Back on the field
With power supplier’s help, Barnesville restores local municipal electric line crew

by Steve Downer
Several smaller municipal utilities have ceased to work on their electric distribution systems in recent decades, due to economic reasons, often turning the work over to contractors or neighboring utilities.

While it is not big news for a municipal utility to get out of running a line crew, it is unusual when one gets back into distribution maintenance. And that is just what Barnesville Municipal Utilities has done, with a little help from its supplemental wholesale power supplier, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES).

Barnesville got out of linework 15 years ago, when it signed a five-year maintenance agreement with a neighboring utility. There was no other alternative at the time, said Guy Swenson, City of Barnesville Telephone, Electric, Cable (TEC) Manager.

Over the years, that original five-year agreement was signed two more times.

This year enjoyed a good working relationship with its service provider, said Swenson, and thought of the lineman (who lived

Barnesville: see page 6 please

Willmar transmission project to increase local, regional reliability

Rates are a big consideration, but for most municipal electric utilities it is the day-to-day concern is reliability. And in this age of the inter-connected electric grid, one giant step toward a more reliable electric system is securing multiple transmission feeds.

Willmar Municipal Utilities (WMU) has had two transmission feeds for many years, but unfortunately—for reliability purposes—both those feeds entered the same substation. According to regulatory documents, both an Xcel owned transmission line and a high voltage Great River Energy (GRE)-owned line interconnected to separate transformers at the same WMU substation.

One localized severe storm and Willmar’s outside electrical connection could be severed. To rectify that vulnerability, a dual voltage transformer from the existing sub has been moved to a new location several miles away, allowing WMU to separate the vital transmission feeds.

The multi-faceted project increases reliability for Willmar electric customers, and those served by other utilities in west central Minnesota.

WMU worked closely through the process with GRE, and also with Xcel. WMU owns the substation. GRE will be the operator, as the facility is in GRE’s regional transmission control area.

GRE contracted to build two transmission lines, including the line connecting the existing substation to the new substation. WMU was responsible for substation construction. A second GRE line continues from the new WMU substation to nearby GRE substations, increasing the overall load serving capability of the transmission system in the area.

The substation project carries an approximately $4.9 million price tag. Willmar Municipal

MMUA and MnOSHA study silica dust hazards with help of members

by Mark Hottel
Regional Safety Coordinator

MMUA helps members comply with OSHA standards. But did you know the association also works with MnOSHA to provide for scientific sampling and analysis of real-life activities? The goal is to help members comply with certain regulations in the most efficient manner. This type of work also builds trust and leads to a good working relationship with MnOSHA staff.

One such effort is currently underway.

A recently rewritten OSHA standard concerning “respirable crystalline silica” has the potential to affect municipal utilities and public works departments across the state. The new federal standard for general industry operations became enforceable in Minnesota on July/August 23, 2018.

Since most of our operations fall under the definitions used for general industry work, the 1910.1053 standard has our closest attention.

Silica dust has a long history of causing illness and fatalities in occupational settings. Public works and utility employees are performing tasks that can generate very fine “respirable” silica dust. One of our objectives is to determine what levels exist for those tasks. Indeed, the new standard requires that

Study: see page 9 please

MMUA Regional Safety Coordinator Mike Hottel (foreground) inspected water spray nozzle during routine maintenance activities on a City of Kenyon street sweeping machine—a typical municipal piece of equipment.
Many MMUA members, including the one in Grove City, have interactions with railroad companies.

Many MMUA members have been told by railroads or railroad agents that a law change or court case in 2018 has added to what railroads may charge for utility crossings. As there were no relevant statutory changes passed by the Legislature, and the only court case MMUA is aware of went primarily in favor of the utilities, changes passed by the Legislature, and the only court case MMUA is aware of went primarily in favor of the utilities, railroads or railroad agents may feel compelled to ask for more than $1,250 for that crossing. The law also clarified that crossing fees are not required to be paid for crossings in public rights of way (see Minnesota Statutes §237.045).

