MMUA holds annual meeting
Gathering of municipal utility people held in time of uncertainty, industry change

Minnesota municipal electric and natural gas utilities have been meeting annually since 1915, to conduct the association’s annual business: electing board members, approving budgets, and hearing from a variety of experts. This year’s MMUA Annual Summer Conference was held Aug. 17-19 at Breezy Point Resort.

The event has evolved over the years. Popular features now include a trade show and a pre-meeting golf tournament, but business remains the meeting’s reason for being. Troy Adams of Elk River Municipal Utilities was elected president, taking the reins at the conclusion of the meeting from Brainerd Public Utilities Commissioner Bill Wroolie. Bob Elston of the City of Sleepy Eye/Sleepy Eye Public Utilities was elected president-elect.

In the hours leading up to the conference:

Conference: see page 6 please

Elk River celebrates centennial with open house

Editor’s note: The following is a heavily-edited version of an article by Joni Astrup that first appeared in the Elk River Star News on Aug. 20.

One hundred years ago, electricity came to Elk River.

Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) marked this milestone event Aug. 27 at the Sherburne County Fairgrounds in Elk River. An estimated 1,300 people attended the event.

As part of the centennial celebration, the utility served pulled pork sandwiches and hot dogs along with a variety of side dishes, drinks and treats. The Elk River Lions had additional food available from their concession stand.

A local band provided music. Community Education sponsored a variety of kids’ activities. The electric department performed a number of safety demonstrations, including pole top and bucket rescue. Equipment was displayed and demonstrated. Tours of the historical power plant were also given. Citizens were asked to reserve a tour spot in advance and bus transportation to the nearby plant was provided.

Exhibitors included the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, representatives from Elk River’s Energy City, and Waste Management, which operates an Elk River landfill gas-fired electric generating plant, along with the ERMU electric, water, conservation and security systems departments. A number of local businesses contributed as sponsors.

John Dietz, Elk River’s mayor and chairman of the Elk River Utilities Commission, said there have been a lot of ups and downs and big decisions over the years.

“It’s a pretty big asset for the community,” Dietz said of ERMU. “We’re public power. We’re not in this to make money, we’re in this to provide good service to our citizens. We answer only to the ratepayers, most of whom are citizens of Elk River.”

Lighting the town
In June 1915, Fred Waterman incorporated the Elk River Power and Light Company, and in January 1916, he brought electricity to Elk River. Waterman built a new power plant and dam to supply power to Elk River. The power plant has been demolished but the dam remains.

By 1922, the utility had 386 customers in Elk River, 60 in Zimmerman and 390 in Princeton, according to a utility history. Waterman, meanwhile, sold the dam and power plant to his son-in-law, and in 1924, the utility was sold to Chicago-based Zimmerman and 390 in Princeton.

People’s solar tariff fray fallout affects municipal utilities

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Aug. 13 took up the complaint of a People’s Electric Cooperative customer, who challenged the $5 per month charge imposed by People’s to pay for fixed costs associated with the customer’s 10 kilowatt (kw) interconnected wind turbine.

By a vote of 4-0 the commission resolved the dispute in favor of the customer, ruling that People’s failed to demonstrate that the fee meets the criteria of Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.164. It also found People’s to be in violation of Minnesota Rules Parts 7835.0300 and 7835.0400 for failing to file the proposed fee changes in 2014.

In addition, the Commission ordered PUC staff to open a docket and ask all investor-owned, cooperative and municipal electric utilities serving in the state whether they apply a charge to recover fixed costs from generating customers and, if they do, in...
which docket the commission approved the charge. MPUC staff may also ask for other related information it deems appropriate.

Provisions of the Commission’s order relating to a separate generic docket to analyze fixed cost charges were developed by commissioners in response to People’s contention that all investor-owned utilities charge for fixed costs, and that the commission has not objected since they began doing so in 2010. Attorney Harold LeVander, representing People’s, stated that if the Commission is satisfied with the IOUs’ fees, it should also allow the People’s fee to stand. In her original proposed order provision for a generic docket, Commissioner Chair Beverley Jones Heydinger suggested that all IOUs and co-ops should file information to allow staff to determine whether or not they apply charges to net-metered customers that do not apply to other customers.

