

Biwabik rebuilds city's infrastructure But future of municipal electric service hangs in the balance as pressures mount

by Steve Downer

With pressure to keep rates low and scrutiny over keeping “too much” money in the bank, many municipal utilities may be one severe storm away from a crisis.

The summer of 2016 saw a succession of severe storms roll across the state. If not blown down in one storm, weakened trees often broke in the next. And so it was in Biwabik, where a Labor Day severe thunderstorm left behind a ravaged landscape and even toppled tombstones.

The storm hammered the city's electric distribution system. Biwabik for many years has relied on Minnesota Power (MP) for electric distribution maintenance service. MP came in to repair the damage. Electric distribution assets are notoriously difficult to insure, and the city didn't have handy money. How would Biwabik pay for the replacement equipment and related expenses?

An MP buyout of the municipal system had been discussed several times over the years. Under dire circumstances, and with the city wanting to keep the municipal system, the parties hit on a unique solution: the Duluth-based investor owned utility would buy the municipal system, and the city would lease it back over 10 years.



The peaked tower of Biwabik city hall (mid-picture) rises above Biwabik's Main Street. The city is in the midst of rebuilding its streets, water and sewer systems and other infrastructure.

The agreement was signed in August 2017. Biwabik sold its electric distribution infrastructure assets to MP for \$903,723.

The city took the money and put it in what amounts to a trust fund. A system depreciation schedule was set of 8-10 percent annually. Improvements are made annually that approximate the amount of deprecia-

tion—The city budgets and spends \$70,000 to \$90,000 annually for maintenance. Interest from investments helps pay down the monthly fee.

MP provides regular maintenance and reinvestment in the infrastructure over the

Biwabik: see page 6 please

'Offer on the table' for Truman municipal utility

Cooperative balks at assuming wholesale contract

Federated Rural Electric Association has made an offer to purchase the Truman Public Utilities municipal electric system.

To address the issue, a public meeting of the Truman Public Utilities Commission and Truman City Council was held 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 28 at the Truman Community Building. Federated General Manager Scott Reimer presented information on the cooperative and what it could do for Truman.

While “all the other pieces seem to be in place” for a sale of the municipal system, Reimer said, the cooperative board was unwilling to assume the municipal's wholesale power supply contract.

To take over that contract would cause a rate increase for the rest of the cooperative rate base, Reimer said. It “might not be much” but it “would not be fair” to ask the other cooperative customers to pick up the cost.

The cooperative has several power suppliers, includ-



The Truman Public Utilities headquarters building is west of city hall on the city's main street. The building is not included in the purchase offer from Federated to the utility.

ing the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Basin Electric and Great River Energy. Truman does not have a WAPA allocation and purchases at wholesale from Heartland Consumers Power District. Truman takes transmission service from a sole ITC line, under conditions that are generally considered uneconomic compared to other nearby utilities. The nearest alternative transmission line is several miles away. Federated reportedly has three-phase distribution lines on three sides of the city.

Federated's retail residen-

tial rate is reportedly 9.93 cents per kwh (said by one attendee to be substantially lower than the municipal rate). The cooperative bases much of its bill on electric demand, Reimer said, and it would need to evaluate the details of any particular customer's bill before doing a comparison.

When asked if the power supply contract could be breached, Reimer said “there could be an agreement.”

Reimer said Federated “has been talking to Truman for a

Truman: see next page please

MMUA group treks to Colorado for Lineworkers Rodeo

Twelve teams and 13 individuals won awards at the American Public Power Association's 18th annual Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo, held March 29-30, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Eighty teams and 133 apprentices from not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities across the nation participated. The “rodeo” is a series of competitive events demonstrating lineworker skills and safe work practices.

There are two levels of competition within the rodeo—journeyman and apprentice. Journeyman teams consist of three members—two climbers and a ground person—and can include an optional alternate.

Five Minnesota municipal electric utilities sent teams and/or apprentices to the event. They included:

- Marshall Municipal Utilities: Journeyman team of Trevor Morin, Nate Janssen, Tommy Flores and apprentice Nate Roeder.

- Shakopee Public Utilities fielded two journeyman teams:

Rodeo: see page 5 please

Periodicals
Postage
PAID
at
Twin Cities, MN

**Inside
Stories**

**The Busiest
Guy in
Bagley**
page 4



**Around
the
State**
page 7



**Window Opens
for Board, Award
Nominations**
page 9



Minnesota municipals designated among the nation's best utilities

Forty-eight of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities earned the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)[®] designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service.

The awards were presented April 1 during the Association's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference held in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The RP3 designation, which lasts for three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce

development and system improvement.

Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

This year, 48 utilities earned the designation and, in total, 275 of the more than 2,000 public power utilities nation-wide hold the RP3 designation.

Minnesota utilities having earned RP3 designation, over the last three years, include:

Diamond Level
Austin Utilities
Blue Earth Light and Water
Owatonna Public Utilities
Rochester Public Utilities

Shakopee PUC
Willmar Municipal Utilities
Platinum Level
ALP Utilities (Alexandria)
Hutchinson Utilities Com-

mission
Marshall Municipal Utilities
Moorhead Public Service
Gold Level
Brainerd Public Utilities

City of Saint Peter
Detroit Lakes Public Utilities
Elk River Municipal Utilities
New Prague Municipal Utilities

Levasseur joins MMUA as Regional Safety Coordinator

Brad Levasseur on April 29 will join MMUA as a Regional Safety Coordinator. A resident of Baudette, Levasseur will work with cities and municipal utilities in northwest Minnesota.

Lavassuer is the Baudette fire chief. He was most recently employed as the city's water/wastewater operator—a position he held from February 2004 until joining MMUA.

Along with his various city duties, Levasseur operated and maintained heavy equipment, performed troubleshooting using a variety of products and equipment, conducted laboratory and field tests to monitor water and investigate sources of pollution. He also recorded/reported to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Pollution Control Agency (PCA) and

performed Quality Assurance testing.

As fire chief, Levasseur spearheaded fire protection and prevention programs, providing teams with the training and resources to ensure timely and quality efforts. He managed all aspects of staffing, recruitment, interviewing, and selection of potential team members in alignment with station needs, devised short and long-range action plans to address a wide variety of municipal needs, and handled a variety of other duties.

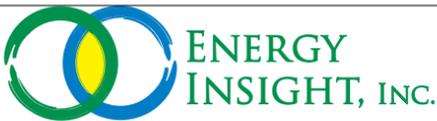
Levasseur is adept at managing hazardous chemicals, experienced in calibrating instruments, operating equipment and completing basic

repairs to maintain performance. He is well-versed in updating records and following MDH, PCA and Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

Levasseur holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry with an emphasis in Environmental Studies from Bemidji State University. He has an Associate of Arts degree from Rainy River Community College, where he tutored other students in both science and math.

He is CPR certified and holds a Class D Water Operator license, along with various other certifications.

In his spare time, he works at a Baudette outdoors store.



