in." Ann reported that they succeeded, and have several interested buyers.

The core team of 12 student leaders participated throughout the two-year design period. Engineering students from the Institute of Technology and Architecture and design students from the College of Design took the lead in the design, and also worked with students in the Construction Management program.

While the competition is student-led, the students needed support from the entire community to be successful. The total cost of the project was about \$1 million, and APWA-MN donated \$1,500 to the program to support four students attending the competition in Washington.

Submitted by Ann Johnson
Dean, Construction Management, University of
Minnesota

APWA-MN Chapter Delegate Report (May-Dec. 2009)

Following are highlights of recent Minnesota Chapter activities:

Membership. APWA membership is down 1.2 percent from a year ago to 29,243; not bad considering the economy. Our “First Time Member” campaign resulted in 1857 new members. Canadian membership is up 4 percent, comprising 6.8 percent of total APWA members.

APWA certification. APWA certification exams are administered in paper-and-pencil and computer-based formats. Paper-and-pencil exams are offered annually at the APWA Congress; computer-based exam blocks are offered several times annually at over 170 assessment centers in the United States. The 2010 Exam Schedule has been released. For more information on the upcoming schedule, visit www.apwa.net/certification.

As a result of the computer based exam block for November 9-20, there are eight new Certified Public Fleet Professionals (CPFP) for a total of 85, and 20 new Certified Public Infrastructure Inspectors (PII) for a total of 119. APWA is in the process of reviewing results from a survey of selected members related to developing a certified public works official program.

APWA Center for Sustainability. The Center is led by a 12-member leadership team. To date, the leadership team has developed mission and vision statements and

formulated long-term strategies. Developing a guiding framework is one of the strategies identified. The House of Delegates participated through conference calls with the nine regions. On December 11, Chapter Delegate and *Sherri Buss*, Chairperson of MN Chapter, Environment & Sustainability Committee, participated in the Region VI conference call and provided constructive information to APWA staff and Regional Directors Stevens and Hildebrand on the draft framework. The Center’s Framework is anticipated to be rolled-out by February 2010.

A fond farewell. It’s time to move-on and let others lead the way. At the end of 2009, I’ll complete a three-year term as Chapter Delegate to APWA and Region VI. It’s been a rewarding experience, and I can assure you the Minnesota Chapter is very respected by APWA staff and other chapters across North America. In part, this is due to my predecessors, *Jim Gates*, *Charlie Honchell*, *John Flora*, etc. But more importantly, it’s the Chapter itself, with its strong membership reflected in its hard working committees and successful events. Get involved and stay involved — you will find satisfaction and great friends. To my successor, Past President *Angela Popenhagen*, best wishes for the next three years.

Submitted by **Joel Schilling**
APWA-MN Delegate

Treasurer’s Report (Dec. 10, 2009)

I. ASSETS	12/31/08	12/10/09
a. Cash/Bank Accounts		
HCFU Savings	\$5.03	\$5.05
MPWA Checking	\$4,294.35	\$2,311.99
MPWA Money Market	\$25,696.04	\$34,516.96
Petty Cash	\$438.07	\$292.76
Total Cash/Bank Accounts	\$30,433.49	\$37,126.76
b. Investments		
APWA Merrill Lynch Fund	\$55,361.43	\$67,013.91
Total Investments	<u>\$55,361.43</u>	<u>\$67,013.91</u>
Total Assets	\$85,794.92	\$104,140.67
II. LIABILITIES	0	0
OVERALL TOTAL	\$85,794.92	\$104,140.67

Submitted by **Mark Maloney**
APWA-MN Secretary/Treasurer

Minnesota Chapter announces award winners

The 2009 Fall Conference Awards program was extremely successful, thanks to the great nominations made by our chapter members. Congratulations to all the winners!

Pictured below are the **Personnel Award** recipients.



Project of the Year Award

Left to right: APWA-MN President Dan Gage; Jon Erichson and Dennis Bessen, City of Austin; Andy Erichson and Chris Venen, Ulland Brothers; Steve Lang, City of Austin

The *City of Austin* received the **Project of the Year Award** for the Oakland Avenue East Underpass Project. Accepting the award on behalf of the city, were project team representatives Ulland Bros., Inc. and Jon Erichson, city of Austin public works director/city

engineer. The project included the removal and elimination of three bridges, the filling of an abandoned railroad underpass, elimination of a storm lift station, and construction of an "at grade street." City engineering staff designed and managed the entire project from start to finish.

