

1. MN2050 Update (Stockness)
2. Government Affairs Committee Updates (anyone?)
3. Asset Management Committee Update (Russ)
4. ROG Goals for 2022 (attached)
5. 2022 ASCE Report Card
  - a. Website Updates
6. Ongoing Efforts
  - a. Infrastructure Walks
  - b. Chamber of Commerce Connections
    - i. Monthly newsletters
    - ii. Local chamber conference 3x/year – intro to PW
  - c. Facebook Page
  - d. Short videos
7. ROG, GAC, MN2050 Joint Meeting (notes attached for informational purposes)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84853972667?pwd=d1N0UVhCSExhMy9QVm96Q01XZ1RxUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 5397 2667

Passcode: 676142

# APWA-MN Strategic Plan



VISION: Advancing quality of life for all Minnesotans

MISSION: Support those who design, operate, improve and maintain public works and infrastructure through advocacy, education and member engagement.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### Value of Public Works



PW Exhibit at the Science Museum



STEM / Student outreach



Promote careers in public works



Asset management curriculum

### Voice of Public Works



Raise Our Grade  
[raiseourgrademn.org](http://raiseourgrademn.org)



GAC - Government Affairs Committee



Key initiative for 2022/2023

### Membership/ Education



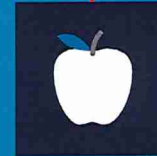
National PWX/Snow conference hosting



Conferences/PDHs



Networking opportunities



Educational offerings

# What is MN 2050?

Coalition of professional organization to provide Minnesota citizens with infrastructure that will meet the needs of the 21st century.

## **MN2050's three main goals are to:**

1. Increase **public awareness** about the importance of our state's critical infrastructure.
2. Develop K-12 **infrastructure-related curriculum to educate Minnesota's 2050 leaders** and partner with educators, coalitions and foundations to integrate the STEM education fields and infrastructure knowledge.
3. Establish a **platform to help professionals research and advance our infrastructure management message.**



# Who are our 17 MN2050 partners?



# Proposed organization in MN APWA



**Coordinates, shares APWA activities with partners, shares needs to RoG or Gov Affairs**

**RAISE <sup>OUR</sup> GRADE,  
MINNESOTA**

**Public Education focus**



**AGENDA**

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Government, Legislative, Policy focus**



## *MN2050 Committee Update*

Greg Stonehouse, Chair

Date: December 2, 2021

### **Executive Committee Action Items**

#### **1. Discussion Items**

- a. **Continue to Support Development of New MN2050 Vision.** 10 years after the completion of the Infrastructure Asset video series, and our emergence from the pandemic, it is time to refresh the purpose and vision of our MN2050 effort. With the passage of infrastructure funding at the federal level, we have an opportunity to pivot our focus and continue to educate, inform and influence infrastructure investment toward the 2050 future.
- a. **Re-engage MN2050 Partners and Broaden the Partnership.** Following the Vision/Mission refresh, it will be critical to reactivate our partnerships and broaden that group into the contractor and vendor arenas.

### **Committee Priorities for 2022**

- **MN2050 Vision Refresh** – Committee is interested in reworking our vision based upon the progress made in infrastructure awareness, as demonstrated with the passage of Federal infrastructure investment. Committee seeks input and involvement of Exec Committee to ensure alignment with broader chapter and various MN APWA Committee objectives.
- **Legislative Engagement** - With over \$600M in Federal funds headed toward Minnesota, MN2050 seeks to be in a position to educate, inform and influence State Legislators in a manner that guides this large capital investment toward the 'right' infrastructure needs in Minnesota.
- **Deepen and Broaden MN2050 Partnerships** – Emerging from COVID, we need to re-engage 17 current partners and work to develop new partnerships with the Contractor and Vendor communities.
- **Stronger Collaboration with Raise Our Grade and Govt. Affairs Committees**
- **Transition Committee Leadership and Diversify MN2050 Committee**
- **Consideration for another Fund Raising Campaign** – In concert with the above priorities, we have been in discussion with MN ASCE regarding a joint fund raising campaign. Initially conceived around the release of the 2022 MN Infrastructure Report Card, it appears ASCE is now funding that, but we still have ongoing needs to support Raise Our Grade, a potential Social Media Campaign and many others that might merit enhanced funding.

### **Committee Membership**

Chair: Greg Stonehouse  
Members: Kristin Asher, Tom Eggum, Brad Henry, Alex Jordan, John Maczko, Jeff Oliver, Joel Schilling, Greg Stonehouse, Renee Willette  
EC Liaison: Beth Engum

### **Mission**

To raise awareness of the critical role infrastructure plays in the quality of life of Minnesotans and expose the lack of attention being given to reinvestment of our critical infrastructure; therefore, developing a shared commitment to improve our infrastructure.