A spokesperson for the Alliance for Solar Choice asked the commissioners to make the same requirement of all municipal utilities as well, and newest Commissioner John Tuma echoed the sentiment. Bill Black, representing MMUA, explained to the Commission that few, if any, municipal utilities charge such fees and suggested that the order could call for only utilities who do have such fees to file them. He also said that municipal utilities whose governing bodies have adopted similar, consistent rules are not required to file with the state PUC the type of tariffs in question.

The final rule will allow utilities that do not charge extra fixed cost fees to generating customers to simply state as much, said Black. However, municipal utilities may still be required to file and issues a final decision on the merits.

The Court found that there was either a substantial likelihood of success on the merits or fair chance of success. That means the States are likely to succeed on their claim because (1) it appears likely that the EPA has violated its Congressional grant of authority in its promulgation of the Rule at issue, and (2) it appears likely the EPA failed to comply with Administrative Procedures Act requirements when promulgating the Rule.

In its decision, the North Dakota court specifically analyzed Clean Water Act § 509(b) (which gives the courts of appeals original jurisdiction over specified EPA actions), explaining why jurisdiction to review the rule resides in the district courts. The order does not specify whether it applies nationwide, and EPA issued a statement late in the day Aug. 27 that the rule will take effect as scheduled in the 37 states (including Minnesota) not covered by the injunction. The day before the ruling from North Dakota, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia and U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia denied the motions for lack of jurisdiction.
The revised “building blocks” of the EPA’s new rule, as mentioned in its initial reaction to the proposed rule, are:

1. Increase energy efficiency, including increased use of existing energy efficiency (EE) measures, such as improved building and equipment designs.

2. Increase the contribution of renewable energy and nuclear power, which will allow utilities to meet their emission goals more cost-effectively.

3. Increase the contribution of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies.

The final rule allows for additional time for compliance with the rule’s interim deadlines. The final rule also establishes an eight-year interim compliance period that begins in 2022 with a “sliding path” for meeting interim CO2 emission performance rates. When the rule is released, the EPA said a mix of four “building blocks” make up the best system of carbon and energy efficiency reductions under the Clean Air Act, one of which related to energy efficiency. But the EPA said that under the final rule, there will be three building blocks, not four, with the one related to energy efficiency going by the wayside.

The revised “best system of emissions reduction” (BSER) definition and building block computations result in substantially narrowing the disparity between state goals, which means that some states benefited and some got tougher targets.

The agency said that the BSER focuses on supply-side measures that reduce emissions from power plants, and does not rely on demand-side energy efficiency as a building block. “EPA nonetheless anticipates that, due to its low costs and potential in every state,” demand-side energy efficiency will be a significant component of state plans under the Clean Power Plan. Another key change from the proposed rule to the final rule relates to the treatment of nuclear generating units under construction and existing renewable energy sources.

The EPA said that the final BSER analysis does not include existing or under-construction nuclear power or existing utility-scale renewable energy generation as part of building block 3.

The analysis does include more use of new renewable energy based on up-to-date information clearly demonstrating the lower cost and greater availability of clean generation than was evident at proposal, the agency added. “It takes into account recent reductions in the cost of clean energy technology, as well as projections of continuing cost reductions.”

Generation from under-construction nuclear facilities and nuclear plant uprates can still be incorporated into state plans and count towards compliance, the EPA said. “In fact, nuclear power competes well under a mass-based plan, as increased nuclear generation can mean that fossil fuel units are operating less and emitting fewer tons of CO2.”

APPA sees improvements, but notes more stringent targets for some states

In its initial reaction to the final rule, the American Public Power Association on Aug. 4 said that it “appears at first blush that EPA has made substantial improvements over the proposed rule.” At the same time, APPA said in an Aug. 4 news release that it is “concerned about un-reasonable targets set for some states that will impose substantial additional costs on consumers.”

