Complicated electric service territory case lands before regulators

Commerce recommends rejection of Warroad-North Star agreement made in 2013

by Steve Downer

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has not dealt with a meaningful electric utility service area issue since before the economic downturn of 2008. That may soon change, and in a big way.

According to regulatory documents, on September 9, 2013, the city of Warroad and North Star Electric Cooperative signed a service territory agreement wherein the cooperative would transfer the service area rights to the city. While the cooperative would receive a service territory agreement, the city would have to pay the cooperative a one-time payment of $600,000.

The cooperative had no infrastructure in the area of the new casino, and the city’s payment reflected only estimated lost revenues the cooperative expected to receive had it served the new casino.

The city intended to have the customer pay the cost of the acquisition, and said it discussed this with the customer. The city included in its billing statements a 15-mill fee, designed to recover the cost of the acquisition over 10 years.

On September 24, 2013, the city attempted to file the agreement, by e-mail, with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. However, it appears the e-mail address was incorrect, and the MPUC said it never received the service area transfer request.

The Red Lake Band paid the

Agreement: See page 4 please

Some kind of a record

ALP Utilities’ water supervisor Eiden retires after 55 good years on the job

by Steve Downer

You could learn a thing or two from Gary Eiden.

Eiden, a 74-year-old Alexandria native, retired Dec. 29 after working at ALP Utilities for 55 years. Two days before retiring, with the temperature at 18 below, Eiden was on the job.

He was ALP Utilities’ water distribution superintendent for 35 years. He supervised three people and performed a variety of duties, including taking care of meters, locating underground facilities, water leaks, and customer service.

“His ability to get along,” said Deitz. “Like the ability to have some satisfaction in his work, and if we could help you, we would,” Eiden said.

He found a lot of satisfaction in his work, and he got to know a lot of people, including co-workers, customers and contractors.

“I had a pretty good ability to get along,” he said. “I really liked it. People are very important, said Eiden, as “the ability to have some harmony.” People need to work together; you’re not going to get the job done any other way. “If there’s a water leak, it’s down there, you have to dig it out and get to it.”

Eiden: See page 6 please

MPUC declines to create ‘DG’ subcommittee; vows to advance issues

After several months of discussion and study, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Nov. 30, 2017, issued an order that declined to create an MPUC Distributed Generation (DG) Subcommittee, but outlined other steps “to advance the goals of access, closure, and certainty surrounding DG (DG issues and complaints).”

MPUC staff initiated the inquiry, to scrutinize, and perhaps expedite, the effectiveness of the MPUC’s processes in resolving issues and disputes arising out of DG development and operation. Community solar garden legislation and consumer interest have spurred the proliferation of DG. As a result, the Commission’s DG-related responsibilities increased.

Utilities and utility associations (including MMUA) expressed concerns about a possible DG subcommittee, including the scope of duties to be handled by the subcommittee, the procedural value of subcommittee decisions, and whether the subcommittee would prolong DG proceedings rather than increase efficiency. Some utilities were open to a subcommittee that limited the scope of matters to uncontested and uncontroversial issues.

The Department of Commerce and solar advocates supported the creation of a DG subcommittee, in part to improve access and effectiveness in resolving DG disputes and complaints. In response to the widespread concerns, Commission staff last summer suggested formation of a DG stakeholder advisory group, and most parties indicated they supported this as an alternative to a subcommittee.

The MPUC in its order said it has a mandate to regulate DG and will continue to devote the requisite agency resources to that end. While declining to create a subcommittee, it will take other steps to advance the goals of access, closure, and certainty surrounding DG issues and complaints.

These steps will be intended to “improve transparency and access and help reduce misunderstandings among stakeholders.”

DG: See page 3 please
Erickson retires from Winthrop EDA; Hazelton replaces on MMUA board

Mark Erickson has retired as EDA director for the city of Winthrop, and has resigned his MMUA board seat as of December 2017. Erickson was replaced on the board by Winthrop City Administrator Jenny Hazelton, who will finish the term that ends at the 2018 MMUA Annual Summer Meeting.