## American Public Works Association Minnesota Chapter



### Committee Priorities – 2022 & Beyond

Committee Name: Raise Our Grade, MN Sub-committee to MN2050

Committee Purpose: To assist in advocating for infrastructure investment. The sub-committee was formed to raise awareness and work with the MN2050 partners in advocacy messaging and efforts. MN2050 will need to be actively supporting the committee for it to be successful.

#### Priorities:

1. Raise Our Grade, MN Website - to increase the use of the website. Update will be needed once the new ASCE Report Card is released. Remind people it's a tool for the Chapter not the committee.
2. Infrastructure Talks/Walks - continue to work with champions at the State Capitol to educate elected officials about infrastructure.
3. Support chapter efforts - work with the Chapter committees, specifically MN2050, to increase public awareness/education about infrastructure investment needs in Minnesota.

#### Committee priorities should fit within one or more of APWA's Strategic Goals

**Value:** Promote the value of public works and enhance its visibility and awareness

**Voice:** Be the voice of public works to government leaders, the public, and media

**Education & Credentialing:** Provide excellence in education and credentialing

**Membership and Chapters:** Deliver an outstanding and valuable membership experience in collaboration with Chapters

\* This exercise is meant to get committee chairs and liaisons thinking about priorities (at least 1, no more than 3) for their committee to focus on in 2022 and beyond. This can include ongoing work and/or new initiatives and may overlap with other committees. Please discuss this with your committee members, including initial steps to work toward these priorities, and plan to present this information to the Executive Committee at the first meeting in 2022 (January 12, 2022).

**Meeting Purpose:** In response to the influx of Infrastructure Funding that is coming to Minnesota, the purpose of the meeting is to coordinate efforts for the year so we can be most effective in informing, educating, and influencing folks on MN's infrastructure needs. But more specifically... what audiences are we trying to reach, what are the messages, and who is doing what. MN Legislative Session - January 31 – May 21

### **Meeting Notes**

MN2050 – need to reinvent what MN2050 is doing towards their vision.

GAC – using a two prong approach; understanding what the needs are and having a clear representation of what we are asking for. Educate, inform, increase awareness

ROG – tool to outreach and educate the general public in order to increase advocacy for infrastructure investment in Minnesota.

- Review budgetary needs for MN2050, ROG and Asset Mgmt.
  - Focus on ROG website updates; MN2050 public outreach (and financial partners); GAC (asset mgmt.)

### **Infrastructure Funding (IJA)**

- Senator Johnson Stewart believes we are in a good position to influence the outcome of the federal funding. We need to collaborate and offer up the knowledge of the needs in the state.
- Today money isn't the problem; it's what to do with it when we have it and how to get it into the right hands for the most need.
- Much of the infrastructure funding that is coming to MN (2/3) is identified for roads/bridges. How do we influence how those \$'s are dispersed?
- What money is identified for water/sewer is for lead service pipe replacement
- Possibly some flexible money available in "reconnecting communities" as it is less defined

### **MN Needs**

- Very much have a lack of knowledge related to the full spectrum of needs across the state.
- PFA has a needs list for water and wastewater, nothing for storm. Road and bridges needs are much further along.

### **Identified Priorities to Develop Key Messages**

- Sustainable, dedicated funding needed for water, wastewater (all Minnesota assets); could use IJA funds for seed money.
- Understanding MN needs (asset management)
- Influencing IJA related to Roads/bridges
- All Minnesotans deserve reliable, safe and affordable systems that maintain their quality of life.

### MN2050 focus for 2022

- Focus on re-engaging partners; establish a group that can be active in advocacy and help shape and support the efforts of Raise Our Grade, MN
- Assist in the development of key messages
- Encourage members to be active on ROG, MN Facebook group

### Government Affairs focus for 2022

- Assist with the development of key messages
- Carry key messages to the legislature
- Encourage members to be active on ROG, MN Facebook group
- Develop a statewide infrastructure commission - clean, reliable, affordable water and responsible wastewater treatment for ALL people in Minnesota. Work with elected officials (Senator Johnson Stewart) to help redefine the role of the existing Legislative Water Commission
  - Need a sub-committee to identify goals
  - Include AWWA and APWA on these committees
  - Meeting with the existing commission director
  - Senator Johnson Stewart will reach out to the existing Commission to see how to be best effective
  - Joel will connect with his past representative to see if he is interested in being a part of this effort