MATT HALEY
PRESIDENT

952-767-7464
www.EnergyInsightInc.com

7935 Stone Creek Drive, Suite 140 Chanhassen, MN 55317



Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

To unify, support and serve as a common voice for municipal utilities

Officers and Directors

President

Greg French, Virginia

President-Elect

Vernell Roberts, Detroit Lakes

Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Nibaur, Austin

Past President

John Crooks, Shakopee

Directors

Bob Elston, Sleepy Eye

Scott Grabe, Henning

Jenny Hazelton, Winthrop

Carol Laumer, Willmar

Don Martodam, Hawley

Dave Meyer, Glencoe

Chris Olson, Alexandria

Staff

Executive Director

Jack Kegel, jkegel@mmua.org

Director of Administration

Rita Kelly, rkelly@mmua.org

Dir. of Communications/Member Relations

Steve Downer, sdowner@mmua.org

Director of Engineering & Policy Analysis

Bob Jagusch, rjagusch@mmua.org

Director of Finance

Larry Pederson, lpederson@mmua.org

Director of Government Relations

Kent Sulem, ksulem@mmua.org

Director of Training and Safety

Mike Willetts, mwilletts@mmua.org

Government Relations Attorney

Bill Black, bblack@mmua.org

Accounting Assistant

Karen Heiden, kheiden@mmua.org

Admin. & Safety Support Assistant

Theresa Neddermeyer,

tneddermeyer@mmua.org

Natural Gas Circuit Rider

Robin Klug, rklug@mmua.org

Regional Safety Group Program Leader

Mike Sewell, msewell@mmua.org

JT&S and Apprenticeship Instructor

James Monroe, jmonroe@mmua.org

Regional Safety Coord./JTS Instructors

Bruce Westergaard,

bwestergaard@mmua.org

Shane St. Clair, sstclair@mmua.org

Generation Coordinator/JTS Instructor

Bob Sewell, bsewell@mmua.org

Training Center Coordinator/JTS Instructor

Cody Raveling, craveling@mmua.org

Regional Safety Coordinators

Janet Aultman, jaultman@mmua.org

Tom Ewert, tewert@mmua.org

Mark Hottel, mhottel@mmua.org

Anthony Lenz, alenz@mmua.org

Dave Lundberg, dlundberg@mmua.org

Marc Machacek, mmachacek@mmua.org

Ryan Mihalak, rmihalak@mmua.org

Jordan St. Clair, jstclair@mmua.org

Joseph Schmidt, jschmidt@mmua.org

Kevin Thompson, kthompson@mmua.org



Exterior view of the Truman Municipal Power plant.

Truman: continued from front page

while now." The cooperative would "like to move in the right direction," he said, but the "power supply contract needs to be settled."

If everybody agreed to the purchase, it could be done quickly, Reimer said, perhaps six months.

Federated has performed a complete system inventory, to place a value on the municipal system. This number was not revealed.

Reimer's presentation went into the cooperative's history and its recent acquisition of five cities formerly served by Alliant. The cooperative also provides service to the municipal utilities in Dundee and Ceylon. Truman would have a local board representative "if this works out," Reimer said.

Federated has advanced metering infrastructure, is a federal Rural Utilities Service borrower, sets a 4-year work plan, offers payment options, a revolving loan fund, scholarships and a round-up program fund. The cooperative has four subsidiaries: CTV, a tree service, Karian Peterson contractor (an MMUA associate member) and Heartland

Security Services.

Capital credits are returned annually, and Reimer said there would be "no rate increases for quite some time" if wholesale rates hold steady.

After the presentation, the floor was opened for questions from the audience.

In response to a question, Reimer said Federated would "like to" purchase the municipal power plant, but that depends on details of the wholesale contract. The plant "would probably remain in place." The cooperative would not purchase any buildings.

The Truman distribution system would be maintained by a five-man line crew out of Welcome. There is another line crew in Jackson.

Some Truman Public Utilities staff, said Reimer, could find new employment with the cooperative.

Sewer and water service would still be up to the city. Those services are subsidized by the electric fund. Water and sewer duties are shared amongst three employees, who also maintain the electric system.

A situation best avoided

Govern your utility so it can withstand financial challenges and thrive for future generations

The sale and lease-back agreement between the city of Biwabik and Minnesota Power outlined elsewhere in this newsletter is certainly innovative and may well have staved off the sale of the storm-damaged municipal system. It needs to be said, however, that including the story in this newsletter should not be taken as endorsement of the arrangement.

The reason for that is simple: it moves the municipal utility one step closer to an eventual sell-out.

It is a situation no municipal utility wants to find itself in (such as the Federated-Truman buy-out offer). Rather, the situation is highlighted to show just how slender is the thread that keeps many cities in the municipal utility business, and to stimulate thought on how to best protect and promote the health of your utility.

It is a rare city administrator or clerk that doesn't readily acknowledge the value of a city-owned electric utility. That doesn't necessarily translate, however, into the political will to properly budget for and fund utility operations.

MMUA regularly holds meetings with speakers ad-

ressing the topics of utility rates and reserves. Maintaining adequate reserves improves the city/utility financial position and also serves as a cushion for that day when an electric system faces significant investment or suffers catastrophe from ice, wind or flood.

Realizing the value of a municipal electric or natural gas system, it should be one goal of the astute municipal policymaker to better ensure the future viability of that system, not to use the utility primarily as a 'cash cow' to fund today's disparate endeavors.

Proper financial management is necessary, as is quantifying the various benefits provided by the utility. (If you would like a checklist to help you do this, please contact us.)

While taking no official position on the topic—which has raged as long as municipal utilities have existed—one benefit of placing the operation of the municipal utility under the governance of a utilities commission is that it creates one more hurdle, and level of scrutiny, should any proposal to sell a system arise.

While either form of gov-

ernance can be successful depending on the people involved, statutes governing commissions mandate accounting which endeavors to eliminate cross-subsidy between the various enterprises entrusted to commission governance.

A commission, if conducting its business properly, also provides a level of attention to utility operations that a city council—its attention diverted to many different issues—is unlikely to provide. (The author distinctly recalls one city council meeting where a variance for a garage consumed 45 minutes of a meeting and a proposal for a \$3.5 million substation improvement was unanimously approved in five minutes.)

The flip side of the council-commission debate is that issues occasionally divide a council from a commission and lead to local political turmoil. And, it is axiomatic for many municipal operations, that with limited resources available, everybody with the city has to 'pitch in' when a need arises.

A municipal utility must necessarily benefit the city and its citizens; but it is also true that times may arise when ratepayers will have to

assume a temporary burden to improve and expand utility services.

Thus honest discussion conducted with goodwill and an overarching commitment to the good of the city, and the protection of its most valuable asset, is necessary to ensure efficient operation and future viability.

The topic brings to mind these words, from the 1933 Worthington city clerk to an interested party in Staples, in regards to the establish-

ing of a municipal electric plant: "All we have said may be summarized in this one statement: We believe that a municipally-owned plant is an advisable undertaking if the citizens are wise in their handling of its affairs."