Selected for **Project of the Year, Honorable Mention** were:

- *Anoka County*: CSAH 14 Reconstruction I-35W to I-35E
- *City of Woodbury*: East Ridge High School/ Bielenberg Sports Center
- *City of St. Anthony*: St. Anthony Water Reuse Facility



Superintendent of the Year

Left to right: APWA-MN President Dan Gage; John Zgoda, City of Hastings



Director of the Year

Left to right: APWA-MN President Dan Gage; John Zgoda, City of Hastings



Maintenance Employee of the Year

Left to right: APWA-MN President Dan Gage, Joe Birk, City of Hastings



Supervisor of the Year

Left to right: APWA-MN President Dan Gage; Robin Verkinnes, City of Robbinsdale



Hugo G. Erickson Award

Left to right: APWA-MN President Dan Gage; Tom Klatt, SEH

Tom Klatt, Client Service Advisor with SEH Inc., received the **Hugo G. Erickson Award**. Tom served on the Executive Committee as a director in 1995, 1996, and 2003. He joined the Executive Committee in 2004 and served as president in 2006. He has served on the Education and Training Committee and the Conference Planning Committee for a number of years, and is involved with the Leadership Academy and Underground Inspection School.

APWA awards program. The close of this year's local Chapter awards leads us to the national APWA awards program. Nominations for national awards are due to APWA in early March 2010. Therefore, we are asking anyone interested in submitting an award to contact Mark Hansen of SRF Consulting or Amy Grothaus of GoodPointe Technology by **January 6**. The awards committee is happy to assist you or your agency with putting together your nomination packet. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the APWA website at www.apwa.net/AboutAwards/2010Awards/

Submitted by Amy Grothaus
APWA-MN Director/Vendor-Contractor

Seven students receive APWA-MN scholarships

Each year, APWA-MN awards one-Dewey Kasma scholarship, four \$1,000 college scholarships, and four \$750 technical school scholarships. This year, additional money was raised that allowed the Dewey Kasma scholarship amount to increase from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Due to the shortage of applicants, only three college and three technical school scholarships were awarded this year.

Candidates are evaluated on financial need, academic achievements, character, participation in professional organizations, and any previous work experience in the area of public works. Preference is given to candidates who are APWA-MN members, or a member's spouse or dependent. In the event that there is a shortage of qualified applications for one type of scholarship (college or technical); the award may be given to a deserving candidate in the other category.

Scholarships for 2009 were awarded as follows:



Left to right: APWA-MN President Dan Gage, Nate Christensen (Dewey Kasma Award Recipient), Kyle Sammons (College Scholarship Recipient), Dan Fick, APWA-MN Scholarship Chair

The Dewey Kasma scholarship was awarded to *Nathan Christensen*, senior at the University of Minnesota. Nate has been working as an intern for the City of White Bear Lake. He plans on pursuing transportation or city engineering in his professional career. He is also an Eagle Scout and youth group leader.

The following students received college scholarships:

- *Steve Grossman* (\$1,000) is a junior at Minnesota State University-Mankato and expects to receive his degree in Civil Engineering in 2011. Steve works for the City of Lakeville and aspires to be a public works administrator after graduation.
- *Kyle Sammons* (\$1,000) is also a junior at Minnesota State University-Mankato. He has been working for Dakota County as an engineering intern and wishes to work in the field of Environmental Engineering. Kyle is also a leader in the MSU ASCE student chapter.
- *Mark Danielson* (\$1,000) attends South Dakota State University and plans to graduate in 2011. He has worked for Bonestroo and the City of Eagan and is interested in both consulting and city engineering. Mark is an Eagle Scout and is also active in intramural sports.