Erickson is the former Winthrop city administrator and has been helping organize and promote the RS Fiber project in West Central Minnesota. Hazelton will continue as Winthrop’s representative to RS Fiber, a 10-city, 17-township broadband cooperative in Renville and Sibley counties.

Prior to Winthrop, he was employed by Hiawatha Broadband Communications in Winona, working with communities interested in building advanced telecommunication networks. He was also formerly employed as the city administrator in Lakefield. He is a past member of the Blandin Foundation’s Telecommunications Strategy Board.

Erickson also chaired the League of Minnesota Cities’ telecommunications task force. He is a nationally-recognized expert in broadband issues, and has been a frequent speaker at state and national meetings. MMUA thanks Erickson for his efforts on the behalf of its members over the past three decades.

Hazelton started with the city of Winthrop in 1993 as billing clerk/receptionist and was named city administrator/broaser in 2014. She is now also EDA director.

Hazelton holds an accounting degree and is a certified public accountant. She is active in municipal associations. She also serves on a multi-city cable commission. She was president of the local Chamber of Commerce from 2012-2013 and remains a chamber member.

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Fairfax council member from January 2015 to December 2017, having been appointed to fill an unexpired term. She is involved in local leadership groups and is enrolled in MMUA’s Leadership Academy.

The Academy will consist of eight sessions held over a two-year period. This high-level executive leadership program is designed for current and future senior leaders to instill the key skills, awareness, and perspective that a 21st Century municipal utility leader needs.

• September 25-26, 2019
• May 25-26, 2019
• December 12-13, 2018
• March 13-14, 2019
• May 29-30, 2019
• September 26-27, 2018
• December 12-13, 2018

Important is that you block out these dates as you commit to the program. Each session is a crucial building block in developing the skills, awareness, and perspective of a true leader.

MMUA Leadership Academy announces openings for new session

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More information can be found on the Events/Schools/Leadership Academy page at www.mmua.org. Space is limited—Register today!
Distributed generation issues, particularly those revolving around solar electric generation, prompted a group of environmental organizations to petition the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the creation of a subcommittee, to expedite regulatory guidance and solar development. This particular solar installation, photographed in December, is south of Waverly on Wright County Rd. 8.

Interconnection costs or requirements for systems under 40 kilowatts;
Clarifications on filing requirements;
Distributed generation means generating electricity with multiple, dispersed power sources. The MPUC order notes that “many benefits are attributed” to distribution generation, including increasing customer choice.

MMUA opens St. Paul office to members
Government Relations Rep Amanda Duerr accepts position with Charter

by Jack Kegel

MMUA’s office in Plymouth is conveniently located for the membership on the West side of the metro area. Unfortunately, it’s not very conveniently located for our Government Relations staff. It’s about 23 miles from the office to the Capitol, with downtown Minneapolis in between. Finding some reasonably-priced office space near the Capitol for our people to use when they are in St. Paul has been on our to-do list for several years.

I’m happy to report that mission is now accomplished. We have leased space in the Capitol Ridge Building, just off I-94 and very close to the Capitol. It’s better known as the Capitol Ridge Hotel, formerly the Kelly Inn. The address is 161 St Anthony Ave, Suite 800, St Paul, MN 55103. It’s not a big place, but it has space for a few desks and a small conference table. If you have business in St Paul, let us know, and it will be a great place for you to meet MMUA staff and prepare for your meetings. We’re hoping that it becomes home base for the whole group that frequents the Capitol representing various Public Power constituencies.

If you’re planning to come to the MMUA Legislative Conference, our new office is right upstairs from the site of the evening legislative reception. We’ll have it open during the reception so you can come up and check it out if you’d like.

On another note, we bid farewell this month to Amanda Duerr, our intrepid Government Relations Representative. She has accepted a new position as Senior Manager of Government Affairs for Charter Communications. We’re very grateful for all that Amanda has done for us over the last three years, and we wish her all the best in her new role.