Truer words were never spoken.

Both those utilities thrive today.

Are you doing your duty today to ensure the future viability of your utility?

The editor

APPA calls for measures to rein in rising transmission costs

The American Public Power Association's (APPA) members on Feb. 26 approved several new policy resolutions that highlight the Association's concerns about rising transmission costs.

APPA President and CEO Sue Kelly said that especially in Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) regions, transmission rates have been rising rapidly in recent years. Some members have had their transmission rates more than double in seven years, when their loads have not risen that much at all, so this is starting to become very onerous and concerning to our members."

The resolution asks FERC to: (1) enforce planning procedures for transmission investment, (2) to ensure that these facilities are needed and are cost effective; (3) to make sure that the rate of return on equity that is allowed for these facilities is reasonable; and (4) that any incentive rates are no more than what is necessary to get that transmission infrastructure funded.

APPA also called for "more transparency" in the transmission planning process, as "nearly half of the trans-

mission projects in ISOs and RTOs are not subject to the full planning process."

Public power would like to be able to participate as stakeholders in what are re-

ferred to as supplemental transmission projects to at least "understand what the rationale is behind most of these projects."

SPIEGEL &
McDIARMID
LLP

**POWER
to the people**

www.spiegelmc.com | 202.879.4000

Enterprise Software Solutions

Designed for Utilities

National Information Solutions Cooperative®
 www.NISC.coop

**McGRANN
SHEA
CARNIVAL
STRAUGHN
& LAMB
CHARTERED**

www.mcgrannshea.com

Providing Legal Counsel to Minnesota Municipalities in:

- Energy and Utility Matters
- Municipal Bonds
- Administrative Proceedings
- Economic Development
- Legislative Representation
- Real Estate Law
- Municipal Law
- Construction Law
- Litigation
- Environmental Law

Contact: William McGrann, Doug Carnival or Kaela Brennan

800 Nicollet Mall, Suite 2600, Minneapolis, MN 55402-7035
Telephone: 612-338-2525 ■ Facsimile: 612-339-2386

Varied duties mean never a dull day in the office for Bagley's Bill Masterson

Bill Masterson must be the busiest guy in Bagley.

Masterson is the general manager of Bagley Public Utilities. The utility provides electricity, natural gas, water, sewer, refuse collection, cable TV and internet service. He is also the street superintendent and, with a background in construction, he has assumed the duties of zoning commissioner.

That's a lot, even in an industry known for people wearing many hats.

"The only thing we don't have is phone," said Masterson, taking a brief break from his duties.

Masterson isn't the only one wearing many hats.

The utility employs four field staff. Each employee has an area of expertise, but most hold multiple licenses and qualifications and are skilled at helping each other out on the various utilities. One summer helper is also employed. Inside, Office Manager Vicky Fletcher has been with the utility for nearly 32 years, and oversees one full-time and one part-time office staff.

The city buys its power at wholesale from the Northern Municipal Power Agency.

Masterson has been with



Municipal utility managers are often known to 'wear many hats,' but Bagley's Bill Masterson outpaces most in the number of services he supervises.

RESCO
Rural Electric Supply Cooperative

RESCO, a member-owned cooperative, is one of the largest full-line distributors of high-voltage electrical products in the Midwest

Contact RESCO for all of your distribution, transmission and substation project needs

1-800-346-3330 | info@resco1.com
www.resco1.com

4100 30th Avenue South | Moorhead, MN | 56560

BE PREPARED WITH FS3's EXCAVATION VERIFICATION KIT

FS3's Excavation Verification Kit Includes:
(1) tri-fold ruler, (3) foldable "MARK" markers, (1) foldable "HIT" marker, whiteboard, marker set and eraser all compacted neatly into a 13" x 17" drawstring backpack.

FS3^{INC} PH: 320-274-7223 | WWW.FS3INC.BIZ

the city for 10 years. He started as the street superintendent, and moved into the utility general manager's job when it opened up a couple years ago.

City crews have been very busy. State Hwy. 92, which also doubles as Main Avenue, was resurfaced through the city last year. The city took the opportunity to upgrade or replace utilities. Most of the work on the \$2.85 million project is complete, but work will resume in 2019 to complete a pedestrian trail from downtown to the high school, concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter, and concrete boulevard, as well as final paving.

The city is also looking at a busy upcoming construction season. Dollar General is coming to the city, and wants to start building in March. Team Industries, with approximately 300 employees, is expanding its 110,000 square foot headquarters/drivetrain manufacturing plant in the industrial park. The city is also planning for a four-inch gas main system expansion, which will provide a loop feed to its largest industrial customer.

Masterson is originally from Bemidji. Like a surprising number of municipal utility people in Greater Minnesota, he also farms 30 miles north of Bagley. He is a former Navy Seabee with a construction background and came to the city from a national general contractor/construction company.

The dead of winter hasn't provided any rest for the city crew. The end of January (and early March) brought record-breaking cold. Those months

sandwiched February, which broke the snowfall record.

The elementary school roof buckled Feb. 25, under the weight of snow. You might not think that would involve the city, but the next day, to reduce weight in the roof, the building manager decided to empty the fire suppression system. Water wouldn't run down an inside drain, however—it would spill outside and drain into a storm-sewer drain on Hwy. 92. With temperatures below zero, city crews had to scramble to make sure the drain was open.

All which goes with the territory at a municipal utility serving approximately 800

electric and 525 gas customers. Despite competition, the city is gaining internet customers, and the cable TV system is holding steady.

Approaching Bagley on Hwy. 92 from the south, you wind through beautiful country around Itasca State Park. Cross the Clearwater River and city hall soon appears, on the east side of the highway and just south of U.S. Hwy. 2.

Bagley Public Utilities was founded in 1907. It has more than 750 electric and approximately 525 gas customers. The Clearwater County seat, Bagley has enjoyed modest population recently, growing to 1,392 in the 2010 census.

MVP Technologies, LLC

Providing Turnkey Construction Services Since 1973

Safe. Reliable. Quality Services

www.mptech.biz

Gas. Overhead & Underground Electric Installation. Splicing & Termination. Cable Pulling. Pole Replacement. Maintenance & Support. Conduit & Man-Hole Installation. Hydro Vac. Storm Restoration. Alternative Energy

Minnesota Office:
9938 State Hwy 55 NW Annandale, MN

Texas Office:
14140 Cypress N Houston. Houston, TX

Rodeo:

continued from front page

One team included Matt Griebel, Brad Carlson and Greg Drent; another included Jamie VonBank, Mike Enright and Justin Rotert. Also competing were Shakopee apprentices Jordan Schuettpelz,

Tyler Hanson and Matt Kahle.

Brainerd Public Utilities sent a journeyman team of Clark Backstrom, Tyler Malloy, and Mitch Lachelt.

Elk River Municipal Utilities sent a journeyman team of Zac Johnson, Jake Koehler and Matt Schwartz.



