



Minnesota
Chapter

American Public Works Association Minnesota Chapter

2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RUSS MATTHYS, President

City of Eagan
(651) 675-5646
rmatthys@cityofeagan.com

BETH ENGUM, Vice President

Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.
(612) 426-2213
Beth.engum@kimley-horn.com

NICK EGGER, Secretary/Treasurer

City of Hastings
(651) 480-2370
nickegger@hastingsmn.gov

AMY GROTHAUS, Past President

Braun Intertec
(651) 487-7014
agrothaus@braunintertec.com

JEANNINE CLANCY, Delegate

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

CHRIS PETREE, Alternate Delegate

WSB
(507) 218-3749
cpetree@wsbeng.com

LEE GUSTAFSON, Deputy Treasurer

WSB
(763) 762-2821
lgustafson@wsbeng.com

GEORGINA (NINA) STANLEY

Director – Consultant
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
gstanley@srfconsulting.com

JESSE STRUVE

Director – DPW/City Engineer
City of Brooklyn Park
jesse.struve@brooklynpark.org

JUPE HALE

Director – Engineer/Manager
City of Maple Grove
[jhale@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:j hale@maplegrovern.gov)

SCOTT JENSEN

Director – Outstate
City of Lake City
sjensen@ci.lake-city.mn.us

DAN ERICKSON

Director – State/County/Regional Agency
MnDOT
dan.erickson@state.mn.us

JOE WIITA

Director – Superintendent
Scott County
jwiita@co.scott.mn.us

MARK REHDER

Director – Vendor/Contractor
Rehder Forestry Consulting
mark@rehderforestryconsulting.com

CHRIS LABOUNTY

Director – Young Professional
City of Plymouth
clabounty@plymouthmn.gov

PAT SCHUTROP, Chapter Assistant

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

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Timothy Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

On behalf of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association, I am writing to thank you for signing Executive Order 20-02, authorizing the temporary closure of Minnesota K-12 public schools to students in order for school administrators and teachers to make long-term plans for the continuity of education and essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic. As advocates for our communities, our members have pledged to protect our children as part of our public works responsibilities.

I also wanted to thank you for including as part of Executive Order 20-02 the requirement that schools provide care for elementary-age children of health care professionals, first responders, and other emergency workers during previously planned school days to ensure Minnesota's first line of defense against COVID-19 can stay on the job.

On behalf of the more than 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association, with over 30,000 nationally, we affirm the clarification that you are using the federal definition of first responders as defined in the U.S. Homeland Security Presidential Directive, HSPED-8[3]: *"The term "first responder" refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. § 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel (such as equipment operators) that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations."*

During this current emergency, public works professionals across the state will ensure the safety and well-being of all Minnesotans. We will continue to provide safe drinking water, ensure the collection and treatment of sewerage, plow snow from public streets and highways, safely manage the transportation systems, and maintain the emergency response vehicles and equipment. It is reassuring to know that these first responders will also have their children's care provided so that they may stay on the job as our first line of defense.

With the help of extraordinary leaders like you and with the determination and fortitude of all first responders, I believe that we will successfully overcome the challenges of this present emergency. Thank you for your guidance and support during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Russ Matthys, PE
APWA-MN Chapter President

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