Gathering of municipal utilities remains a constant amidst an increasingly turbulent, uncertain world

Amid a turbulent presidential campaign and an uncertain regulatory climate, Minnesota’s municipal utilities gathered Aug. 15-17 at Gun’s Resort, for the 85th MMUA annual conference.

Approximately 170 people attended, plus numerous associate members participating in a trade show.

Along with a number of entertaining and informative speakers, the utilities conducted their annual business.

The gathered Regular (utility) Members approved an overall dues increase of 3.5 percent over last year’s regular dues total. Affiliate (power agency) dues were increased either $500 or $1,000, depending on megawatt-hour sales. Associate member dues were increased from $350 to $375. Increased health insurance costs were a factor in the dues increase. The board also is setting aside a reserve fund, in part to position the association for building ownership within a handful of years.

MMUA’s fiscal year begins in October, but dues statements are mailed around Jan. 1.

The meeting also marked the unveiling of two exciting developments: the Municipal Utilities Action Fund (MUAF) and the MMUA Executive Leadership Program. MUAF is a political fund created under state law. The purpose of the fund is to allow MMUA to make contributions to Minnesota political candidates, political committees,

Conference: see page 6 please

Cities struggle to meet stringent new Lake Superior effluent limits

by Steve Downer

An international agreement to ensure the “chemical, physical, and biological integrity” of the Great Lakes has filtered down to municipal wastewater plants in the Lake Superior watershed, and cities are taking different paths in an attempt to meet stringent new effluent limits.

The “Binational Program to Restore and Protect the Lake Superior Basin,” signed in 1991, commits Minnesota to zero discharge for nine toxic chemicals, including mercury, PCBs, dioxin and some pesticides. The protocol affects the North Shore and Iron Range cities.

Because of the timing of wastewater permit renewals, the new wastewater effluent limit for mercury (of 1.8 parts per trillion (ng/L) calendar month average) has recently come into force. Previously, there had been no limit.

Limits: see page 5 please

Summer storm pounds Granite Falls; municipal utilities rally to provide help

A severe storm hit the city of Granite Falls approximately 8 p.m., Saturday, July 16. High winds toppled approximately 1,000 trees, numerous electric lines and left the entire city without power for 22 hours. There was evidence of a tornado at the municipal airport. An inch and a half of rain came into force.

Major power lines owned by Xcel and Great River Energy were also destroyed, causing widespread outages in the area.

The Granite Falls Municipal Utilities crew has seen more than its share of storm damage over the years, and knew right away that this storm was bad.

Don Reznechek, who was set to retire Aug 5 after 40 years with the city, and Perry Peterson of the utility made a few quick calls. One went to Shane St. Clair, a former Otter Tail lineman who now works regularly in Granite Falls as an MMUA Regional Safety Coordinator. They called Mike Willetts, MMUA Director of Job Training and Safety, and the mutual aid network was activated.

Larry Lamote from Marshall Municipal Utilities was one of the first on the scene.

At first light Sunday, the group, led by Reznechek and Peterson, assessed damage. A lot more help was needed. The local utility staff was inundated. MMUA staff started calling for more crews. It was an 18-hour workday for the utility people. Some customers had power restored by early evening.

One priority was getting power to pumps at the city well sites. The city of Marshall, 28 miles down Hwy. 23, and Luxerine, 100

Granite Falls: see back page please

The Two Harbors water treatment plant is high on a hill overlooking Lake Superior. The old power plant (the white building to the left in the photo) has been removed since this photo was taken in late June.

photo by Steve Downer

The July 16 storm that hit Granite Falls caused widespread damage.

photo by Cody Raveling

MMUA photo by Cody Raveling

Confined Stories

Inside Stories

Courts Restrict Minnesota Energy Act page 2

Lt. Governor Calls for More Renewables page 3

Solar, Solar, & More Solar page 2

More Solar page 5
Minnesota, facing long odds won in a federal district court. suit against Minnesota and several other parties, filed the North Dakota, along with restricted out-of-state imports. The law, passed in 2007, was unconstitutional.

A federal judge ruled that Minnesota’s law, designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, also bans new coal-fired power plants in the state. Earlier this summer, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem called the law “overreaching regulations.”

Stenehjem’s office said that if the Minnesota law were left in place, it would have prevented North Dakota utilities from providing power to a regional distribution system that sells to Minnesota utilities.

The legal battle is not quite over. North Dakota has asked the federal court to make Minnesota pay legal fees of more than $1 million.

Portion of Minnesota ‘Energy Act’ struck down

Both Twin Cities dailies and the Forum News Service reported Aug. 22 that Minnesota will not appeal a federal court ruling that called a provision in the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act unconstitutional.