Following the state’s enactment of this new law, CenturyLink petitioned the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to rule that the statute governed its planned replacement of an underground cable in St. Louis Park, and located in BNSF right-of-way running a distance of 206 feet roughly parallel to and 38-46 feet from the track. The MPUC ruled in CenturyLink’s favor, finding that the statute applies to parallel installations as well as crossings, and that the $1,250 fee limit was sufficient and applies in such situations. BNSF appealed the MPUC’s ruling. In a Sept. 24, 2018 decision, the Minnesota Court of Appeals upheld the MPUC’s decision, agreeing that the statute applies equally to both crossings and parallelings, and denying BNSF’s claim that the statute is unconstitutional because the $1,250 fee limit is insufficient and thus constitutes an uncompensated taking. While the Court of Appeals ruled the statute constitutional, it also found it does not prevent a railroad from filing a separate inverse condemnation claim to recover any actual diminution in the property’s value caused by the facility installation by a utility. (MMUA participated in the case by joining in the filing of a multi-party amicus brief.)

BNSF opted not to appeal this ruling to the Supreme Court. Thus, the Court of Appeals’ ruling is controlling law in Minnesota, which means Minnesota Statutes Section 237.045 is applicable to both crossings and parallelings, and that no utility should have to pay more than $1,250 for a crossing or parallel. Because a particular crossing or paralleling may cause diminution in the railroad’s property value, utilities do need to be aware of the risk of the railroad filing an inverse condemnation action.

The level of risk seems slight, but there could be unique, local facts that may make it prudent for a utility to, by a written agreement, voluntarily pay more than the $1,250 cap on fees, but no utility should feel compelled to pay more, and those with older agreements should be aware of their rights to stop paying in most cases where they have already paid the railroad at least $1,250.

MMUA members urged to know the law when it comes utility railroad crossing payments

by Bill Black & Kent Sulem

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A sense of place

Each MMUA member city — and utility — has a unique history and is well worth taking care of while largely sidelined by economics, the previous-generation municipal power plant has proven its worth over the years. A new wave of investment is now sweeping the state, driven by, paradoxically, wind energy. A big internal combustion engine with a generator attached to the crankshaft is a perfect tool for 'firming up' a sprawling wind farm. It appears the municipal power plant will remain viable (and absolutely necessary for propping up the state's electric grid, under certain circumstances).

Most MMUA-member cities don't have any type of power plant. Yet they retain their unique characters. Maybe it's a main street, with a clock, or a cafe. Or a railroad depot sporting the city's name, or a ballpark, or an arena. Many of these places border a beautiful lake, or are home to a widely-recognized business. Buildings are made from local material: pine, limestone, sandstone. Kasson stone. Chaska brick.

And some places appear to have been forgotten by time. The railroad no longer runs through, the highway took a different route, people left, the elevator shut down, a church closed its doors. But pride in the place lives on in the hearts of people there. Many hold a common last name—a name that might leave the town but will be forever associated with it. All of these places have an interesting history, and thrived at times, if not enjoying a steady trajectory of growth and prosperity.

They are home, to somebody. And home is worth taking care of.

Editor's note: The following first appeared in the News & Blogs section of the MMUA website.

A sense of place.

That is one thing that each of the 124 Minnesota cities operating a municipal electric utility has in common.

It’s not surprising. When your bedrock tenet is local control, it stands to reason that your city would be unique. While traveling through the bustling Chicago suburbs (where my wife grew up) the thought often occurs to me – I could be anywhere, maybe Eagan.

That thought is unlikely to intrude when visiting, say, Granite Falls.

Granite Falls is one of six Minnesota municipal electric utilities with a municipally-owned hydroelectric plant. These plants have been churning out power for decades. They are, of course, located on rivers, which normally run the same course year in, and year out. And given the fact that you generally still have to spin metal to make electricity, some of the equipment in many of these plants has also been in service for many decades.