Storage-renewables to bloom in Colorado?

Xcel Energy’s Colorado subsidiary—Public Service Co. of Colorado—has proposed to retire 680 megawatts (MW) of coal generation and add 1,000 MW of wind, 700 MW of solar and 70 MW of natural gas-fired generation.

The company said it has received offers for 112,000 MW that includes as many MW of storage paired with renewables as there were solar- or wind-only projects.

Distributed generation issues, particularly those revolving around solar electric generation, prompted a group of environmental organizations to petition the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the creation of a subcommittee, to expedite regulatory guidance and solar development. This particular solar installation, photographed in December, is south of Waverly on Wright County Rd. 8.
city the additional fee of one-and-one-half cents ($0.015) or 15 mills per kilowatt hour for all electric use for a three-month period, but the Band deducted the amount paid from a later payment. While the city testified, in a regulatory filing, that the Band was notified numerous times about the 15-mill fee, the Band says it has no written documentation of that assertion and that it “never agreed to pay the city’s costs of service territory acquisition.”

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As part of the state of Minnesota’s effort to convert paper service territory maps to an electronic format (commencing in November 2014), the MPUC had no record of the filing of the 2013 agreement. On Feb. 15, 2017, the cooperative, on behalf of itself and the city, re-submitted the 2013 agreement to the MPUC. Two weeks later, the Red Lake Band stated it had recently learned that in order for the city to provide electric service to the New Casino, the Commission would need to “approve” the transfer of service territory.

On March 8, 2017, the Red Lake Band filed a Notice of Appearance with the MPUC, stating in part that:

• Red Lake Band was not part of any negotiations between the two entities that resulted in the present service territory agreement;

• Red Lake Band never agreed to pay the entire cost of the service territory buy-out; and

• Objecting to the city’s attempts to collect from the Band the buy-out costs of the service territory acquisition.

The MPUC requested comments from the parties in July 2017. In Oct. 2017, the city filed comments stating that:

• The Commission should update the electric service territory maps to reflect the parties’ service territory agreement;

• The Commission should decline to address any other issues, because the rates of a municipal utility are beyond the Commission’s jurisdiction; and the Commission cannot “undo” the 2013 territory agreement.

That same day, the cooperative and MMUA filed comments. The cooperative largely echoed the city’s comments. MMUA said it was the association’s strong position that “the Commission’s approval of the agreement is not required and that the territorial change was effective upon execution of the agreement.”

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians requested that, among other points, the MPUC not update the official service map to reflect the agreement between the city and cooperative until the compensation issues between the city and the Band are resolved.

In comments filed with the MPUC on Dec. 8, 2017, the Department of Commerce recommended that the Commission deny the requested service territory boundary transfer from the cooperative to the city.

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The utility is investigating the feasibility of installing a community solar garden and has requested information. Leading the discussion were members of the Itasca Clean Energy Team. A cross-section of community members—from businesses, schools, housing, city government and more—were invited. Eventual size of a solar power generating plant will depend on commitments.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Nov. 30 approved Xcel Energy’s request to terminate its biomass-fueled power purchase agreement with Benson Power LLC and the Laurentian Energy Authority (LEA). While the cities and municipal entities, including the Hibbing Public Utilities and the Virginia Department of Public Utilities, did not oppose terminating the agreement, loggers, truckers and turkey producers did.

Xcel estimated terminating the power purchase agreement would save its ratepayers $430 million.

If Xcel’s power purchase agreement with Benson Power is changed or terminated, or the biomass facility is sold or closed, the city of Benson will receive economic development grants of $4 million in 2018, $6.5 million in 2019 and 2020, and $3 million in 2021. In addition, if Xcel’s power purchase agreement is changed or terminated, or the biomass facility is sold or closed, the Laurentian Energy Authority will receive $6.8 million/year for five years.