The law, passed in 2007, restricted out-of-state imports from coal-fired electric generating plants. North Dakota, along with several other parties, filed the suit against Minnesota and won in a federal district court. A federal judge ruled that Minnesota’s law, designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, also bans new coal-fired power plants in the state.

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Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith said July 20 that Minnesota should look at strengthening its renewable energy law. The state is on track to meet a requirement of 25 percent renewable electricity generation by 2025, said Smith, but is falling short of a major reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change.

Minnesota law set goals of a 15 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2015, 30 percent by 2025 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050.

Smith’s comments came during a gathering of leaders from state government, nonprofits and businesses that are part of a project called Climate Solutions and Economic Opportunities. Besides considering a higher renewable energy standard, Smith said the state must continue down the path of retiring coal-fired power plants and re-powering some of them with natural gas.

The gathering was facilitated by the Environmental Initiative. The Dayton administration has also created a new state Office of Enterprise Sustainability, to find ways to reduce emissions.
The Hometown Solar Grant Program provides an opportunity for MMPA member community students and residents to learn about the benefits and characteristics of solar power. Information and data from the solar array will be shared with local schools to support energy education in the classroom.

Since 2010, MMPA’s Energy Education Program has provided learning opportunities for more than 10,000 elementary school students in member communities through classroom information, in-school assemblies and tours. MMPA Chairman Steve Schmidt said, “The future of our energy supply includes both conventional and renewable sources. This new solar installation will help our member communities gain knowledge and familiarization with renewable technology.”

Schmidt commented, “The Hometown Solar Program demonstrates MMPA’s commitment to support our member communities and provide value to our members’ customers.”

All 12 of MMPA’s member communities will have the opportunity to participate in the program. MMPA plans to award four grants each year for three years.


Xcel Energy recently dropped a proposal for a grid use fee for solar users, and agreed to continue to offer net metering and test a new time-of-use rate (TOU) for Colorad o residential customers. The issue involved 22 intervenors before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

Xcel said TOU programs will result in more efficient use of energy. Rates will be lower when there is less demand on the grid and higher when there is more demand.

The utility proposes three rates for each day: off-peak, shoulder and on-peak. The rates will be different in the summer than in the winter. They range from a low of $0.04440/kWh for both summer and winter off-peak to a high of $0.13814/kWh for summer on-peak.

The agreement also includes a new process for interconnections meant to take advantage of battery storage; a program whereby the utility would offer 50 MW of solar to residential and small-commercial customers; and an expansion of other solar programs that are expected to result in 342 MW of new solar between 2017 and 2019.

The utility will test TOU rates with a small group of volunteers. The rate may eventually be mandatory for all of Xcel’s residential customers in Colorado.

Xcel will study the results of the trials and file with the Colorado commission in late 2019, on whether or not it should continue with the TOU program.

All ratepayers pay their fair share, Wisconsin decides

Wisconsin’s 4th District Court of Appeals June 30 upheld Wisconsin Public Service Corp.’s net metering rules, whereby customers receive a credit at their retail rate for self-generated electricity up to their monthly usage. They then receive a credit at a wholesale rate for excess generation.

In 2013, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission approved a proposal by WPS to cut the allowable size of eligible net metering systems to 20 kilowatts from 150 kW. The WEC Energy Group utility, based in Green Bay, Wis., argued that the change would help address a cost shift from net metering customers to the utility’s other customers.

In its decision, the commission said that distributed generation was growing and that the agency should take a conservative approach so that all ratepayers pay their share of a utility’s fixed costs.

The appeals court found that the PSC’s decision was backed by evidence showing that there was a cost-shift between net metering customers and the rest of WPS’s customer base.
Austin Utilities has relocated into its new headquarters. The address is now 1908 14th Street NE.

The Rochester City Council and Rochester Public Utility Board have each heard conceptual presentations from private companies about the possibility of adding broadband service as a utility. The city could implement broadband and access as a public utility, but it would come with a capital cost of as much as $67 million, according to one estimate.

The North Branch city council June 28 voted 3-2 to put a question—whether or not to abolish the North Branch Water & Light Commission—to the voters on Nov. 6.

Jim Keinath is retiring as Circle Pines city administrator after over 30 years of service. His last day on payroll will be Sept. 7. His replacement is Patrick Antonen, a Minnesota native who has been the city administrator for over 30 years since August 2013 and for two years prior to that served as a project officer for the state of Iowa in the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

Jim Antonen, his father, served as a city manager for 35 years, most recently in Maplewood.

The Two Harbors city council honored longtime employee Sven Bergerson June 27. Bergerson worked for the city for 41 years, most recently in Maplewood.