The following students received technical school scholarships:

- *Tom Hinz* (\$750) is attending South Central College in Mankato. He is an A student and upon graduation plans to be an engineering technician. Tom is currently working for Mn/DOT.
- *Matthew Welinski* (\$750) is an A student at St. Cloud Technical College. Upon graduation, Matthew plans to become a land surveyor.
- *Andrew Becker* (\$750) is studying surveying at North Dakota State College of Science. He enjoys hunting and fishing and plans to be a surveyor upon graduation.

In order to keep this program a success, we need your help. Please continue to encourage your family members and staff to apply for these scholarship opportunities.

Submitted by **Dan Fick**
APWA-MN Scholarship Committee Chair

IDEA CENTER

Case Study: City of Eagan telecommunications site management

The demand for wireless communications continues to grow at a dizzying clip. Because of this demand, your city's water tank/site is a valuable piece of real estate in the eyes of telecommunications companies.

As water utility superintendents, we are thrust into managing the co-location of multiple telecommunications tenants while managing our main priority: our city's water tank/supply. With this in mind, it's important that you standardize your city's telecommunications sites and lease processes, and regain control of your city's water tank and your financial future.

This article summarizes how the City of Eagan developed an efficient telecommunications site management solution.

We had to overcome a number of issues, including:

- No internal administrative processes.
- No inter-departmental coordination.
- No filing process.
- No tenant application forms.
- No standardized application fee.
- No structured/balanced lease terms.
- No formalized rate structure.
- No tenant contact information.
- No site access or safety requirements.
- No equipment siting, co-location or decommissioning procedures or requirements.

In instances where we had hard copy tenant applications, leases or equipment information, we had no way of managing all of this information — and the information was not filed or located in one place. We needed to “start at the start” and develop a way to identify and manage our internal processes.

We held a scoping meeting with representatives from every department, and identified the necessary “players.” These players identified their own role and needs in the process of leasing tank space and enabled us to create a process of who to involve and when. For example, we identified when in the process to involve the parks department, building inspectors, city planners, and utilities departments.

Next, we developed a formalized tenant application process and standard application fees to pay for initial administration and up-front meeting costs. The application process became the first step in the process for a tenant to sign a lease. We developed a master lease agreement with terms that balanced the city's interests, and introduced standardized rate structures and fee schedules. These standardized rates and fees leveled the playing field by ensuring that all tenants were paying the same price. We then developed standardized ordinance requirements for site access, safety requirements, and equipment placement. All of these requirements are now controlled by the city.

Once we regained control over the interdepartmental, contractual, and lease information, the question was: How do we manage all of this information? The answer: a GIS site management solution that houses all of the city's telecommunications tenant information in one place.

The GIS management system is unique because of its visual/intuitive, point-and-click approach to locating and identifying this newly-collected and organized information. The system also includes the ability to integrate and manage the tenants' site information such as tenant site survey, antenna and ground equipment, and as-built information.

Each tenants' antennas, cable runs, and ground equipment information are color-coded in the system. The ArcMap Data Layers are dynamic and visual. With its point-and-click navigation, the user can easily locate and update tenant information. All site survey, cable runs, antenna and ground equipment, and tenant contractual information is available at the touch of a button. The system allows the city to create up-to-date reports, which can be customized based on equipment, site, or contractual information categories. Finally, the system is easily linked to CityWorks or an existing GIS database management system.

With a solid telecommunications site management solutions plan, you can better manage your telecommunications site and lease processes, and regain control of your city's water tank and your financial future.

Submitted by **Wayne Schwanz**
City of Eagan

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Good 'ol Greg Knutsen

"FORE" scores and seven holes ago, I caught up with Greg Knutsen coming off the Becker Golf course after he finished yet one more round before the season ended. As many of you recall, Greg served on the APWA-MN Board for two years, the Executive Committee for four years, and was president of our Chapter in 1989. So on this 20th anniversary of his leadership, we thought it would be fun to find out how life is on the other side of the fence (aka retirement!)

Greg started with the City of St. Louis Park in 1970, following his discharge from the Army where he was a crew chief on a Cobra helicopter gunship in Vietnam. He was promoted to superintendent of streets in the early 1980s and finished his last few years as traffic superintendent, retiring in 2004. He currently lives just outside the metro area in Clear Lake, Minn., with Gail Kozlak and seems to be enjoying his well-deserved retirement.