The final rule incorporates a more rational approach to setting a uniform national standard for emission rates for coal and natural gas plants.” APPA said “Other positive changes in the final rule include: an extended interim deadline, more time for states to develop compliance plans, fairer treatment of renewables and nuclear generating units under construction, and the inclusion of reliability safety valves. The addition of a program for renewable energy credits and guidance for interstate trading mechanisms are not problematic for members. Compliance target improvements are now more achievable for some states, including Arizona, Florida, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

However, APPA said that the final rule has substantially raised CO2 reduction targets for other states (including Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, West Virginia, and Wisconsin), making their compliance burdens more difficult and expensive, and raising the possibility of significant rate increases for consumers. While there are also adjustments to the building block assumptions, calculations and compliance options that offer a more realistic approach to CO2 emission reductions, many of the fundamental problems with the EPA’s approach remain unresolved, and sweeping interpretation of the Best System of Emission Reduction regime in the proposed rule persist in the final rule, the public power association said.

A key area of focus for APPA as it continues to review the final rule is the interstate trading portion of the rule, which is a key component of the overall workability of the final rule. While APPA sees several positive elements to the interstate trading approach adopted by the EPA in the final rule, the association wants to make sure that the related trading mechanisms are not problematic for members. As APPA is also taking a closer look at how calculations are made under building block three and related potential cost concerns.
Scott Hautala is the new general manager of Hibbing Public Utilities, effective Aug. 31. Hautala was formerly a senior project manager at Lakehead Constructors, Inc., in Mountain Iron. Hautala has also previously worked for Minnesota Power, including as operations manager at the Boswell Unit 3 generating station. He also worked at Hibbing Taconite for 10 years as a senior environmental engineer.

The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission has approved a $1.07 million project to install a natural gas burner in boiler No. 3, which is currently a coal-fired boiler. The work is expected to take place in the next six months. The project is being undertaken to comply with federal environmental regulations.

Paul Hoeschen is the new superintendent of Sauk Centre Public Utilities. Hoeschen has most recently worked as public works director at the City of Cold Spring, and was previously the city’s wastewater superintendent.

Hoeschen takes over from the recently-retired Marty Sunderman, who worked for the utility 34 years, the past 15 as superintendent.

The Rochester Public Utility Board June 30 accepted a 2015 Update of the RPU Infrastructure Plan that serves as the model for investments and strategies related to Rochester’s electric supply. The Board was presented several options to meet current demand and future growth through 2035.

The plan update was driven by increased coal plant retirements in the region, environmental stewardship and changes in the Midcontinent Independent System Operation market.

Meanwhile, the Rochester City Council Aug. 17 heard a proposal from Alcatel-Lucent to deploy 500 miles of fiber for approximately $42 million.

According to Rochester Post Bulletin, the city recently surveyed 1,200 Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) customers and found that more than 75 percent supported the idea of investigating internet access from RPU.

The idea of publicly-owned fiber infrastructure has been raised in the past. Earlier this year, Rochester City Council members studied developing a municipal fiber network. The Council took no action. The proposal is expected to be discussed by RPU officials.

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National Lineworkers Rodeo grounds to be constructed October 13-15 in Shakopee

Minnesota municipal utilities will be gathering in October to build the rodeo grounds for the 2016 APPA National Lineworkers Rodeo. All MMUA member line-workers are invited to participate in the construction, Oct. 13-15 at Canterbury Park in Shakopee.

All volunteers must be registered and must complete an Emergency Contact Information Form (read on for details). The 2016 Rodeo will be the 16th annual event for APPA, but the first national rodeo held in Minnesota. This “once in a lifetime” event is a big deal: the area of the rodeo grounds will be approximately nine acres (roughly the size of eight football fields), set with 150 pole structures for the competition.

“We anticipate that this event will be a real source of pride for our entire association,” said Mike Willetts, MMUA Director of Training & Safety. “MMUA invites all municipal utilities to be as involved as they are interested or able.”

Each year the Rodeo attracts thousands of attendees from across the U.S. and abroad. The 2016 event will be held April 2, 2016. At the Rodeo, journeyman and apprentice lineworkers practice essential skills in a safe environment while competing for professional recognition, attend training courses and network with other attendees.

Twelve teams and a number of individuals from Minnesota competed at the 2015 National Rodeo in Sacramento—our largest turnout ever. If interested in the Rodeo grounds construction, please register through the MMUA website. There are several ways to do this, including through the ‘Rodeo Grounds Construction’ link on the events calendar.

To register for an event on the MMUA website, you must have set up an account. If you have any difficulties, contact Theresa Neddermeyer at tneddermeyer@mmua.org.