### Raise Our Grade, MN focus for 2022

- Assist in the development of key messages
- Update the website when the new ASCE Report Card is released in April
- Website update to include short case studies identifying the need and reinforcing the key messages

- Encourage members to be active on ROG, MN Facebook group
- Building stories (case studies) of needs across the state. Focusing on water and wastewater and the lack of funding but increasing regulations
  - Use 2022 Capital Requests for basis of short stories
    - Engineers/Elected officials who applied can served as a resource (including Senator Johnson-Stewart)
      - Focus on water, wastewater, storm sewer
      - Attempt to get congressional district equity (if possible)
    - Senator Johnson-Stewart or MMB ([budget.finance.mmb@state.mn.us](mailto:budget.finance.mmb@state.mn.us)) could supply list of submittals?
  - Typical issues with rural communities (big facilities/expensive needs; no tax base; maintaining health)
  - Sewage Treatment Plants (Albert Lea & Austin)
  - Wilder – failing septic tanks; they need \$4M to build a trunk line to a neighboring community

Next meeting – more detail on infrastructure money distribution; continue planning how to approach existing commission and how we can influence; developing key messages.

**UPDATE:** Since the last meeting we have met with representatives of the existing water commission and they feel that what needs to happen is a coordinated “one message” across all organizations/associations, basically the MN2050 partner group. The focus needs to be on getting that group united and active.

February 28, 2022

## NOTES

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**Meeting Purpose:** As a follow up to our January 24 discussion around Infrastructure Funding that is coming to Minnesota, this meeting was held in an effort to firm up plans for a MN2050 Partner meeting, develop and align our messaging strategy, and establish a timeline to engage the Minnesota Legislative Session.

### **Meeting Notes**

1. Primary goal of discussion was to establish a MN2050 Partner meeting plan. Goal is a virtual Partner meeting the week of 14 March, with a desired outcome of unifying our infrastructure messaging. Also discussed a planned, in-person, Partner meeting in the April timeframe, in time to effect and influence legislative session outcomes.
2. Zac Johnson and Sen. Johnson-Stewart discussed the need for follow up with the Legislative Water Commission and more specifically, a follow up meeting with Jon Linc Stine, formerly of MCPA. Zac was to forward e-mail reminder to Sen Johnson-Stewart's senate e-mail for action on part of her Administrative Assistant (Nate).
  - a. Required attendees for that meeting should include Zac Johnson, Sen. Johnson Stewart, and Michelle Stockness, at a minimum.
3. There was lengthy discussion around the need and timing for Legislative engagement.
  - a. Sen. Johnson Stewart indicated that getting representatives from MN2050 Partners in front of both the House and Senate Bonding committees/hearings would be an effective path.
  - b. Suggested that April was not too late to do so, which should influence the timing of our potential in-person Partner meeting.
  - c. Sen. Johnson Stewart also indicated that a meeting with Governor Walz would be possible/beneficial
4. Brad Henry is working with APWA Planning Committee to finalize Spring Conference agenda.
  - a. Possibility to include Sen. Johnson Stewart as a speaker on Friday morning at that conference. Brad Johnson to follow up.
5. MN2050 Website discussion –
  - a. Sen. Johnson Stewart indicated current website is adequate landing page for legislators
  - b. Within APWA members, there is collective agreement that we need to update and improve content and accessibility on that website ASAP.
  - c. We will develop an action plan for the website during Friday's MN2050 meeting.

6. Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) Discussion
    - a. There is a March 4 meeting of the Subcommittee for Minnesota Water Policy. However, there is not much awareness around the mission and purpose of that group.
    - b. Zac Johnson indicated that there is some history between that subcommittee and LMC that he can investigate further.
    - c. With respect to LCC, there was discussion around the need for establishing some form of a State-wide Infrastructure Commission.
      - i. Should this encompass all infrastructure?
      - ii. Should we develop a group wholly focused upon Water infrastructure?
      - iii. Regardless of the form that 'commission' takes, the opinion was strong that we need Partner representation on that commission.
  7. Brief discussion around the increased budget surplus, now up to \$9B.
    - a. Though not discussed, Stonehouse noted that all attendees with video appeared to express moderate to intense desire for reduced State income taxes. ☺
  8. Friday MN2050 Meeting Expectations
    - a. Firm up a plan for a virtual MN2050 Partner meeting week of 3/14
    - b. Develop unified messaging and talking points for Partners, and create alignment between March, and April follow up partner meetings
    - c. Work with Sen. Johnson Stewart to get in front of House and Senate bonding committees/hearing – GAC Action required
    - d. Work with Joel Schilling to intensify efforts around renewing and updating our MN2050 Website.
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