If it works, no sense in spending good money just to change it. And, in some cases, equipment installed years ago was ‘overbuilt’ – it was meant to last, not be replaced after a few years. Brass fixtures have been polished by numerous hands over the decades – each taking pride in keeping it in good working order.

Any city with a municipal power plant is a fascinating place to visit. You can scoff at the notion of maintaining a century-old building to house electric generators, some of which might have started life pushing a World War II submarine through the ocean, but these units continue to show their worth. The most recent example came during this winter’s polar vortex. With the natural gas system unable to keep up with demand in some areas, diesel-fueled municipal generators rumbled into service. As they have time after time, year after year, decade after decade.

The basic goodness of the design and manufacture of these engines must be acknowledged. You also have to be impressed at the skill of the men who have kept these units in running order over the years. Many a municipal power plant operator treats these engines as if they were his own. Or better.
All mutual aid crews were released by the evening on June 5. RPU serves 55,000 electric customers and 40,000 water customers and operates under the direction of a five-member, mayor-appointed Utility Board and under the Rochester City Council.

Robert Wolfindon is the new city manager in Montevideo. He was most recently city administrator in Tyler.

The City of Worthington, Worthington Public Utilities (WPU) and other city organizations, citing a lack of available housing, have purchased land for a city-owned residential development, designed to include 91 lots of varying sizes and prices.

WPJ recently reported that since LED bulbs were installed in city streetlights, electricity consumption has decreased by 63 percent and cost by 66 percent. WPU is also investigating electric and water meter reading systems that offer a customer ‘portal.’

The City of Lanesboro continues moving forward on the process for a possible new wastewater treatment plant. The current plant was reportedly built in 1938, making it the oldest operating plant in the state. Estimated project costs range from $6.5 million to $7.75 million, a lot of money for a city of 765 people. Funding options are being investigated.

A person familiar to many Minnesota municipal utilities—Mike McGlone—retired June 7 after nearly 27 years of committed service to The Salvation Army and the HealShare program.

A retirement party was held in Roseville following McGlone’s last HealShare Advisory Council meeting on Thursday, June 6.

Scout Clean Energy on June 5 announced the completion of a power purchase agreement with Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) for the purchase of 200 megawatts of energy from the Three Waters Wind Farm in Jackson County.

The project calls for the installation of up to 71, 2.82 MW GE wind turbines to be located across approximately 45,000 acres in Jackson County.

This purchase of renewable energy contributes to MMPA’s renewable portfolio and reduces MMPA’s carbon footprint in a cost-effective manner,” said Oncu Er, Chief Operating Officer of Avant Energy, Inc., MMPA’s manager-partner.

The project is expected to begin construction in 2021 with an anticipated in-service date of late 2021. Three Waters is being developed and will be owned and operated by Scout Clean Energy, a portfolio company of Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners, a leading private equity infrastructure fund.

Solar developer fights Wisconsin territory law

In Wisconsin, Eagle Point Solar wants to partner with the City of Milwaukee to power seven city buildings with solar, but We Energies is refusing to connect a series of solar arrays to each other.

The We Energies utility claims Eagle Point would essentially be selling electricity to the city within We Energies’ service area, which the utility argued would be illegal.

Eagle Point also sued the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, which declined to take up its complaint against We Energies, also known as Wisconsin Electric Power Co.
In April 2019, U.S. monthly electricity generation from renewable sources exceeded coal-fired generation for the first time, reported the Energy Information Administration (EIA) in its June 26 Electric Power Monthly. Renewable sources provided 23 percent of total electricity generation to coal’s 20 percent.

Wind generation reached a record monthly high in April 2019 of 30.2 million megawatt hours (MWh). Solar generation—including utility-scale solar photovoltaics and utility-scale solar thermal—reached a record monthly high in June 2018 of 7.8 million MWh and will likely surpass that level this summer, according to EIA.

Seasonal increases in hydroelectric generation also helped drive the overall increase in renewable generation, the report noted.

Xcel Energy July 1 filed its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The IRP lays out the utility’s plan for meeting customers’ needs in a reliable and low-cost manner.