Another way to show your support is to make a monetary donation to help offset event expenses. Please email your pledge to Rita Kelly at rkelly@mmua.org (you do not need to send any money at this time).

Closer to the 2016 event we will be working with APPA and soliciting for volunteers to work the event and participants to compete.

If you have any questions, please call Willetts at 612-802-8474.

Heartland Consumers Power District launches cybersecurity initiative

Heartland Consumers Power District has launched a new program to help customers protect valuable data. Heartland has partnered with a private firm to offer services in five phases, starting with the fundamentals and building towards a full security management package.

Heartland will provide a 50 percent cost share, up to $5,000 per utility, for implementing Phase 1. A cost share will also be provided for subsequent phases of the program.

“The Resource/5
Heartland Consumers Power District launches cybersecurity initiative
■ Turn-Key Projects
Solutions tailored to need as defined by utility requirements, geographic realities and industry best practices.
■ Project Financing
Access to historically low interest rates.
■ Revenue Benefit Analysis
What is the true cost and savings of an advanced metering system? The results may surprise you.
■ Technology Consultation
Our product and metering technology experts stand by to assist you in designing the best possible solution for your utility.
■ Meter Audits
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The linefield at the APPA Lineworker’s Rodeo in Edmond, Okla. A similar field, with 150 pole structures, needs to be constructed for the 2016 event, to be held at Canterbury Park in Shakopee.

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The Resource

meeting, the board elected Shakopee Public Utilities Manager John Crooks as its secretary/treasurer.

MMUA’s budget remains at roughly $46 million and the Regular (utility) Members approved an overall increase in the amount of Regular Member dues revenue of 1.5 percent. Actual dues levels will vary, depending largely on 2013 sales. Dues rates for Associate and Affiliate members remain the same.

For the nearly 290 attendees, events began Monday afternoon, with a bike ride and golf tournament. On Monday evening, a welcome reception and barbecue were held on the marina deck.

MMUA President Bill Wroolie of Brainerd Public Utilities opened the meeting Monday morning, with a welcome and opening remarks. Sue Kelly, president and CEO of the American Public Power Association, set the tone for the meeting with an address on Public Power Forward: Public Power in the 21st Century.

That was followed with another big picture presentation—Meeting the Challenge: The New Energy Landscape, from Xcel Energy Regional Vice President Laura McCarten.

That important presentation was followed by the MMUA Solar-Distributed Generation Task Force report. Elk River Municipal Utilities General Manager and MMUA's president-to-be Troy Adams assumed the MMUA's president’s role at the conclusion of the meeting.

Along with its solar work, the biggest thing on MMUA’s calendar for the next year or so is Preparing for the 2016 APPA Lineworkers Rodeo. Mike Willetts, MMUA director of training and safety, talked about this work.

Black and Duerr, along with Doug Carnival of the McGrann Shea firm, talked about State Legislative Developments. The program ended with an Issues Roundup by Kegel, Jagusch and Willetts.

MMUA thanks meeting attendees and the utilities and cities that sent them, our speakers, sponsors and trade show participants. For more on the meeting, look at our online pictorial review, which can be found in the ‘Breaking News’ section of the MMUA website.

Mark your calendars now for the 2016 annual Summer Conference, Aug. 15-17 at Craguns.

Axel Energy Regional Vice President Laura McCarten, Marshall Municipal Utilities General Manager Brad Roos and Larry Koshire of Rochester Public Utilities discussed utility issues during a break.

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Conference: continued from front page

Bob Elston of Sleepy Eye was elected MMUA's president-elect.

MMUA Washington Representative Michael Nolan gave an entertaining look at The Washington Scene. Shannon Lotthammer of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency discussed Wild Rice Water Quality Standards. Water was the subject of the next presentation as well—The Power of Partnership: A Unique and Effective Approach to Wellhead Protection, by Scott Hain, general manager of Worthington Public Utilities.

Topics then shifted gears to a look at B8 Fiber: A Network of Opportunities, presented by MMUA board member of Winthrop EDA Director Mark Erickson. Members then enjoyed a trade show and reception. The day's official activities were capped off with the banquet and awards ceremony.

Dave Berg, of Dave Berg Consulting, started Wednesday morning's program with a riveting talk on Managing the Rate Impacts of Distributed Generation. Berg's analysis may well serve as the underpinning of MMUA positions on this issue going forward.