The city of Granite Falls, working in conjunction with its power supplier—Central Minnesota Power Agency/Services—has offered its customers the option of purchasing solar energy through their municipal electric bill. The program utilizes off-site solar panels for economies of scale.

A newly renovated Lake Crystal city hall and library opened Dec. 11. The offices remain located at 100 E. Robinson St.

Mora city administrator Joel Dhein has announced he will retire after 15 years with the city, on March 9. His tenure with the city includes notable improvements and increased efficiencies, noted a story in the local paper. Dhein had previously served as city administrator in other Minnesota and Wisconsin cities.

The Moose Lake Water and Light Commission recently announced that it has sold its Moose Tec wireless internet service to Genesis Tech, of Braham. Moose Tec had served over 400 customers. The new owner took over the business as of Jan. 1. The company announced it has opened a Moose Lake office.

RES America has applied with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to build a 150-megawatt wind plant in western Yellow Medicine County. The plan calls for 37 turbines to sprawl over 22,888 acres southwest of Canby, near the South Dakota border.

Xcel Energy has announced it is partnering with a West Fargo company to build a wind power plant in North Dakota and another plant in Iowa, with some turbines in Minnesota. Combined output is estimated to peak at 350 megawatts.

In the biggest energy project in recent years, the Minneapolis-Metro Area, the state’s largest utility, has announced it will retire after 15 years with the city, on March 9. His tenure with the city includes notable improvements and increased efficiencies, noted a story in the local paper. Dhein had previously served as city administrator in other Minnesota and Wisconsin cities.

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he said. You don’t get to go home until the job is done.

As a teenager, Eiden worked three seasons for the city parks department, pushing a mower. He was usually done in September, depending on the weather.

In his fourth year with parks—1962—the water department supervisor “came over and got me.” Winter had set in. The water crew had to “pull” some well pumps. Eiden expected that work to end “in December or so.” It did—55 years later.

The first thing he remembers was the water supervisor telling him to “grab a shovel and come with me.” That didn’t bother Eiden. The third day, he had to climb to the top of an old water tower and change out the light bulbs on the very top.

“I had a little trouble with that,” he admitted.

He worked with the water crew for a year before the supervisor told him he had a job.

At the time, the water crew was responsible for water, sewer and steam heat. The steam system dated to 1916. Eiden recalls hating to see steam coming out of manholes on a cold winter day. He knew who would be fixing it. Extremes of heat and cold came with the job, but jumping back and forth from one to the other was tough. By the early 1970s, the power plant went from 24 hours to standing by, and steam heat system was retrenched.

“It was awful good heat,” he recalled, but he was glad to see the system go.

The city joined a sewer district in 1972-73 and that also did away with “a lot of headaches.”

Once, when a water leak was discovered where an old water tower used to be, the water crew unearthed a length of redwood water main, tongue and groove construction, reinforced with what appeared to be re-rod. That old wooden water main was leaking only where it connected to the newer main. The old stuff, underground, is all gone now.

The unwritten rule was, if it still worked, let it be, Eiden said. “They didn’t have a lot of equipment. The men had to dig. In the 1960s, a couple contractors got hold of a backhoe, and the water department ‘ripped out a lot of stuff.’ The guys on the water department were glad to see the machinery, said Eiden. “Any snoop would help.”

Oddly enough, while the job today is less physically demanding, there are fewer people willing to do it. Eiden said the utility will put jobs out to bid and some contractors can’t bid on it—they don’t have the people.

“It used to be a pretty tough job,” he said. Now, the machinery does much of the work. Utilities, plumbers and contractors need younger people to do the job, and many aren’t interested in the work.

That is a far cry from when Eiden was young. In those days, there weren’t too many jobs in Alexandria. Eiden and most of the people he worked with over the years would have “done anything to get an offer.” He really didn’t want to go to the Twin Cities. It would have meant “more money,” but “more misery.”

And he didn’t want to be inside, he wanted to be outside. Alexandria in 1962 was less than half the size of its current 14,000 population. Eiden grew up in town. There was no freeway, no McDonald’s.