This quilt, created by MMUA's Rita Kelly, was raffled off at the Rodeo Banquet for \$4,835, which was then donated to the Highline Hero Foundation.



The Rocky Mountains were a dramatic opening ceremony backdrop for the Lineworkers Rodeo.



**NORTHWEST
LINEMAN COLLEGE**

NEW PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT NLC

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LINEMAN PROGRAM

GAS DISTRIBUTION
PROGRAM

ELECTRICAL
LINEMAN PROGRAM



LEARN MORE

LINEMAN.EDU | (888) LINEMAN

Rochester Public Utilities sent a journeyman team of Tyler Meiners, Chad Peterson and Mitch Dunbaer, along with apprentice Hunter Gleason.

(A qualified journeyman has more than four years of experience within the electric utility trade. An apprentice lineworker has four or fewer years of experience.)

Cody Raveling of MMUA along with Tony Mead and Larry Lamote with Marshall Municipal Utilities teamed to judge one event.

Mike Willetts of MMUA, Mark Fuchs with Elk River Municipal Utilities, Jim Griebel with Delano Municipal Utilities and Jeff Bechthold with Missouri River Energy

Services also served as judges for various events.

James Monroe of MMUA was an event auditor.

The event honors lineworkers' expertise, and the events were judged based upon safety, work practices, neatness, ability, equipment handling, and timely event completion. All safety rules established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the American Public Power Association's Safety Manual were observed during events.

"This event is all about safety, camaraderie, and pride in the craft of linework," said Mike Hyland, senior vice president of engineering services at the American Public Power Association.

The Rodeo was held in conjunction with the APPA Engineering and Operations (E&O) Conference, held March 31-April 3 in Colorado Springs.

Minnesotans among the E&O speakers included: MMUA Director of Training & Safety Mike Willetts, who participated on a panel titled Self-Care for Disaster Responders; and Elk River Municipal Utilities General Manager joined two others in presenting on The Train Reaction: How to Keep Your Employees, a session on how to train and retain staff.

In addition, MMUA's Marc Machacek presented at a pre-Rodeo training session.

Let's show the world what we can do together.

Day by day. Project by project.

Together we're renewing infrastructure
and keeping the world in business.



Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

Building a Better World for All of Us[®]

sehinc.com • 800.325.2055

Biwabik: City has the option of taking back the electric system after 10 years

continued from front page

term of the agreement.

The city continues to provide service through the electric distribution infrastructure and sets retail rates and regulations. City staff manage customer interactions and billing. MP works closely with the city on infrastructure improvement plans. The agreement is in effect through at least June 2027. Either party can give a year's notice of cancellation.

After 10 years, the city can take the system back.

The Biwabik Public Utilities Commission and city council face some "serious discussions" in 2026, said City Administrator Jeff Jacobson. "We don't want to sell out, but our sphere of control is shrinking."

An increasing regulatory burden is one of his concerns. Barely manageable now, Jacobson said a few legislative changes over next 10 years and operating an electric utility could become "just too onerous."

Another concern is that, though the city has a good council and Public Utilities Commission, a loss of institutional memory could complicate the decision of whether or not to retain the municipal electric distribution system.

Or, Biwabik could continue down its current path, which Jacobson notes is "moving closer to being a muni in name only."

Under a separate agreement, Minnesota Power will

supply electric power to the City until June 30, 2027, with either party having the right to terminate the agreement upon three years written notice.

Working together

There may be other solutions to the city's dilemma. There are a number of cities and municipal electric utilities on the Iron Range, and Biwabik has an impressive list of shared service agreements with other local governments. Each Iron Range community is proud of its history and heritage, but with median incomes below the state average, older populations, and water and wastewater plants in varying conditions, local governments are working together.

The Biwabik Public Utilities Commission in 2013 entered into an agreement with the City of Aurora, to provide management, operation and maintenance of the Biwabik Public Utilities water treatment plant and wastewater facilities. Gilbert has an interim water agreement with the City of McKinley. Eveleth and Gilbert provide their own water services, but have interconnected water systems, to be used in case of various emergencies.

There is plenty of water in the area, but it often is hard, with a high concentration of iron and manganese. Mining operations can also complicate water supply. Biwabik and Aurora, which lie 13 miles apart with lakes in



Utilities Clerk Sherry Maki and City Administrator Jeff Jacobson work diligently to keep Biwabik Public Utilities a going concern.



Biwabik city hall shares a building with a local grocery store.

between, have undertaken a joint water plant study, which would draw in White Township, which distributes Aurora water.

Biwabik and Gilbert have a joint powers agreement and board for police services. There are other agreements between various local governments in the area for police, ambulance and fire service, with more under discussion.

Jacobson said governments in the area are willing to see what works, without being risky.

The history of working together paid off on April 24, 2018, when water from an iron ore 'pit lake' broke an embankment, leaving a ravine up to 50 feet wide and 20-25 feet deep, which severed Biwabik utility lines to Giant's Ridge, and blocked the Embarrass River.

Within 48 hours, Biwabik linked water lines with Aurora and White Township. That water supply valve is now turned 'off,' but with the right agreements in place, it could easily be turned on. (The \$704,000 reconstruction of the Biwabik water and sewer lines was covered by Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board grants.)

Rebuilding Biwabik

The city is in the midst of a multi-year effort to rebuild itself.

and storm water drainage systems. The old high school building was also demolished.

In 2017, the City issued temporary utility revenue bonds in the amount of \$6.7 million to provide temporary financing for a portion of the construction costs, in anticipation of permanent obligations to be issued by the City to finance the improvements. The permanent funding came through with a 40-year, \$5.8 million United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan and grant, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board public infrastructure grant, tax forfeit mineral lease, a storm water fee and special assessments.

Jacobson said the city was grateful for the USDA financing. "It would have broke us," Jacobson said, if Biwabik would have had to foot the bill itself.

Wastewater regulatory concerns remain. A portion of the city's treated wastewater eventually enters a bog, then the St. Louis River and Lake Superior, resulting in stringent permit requirements. The city's drinking water, if flushed down the drain, may violate the MPCA's wild rice sulfate standard, and it has long awaited a definitive answer on the question.

A positive sign came in the 2010 census, when the city's population was counted at 995, up 4 percent from 2000.

While there are plenty of challenges ahead, the City of Biwabik is taking steps to lay the groundwork for future growth and prosperity.



DAVE BERG CONSULTING, LLC

David A. Berg, PE - Principal
'Dedicated to providing personal service to consumer-owned utilities'

Cost of Service Studies
 Utility Rate Design
 Contract Negotiations
 Utility Education
 Expert Testimony
 Feasibility Studies

dave@davebergconsulting.com
 15213 Danbury Ave W
 Rosemount, MN 55068
 (612)850-2305
www.davebergconsulting.com



MUNICIPAL COMPASS TO POWER



Through collaboration, CMPAS provides individualized strategic utility planning and management.