That important presentation was followed by the MMUA Solar-Distributed Generation Task Force report. Elk River Municipal Utilities general manager and MMUA's president-to-be Troy Adams.
Award winners named

The MMUA Nominating and Awards Committee recommended and the membership approved a slate of award winners. These included:

- **Rising Star**
  - Lisa King, SMMPA
  - Mike Langer, Elk River Municipal Utilities

- **Community Service**
  - Trent Hawkins, Brainerd Public Utilities
  - Tom Koeritz, Marty Sunderman
  - Scott Gravseth

- **Honorary Lifetime Membership**
  - Hal Becker, Delano Municipal Utilities

- **System Innovation**
  - Brainerd Public Utilities
  - Owatonna Public Utilities

For more on the 2015 MMUA Annual Summer Conference, go to the 'News' section at www.mmua.org

Annual Conference sponsors thanked!

MMUA extends its thanks to sponsors of this year's Annual Summer conference:

- Dave Berg Consulting
- CMMPA
- NextEra Energy Resources
- DGR Engineering
- SEH Inc.
- Border States Electric
- Fairbanks Morse Engine
- FS3
- HD Supply Waterworks
- T&R Electric Supply Company
- Utilities Plus Energy Services
- AES
- Bolton & Menk

For more on the 2015 MMUA Annual Summer Conference, go to the 'News' section at www.mmua.org

Golf tournament winners included Sean Dunham of ElectroTech, Dave Hunstad of Hutchinson Utilities, Mike Leshovsky of Border States Electric and Greg Drent of Le Sueur Municipal Utilities, from left to right.

Owatonna Public Utilities was presented an MMUA System Innovation Award for its re-purposed downtown power plant. Accepting the award from MMUA President Bill Wroolie (left), were OPU General Manager Mark Fritsch, Mayor Tom Kuntz, Director of Financial and Administrative Services Beth Fendell and Director of Field Operations, Energy Management and External Relations Roger Warehime, from left to right.

Brainerd Public Utilities was presented an MMUA System Innovation Award for its acquisition of a Mississippi River hydroelectric facility. Accepting the award from Wroolie were Mayor James Wallin, Superintendent Scott Magnuson, City Councilor and BPU Commissioner Dolly Matten, Electric Supervisor Troy Hawkins, Councilor Lucy Nesheim and Finance Director Todd Wicklund.

SMMPA attendees and family: Diane and Larry Johnston, Chris Schoenheer, Mark and Mary Mitchell, Diane Schoenheer and John Winter, from left to right. Johnston received an MMUA Honorary Lifetime Membership.

Mike Langer of Elk River Municipal Utilities was named an MMUA Rising Star.

Bill Wroolie presented an MMUA Community Service Award to Hal Becker of Delano Municipal Utilities, Rick Kittelson of Blooming Prairie Public Utilities, and Larry Johnston, SMMPA Honorary Lifetime Membership.

Hal Becker of Delano Municipal Utilities received an MMUA Honorary Lifetime Membership.

September 2015 The Resource/7
A second substation has been added to the MMUA Training Center in Marshall, built by students in the MMUA apprenticeship program.

The substation equipment has been donated by East Grand Forks Water & Light. It had become obsolete following the flood of 1997 and subsequent building of a dike around the city. MMUA extends its thanks to the East Grand Forks Water & Light Commission and staff for their assistance in making the equipment available.

The substation will be used as part of MMUA’s training program. The substation will not be energized, but will often be worked in and around as if it were.

All those who helped construct the substation at the Training Center are in the MMUA Apprentice Program. “Building the substation was actual, hands-on from cement work to steel work to putting the busbar all together,” said MMUA Job Training and Safety Instructor Gary Greenwald. “These two working substations will allow future students at upcoming schools to further their hands-on skills of working in and around substations.”

Plans call for the second substation to be fully completed at the upcoming Overhead School.

MMUA extends a big ‘Thank You’ to all the member utilities that helped make this tremendous addition to the Training Center possible.