Due in part to water quality concerns, the city has annexed many areas around area lakes in recent years. Looking at a map of the ALP water system, Eiden nods and says he has “seen a lot of additions to that map.” Everything changes, he said.

The aches and pains have added up.

“I just don’t have the strength” to do the job anymore, he said.

Shortly after starting work at the utility, it was married to Bonnie, his wife. Both are natives of the area. The couple has four kids—two boys and two girls—and grandchil-

The Eiden work ethic was handed down to the children, who are all productive members of society. Two of the Eiden kids live on hobby farms nearby, and he will help out there. Winter could be “a little bit of a drag,” but he heats the home with wood—if he wants to stay warm, he will be busy with that. He has a large yard to care for. Clearing snow can take a half day. He can always go fishing.

Summers go quick.

The Eiden’s are “not going south people,” Gary said. They plan to visit relatives this spring, in Montana. Bonnie has never seen the Black Hills. That is something to look forward to.

One thing is sure, he said.

“I won’t be getting up at 5 o’clock anymore.”

Customer deposit interest rate set at 1.6 percent

The Minnesota Department of Commerce has announced that the interest rate to be paid on customer deposits has been set at 1.6 percent for 2018.

Minnesota Stat. 325E.02 (b) requires privately or publicly owned water, gas, telephone, cable television, electric light, heat, or power companies to pay a specific interest rate on deposits.

For more on this requirement see the ‘Breaking News’ section at www.mmua.org
ALP Utilities has adapted over a century of service and is poised for bright future

Formerly known as Alexandria Light and Power, ALP Utilities is governed by a five-member utility board known as the Board of Public Works. Board members are appointed by the Alexandria City Council. The Alexandria Board of Public Works establishes rates for consumers and is the policymaking entity that regulates the operations of ALP Utilities.

ALP Utilities provides power to over 7,500 residential electric accounts, and over 3,700 water customers. ALP Business Communications has high-speed fiber optic Internet throughout Alexandria available to businesses. Along with fast and highly reliable service, there are no contracts for service and changes to service speed can be made promptly by the ALP network staff. ALP offers Alexandria-based support 24/7. Fiber internet service up to 50 MB is available as its point-to-point service. Lit and unlit. Lit service is available up to 1 gigabyte.

ALP Utilities purchases about 30 percent of its electric power from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). WAPA is one of four federal power marketing administrations. The other 70 percent is purchased from Missouri River Energy Services (MRES). MRES is a joint action agency of 60 municipal electric utilities in the states of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota.

ALP Utilities is contracted by Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District (ALASD) to bill monthly sewer charges. The utility has 32 employees and operates a standby 9-megawatt electric generating plant, adjacent to its headquarters near downtown. ALP Utilities started life as Alexandria Light & Power. In 1889, the city council adopted an ordinance granting the right to establish a municipal electric plant. In the early years, a local coal-fired power plant generated electricity. Since its early days, the utility has marched on a steady path of progress.

ALP Utilities—Otter Tail file joint electric service area adjustment with state regulators

ALP Utilities (Alexandria) and Otter Tail Power recently filed a joint petition to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, regarding the permanent transfer of a portion of Otter Tail’s service area to the municipal utilities. The parties agreed that the MPUC modify the specified portion of Otter Tail’s service area to the municipal utilities. The parties agreed that the MPUC modify the specified portion of Otter Tail’s service area to the municipal utilities. The parties agreed that the MPUC modify the specified portion of Otter Tail’s service area to the municipal utilities. The parties agreed that the MPUC modify the specified portion of Otter Tail’s service area to the municipal utilities.

Scholarly report finds Minnesota goals on rates, greenhouse gas emissions, in conflict

Just in time for a new legislative session, a senior policy fellow at a conservative Minnesota think tank and a University of California-Berkeley scholar have released a report highly critical of Minnesota energy policy.

