



MN2050 Meeting Notes

July 9, 2018

In attendance: Amy Grothaus (APWA-MN), Kristin Asher (APWA-MN), Brad Henry (MN2050), Alex Jordan, Tom Eggum (ASCE), Jeannine Clancy (APWA-MN), Scott Barsuhn (Barsuhn), Don Reeder (LMC), Lydia Ener (APWA-MN), Russ Matthys (APWA-MN), Craig Johnson (LMC), Greg Stonehouse, Anne Finn (LMC)

Minutes taken by: Kristin Asher, APWA-MN Chapter President

The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the scope of what the two groups, MN2050 and APWA-MN Chapter would like delivered in regard to the advocacy for infrastructure initiative both groups support. Scott Barsuhn has background materials and has had discussions with Kristin. He will lead the discussion as needed to help clarify the scope.

Tom Eggum: shared his thoughts on the upcoming ASCE MN Infrastructure Report Card, due out in September. This is a good opportunity to utilize that. He also shared his recent involvement with the Thriving by Design conference. Their goal is to develop a state economic equity blueprint – with widespread rural/urban support – by the end of the year.

Scott began leading the discussion asking – What do we want 2023 look like in regard to the infrastructure conversation amongst the general public – what are people talking about at parties?

Group input:

- Audience should be children and adults, grandparents.
- Infrastructure is far broader than roads/bridges.
- People are talking about infrastructure and the career opportunities that go with the great, ongoing need.
- Celebrate success – or at least don't ignore them – a recent success is \$150M annually goes to water, sewer, storm. Legislators like to get credit for making things happen.
- Legislature is catching on – our members/partners need to be motivated and need help shaping their stories and getting the message out.
- Add a component at the university level for advocating for infrastructure. Make it a part of the curriculum so the next generation of professionals has the skillset.
- We need to build a network of PW professionals that are accessible for presentations at legislative committees on broad topics and expert stories to simply educate people.
- In 5 years, people should have a better understanding of the value of infrastructure.
- We need tools for PW professionals to engage with citizens, similar to what cops/fire professionals us at block parties, etc.

Final comments:

- There are a lot of PW minded organizations; MN2050 is the only organization looking at the big picture. In total infrastructure is underfunded by \$2B/year.
- This effort should be built around STEM.

- How do we leverage failures for advocacy?
- The public should acknowledge their gratitude for the infrastructure they have, desire for a resilient future, understand the opportunities they have to be a part of it, and know that they are also responsible for the state of our infrastructure.

Next steps: Scott will complete scope/proposal within a week to APWA. Once it a go, Scott will get started and a future meeting with the same group will be planned for feedback/guidance moving forward.