Eight earn NLC certificates

Eight municipal utility employees July 17 graduated from the Northwest Lineman College (NLC) Lineworker Certification Program. They are Warren Willcox of Glencoe Light & Power, Matthew Schwartz and Zachary Johnson of Elk River Municipal Utilities, Justin Hinnenkamp of Sauk Centre Public Utilities, Shane Simonson, Tim Howard and Matthew Jacobson of Spring Valley Public Utilities and Darwin Anderson of Redwood Falls Public Utilities.

The NLC’s Lineworker Certification Program (LCP) is for individuals already working in the trade who want to earn their lineman certification. Individuals must be enrolled and sponsored by their employer.

Called apprenticeship by some, and lineman certification by others, successful completion of the LCP can earn the lineworker journeyman status.

Northwest Lineman College is one of the largest training institutions in the United States, with over 1,600 power delivery employees currently enrolled in the Lineworker Certification Program. The Lineworker Certification Program is designed to serve the training needs of the power delivery industry—from an entry-level to a seasoned lineman, the program curriculum is flexible and customizable.

The LCP administers up-to-date, comprehensive subject matter. The LCP is a correspondence-based educational model with companies choosing a three- or four-year format. Tests can be facilitated by a designated city/utility staff member. Some MMUA members have tests facilitated by a staff member and/or MMUA staff. MMUA staff also helps students through the program in various ways, as determined by the member utility.

General Cable Kurtis Green, Territory Sales Manager 3144 Choven Ave. S., #115 Minneapolis, MN 55416 612-406-9403 kgreen@generalcable.com General Cable (NYSE:BGC), a Fortune 500 company, has been a wire and cable innovator for over 170 years. With more than 13,000 associates, we are one of the largest wire and cable manufacturers in the world. General Cable’s global vision is to be the most highly regarded and successful wire and cable company in the world as measured by our customers, investors, suppliers and employees. The company’s operating philosophy is to act with the speed and agility of a small company but with the strength and power of a large company.

Premier Line Services Gary A. Nelson, President 1914 Albert Street Racine, WI 53404 Office 262-664-4954 Fax 262-664-4954 www.premierlineservices.com Cell 262-210-5867 gnelson@premierrlineservices.com Premier Line Services is a company that specializes in live line dry ice CO2 cleaning. Premier Line offers clients the benefits of cleaning live electrical cables and equipment without the need of an outage. Our Dry Ice CO2 cleaning technique can aid electrical equipment of contaminants that greatly reduce the dielectric strength and leakage current that can result in flashovers that cause damage to equipment and lead to costly service outages. Dry Ice CO2 cleaning also has many commercial and industrial applications as well, all while being 100 percent environmentally friendly.

EnergyHub Jamie Coffel, Technical Sales Manager (Corporate address: Brooklyn, N.Y.) 1101 NE 7th Ave Grand Rapids, MN 55744 www.energyhub.net Cell 612-269-5049 coffel@energyhub.net EnergyHub is the connected home solution for utilities. EnergyHub’s Mercury DRMS allows utilities to partner with their customers and deliver more powerful demand response using connected devices, while we bring Your Own Thermostat service makes hundreds of thousands of existing connected homes available to utilities for demand response without a single truck roll. EnergyHub is an independent subsidiary of Alarm.com, the leading technology provider of connected home solutions.

Several businesses recently joined MMUA as associate members. They include:

Navasota Energy Services LLC Dan Hudson, CEO 43 Corporate Woods Dr Magnolia, TX 77354 Office 281-252-5201 www.navasotaenergy.com Navasota Energy is dedicated to developing, building, and operating power generation facilities to meet the electric generation needs of the USA. Our corporate environment is focused around a lean team of experienced, cross-functional personnel that includes developers, asset managers, energy marketers and procurement specialists. Our team is capable of developing a broad array of power generation projects to meet our customers’ needs. The management team at Navasota Energy possesses over 120 combined years of power plant acquisition, development, construction, operational and investment experience.

Rauenhorst Recruiting Co. Thomas Jackson, Director – Energy Desk 3900 American Blvd W., Suite 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55431 Office 952-897-1420 Fax 952-897-1445 www.rauenhorst.com Cell 612-801-0708 thomas@rauenhorst.com Rauenhorst Recruiting Company specializes in placing key individuals with companies experiencing growth, change, and when required, transition. Now leading the Electric Power desk: Tom Jackson, a veteran director—formerly with utility association MEA. Serving nationally all utilities, contractors and suppliers in the Electric and Gas Distribution, Transmission & Generation sector.