In “The High Cost of Failure,” the authors find that “Minnesota has made meager progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions since 2005. And it has cost a fortune.”

Until 2017, the authors point out, when legislation was adopted that utilities aim for electric rates to be “five percent below the national average,” state energy goals largely ignored cost. The report is an attempt to show how Minnesota fails to come close to meeting its near-term greenhouse gas reduction goals and “how hopelessly unattainable it is to reach the longer-term goals.”

The report concludes that, while goals may be in conflict, this will “hopefully lead to a more measured and effective approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions…”

With over 500 pages of historical and monumental passages and photographs, The American Lineman makes the perfect gift for power delivery employees and retirees, family members and friends close to the trade.

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Co-ops file rate plan with MPUC for areas they acquired in 2015 from Interstate

In June 2015, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved the Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) purchase of Interstate Power and Light Company electric distribution system and assets in Minnesota.

The purchase will eventually meld what are termed Legacy Areas (typically rural areas served by the cooperative) with Acquired Areas (typically municipal areas formerly served by IPL). The Legacy and Acquired areas contained customers paying different rates.

The rate plan stipulates that a member cooperative may only merge one or more Legacy Area and Acquired Area rates if: the projected revenue produced by the Legacy Area and Acquired Area rates is within 5 percent of each other; and no rate will be increased by more than 5 percent per year, excluding the operation of the power cost adjustment mechanism.

If those criteria for merging rates are not met, the rate plan requires that each member cooperative will maintain separate rates for the Acquired and Legacy areas. And that is what will occur, at least through the transition period.

Following a class cost of service study (CCOSS), SMEC reported to the MPUC that the majority of member cooperative rates did not satisfy the criteria for merging. As a result, the cooperatives will specifically allocate the costs attributable to the legacy and acquired areas separately.

Overall Rate Increases by Transition Period Year for the Acquired Areas for all the Minnesota cooperatives were up to 5 percent, except for Brown County (up to 3.89%), Peoples (up to 1.06%) Steele-Waseca (up to 1.00%).

All the member cooperatives have reportedly agreed to use a 5 percent cap, identified in the rate plan, for merged rates as a ceiling for developing the transition period. Accordingly, all the SMEC cooperatives will increase the overall rates for the acquired areas within a range of 0 to 5 percent per year for the two-year transition period.

In conclusion, SMEC and its member cooperatives said they have complied with the terms of the rate plan, and they intend to implement rate changes reflecting the overall rate adjustments for the acquired areas when the two-year transition period commences on Aug. 1. The regulatory filing did not happen to rates following the transition period.

The following table (at the top of the page) summarizes the overall annual percentage increase (or decrease) in rates that each member cooperative would need to implement in order to recover the sum of the class revenue requirements for each area, given the results of the CCOSS.
MMUA thanks and recognizes its roster of 2018 Annual Sponsors

MMUA would like to thank those Associate Members who are supporting the association as 2018 Annual Sponsors.

The MMUA Annual Sponsorship offers a convenient one-stop payment that allows a company to participate in our most popular events and have a significant presence on or in our most visible communications vehicles.

MMUA thanks those associate members who renewed their annual sponsorships for 2018, and those who signed-up for the first time.

Sponsorship benefits include:
- Recognition as an MMUA Annual Sponsor at www.mmua.org
- Recognition as an Annual Sponsor on banners at MMUA events
- Recognition as an Annual Sponsor in MMUA publications
- One 2-column by 5-inch Resource newsletter ad, in color. This includes a complementa-ry, color, business-card sized ad in the Professional Services Directory (on pages 10-11 of the newsletter). Sponsors can also upgrade to a larger ad for an additional fee.
- One trade show table (including power) and two attendees at either the Summer Conference or Technical and Operations (T&O) Conference.
- Two meeting registrations at either the Summer Conference or T&O Conference.
- A variety of other acknowledgments throughout the year, at various MMUA events and in other media.