A meeting was held in Balaton June 20 with Minnesota Energy Resources to discuss a proposal to bring natural gas to Balaton. The company has reportedly made application for state approval. The company has reportedly made application for state approval.

The Northern Municipal Power Agency in August hosted a tour of the Coyote Station near Beulah, N.D., the Coyote Creek Mine, and the Garrison Dam and hydroelectric station in central North Dakota. This picture, taken Aug. 9 at the mine, shows part of the tour group in a retired dragline shovel. The new shovels are twice as big. The group included agency board members, city policymakers, other electric officials and ordinary citizens. The agency hosts the educational tour every three years or so.

Xcel Energy is building a new substation and lines to improve service in Victoria. The city sits between substations 21 miles apart. Power outages, according to press reports, were not uncommon. The city is instituting a franchise fee of $3 per month per residence or $10 per business, at the request of citizens, to place the distribution lines underground. Many residents near the new lines are served by a different utility.

Minnesota Power has submitted a revised plan to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, seeking to reduce rates to large industrial customers. The five percent cut in industrial rates would be made up by a 10 percent increase in residential rates. A similar proposal, which proposed a 14.5 percent hike in residential rates, was rebuffed by regulators in February. The current iteration would leave rates for low-income customers unchanged. Iron mines note their rates have increased 60 percent since 2007.

The MPUC on Aug. 4 reaffirmed its decision to grant CenterPoint Energy a 3.3 percent rate increase. The natural gas company had requested a 6.4 percent hike.

Xcel Energy has requested a 9.8 percent increase in electric rates over the next three years, with 6.4 percent of that coming in 2016. Xcel has increased rates each of the past five years. Reasons for the increase, said the company, are grid and nuclear plant upgrades and renewable energy investments.
City of Grand Marais Wastewater Superintendent Tom Nelson enjoyed a nice June day at the municipal wastewater treatment plant. Lake Superior is visible in the background. The plant is currently in operation and meeting federal discharge limits.

The EPA permits the Grand Marais plant to discharge 8.0 micrograms of mercury per liter of wastewater, or 80 parts per trillion. If the city violates their permit, they face fines of $500 per day per violation. The city has pulled two samples from the plant, which were released June 17. After the results are analyzed and compared to standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the city will move forward with developing a Request for Quotations, to further explore its options.

Two Harbors and Silver Bay have taken different approaches. Two Harbors spent $3 million to upgrade its plant, including building a tertiary filtration unit. Silver Bay is reconditioning its solid contact clarifier for nutrient removal and adding aluminum sulfate to remove mercury. Utilities Superintendent Mike Miller said reconditioning the clarifiers will cost approximately $35,000. The additional chemical is expensive, he noted, but $60,000 in additional annual operating costs is a lot less expensive than a $3 million plant modification. Miller said the city should be able to hold the line on rates for now, but anticipates a rate increase in three years. Silver Bay has two and a half years to prove the process change works. If the discharge is not meeting the limits after that time period, it will have to move quickly to make a large plant investment. The city has resisted that investment not only due to financial concerns, said Miller, but also because more expensive treatment options haven’t proven to be “rock solid.”

One reason Silver Bay has been allowed to take its approach is that, in five years of testing, it has consistently (if not always) met its mercury limits. Given that fact, the MPCA, after much discussion, allowed the city two and a half years to prove its process works. Since the new permit was written, Silver Bay has pulled two samples, each meeting the limit. Miller is proud of his crew of four, which is working hard to prove a relatively low-cost process can meet the new limits. He hopes Silver Bay can show that a diligent local crew can meet the new standard with readily available methods.
and/or party units, and to en- able MMUA staff to have a visible presence at political fundraising events, without having to spend their own money. Disbursements from the fund will reflect MMUA’s nonpartisan approach.

The Executive Leadership Program is designed as a local and affordable high-level executive leadership development course. The two-year program will include four, two-day sessions per year, with six hours of class time per day, and 12 hours per session. This format will look familiar to the many graduates of MMUA’s Firstline Supervisor program. Program consultants have been interviewed. The first session is scheduled for the first quarter of 2017.

The board of directors, at a pre-conference meeting Aug. 14-15, received and endorsed recommendations from the Nominations and Awards Committee, for directors, certain officers and a full slate of association awards (see accompanying articles).

Program offered information, thoughtful entertainment
Program offerings started the morning of Tuesday, Aug. 16 with Change Management Training by Kit Welchlin, a presentation that managed to be both thoughtful and highly entertaining.


representative Michael Nolan wrapped-up the morning with his ever-popular and penetrating look at The Washington Scene. This year’s topic? What else?—Donald Trump and the presidential election.