The company had pledged to generate 100 percent of its electricity from “carbon free” sources by 2050. Following extreme cold and electric supply challenges last winter, the company said that between the years 2031 and 2034 it foresees adding about 1,700 megawatts for “dispatchable” electric generation, which might include natural gas-fired generation.

Energy storage batteries were identified as another option.

According to a July 1 report from the New York Department of Public Service, energy storage could replace as much as 500 MW of peaking capacity in the state.

The study conducted a unit-by-unit analysis of the operational and emissions data of about 4,500 MW of peaking power plants across the state, but “almost entirely” concentrated in New York City, Long Island and in the Lower Hudson Valley. The study found that at least 275 MW, or about 6 percent, of the state’s peaking fleet are candidates for replacement with six-hour storage facilities sized to the 2013 peak output. If the storage duration is stretched to eight hours, about 500 MW of peaking units would be candidates for replacement.

Solar developer representatives held an informational meeting in early June in Luverne, for a proposed 200-megawatt solar plant, to cover 1,600 acres in eastern Rock County.

An administrative law judge has recommended route options for a proposed 345,000-volt electric transmission line, to connect the WilmARTH substation northeast of Mankato to the Huntley substation near Blue Earth. The line, of approximately 50 miles, is planned to help move power from wind energy projects.

Dodge County Wind has proposed an up to 70-turbine, 170-megawatt wind plant, which would include a 345,000-volt transmission line to connect to a substation at Byron. Additional transmission line route options are being considered, and local residents are expressing concerns. Public hearings will be held upon completion of a draft Environmental Impact Statement, which was expected to be complete in late June.

The line would connect the Dodge County Wind Substation in Ripley Township to the Byron substation in Olmsted County.
Barnesville: continued from front page

in the city) as its own staff
person.

But with the five-year
agreement nearing the end of
its term, Barnesville started
to seriously consider its op-
tions. It put out a Request for
Proposals for electric distri-
bution maintenance. Options
considered included: work
with an investor-owned util-
ity, an electric cooperative, a
joint arrangement with other
municipal utilities, its mu-
nicipal joint action agency, or
staff its own line crew.

There were drawbacks and
benefits to whatever options
were considered. After study
and consideration, Barnes-
ville thought the MRES of-
fering was the best solution
to serve its need. It helped
that Barnesville is an MRES
member, and both the city
and the joint action agency
have an interest in the other’s
success and well-being.

The numbers show that the
Barnesville electric system
has above-average reliabil-
ity—last year there was only
one recordable outage (longer
than five minutes).

But numbers tell only part
of the story.

Barnesville has seen a lot of
underground construction in
the last five years, with Xcel
building a natural gas distri-
bution system and the city
(which has long offered tele-
phone and cable TV service)
completing an underground
fiber-to-the-premise network.

The old electric mainte-
nance contract called for one
employee’s time three hours
a day. With all the under-
ground construction occur-
ring in Barnesville over the
last five years, much of that
person’s time was spent lo-
cating underground utilities.

That left precious little time
for electric system mainte-
nance. And when work was
needed on higher-voltage ‘pri-
mary’ electric distribution,
costs escalated rapidly, as the
utility called in a crew to do
the work.

The cost of the old agree-
ment kept going up, noted
Swenson.

“Things changed, and here
we are,” he said.

MRES Distribution Sys-
tems Superintendent Jeff
Bechthold, Manager of Trans-
mision Services Terry Wolf,
and Swenson started inter-
viewing candidates for a lead
lineman and lineman posi-
tions in February.

Maintenance Crew Leader
Sam Jones was hired April
22, followed by lineman Alex
Klovstad. Jones came from
the Detroit Lakes Public Util-
itv and Klovstad from an area
electrical contractor. Both are
journeymen. The crew was up
and running in May.

Jones left Detroit Lakes on
the best of terms, and said
‘DL’ has been “more than
helpful” during the Barnes-
ville transition period. He is
thankful for the close working
relationship that continues
with that utility—35 miles to
the northeast of Barnesville.