Coalition For A Secure Energy Future Luke Hellier, Sr. Account Executive 333 7th St. South, Suite 2250 Minneapolis, MN 55402 Office 612-513-2520 www.energyfuture.org Cell 612-237-2651 lhellier@pubaffairsc.co The Coalition for a Secure Energy Future is dedicated to enhancing, preserving, and protecting our diverse set of energy resources, including coal-based electricity, to ensure continued affordable and reliable energy supply for families and businesses in Minnesota and North Dakota—now and into the future.

Metering & Technology Solutions Joe Mereness, Territory Mgr. 11551 Rupp Drive Burnsville, MN 55337 Office 952-524-1900 TollFree 877-747-0450 Fax 952-882-6350 www.meterterechsolutions.com Cell 615-485-0277 jmereness@meterterechsolutions.com Metering and Technology Solutions is a distributor of meters and automated meter reading (AMR) equipment to municipal water, gas, and electric utilities in the upper Midwest. We are highly focused on the municipal utility market that represents the vast majority of the business in our territory. By limiting our focus to specific products and a clearly defined set of customers, we are able to offer better service and technical expertise to our audience. We sell only AMR, and the various products used to install or replace meters. As a stocking distributor of Vision electric meters, Itron systems, and a staff with over 50 years of experience, we are ready and willing to help support our customers in any way.

CO2 cleaning technique can aid electrical equipment of contaminants that greatly reduce the dielectric strength and leakage current that can result in flashovers that cause damage to equipment and lead to costly service outages. Dry Ice CO2 cleaning also has many commercial and industrial applications as well, all while being 100 percent environmentally friendly.

EnergyHub Jamie Coffel, Technical Sales Manager (Corporate address: Brooklyn, N.Y.) 1101 NE 7th Ave Grand Rapids, MN 55744 www.energyhub.net Cell 612-269-5049 coffel@energyhub.net EnergyHub is the connected home solution for utilities. EnergyHub’s Mercury DRMS allows utilities to partner with their customers and deliver more powerful demand response using connected devices, while we bring Your Own Thermostat service makes hundreds of thousands of existing connected homes available to utilities for demand response without a single truck roll. EnergyHub is an independent subsidiary of Alarm.com, the leading technology provider of connected home solutions.
Help Wanted

Apprentice Line Worker

The City of Kasson, MN Public Utilities is accepting applications for an Apprentice Line Worker for operation, maintenance and repair for an overhead/underground distribution system, and provides assistance to other public works departments as needed. Requirements: Documented completion of a State Accredited power line school and progression toward a Journey License. Residency within 30 minute response time required within six months of hire. Grade 10 $23.44 - $28.40 per hour + benefits and on-call. Deadline: 4:00 PM September 30, 2015. Call (507) 634-7071 or visit the City’s website at www.cityofkasson.com for an application. EOE

General Manager

Vinton Municipal Electric Utility (VMEU) is seeking a qualified individual to fill the full time position of General Manager. The General Manager reports directly to a five person Utility Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is seeking a qualified individual with a minimum of 5 years utility leadership experience with important competencies that include the following: A very strong dedication to municipal utility principles; Direct working knowledge of and experience with electric generation plants and electric distribution systems; Competency in governance and public policy; Infrastructure management of generation and distribution systems; People and communications skills; Finance management and budgeting; Strategic and business planning; Human resources and workforce relations; Customer assistance; Creating and enforcing policies and regulations established by the Board of Trustees. The applicant must live within the city limits. VMEU was created in 1895 and serves approximately 2,600 customers in the city of Vinton, Iowa. Vinton is located 35 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa with a population around 5,300. VMEU revenues are around $5,000,000 annually with a current workforce of 7 fulltime employees and one part time employee. Fulltime employees are part of IBEW Local 55 union. VMEU offers excellent benefits, a competitive salary and an excellent community to live in. VMEU will be accepting applications until November 30, 2015; however, individual screening and interviewing will begin as qualified applications are received. Candidates...
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For a complete and up-to-date listing, including For Sale and Wanted items, see the ‘Classifieds’ section at www.mmua.org
Three legislators receive MMUA Service Awards

Three members of the Minnesota Legislature received MMUA Public Service awards at the Annual Summer Conference, Aug. 17-19 at Breezy Point Resort. They are Reps. Dan Fabian and Pat Garofalo and Sen. David Tomassoni.