CMPAS agent for



Learn more at CMPASgroup.org

459 S Grove St., Blue Earth, MN 56013
 888-970-8267

Around the State



Jim Maras has retired after 29 years with Madelia Municipal Light & Power. Maras was the utility's general manager. He has been replaced by Chris Trembley.

The utility held an open house in honor of Maras and his service the afternoon of Friday, March 29.

Steve Moses worked his last day with public power on March 29, retiring as customer relations and marketing manager for Heartland Consumers Power District (HCPD). Moses went to HCPD following 35 years as utilities manager with Madelia Municipal Light & Power.

Kelly Dybdahl is the new HCPD customer relations manager. Dybdahl brings with him 12 years of experience working in the utility industry. A native of Tyler, Dybdahl previously worked as an electrical engineer for Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative. He worked in a variety of roles in that position including safety, rate design, strategic planning, metering and more.

Dybdahl earned his electrical engineering degree from the Milwaukee School of Engineering in 2006 and became a Certified Energy Manager in 2011.

A natural gas meter was struck by a payloader Sunday, Feb. 24, near American Crystal Sugar in **East Grand Forks**. The resulting gas leak disrupted service in parts of the city. Crews stopped the leak some two hours and 45 minutes later. Xcel Energy then brought in crews to restore gas supply for each residence in the affected area.

Fresh garland with lighted bells and stars, a yearly tradition since 1933, will continue to adorn downtown **New Ulm** during the holiday season.

The holiday decorations are a collaborative effort of



Much of the Maras family of Madelia gathered for Jim's retirement open house at the utility. Pictured here, from left to right, are daughter Hannah Lindeman, spouse Marlyne, her mom Barbara Beckel, Jim and son Josh Maras and daughter Rachell Horbenko.

the city, Public Utility Commission (PUC) and the local Chamber of Commerce. The city owns the holiday decorations including the guidewires, and attaches garland to the decorations. The PUC contributes \$2,000 annually to buy garland. The Chamber contributes any remaining balance.

The PUC installs and removes guidewires and garland for the city. At its recommendation, all existing guidewires will be replaced this year with new ones that have insulated ends as a safety measure. The PUC will cover the cost of the new wires and installation.

Due to the short timeframe to complete structural inspections and a \$100,000 unbudgeted cost to do it, it was agreed that the garlands would be hung this year as they were in the past. Early next year, a long-term easement, structural inspections and cost and potential additional buildings for garland will be revisited.

Anoka Municipal Utilities has scheduled a unique outreach event for April 19: Build-A-Birdhouse With A Lineman.

The idea started when the utility considered what to do with old meter covers that it didn't want to just throw in a landfill. A number of ideas were explored. Utilities director Greg Geiger took one home and constructed a birdhouse, which everybody



Anoka Municipal Utilities plans an unusual community outreach event for April 19.

agreed was a fine idea.

Wood for the projects will come from re-purposed wire spools.

One size fits all – DOESN'T. And neither do our solutions.

We work for your community with your needs and best interest in mind.

BOLTON & MENK
Real People. Real Solutions.

bolton-menk.com



220 South Sixth Street
Suite 1300
Minneapolis, MN 55402

TEL 612.349.6868
FAX 612.349.6108
Info@AvantEnergy.com



For over 30 years, Avant Energy has supported municipal utilities and power agencies in their effort to deliver economic and reliable power. Avant works with its clients to develop innovative, yet practical solutions based on a simple, overarching belief that, "better is possible."

BETTER IS POSSIBLE

STRATEGIC PLANNING
RATE DESIGN
UTILITY ASSESSMENT

.....WWW.AVANTENERGY.COM.....

ZIEGLER POWER SYSTEMS

RELIABLE POWER WHEN YOU NEED IT

SALES AND RENTAL

- Diesel and natural gas generators
- UPS, switchgear, circuit breakers, protective relays, and Automatic Transfer Switches
- Portable temperature control units

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE:
888.320.4292

Shakopee, MN
8050 County Road 101 East
888.320.4292



www.zieglercat.com/power

SOLUTIONS FOR ELECTRIC GENERATION

We'll deliver reliable, competitively-priced natural gas service for all your projects.

Contact Russ Wagner today.

612-321-5003
800-234-5800, ext. 5003
Russell.Wagner@
CenterPointEnergy.com



Always There.®

©2014 CenterPoint Energy 143677

SMEC member cooperatives file required reliability report with state regulators

The Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) filed its 2019 Reliability Report on March 5, in compliance with a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission order.

SMEC, in July 2015, took over ownership of the Minnesota distribution assets, service territory and electric accounts from Interstate Power and Light. As part of regulatory approvals, SMEC agreed to file reliability reports for five years. The recent report covers January through December 2018, for the 12 cooperatives that comprise SMEC.

“Many external events occurred in 2018 that resulted in an extraordinary amount

Acronyms

CAIDI - Customer Average Interruption Duration Index.

SAIDI - System Average Interruption Duration Index

SAIFI - System Average Interruption Frequency Index

of major events days at individual SMEC cooperatives,” said the report. One notable event, which included ice and straight-line winds, broke 59 transmission poles and affected many customers in southeastern Minnesota. Wind and tornadoes on Sept. 20 also caused notable damage.

SMEC Reliability Indices

Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2018

Co-op	No. of SMEC Members	Members Impacted by Outage	Total Outage Minutes	Total Outage Incidences	SAIDI	CAIDI	SAIFI
Brown	523	522	101,610	5	194.283	194.6552	0.9981
BENCO	3,676	2,548	239,894	128	65.25952	97.59723	0.6687
Federated	1,657	1,149	80,205	54	48.40374	69.80418	0.6934
Freeborn-Mower	13,821	10,399	969,813	682	70.16952	93.26022	0.7524
MiEnergy	2,625	1,998	172,844	75	65.84533	86.50851	0.7611
MN Valley	3,461	1,496	218,654	90	63.17654	146.1591	0.4322
Nobles	1,605	2,497	213,548	31	133.0517	85.52	1.5558
People's	7,074	3,672	346,943	121	49.04481	94.48339	0.5191
Redwood	2,019	331	22,210	5	11.0005	67.0997	0.1639
Sioux Valley	881	1,234	34,775	23	39.47219	28.18071	1.4007
So. Central	1,978	28	1,117	3	0.564712	39.89286	0.0142
Steele-Waseca	1,589	2,162	98,039	41	61.69855	45.34644	1.3606
TOTAL	40,909	27,946	2,499,652	1,258	61.10274	89.44579	0.6831

SMEC Historical Reliability Indices

	SAIDI	CAIDI	SAIFI
2015	15.02	55.75	0.27
2016	71.08	87.06	0.82
2017	62.39	81.20	0.77
2018	61.10	89.45	0.68
Ave.	64.86	85.90	0.77

SMEC had ownership of the former Alliant territory for five months in 2015.

SMEC said it would have difficulty defining a major event (which are excluded from the calculation) during the five years of its required reliability reporting.