He hopes to foster a similar
relationship with Moorhead
Public Service, just 25 miles
north of Barnesville.

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continued from facing page
to the northwest page.

The linemen are employed by MRES and the city owns the equipment, including one of the first diesel hybrid bucket trucks in the state (which was previously used as a ven-
dor’s demonstration model). The line crew is obtaining materials and tools and learning
their way around town. The crew from Benson (also employed by MRES) came up to
help replace a broken pole, and some of the other more urgent tasks are underway.

MRES has a different maintenance standard than the previous provider, and
Barnesville will methodically work toward that standard, including conductor sizing, fa-
cilities placement and street lighting. The city has been buying dual-voltage trans-
formers for a decade, in anticip-
ation of a potential conver-
sion from 2,400 to 7,200 volts.

Barnesville has Advanced Metering Infrastruc-
ture, though a few meters remain to be changed-out. It remains a winter-peaking system. The distribution sys-
tem is more than half under-
ground.

The crew shares shop space with the telephone and cable crews. The downtown shop is
adjacent to one of the utility’s two substations. A new elec-
tric/cable shop is planned.

While the linemen are MRES employees, they work back and forth with the other
city employees. Both linemen acknowledge that they may
be called on to help out with
other duties, but expressed
gratitude for the help that
comes their way from the oth-
er city crews.

Maintenance alternative

MRES launched its Distri-
bution Maintenance Program
in 1998, to provide utilities an
option to contract with MRES
crews to maintain electric dis-
tribution systems and other
related services.

Along with Barnesville, MRES provides full distribu-
tion services to the municipal
electric utilities in Benson,
Laverne, Ortonville, Olivia
and Jackson. MRES also pro-
vides supplemental distri-
bution services to Lakefield,
Grove City and Big Stone
City, S.D.

“The MRES Distribu-
tion System Operations and
Maintenance Program can be
an incredibly important and
valuable tool for municipal
electric utilities. By placing
a priority on proper system
maintenance, participating
utilities can keep power costs
down and reliably serve the
community,” said Joni Liv-
ingston, MRES Member Ser-
dvices and Communications
Director.

Barnesville growing ‘gigabit’
city

Barnesville is one of the few
Minnesota cities providing
telephone, cable and internet
service. The city installed a
municipal underground ‘fi-
er to the premise’ system
in 2014-15, for just under $4
million.

Barnesville is a ‘gigabit’
city, and has one customer
taking service at that blaz-
ingly fast level: Stoneridge Software, a company formed
by several former Microsoft
employees. The company has
renovated several brick build-
ings and Barnesville’s main
street is clearly on the up-
swing. Many local residents
are working from home.

The fiber “business case is
working,” said Swenson.

The city has aggressively
courted residential and com-
mercial development. A new
industrial park is largely
filled, and the Barnesville
Economic Development Au-
thority has only a few lots left
in the second addition of a
new residential development.
The city also developed an
80-panel community solar
garden, at a cost of $60,000.
Residents can purchase a
panel for $775. They receive
a utility bill credit.

Residents can purchase a
panel for $775. They receive
a utility bill credit. From ensuring that its citi-
izens have reliable and afford-
able power, to offering the lat-
est technology and resources, the
City of Barnesville is
working to help its commu-
nity grow and prosper.
Locate issues continue to hamper utility construction; members urged to track difficulties

It has been a frustrating construction season for many utilities and contractors, as there has been an unprecedented amount of mishandled locate tickets, according to the Minnesota Association of General Contractors (AGC). Gopher State One Call (GSOC) this spring estimated that a large percentage of the mishandled locate tickets belong to CenturyLink.