An important operational topic started the afternoon offerings: Railroad Crossing Fees: Results & Next Steps. Speakers included Mike Ahern of the Dorsey & Whitney firm and MMUA governmental relations staff, two of the top proponents of the recent, and very favorable, legislative changes.

In another sign of the rapidly-evolving world we live in, Dave Meyer of BizzyWeb then presented on the basics of Social Media.

One of the best-received presentations followed: Cost-Based Rate Options for Distributed Generation by Dave Berg, of Dave Berg Consulting, and Grand Rapids Public Utilities General Manager Tony Ward. It is unclear exactly where this hot topic is going to end up, but attendees certainly left the presentation with a better picture of the current situation and how best to position themselves for future developments.

The early evening featured the Trade Show and Reception. The awards banquet concluded the evening’s official events.

Erik River brought one of the largest contingents to the meeting—a great show of support for President Troy Adams. Pictured are, from left to right: Tom Geiser, Daryl Thompson, Adams (holding a clock presented to the president at the end of his term), Jayne and John Dietz, Al and Marge Nadeau.

Wednesday, the final half day, included the business meeting, two outside speakers, a look at state legislative developments by Doug Carnival of the McGann Shea firm and MMUA staff, and an MMUA issues round-up. Speakers included Ingrid Bjorklund on Securities Law Considerations for Community Solar Projects and Cyber In-Security by David Halla of the Electricity and Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

Conference continued from front page

Elk River brought one of the largest contingents to the meeting—a great show of support for President Troy Adams. Pictured are, from left to right: Tony Geiser, Daryl Thompson, Adams (holding a clock presented to the president at the end of his term), Jayne and John Dietz, Al and Marge Nadeau.

Bill Schwandt of Moorhead, Patty and Brad Roos of Marshall and Roger Moltzan of Detroit Lakes paused for a picture after the banquet. Schwandt is holding the ‘System Innovation Award’ presented to Moorhead Public Service.

Tony, left, and son Michael Ward of Grand Rapids. Tony Ward, general manager of Grand Rapids Public Utilities, received an MMUA Community Service Award at the banquet.

A golf tournament and bike ride preceded the event on Monday, Aug. 15. The first official event was a welcome reception held that evening. MMUA thanks those who attended and the cities/utilities that sent them. We also thank our various sponsors and those who hosted after-hours hospitality rooms. It all combined to make a great get-together. After catching our breath, we are already looking forward to next year!
Jerry Williams, center, received the President’s Award, MMUA’s highest honor, at the Aug. 16 banquet. Presenting the award was MMUA President Troy Adams. Pictured here are Austin Utilities General Manager Mark Nibaur, former Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) General Manager Larry Koshire, RPU General Manager Mark Kotschevar and RPU Director of Compliance and Public Affairs Steve Nyhus. Williams is an RPU board member and recently completed service on the MMUA board. He will remain active with MMUA and its Executive Leadership Program.

Russell Olson, New Ulm Public Utilities General Manager Patrick Wrase, and Steve Moses, from left to right, visited at the trade show. Olson and Moses are with the Heartland Consumers Power District.

Jerry Williams, Owatonna’s Mark Fritsch and Troy Adams, from left to right, visited at the trade show. Fritsch received an MMUA Distinguished Service Award later that evening.

Darryl Tveitbakk, Deb Kiel, Dalene Monsebroten and Dan Boyce chatted after the banquet. Monsebroten and Tveitbakk are with the Northern Municipal Power Agency and Kiel is a state legislator. Boyce, of East Grand Forks, received an Honorary Lifetime Membership earlier at the banquet. Kiel is holding her MMUA Public Service Award.

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** Scenes from the Annual Conference **

MMUA held its annual conference Aug. 15-17 at Cragun’s Resort in Brainerd. A resort setting is big enough to accommodate the group and contributes a relaxed atmosphere to the meeting. While the utilities conduct their business and listen to experts from varying fields, the informal sharing of information between people may be the most vital aspect of the gathering. Of course, information sharing is enhanced greatly by having a personal relationship. This was the 85th year the state’s municipal utilities have been involved in this process.

** MMUA thanks its meeting sponsors **

It takes many people to make the annual gathering of the state’s municipal utilities an enjoyable and informative gathering.

This includes our associate members, who have long played an important role with the association and its members.

MMUA particularly thanks these associates, who sponsored various aspects of the annual conference:

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** September 2016 The Resource **
MMUA has a new slate of officers and one new board member, following the association’s annual conference, held Aug. 15-17 at Cragun’s Resort.