The report noted that various cooperatives suffered multiple transmission outages, mainly in the Albert Lea area. A number of other incidents contributed to high SAIDI indices for some SMEC members.

SMEC noted that the reliability indices for the former IPL service territory remained approximately the same as 2017, and noted that the indices are similar to the indices seen by the entire cooperative membership for 2018. The board found the report acceptable and consistent with prior reliability history at the individual SMEC cooperatives.

Outage is defined as a service interruption of five minutes or longer.

Gov. Walz proposes move to 100 percent clean energy

Gov. Tim Walz on March 4, citing the “existential threat” of climate change, announced a set of policy proposals leading Minnesota to 100 percent clean energy in the state’s electricity sector by 2050.

The move, it was said, would allow Minnesota to “pioneer the green energy economy—creating jobs while protecting our planet for generations to come.”

In December, Xcel Energy said it would deliver carbon-free electricity by 2050.

IT MATTERS.

To us, your project isn't a job - it's an opportunity to make a positive impact, protect future generations, and ensure the vitality of where we live and work. **It matters.**



Providing engineering and related services to help clients achieve success.

AES Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.
Minnesota Offices: Maple Grove, Moorhead, Lake of the Woods
www.ae2s.com

HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS IS NOW

CORE & MAIN

OUR NAME HAS CHANGED, BUT OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU HAS NOT.

Our commitment to providing you the same dependable expertise we have for many years remains the same.



Local Knowledge
Local Experience
Local Service, Nationwide®

coreandmain.com

A PROVEN PROVIDER of innovative electrical solutions.
AN INDUSTRY LEADER leading a changing industry.
A SUPPLY CHAIN PARTNER who'll be there for you.



irby
A Sonepar Company

- Supporting Rural Utility Systems since 1935
- Full-line Supplier of Utility Products
- Most Extensive Offering of Utility Technical Support Services
- Superior Emergency Support Staff

irby
Tool & Safety

- Tool Supply and Repair
- Rubber Insulating Equipment
- Certified Dielectric Testing Services
- On-site Testing
- Arc Flash and FR Clothing Systems
- Custom Grounds and Jumpers

Eagan, MN
763.588.0545

Fargo, ND
800.742.8054

IRBY ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTOR

WE ARE COMMITTED TO BEING YOUR UTILITY PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS PROVIDER.

www.irby.com

Our ELECTRICAL POWER TEAM understands the IMPORTANCE of working on your ideas from the first stages of a long range plan ALL THE WAY to final inspection.

- Distribution
- Transmission
- Substations
- Generation
- Construction Staking
- Relaying & SCADA
- Rate Studies
- Mapping & GIS
- Long-Range Plans
- Sectionalizing Studies & Coordination
- Arc Flash Studies
- Distributed Generation Studies

DGR
ENGINEERING

Rock Rapids, IA
712-472-2531

Sioux City, IA
712-266-1554

Ankeny, IA
515-963-3488

Sioux Falls, SD
605-339-4157

Yankton, SD
605-665-2002

Trusted. Professional. Solutions.

dgr.com



Nomination window opens for MMUA board of directors, full slate of awards

MMUA's Nominations and Awards Committee is accepting nominations for MMUA awards. The deadline to submit a nomination is June 14. This is a great way to recognize a municipal utility colleague, a public official, or a municipal utility system for showing leadership and innovation and providing an example for others to follow.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from MMUA.org at the Awards and Recognition page on the 'About' menu. All nominations will be considered by MMUA's Nomination and Awards Committee and the awards will be presented at the MMUA Summer Conference in August.

Here is a brief summary of the awards for which we are accepting nominations. Please consider recognizing

the accomplishments of a member of our community by submitting a nomination.

- **System Innovation Award.** This award is given to a utility that has demonstrated leadership and innovation in customer service, energy efficiency or renewables, technology, or other areas.

- **Public Service Award.** This award is given to a state, or federal elected or appointed official who has been a strong supporter of MMUA and its members.

- **Distinguished Service Award.** This award is given to individuals who perform outstanding service in support of the association and its goals.

- **Community Service Award.** This award is given to an individual who has performed long and well in support of a municipal utility at the local

level.

- **Rising Star Award.** This award recognizes a future leader who has demonstrated a dedication to the goals and principles of municipal utilities through problem solving, creativity, and job knowledge.

- **Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.** This prestigious award symbolizes a long professional life dedicated not only to the advancement of municipal utilities locally, but also for the betterment of our industry on a statewide basis.

Nominations sought for two board seats

Two board nominations are also being sought, as Greg French and Bob Elston will be completing their second, three-year terms.

Don Martodam was appointed to fill the seat of a

departing board member, and that seat stands for re-election this year.

Please return completed nomination forms, by June 14 to Theresa Neddermeyer via

email (tneddermeyer@mmua.org), fax (763.551.0459) or mail to 3025 Harbor Lane N., Suite 400, Plymouth, MN 55447.

RATCHETING CABLE CUTTERS



FEATURES

- ACSR rated
- Telescoping handles for added leverage
- Cutting capacity of up to 1-3/4" or 44mm
- Large, comfortable grip
- Includes handy carrying case
- Blades have a 6 year limited warranty



FS3^{INC} PH: 320-274-7223 | WWW.FS3INC.BIZ

Associate Member News



Preferred Sales Agency LTD has joined MMUA as an Associate Member.

Preferred Sales Agency is one of the leading manufac-

turer's representative organizations in the nation, representing some of the very finest and most respected manufacturers in the transmission, substation, and distribution utility market. The company offers professional sales and support coverage in 17 states over 35 years of growth.

The company is located at 26026 Olinda Trail, Lindstrom, MN 55045. Phone is 651-428-6072 and the website is located at 222.preferred-sales.com

Main contact is Jeff Norton, territory manager. He can be reached at the office number or 651-428-6072. Email jnorton@preferred-sales.com

TRANSFORMERS DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION



**Modern Rewind Facilities
More than 61 Acres Inventory
Prompt Delivery—Coast to Coast**

**CALL TOLL-FREE
800-843-7994
FAX 605-534-3861
E-Mail: t-r@t-r.com
Internet: www.t-r.com**



Complete Outdoor Substations, Circuit Breakers, Regulators, and Switchgear

Professional Services Directory

Bits & Pieces



Accountants and Consultants

St. Cloud/Brainerd Doug Host Mary Reedy	Austin/Mankato Craig Popenhagen Sarah Cramblit	Minneapolis Dennis Hoogeveen Chris Knopik
------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------

888-529-2648 | CLAconnect.com

©2016 CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Engineers and Engineering Firms

Providing water engineering and related services to help clients achieve success.