There may be some recourse for the resulting delays and increased expense, but utilities need to document these issues and report them to the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MnOPS), which enforces the state’s excavation notice system statute. Cities and municipal utilities affected by the unprecedented delay in locating facilities should:

- Document with photos and keep records with the date and time of any and all issues you are having with a locate ticket.
- Create invoices that keep track of lost downtime and wages.
- And most importantly, MnOPS requests that you contact it regarding locate or excavation related issues. You may contact MnOPS via telephone at 651-201-7230, though its work will be expedited if you visit its website and utilize the OneCall Excavation Complaint Form, which you can access from a link on the agency’s home page.

MnOPS also requests that you copy Bill Black (bblack@mmua.org) so MnOPS can be aware of the magnitude of the issue for MnUSA members, and for any potential future reference. A MnOPS inspector is reportedly investigating the complaints.

MnOPS said its staff continue to be in regular contact with CenturyLink regarding these issues, and has reiterated that it will send a notice of probable violation for complaints in which a state statute is violated. Violations of Minnesota Statute §216D can warrant civil penalties up to $1,000 for each violation per day of violation.

The difficulties stem from CenturyLink Inc.’s transition to a new locating company to mark the location of CenturyLink underground facilities in Minnesota. CenturyLink changed locate contractors (from USIC to DirectSat) as of April 1.

CenturyLink said it is training staff to locate and mark its facilities and the company expected to be caught up with its backlog by sometime in mid-June.

RPU, People’s adjust service territory boundary

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) June 6 approved a joint request of Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) and People’s Energy Cooperative “that the MPUC update the official service territory map to reflect an agreed-upon change” in the parties’ electric service territory boundaries.

The request reflected the permanent transfer of 21 areas located within the Rochester city limits and within the electric service territory assigned to the cooperative. The areas involve approximately 635 acres and 322 residential customers.

The transfer was made pursuant to Minn. Stat. 216B.44(a), which provides that a municipal utility expands its assigned electric service territory, upon reaching agreement with a neighboring utility as to compensation.

The parties engaged in extensive technical discussions, designed to minimize any disruption to customers, to avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, and to ensure a smooth transition of electric service. To avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, the parties agreed to RPU providing interim service. There is a portion of the affected areas in which the cooperative is providing electric service, and RPU will begin providing service as mutually determined by the parties.

The utilities acknowledged that the MPUC wished to direct separate notice to customers as the proceeding before the Commission. The utilities sent the MPUC a proposed set of notice letters to be sent to all affected customers.

Reports from MMUA members, however, indicate that failure to locate underground facilities continues to hamper construction activities.

Finally, in information provided to Gopher State One Call, CenturyLink warned that “Excavators who dig without positive confirmation risk civil and criminal penalties associated with 911 and government communication infrastructure outages. If CenturyLink has not yet provided an ‘all clear’ confirmation or physical locates, you cannot proceed with excavation.”
employers make those determinations. Alternately, if an employer can document the existence of applicable "objective data" for their operations then they don’t need to spend the time and money to collect their own data. MMUA is collaborating with Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry Workplace Safety Consultation to establish "objective data" for use by cities and utilities in their efforts to comply with the rules and protect employee health.

Ten MMUA member organizations have participated, beginning last year. Participating members coordinate the time and the tasks to match up with a visit by an industrial hygienist, (a scientist or technician specializing in occupational health, instrumentation, and methods). So far, only street sweeping and mowing activities have been sampled. Weather conditions during the study period hampered getting some conditions included. However, from what we have seen so far, we predict we will have challenges getting many street sweepers to stay below acceptable levels without some work on our part. This could include routine maintenance, strict operational procedures, repairs, upgrades, and administrative controls like job rotation.

We are interested in seeing results come in this year on mowing operations. We will withhold predictions due to the small sampling size in 2018. More sampling is planned for this year which will likely involve the addition of street repair activities such as crack filling. Please consider whether your city and/or utility would be willing to become a test site for these activities. Let your safety coordinator know if you are.

Lastly, if MNOSHA enforcement comes to your location and discusses the above activities with your personnel, you can remind them that MMUA members are engaged in long-term research to analyze and mitigate our exposure. (This will not be an adequate defense if you are observed dry-sawing pavement or other known high dust level tasks!)