Why and how did you become involved in APWA-MN? I was an active member in the Minnesota Street Superintendents Association (MSSA), serving all offices through president. During this time, as a member of APWA-MN I became involved with the golf committee and found APWA-MN to be a good avenue for networking. One thing led to another, and I again moved through the ranks to become president in 1989. I found a great group of people to work with to promote public works.

What activities or interests keep you busy now?

Now retired, I find myself golfing much of the summer, and fishing and hunting whenever possible. Gail and I have three children and 11 grandchildren between us, which also consumes some of that free time.

We live in Clear Lake with five acres on a small lake and enjoy the opportunities home ownership provides. We also winter in Arizona, and have really enjoyed getting away for part of the winter season.



Greg and Gail with grandson

What changes have you noticed in the field of public works (during your career or since you retired)?

Without a doubt, the computer age really changed a lot of the administration aspects of the job. It used to be a process of getting things done from memory. Now, so much time is spent with data collection and evaluation. Many of the old timers had everything stored in the memory banks and were extremely good at what they did. Now, it's the memory stored in the computer banks that drives the machine of knowledge.

What benefits do you think APWA-MN provided you, both professionally and personally?

Without a doubt, it gave me a mechanism to facilitate progress, through mentoring, through networking with others, and through education. I really thought I always had a friend out there who could help when help was needed.

What are some of your best memories/activities of APWA-MN?

Beyond the fun things we did, such as the golf outings and the spring and fall conferences, were the friendships and the professionalism of the Chapter — such a good group of individuals to be associated with; a real honor.

Do you recall some of the big issues or initiatives during your membership/involvement?

Honestly, I don't recall anything too big. We were dealing with opportunities to keep education in public works ongoing, getting prepared to host a snow conference in St. Paul, and looking for the national conference in Minneapolis in the future.

What was your greatest challenge in public works? What challenges do you see facing public works now?

In these tough economic times, one can only assume public works projects must be held to high standards both in terms of cost and longevity. The so-called crumbling infrastructure we have all taken for granted must be reconstructed, improved upon, and maintained for future generation.

Any advice or words of wisdom that you would like to share with us?

Retirement is good...don't wait too long to give it a try!



1989 Board of Directors (Greg is in the back row, second from left)

Submitted by Tom Colbert
APWA-MN History Committee

Preview of 2010 Minnesota legislative session

The following summary was prepared by City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM) Legislative Chair Dave Sonnenberg, in coordination with Anne Finn with the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC).

The 2010 Session will focus largely on bonding/capital investment. There will likely be funding in the bonding bill for water infrastructure, the Local Bridge Program, and the Local Road Improvement Program. CEAM's legislative efforts will again be coordinated through LMC, and focus on local authority to raise street maintenance revenues beyond the capabilities of the property tax and special assessments.

The LMC Draft 2010 City Policies contain legislative initiatives designed to support our activities, from which the following has been excerpted and edited (complete text can be found on the LMC website at www.lmc.org).

Our recent partial successes and the Legislature's request to the Center for Transportation Studies for a study on funding options give us reason to be somewhat hopeful. However, in the long run, whatever happens will depend upon the perceptions of individual legislators as to the proper balance between services and taxes so as to maximize their chances for re-election. We can only persevere in our efforts to keep putting before them the right answers to these issues that have gone unresolved for decades.

Utility Relocation Under Design-Build Road

Construction. When a Mn/DOT construction project requires the relocation of utilities, the cost of relocating municipal utilities should be shared equitably between the department and affected municipal utilities.

Impaired Waters. The League supports legislative appropriation of constitutionally-dedicated clean water revenues providing at least \$80 million per year. These funds should supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes, not be used to cover budget cuts, backfill past program reductions, or to otherwise supplant normal state spending on water programs.

The majority of funds collected by the state for impaired waters should be directed into programs that fund municipal waste water and storm water projects, and for state programs needed for municipal wastewater and stormwater permitting and technical support, including the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, Waste Water Infrastructure Fund, Phosphorus Reduction Grant Program, TMDL Grants Program, Small Community

Waste Water Treatment Grant and Loan Program, and other state programs that provide financial resources for city waste water treatment facilities, septic tank replacement, storm water management projects, and other city water quality improvement and protection projects. Additional funding to more adequately cover the current five-year wastewater infrastructure funding need of more than \$2.1 billion should also be provided.