The total value of the Resource ad, trade show exhibit space and meeting registrations is more than $3,650. So you can see that the $1,750 sponsorship package represents an outstanding value!

To sign-up as an MMUA Annual Sponsor, go to the Sponsors/Become a Sponsor link on our website. For more information, particularly related to advertising, call Steve Downer at 763-746-0702. Questions regarding meetings should be directed to Rita Kelly at 763-746-0707. Late sign-ups accepted!

Detroit Lakes Public Utilities late last year won an Excellence in Public Power Communications awards from the American Public Power Association.

The entries were judged in three categories: print/digital, web/social media, and video. Detroit Lakes won an Award of Merit for a video, slightly longer than a minute, on how the utility invests in its community. The video can be viewed on the utility's website.

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.
HELP WANTED

General Manager

Due to a retirement, Rauenhorst Recruiting Company has been retained by the Alexandria Board of Public Works, dba ALP Utilities to place a full-time General Manager to oversee its electric, water and business communication utilities. Are you ready to make the move to become General Manager of a mid-sized municipal electric, water, and communications utility? If you are an experienced GM, CFO, Utilities Director, water or electric superintendent, this could be the opportunity you seek. The Utilities General Manager oversees all aspects of the utility including electric and water distribution and business communication, under the direction of the Board of Public Works. The role requires strong work habits, public relations skill, an ability to coordinate work independently with practiced judgment, and to supervise a staff of 35. This vibrant and stable mid-sized community has a robust economy with a variety of large commercial and industrial power users, and is a destination for outdoor recreation. ALP Utilities is following a planned conversion to underground. Currently 40% of the utility’s electric infrastructure is underground. A solid track record of maintenance and investment provides high system reliability and reasonable utility rates. Essential duties and responsibilities require candidate to proactively communicate with the Board on matters of policy, regulatory and community interest; manage power supply (WAPA and Missouri River Energy Services are our providers), supervise the experienced operations, finance, customer service teams, and manage capital assets. Operational skill and solid PR skills will lead to success. Required skills and experience include: demonstrated success and experience in Electrical and/or Water Distribution Systems, including designing, directing and evaluating personnel; a four-year college degree in one of the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math), or finance / accounting, or a closely related discipline, AND at least five years of rel.

continued on facing page:
City Administrator/Public Utilities General Manager

The City of Mora, Minnesota (pop. 3,504) is seeking a City Administrator/Public Utilities General Manager. The City Administrator is appointed by, and serves at, the pleasure of the City Council and the Public Utilities Commission. The position is responsible for overall management of municipal services, including administration, finance, planning, streets, parks, electric, water, sanitary sewer and storm water utilities and oversight of contract services for law enforcement, engineering, legal services, electric power supply, and electric distribution system maintenance. The total 2017 budget for Mora’s municipal and utilities operations is $14.8 million; the City and Utilities have a combined workforce of 35 full-time equivalent employees.

Bachelor’s degree in public administration or related field and at least five years of progressively responsible administrative and/or managerial experience in a comparable sized public, non-profit or private sector organization are required. A Master’s degree is preferred. Qualified candidates will have considerable knowledge of municipal operations, a strong background in finance and economic development, and experience managing employees and working with a governing body. Strong communication and negotiation skills desired. Familiarity with utilities operation and management is a plus. The annual salary range for this position is $80,163 - $106,891. Anticipated starting salary is $80,163 - $94,078, depending on the successful candidate’s qualifications and experience.