Maple Grove | Moorhead | Lake of the Woods
www.ae2s.com

Attorneys

**McGRANN
SHEA
CARNIVAL
STRAUGHN
& LAMB
CHARTERED**

Proudly representing municipal clients

800 Nicollet Mall, Suite 2600
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(t) 612-338-2525 (f) 612-339-2386
www.mcgrannshea.com

**SPIEGEL &
McDIARMID
LLP**

1875 Eye Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
www.spiegelmed.com

Phone: 202.879.4000
Fax: 202.393.2866
info@spiegelmed.com

Electrical Equipment and Suppliers

**TRANSFORMERS
DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION**

T&R ELECTRIC
SUPPLY COMPANY INCORPORATED
8800 SOUTH HANCOCK ROAD
THE TRANSFORMER PEOPLE

Modern Rewind Facilities
More than 61 Acres Inventory
Prompt Delivery—Coast to Coast

CALL TOLL-FREE
800-843-7994
FAX 605-534-3861
E-Mail: tr@tr.com
Internet: www.tr.com

Complete Outdoor
Substations,
Circuit Breakers,
Regulators,
and Switchgear

BUY - SELL - RENT

One size fits all – doesn't. And neither do our solutions.

Real People. Real Solutions.
Bolton-Menk.com

**DGR
ENGINEERING**

Electrical Power • GIS
Streets • Sewer • Drainage
Water • Airports

Trusted. Professional. Solutions.

Rock Rapids, Sioux City & Ankeny, IA
Sioux Falls & Yankton, SD
800-446-2531

dgr.com email:dgr@dgr.com

DBC
DAVE BERG CONSULTING, L.L.C.

David A. Berg, PE – Principal

15213 Danbury Ave W
Rosemount, MN 55068
(612)850-2305
www.davebergconsulting.com

Cost of Service Studies
Utility Rate Design
Contract Negotiations
Utility Education
Expert Testimony
Feasibility Studies

dave@davebergconsulting.com

Dedicated to providing personal service to consumer-owned utilities

Building a Better World for All of Us®

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists
800.325.2055 • sehinc.com

Like us on facebook!

This newsletter contains all the news that is fit to print. Our facebook page contains . . . well, so much more! see us (and maybe yourself!) at Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

While you are at it, follow us at #MMUAtweets

Apprentice Lineworker Training

Our experienced instructor—James Monroe—provides on-site instruction.

Call MMUA Director of Training and Safety Mike Willetts at 612-802-8474 for more information.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission March 26 reaffirmed a June 2018 decision permitting the Enbridge Line 3 oil pipeline. The line would replace a 50-year-old Enbridge line.

The PUC's earlier decision was appealed by various groups and the state Department of Commerce. The decision also faces a court challenge, started under the Dayton administration, reviewed and continued under Gov. Walz.

The project still needs technical regulatory approvals from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Department of Natural Resources, and a water-crossing permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Xcel Energy is closing two smaller, older units at its Sherburn County (Sherco) electric generating station. (The newer, larger Sherco 3 will remain in service.) Sherco provides about 300 jobs and 75 percent of the City of Becker's tax revenue.

As part of an effort to soften that blow, Google has proposed a \$600 million data center for Becker. The company has requested the county and city (but not the school district) exempt it from property taxes for 20 years, saving it some \$15 million.

The proposal also contains an agreement between Google and Xcel, to provide electricity to the data center from two new dedicated wind farms.

The county had planned public hearings for mid-March. City officials have expressed support.

Minnesota Power recently received approval in Minnesota to build a \$700 million natural gas-fueled power plant in Superior, Wis. But according to published reports, the company, citing a roughly 30-year time frame, has few qualms about transitioning to a carbon-free electric supply mix by 2050.

A 2-megawatt wind turbine installation sharing an inverter and grid connection with a 500-kilowatt solar array was set to go into service about 30 miles north of Fergus Falls. The energy will be purchased by Lake Region Electric Cooperative.

Project developer is Juhl Energy. The company pre-

Bits: see facing page

dicts several other similar installations to be developed in the Midwest this year. A similar project, proposed by a different company to feed into the Otter Tail system, is enmeshed in the regulatory process before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

U.S. net electricity generation increased by 4 percent in 2018, reaching a record high of 4,178 million megawatt hours (MWh), according to the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) March 6 *Electric Power Monthly*.

According to EIA, 2018 was the first time that total utility-scale generation surpassed the pre-recession peak of 4,157 million MWh, set in 2007.

The increased demand for electricity was largely attributable to a cold winter and a hot summer.

In the long term, EIA projected that electricity consumption will continue to grow but at a slower pace than in recent decades, with economic and population growth the primary drivers of rising demand.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) on March 5 took action on two wind plant development proposals.

The MPUC amended the site permit as requested for the Blazing Star Wind Farm, an up to 200-megawatt project in Lincoln County. Xcel Energy will pursue public outreach efforts in regards to the amendment.

The Commission also issued a draft site permit and proposed more routes for an environmental impact study for the Dodge County Wind Farm, an up to 170-megawatt wind project and associated facilities in Dodge, Steele and Olmsted counties, including a 345-kV transmission line in Dodge and Olmsted counties.

Minnesota's U.S. Senators—Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith—March 29 called on the Federal Communications Commission to launch an investigation into Frontier Communications business practices.

That call followed a 529-page Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) report issued in January, that detailed complaints against the company. DOC investigators have recommended the company submit a report detailing various pieces of information. It was also suggested to start by focusing on one exchange—that of MMUA member Ely.

Professional Services Directory

Equipment Manufacturers, Suppliers, Service

PRODUCTS you NEED
SERVICE you EXPECT

Where you need us, when you need us, with 11 Minnesota locations to serve you.

Contact us today.

BSE **BORDER STATES**
Supply Chain Solutions™

borderstates.com | 1.800.676.5834

#10-1224 (2016-12)

FS3 **INC.**
SALES SERVICE SUPPLY

Utility Construction
Materials & Equipment
Tools & Safety Products

9030 64th Street NW (320) 274-7223
PO Box 989 FAX (320) 274-7205
Annandale MN 55302 WWW.FS3INC.BIZ

Equipment and Supplies

RESCO
Rural Electric Supply Cooperative

Contact RESCO for all of your distribution, transmission and substation project needs

1-800-346-3300 | info@resco1.com | www.resco1.com
P.O. Box 160 | Moorhead, MN | 56561

Enterprise Software Solutions
Designed for Utilities

NISC National Information Solutions Cooperative® www.NISC.coop

Classified Ads

Journey or 3rd Year Apprentice Line Worker
Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) is an organization of 61 member municipalities that own and operate their own electrical distribution systems. Inspired by the company's mission to supply its members with reliable, cost-effective, long-term energy and energy services in a fiscally responsible and environmentally sensitive manner, members of the MRES team embrace the challenge of understanding and solving the evolving energy needs of all customers today, and for

years to come. We are looking for a highly motivated individual to begin our journey with the electric distribution maintenance services to the City of Olivia. In this role, you will be responsible for operating and maintaining the municipal electric utility distribution systems in a safe and efficient manner. You will play an active role in the operation, construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of the City of Olivia's electrical distribution system and associated equipment, and, as the customer energy needs continue to evolve, so too will your role.