Utilities is also upgrading protection systems at nearby substations.

Getting to this point has been a lengthy endeavor. WMU has been engaged in discussions with transmission-owning utilities in west central Minnesota for many years.

The original Kandiyohi County transmission planning study was completed in 2011 (when former WMU electrical engineer Wes Hompe became general manager). With Hompe at the helm, WMU bought the land for the substation—a former turkey farm—in 2014. With steady guidance from the WMU Commission, the project stayed on track as Derek Smith took over as WMU electrical engineer in 2014 and John Harren moved up in the organization to assume the WMU general manager’s duties following Hompe’s 2016 retirement.

WMU coordinated with Xcel to obtain an interconnection agreement. As the project progressed, a federal government shutdown in 2018 delayed GRE in obtaining a permit it needed from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to install its transmission lines out of the substation. The subgrade work for the transmission lines was put on hold due to bitter cold winter weather. Despite difficulties, the substation control building was completed last year, as were foundations and the underground work for the new transmission line. The new substation was placed into service June 26.

WMU now has seven substations, including one adjacent to the downtown steam cogeneration plant.

WMU is also evaluating the feasibility of new generation resources to replace its existing steam plant and complement its diesel generation fleet. The diesels bolster reliability and prevent city-wide blackouts. WMU has three two-mega-watt diesel generators located on the east side of Willmar and another three two-mega-watt generators on the west side. All the WMU diesel generators are compliant with the latest emissions regulations.

WMU electric and water crews are also busy this summer with a number of projects, including moving power lines and water mains as part of a railroad bypass project, which will also re-route U.S. Hwy. 12, on the west edge of Willmar.

WMU’s main downtown location includes offices and a steam cogeneration plant.

Willmar: continued from front page

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MMUA Annual Summer Conference

August 19-21 • Breezy Point Resort

Municipal utility people in Minnesota have been meeting every year since 1933 to conduct MMUA’s business. Join us in August for this fun, educational and even occasionally uplifting event.

The MMUA room block with Breezy Point will be held until July 19. The registration fee for the conference increases on July 27.

Associate members are also welcome to attend the conference (as well as the trade show.)

Sponsorships available We also have an opportunity for Associate Members to sponsor events at the Summer Conference.

For more information Email or call Rita Kelly at rkelly@mmua.org or go to the www.mmua.org Events > Calendar webpage and click on Annual Summer Conference!

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.

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Click on Annual Summer Conference!

Go to the www.mmua.org Events > Calendar webpage and sponsor events at the Summer Conference.

We also have an opportunity for Associate Members to participate in Annual Summer Conference (as well as the trade show.)

July/August 2019 The Resource/9
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Assistants: see facing page

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The company is located at
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Suite 120, Eagan MN 55121.
Phone is 612-875-9081
and website is at qmarket-
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Primary contact is Rick
Naymark, vice president.
He can be reached at
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Primary contact is Leah
Ferch, marketing manager.
She can be reached at 507-
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PMA Financial Network/4M Fund

PMA Financial Network has been a leading provider of public sector financial services since 1984, currently serving over 2,400 public entities in eleven states. Through our administration of the League of Minnesota Cities-sponsored 4M Fund for Minnesota municipal entities, PMA has built a reputation as a reliable, professional financial organization offering unique products and services to meet community needs. Public entities in Minnesota turn to PMA as a trusted partner and integral component of their long-term financial success. The company is located at 3305 MN-60, Faribault MN 55021. Phone is 507-334-2268. Main contact is Alli Miller, field sales development manager, who can be reached at 507-261-4645.

More can be found online at kgplogistics.com

Continued from facing page

Basic Concepts, Inc., dba Justrite
Justrite Engineered Solutions offers a variety of customizable, adaptable, preventative oil containment and filtration systems for the power utility industry, all typically 25-50 percent less than traditional methods. All of the solutions are in compliance with IEEE Std. 980 and meet or exceed SPCC and Clean Water Act regulations.