Competitive benefits package available. This position is open until filled; however, first consideration will be given to resumes received by January 24, 2018. Qualified candidates, please submit your cover letter and resume online by visiting our website at https://springsted.watersrecruitmenthome.com/postings/1790. For more information, please contact Sharon Kluemp at skluemp@springsted.com, 651.223.3053 (direct), or 651.270.6856 (mobile); or Patricia Heminover at pheminover@springsted.com, 651.223.3058 (direct). The City of Mora is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Director of Power Resources
Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) is seeking applicants for immediate hire for the position of Director of Power Resources. The Director of Power Resources is the business unit leader for electric generation, power supply, and fleet and facilities. This position is responsible for integrated resource planning, managing the utility’s on-site generation, managing a wholesale steam contract with the Mayo Clinic, serving as the alternate member representative as part of RPU’s partial requirements membership in the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), directing RPU’s wholesale energy marketing programs, and overseeing the construction, operation and maintenance of all RPU facilities along with the vehicle fleet. Compensation: 2018 salary range $106,322 to $156,084, depending on qualifications. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A Bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in Economics, Finance, Business Administration, Accounting, Engineering, or other related field considered useful in utility industry; AND Seven (7) years of progressively responsible full-time employment experience in power plant management, commodity trading, utility finance and rate making theory, trading, utility finance and contract administration, resource planning, market operations, transaction development, power project engineering, administration or management, or other relevant utility experience; WITH at least three (3) years of supervisory leadership experience directing professional and support staff. For more information and to apply online, please visit our website: www.rochestermn.gov

FOR SALE
Transformer, generator, pump
Truman Public Utilities has various items for sale, including a 1,000 KVA, 3-phase tub, a 30-kilowatt generator and trailer, and a Houli Pump. For more information, call Taylor Varnes at 507-629-0417.

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Upcoming MMUA Meetings and Schools

Meter School and Basic Metering Pre-Conference
The MMUA Metering Pre-Conference will be held Feb. 13-14 and will segue into the Meter School, Feb. 14-16, at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall.

The Pre-Conference is an ideal introductory or refresher course on basic metering. Registration deadline is Jan. 29!

Instructors include Larry Chapman & Staff from Chapman Metering, along with Scott Murfield. Murfield, a former MMUA Regional Safety Coordinator, is a certified Journeyman Lineman, Journeyman Electrician and Loss Control Professional.

PCB Workshop
MMUA will hold a PCB Workshop Feb. 27-28 at our office in Plymouth. The workshop will include working through some “real world” scenarios. This workshop was very highly rated last year and we are very excited about this year’s program!

Our expert instructor, Mark Pennell, works with many utilities across the country. In addition, a representative from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will attend and may offer valuable insight. Registrants will receive a useful take-home manual and sample forms. Space is limited, so register today!

Lineworker Rodeo Clinic
MMUA’s Lineworker Rodeo Clinic is March 6-7 at the Training Center. If you’re even thinking about competing in a Rodeo, you will want to attend this event, which is free to MMUA members.

Legislative Conference
MMUA MMUA’s Legislative Conference is April 3-4 in St. Paul. The conference will feature meetings with legislators and interesting speakers! Mark your calendars now.

For more information or to register, see the ‘Events’ section at www.mmua.org

Transformer School gets high praise from students

The annual MMUA/MREA/APPA Transformer School was recently held at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. The Pre-Conference took place Dec. 12-13, followed by the Conference Dec. 13-15.

The school received very good reviews. “It was an excellent class with a very knowledgeable instructor,” was one typical comment.

The Pre-Conference covered basic single-phase connections and theory. The Conference covered three-phase connection.

Scott Meinecke, job training and safety instructor with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, returned as our lead instructor.

The Conference was attended by more than 50 people from 29 municipals and two cooperatives. Most of the attendees were from Minnesota, but students also came from South Dakota and Michigan.

Apprentices ‘comped’ in

The Pre-Conference was attended by 25, including a number of students enrolled in the MMUA Apprentice Lineworker Training program. Those enrolled in the Apprentice program attend the MMUA Overhead, Underground, Transformer and Meter Schools, on a complimentary basis.

There are a limited number of openings in the Apprentice program. For more information, call Mike Willetts at 612-802-8474.

Lead instructor Scott Meinecke led a group of students through a hands-on portion of the MMUA Transformer School.

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.

MMUA Apprenticeship Instructor Mike Taylor, right, worked with apprentices Pat Kalis (foreground) and Jeff Honner.