This award is given to a local, state, or federal elected or appointed official who has been a strong supporter of MMUA and its members. Each recipient has demonstrated a commitment to the values and principles supported by MMUA and its member utilities.

During the 2015 legislative session, Rep. Fabian showed strong leadership by shepherding ‘net metering’ and water quality standards ‘cost analysis’ bills into law.

Rep. Fabian fought the positions of MMUA and the Northern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency to ensure there would not be unintended negative consequences for municipal utilities. He is a tremendous ally to have in the Minnesota House.

Rep. Garofalo of Farmington is chair of the House Job Growth and Energy Affordability Committee. Rep. Garofalo opposed the Administration’s request for additional assessments on utilities. His bill also included numerous policy provisions seeking to promote cleaner and cheaper energy, including the net metering reforms supported by MREA and MMUA.

Rep. Garofalo tirelessly dispelled myths about the net metering reforms and worked with MMUA and MREA to demonstrate bipartisan support for these changes.

During end of session and Special Session negotiations, Chair Garofalo fought hard for the inclusion of net metering reform in the final bill, and he was successful. As chair, Rep. Garofalo is a strong advocate for municipal utilities.

Sen. Tomassoni of Chisholm is chair of the Senate Environment, Economic Development, and Agriculture Budget Division. His bill of most interest to MMUA limited the application of the Minnesota Pollution control Agency’s wild rice water quality standards, required a cost analysis of proposed water quality standards, and required an independent peer review of proposed water quality standards.

Sen. Tomassoni also refused the Administration’s request for additional utility assessments and controversial increases of the Renewable Energy Standard and CIP. He worked with MMUA and MREA to accept net metering reform language in end of session negotiations. Sen. Tomassoni’s strong positions allowed much of this helpful policy to pass into law during Special Session.

MMUA and its members were glad to express their appreciation for the support of these three diligent, effective legislators. Brief comments by each of the three legislators were met with warm rounds of applause.

Elk River: Local control allowed citizens to continually improve utility service

**continued from front page**

a line that was fed by a power plant in St. Cloud. These facilities were later taken over by Northern States Power. Rates became an issue. By 1940, the Rural Cooperative Power Association had opened new generating facilities in Maple Lake, and power was purchased through the Anoka County Cooperative. The Elk River utility’s member owners were the target of “vociferous complaints” by local consumers who found the quality of service low despite comparatively high rates.

City buys utility

A turning point for municipal ownership of the utility came in 1944, when Elk River held a special referendum to authorize issuance of $70,000 in bonds to either purchase the existing generating system or construct a new facility. The measure passed and in 1945, the Baehr Organization agreed to accept $50,000 for the “total physical inventory of the Elk River Power and Light Company…”

The city council christened its new business the Elk River Public Utilities. In 1947 a commission was formed to be in charge of the public utilities.

That same year, the city opened bids for a new diesel power plant to be located across the road from the dam. For the first time in nearly 30 years, Elk River supplied its own power. The name was changed to Elk River Municipal Utilities in about 1949.

Demand for electricity increased as Elk River grew and as per capita use of electricity increased. By the mid-1970s, new power plants had come on line in the region. Because power could be bought more cheaply than it could be produced on a smaller scale, Elk River’s plant was maintained only for auxiliary purposes. Today, the plant is under contract with Great River Energy for emergency power. The last time it was called into service was in 2006.

Looking forward

Big decisions made years ago have positioned ERMU as a leading utility provider today. ERMU recently joined Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and will begin pursuing power from them in 2018. Additionally, earlier this year ERMU and Connexus Energy completed an agreement to transfer the remaining 7,680 acres of Connexus electric service territory with in Elk River to ERMU over five years. ERMU currently provides power to 9,500 customers in not just Elk River but parts of Otsego, Dayton and Big Lake Township.

Dietz summed it up in a foreword he wrote in the ERMU history book. “The most important part of ERMU is the local control that it provides to its customers. Public power is very important to many cities in this country. Profit is not the main factor for public power entities; providing safe, reliable power is.”