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The company is located at 1310 Harris Bridge Rd., Anderson, S.C. 29621. Main phone is 864-224-7227. Contact is Thom White, Regional Sales Manager, who can be reached at 502.267.0101, ext. 5554 or twhite@justrite.com. Website is justrite.com/

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The company is located at 101 Regency Parkway, Mansfield, Texas 76063. Phone is 1-800-765-6518 and fax is 817-842-8100. Master contact is Danny Parker, regional sales manager, at 417-210-9683.

Company website is www.mastermeter.com

See our Classified listings online

MMUA Regular Members are now able to post, for no charge, classified ads at www.mmua.org

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

July/August 2019 The Resource/11
Upcoming Training Events

All events to be held at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall

**Minnesota Lineworkers Rodeo**
**September 10**
The Lineworkers Rodeo is open to all lineworkers—you don’t have to be from Minnesota to participate!
The Rodeo offers lineworkers an opportunity to step out of your comfort zone as you challenge yourself to complete three different events with skill and proficiency!

Rodeo events are individual so that any Apprentice or Journeyman lineworker can participate!

This entire event is free to lineworkers whose utility/company is an MMUA member, however registration is required by August 16. Non-member fee: $25.00 per person. Sorry, no on-site registration.

The three overall winners in the Apprentice and Journeyman categories will be awarded a trophy. Plus, in each individual event, plaques will be awarded to the top three Apprentice and top three Journeymen. (Awards will be presented at a Reception.)

**Schedule**
- Competitor Check In: 9:00 AM
- Opening Ceremony: 9:45 AM
- Rodeo Competition: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Lunch: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Awards Reception: 5:00 PM

The three events in this year’s Rodeo include:
- Event 1: Hurtman Rescue
- Event 2: Single-Phase Conductor Tie In
- Event 3: Obstacle Course

**Overhead School**
**September 10 - 13**
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA), along with our partners Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and American Public Power Association (APPA), are pleased to offer the 2019 Overhead School. Whether you are an Apprentice just starting out in your career or a seasoned Journeyman looking to sharpen your technical skills, Overhead School offers something for everyone.

**Multi-Session Class Offerings**
(Participants will rotate through all four sessions)

- Session 1 – 3-phase Transformer Bank Troubleshooting
- Session 2 – 3-phase Pole Replacement
- Session 3 – Capacitor Bank and Maintenance
- Session 4 – Preventative Maintenance

**General Sessions**
Roundtable Discussions

**Training Trailer**

**Advanced Class**
Relays, Mapping and Switching
- This class is designed to help individuals better understand the ‘ins and outs’ or substation relays, mapping strategies and switching procedures:
  - Substation Relays - mechanical and digital
  - Written switching procedures and mapping, including digitized maps
  - Scenarios, including tying substations together and different circuits within the same substation.

Note: Registration fees increase $50 per person on August 6. Registration deadline: August 16!

**Cross Training**
**October 15 - 17**
Cross Training is intended for the non-lineworker who may, at times, be called to work alongside a qualified lineworker. Regardless of the lay employee’s role, it is crucial that they be sufficiently trained.

Cross Training provides fundamental “basic training” for utility personnel. Participants can increase their knowledge of lineworker tools and equipment, broaden their understanding of electricity and the hazards, and increase confidence in their ability to assist.

Our qualified instructors, Cody Raveling and James Monroe, will incorporate safety and best practices into the hands-on training, which simulates commonly experienced situations. We make every effort to ensure this program is applicable to the diverse group of participants, so that each leaves with a solid foundation to build upon.

**Training To Be Covered**
All topics are taught at a basic level, including but not limited to:
- Introduction to Powerline Training
- Personal and Job Safety
- Basic Electrical Theory
- Overhead & Underground Construction
- Meters & Meter Safety
- Basic Chainsaw Safety
- Bucket Truck Operation

If you have questions on any of these training opportunities, please contact MMUA’s Theresa Neddermeyer at 763-551-1230 or tneddermeyer@mmua.org

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