Statutory Approval Timelines. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 15.99, state and local government agencies must approve or deny a permit within 60 days. Failure by the agency to issue a specific denial of the application with contemporaneous written findings of fact is deemed an approval. The Legislature should repeal or amend Minn. Stat. § 15.99. If repeal is unlikely, it should be amended to increase the initial time limit to 90 days.

Public Infrastructure Utilities. The Legislature should authorize cities to create, as a local option, additional utilities such as a transportation or sidewalk utility. Such authority would acknowledge the effects of repeated levy limits and the general funding shift from the state to local governments for building and maintaining necessary infrastructure, the benefits to all taxpayers of a properly maintained public infrastructure, and the limitations of existing special assessment authority.

Right-of-Way Management. State and federal policy-makers and regulators must uphold local authority to manage and protect public rights-of-way, including reasonable zoning and subdivision regulation and the exercise of local police powers as well as maintain existing city authority to review and approve or deny plans for installations. In the alternative, cities should have broader authority to require the underground placement of new and/or existing services at the cost of the utility or telecommunications entity.

Adequate Funding for Transportation. More resources must be dedicated to all components of the state's transportation system, and local units of government must have access to resources and funding tools to meet growing needs.

Road and Transit Funding for Cities Under 5,000.

Cities under 5,000 population that are not eligible for MSA should be able to use county municipal accounts and the 5 percent account of the HUTDF.

Submitted by

Dave Sonnenberg, CEAM Legislative Chair
Anne Finn, League of Minnesota Cities

News Around Town

Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)



Operations Manager *Eric Dodds* has been named a delegate-at-large for the Water Environment Federation. WEF is a not-for-profit association which provides technical education and training for the world's water quality professionals. WEF has 35,000 individual members who support its mission to preserve and enhance the global water environment.



AE2S has hired *Nicole Larson* as a marketing intern in its Grand Forks, ND, office. Larson is currently a senior at the University of North Dakota majoring in graphic design with an entrepreneur certificate.



Design Engineer *Mike Petersen* has earned certification as a Class B waterworks operator in Minnesota. Prior to joining AE2S, Petersen worked as a water operator for the City of Richfield.

American Engineering Testing (AET)



AET congratulates *Richard D. Stehly* on his nomination as president of the American Concrete Institute for the 2010-2011 term. ACI is advancing concrete knowledge by conducting seminars, managing certification programs, and publishing technical documents. Stehly is a co-founder of AET and serves as

principal engineer.

American Petrographic Services (APS)



New research by APS on the *Newport Tower* in Newport, Rhode Island, indicates a much older origin for the structure, long thought to be a Colonial-age windmill.

Bonestroo



Paul Heuer recently joined Bonestroo as the real estate services team leader. The team helps lenders understand and dispose of distressed assets.

CH2M HILL

Tricia Berger recently joined the Minneapolis/St. Paul office, transferring from the Santa Ana, Calif., office. Berger specializes in hydraulic modeling and has extensive experience in water and wastewater master planning. She is one of the firm's urban management planning specialists.

Green Companies, Inc.

Green Company, Inc. (GCI), the parent company of Howard R. Green Company, has been awarded a contract from AmerenUE to design the Methane to Megawatts project at Fred Weber's Solid Waste Landfill in Maryland Heights, Missouri. The agreement includes plans to install combustion turbines capable of generating about 15 megawatts of electricity by burning methane gas at the landfill. Expected to be operational in 2011, the project will be the largest gas-electric plant in Missouri, and among the largest landfill generation plants in the country in terms of generating capacity.

McCombs Frank Roos Associates, Inc.

MFRA has been certified as a Minority Business Enterprise by the Midwest Minority Supplier Development Council. The firm has also been certified in the Targeted Group/Economically Disadvantaged program of the Minnesota Department of Administration.

Share your news in News Around Town

All APWA-MN member agencies, firms, and departments are welcome to share their latest news. Please contact *Kathy Warren* at kwarren@usinternet.com.



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