Journey and Apprentice Line Worker Requirements:

- 3rd Step Apprentice Required
- Active Driver's License

Generation Services and Equipment



Servicing You Locally in Minnesota with NETA Accredited Technicians

"Servicing everything inside the substation fence"

ENERGISINC.COM
800.928.6960



ZIEGLER
Power Systems



Proven Power Solutions
Sales. Service. Rental.
888.320.4292

Management & Professional Consultants



220 South Sixth Street
Suite 1300
Minneapolis, MN 55402
TEL 612.349.6868
FAX 612.349.6108

BETTER IS POSSIBLE

CONSULTING
DEVELOPMENT
UTILITY MANAGEMENT

WWW.AVANTENERGY.COM

Training & Education



NEW PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

ELECTRICAL LINEWORKER PROGRAM	TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINEWORKER PROGRAM	GAS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM
✓ \$73,000 AVERAGE WAGE ¹	✓ \$63,000 AVERAGE WAGE ²	✓ \$66,000 AVERAGE WAGE ³
✓ 15 WEEK PROGRAM	✓ 7 WEEK PROGRAM	✓ 7 WEEK PROGRAM

LINEMAN.EDU | (888) LINELWORK

1 www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes499051.htm | 2 www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes499052.htm
3 www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes472152.htm

- Ability to Obtain a MN Class A CDL Endorsement Within 6 Months
- CPR Certified
- Reside within 20 minutes of Olivia, MN

Additional Journey Line Worker Requirements:

- Journey Line Worker from an accepted apprenticeship program
- 4 years of experience in the operation, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of electrical distribution systems and associated equipment.

We provide very competitive wages, a comprehensive/low-cost benefit package, and an outstanding work environment that promotes a long-lasting career.

Visit our website at www.mrenergy.com. For consideration, send your resume describing your qualifications for the position to hr@mrenergy.com. Position closes May 5, 2019. EOE

For a full and complete list of current job openings, for sale and wanted items, see the News/Classifieds section at www.mmua.org

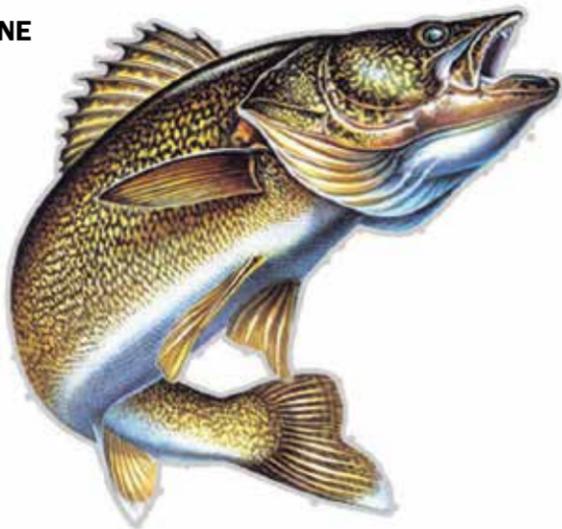
2019 Minnesota Public Power Walleye Tournament

Saturday, June 1, 2019 - RAIN OR SHINE
7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Rush Lake, Ottertail, MN

Join us the night before, Friday, May 31 for our annual FISH FRY at the tournament resort.

Tournament Headquarters:
 Bladow Beach Resort & Campground
 36052 Rush Lake Loop, Ottertail, MN

Entry Fee: (2 people per team/boat)
 Electric Utility Employees - \$50.00/boat
 Non-Utility Registrant (i.e. vendor) - \$150.00/boat



Proceeds from this event have been donated to Line Work training programs in Minnesota since it began in 2002!

Registration limited to the first 50 teams. Space is not guaranteed; register early for best availability.

Register online or complete the following Registraton Form. NOTE: Full payment must accompany registration. No registration accepted without payment.

Registration Deadline: May 10.

Online: You can find a link to the event through the MMUA website on the Events > Calendar > June page, or to go <https://tinyurl.com/fishing-2019>

For more information, you may also email: tneddermeyer@mmua.org



Underground School

May 14-17, at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall

Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association and our partners—Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and American Public Power Association (APPA)—are pleased to bring you the 2019 Underground School.

The Underground School offers a hands-on training track with a variety of training sessions and an advanced technical course.

General Sessions held on the first and last day of the School include:

Customer De-escalation Strategies

Learn about pre-assault behaviors and methods to calm a verbally aggressive or potentially disruptive individual.

DOT/Worksite Traffic Control

This session provides an understanding of the most basic aspects of safety in a work zone and will cover important DOT regulations.

Multi-Session Classes

Registrants will rotate through each of the following six sessions. This class is intended for lineworkers of all experience levels.

• *Session 1: Locating URD Cables*

Work with various brands of locators and learn different techniques.

• *Session 2: Table-top Splicing and Terminations*

Including hands-on work, led by 3M manufacturer's representative.

• *Session 3: Secondary Troubleshooting*

Work through scenarios including back feed, open neutral and partial power.



• *Session 4: Infrared Technology*

How it works, doing it well and ways to apply the information.

• *Session 5: Exposing Live Underground Cables*

Do the work safely with a variety of equipment and tools, and proper backfilling.

• *Session 6: Accident Investigation*

An actual accident will be analyzed and thoroughly discussed. Best practices, PPE, job briefings, etc.

Advanced Class - Maintaining Your Underground System

This two-day session will be packed with intense training and will move quickly. This class is designed for seasoned lineworkers, managers, engineers and others who can benefit from the information.

Topics to be covered include:

- Power factor
- Transformer specs
- Cable specs
- Proper construction specs
- Financial considerations
- System losses
- Cable replacement plans

See the Events/Calendar section at www.mmua.org for more information

Note: Underground School deadline to register is April 22!

NEW Tapered Race Rotary Reel Collar



FS3^{INC}
 ANNANDALE, MN
 PH: 320-274-7223
 WWW.FS3INC.BIZ



P/N TR3C
 PATENT PENDING

Improve Efficiency and Safety

Collar Centers on Reel Bar and Reel Hub

Tapered Sleeves to Fit Various Size Reel Hubs

Bronze Tapered Sleeves are Easily Maintained

3pt. Bolt Safety Fastening System

(Bolts Will Not Vibrate Loose - Reel Will Not Slide on Bar)



Turn Key

- Aerial/Underground Construction
- Urban and Rural Construction
- Fiber Splicing/Testing
- Project Management
- Horizontal Directional Boring

Self Perform

- Power/Gas/Wind Distribution Services
- Trenching; Joint and Single Trench
- Pole Replacement
- Wireless Network Services
- Material Procurement/Warehousing & Logistics

Larry Sanders
 320-589-5317

www.telcomconstruction.com
 Character - Capital - Capacity

Corporate Office
 320-558-9485

ENERGY is your BUSINESS

Our energy is focused on your supply chain.

For more than 60 years, our employee-owners have supported you by providing the products you need and the services you've come to expect.

Your success is our priority. Contact us today.



borderstates.com | 800.676.5834

40-169 (2016-12)