Upon completion of the meeting, Sleepy Eye Public Works Director Bob Elston assumed the MMUA presidency. He takes over from Elk River Municipal Utilities General Manager Troy Adams, who remains on the board.

The members elected Shakopee Public Utilities General Manager John Crooks to the position of MMUA President-Elect. Virginia Public Utilities General Manager Greg French was elected Secretary Treasurer by his fellow board members. Blooming Prairie Mayor Harold ‘H’ Peterson was elected by the members to the MMUA board. He replaces outgoing board member Jerry Williams, of the Rochester Public Utilities board.

At the Aug. 16 awards banquet, Adams presented the MMUA President’s Award, the association’s highest honor, to Williams. Part of the good news with this award, Adams noted, is that Williams, former Rochester superintendent of schools, will remain involved with MMUA and its soon-to-be-offered executive leadership training program.

For his part, Williams gave perhaps the most eloquent, ringing endorsement ever heard in the 85 years of MMUA’s existence, of municipal utilities and the people who make them run.

At the Aug. 17 business meeting, Elston, French and Redwood Falls Electric Utility Superintendent Chuck Heins were each elected to a second, three-year term on the MMUA board.

MMUA awards presented
Along with other business and a number of informative speakers, MMUA also presented a number of other annual awards.

At the Aug. 16 banquet, three long-time leaders in the industry were recognized with MMUA Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards. Those honored were East Grand Forks Water & Light General Manager Dan Boyce, Anoka Municipal Utility Director Dan Voss, and Centennial Utilities/City of Circle Pines Administrator Jim Keinath. (A fourth award was given April 2 at the APPA Lineworkers Rodeo banquet, to Marv Athmann of Shakopee Public Utilities.)

Public service awards, for their work on recent legislation helpful to municipal utilities, were given to state Reps. Dave Baker and Deb Kiel, and state Sen. Dan Sparks.

Distinguished service awards were given to Owatonna Public Utilities General Manager Mark Fritsch, for his work on the MMUA Executive Leadership training program. Also receiving awards, for their work on the Lineworkers
Great River Energy mid-July announced plans to close its Stanton Station facility near Stanton, N.D., citing cost concerns. The Maple Grove-based G&T plans to retire the plant by May 2017. The 189-megawatt plant began operations in 1966. In recent months, its generation capacity has been used on a limited basis as Great River Energy operated newer units or purchased power from other more affordable sources. Great River Energy continues to operate Coal Creek Station, North Dakota’s largest power plant.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit July 15 granted a judicial stay on EPA’s Regional Haze Rule federal implementation plan for Texas and Oklahoma. The challengers argued that EPA was using the Regional Haze Rule to improperly target coal-fired power plants. Earlier this year, EPA partially rejected Texas and Oklahoma’s state implementation plans, and imposed its own federal plan. The Fifth Circuit noted that the challengers had demonstrated a strong likelihood of success in arguing that the EPA acted arbitrarily, capriciously, and in excess of its statutory authority, and in particular that EPA’s requirement of a source-specific analysis was not supported by the Clean Air Act or the Regional Haze Rule.

The North American share of energy generation from renewable and nuclear energy sources will grow from 38 percent in 2015 to 45 percent in 2025, the federal Energy Information Administration said on Aug. 2. The projection assumes the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan is upheld and takes effect in the U.S.

New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced Aug. 1 that the New York Public Service Commission has approved a clean energy standard that will require 50 percent of the state’s electricity to come from renewable energy sources by 2030. The clean energy standard will add less than $2 a month to the average residential customer’s bill, according to Cuomo’s office. California’s renewable standard, like New York’s new standard, will reach 50 percent by 2030.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on July 29 overturned parts of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) rules to limit toxic air emissions from boilers and incinerators and ordered the agency to redo other aspects of 2011 three rules: the Major Source Boiler rule, Area Source Boiler rule and the Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incinerator Units. The three judge panel remanded the rule to EPA.

The U.S. Forest Service held a ‘listening session’ in the Ely High School auditorium July 19, in regards to the proposed Twin Metals copper/nickel/precious metal mining project. At issue are leases that would allow exploratory drilling and mining at a proposed underground copper-nickel mine to continue near the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area; proponents point to an estimated 850 permanent jobs. Prior to the hearing, a pro-Twin Metals rally attracted about 350 supporters. The listening session drew an estimated crowd of more than 800. Strong conflicting views were expressed. Emotions also ran high at a July 13 listening session in Duluth.
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September 2016 The Resource/11
Several powerful storms have caused widespread damage and electric service disruptions in Minnesota. Municipal utilities have been largely spared, but have helped other utilities repair storm damage. The following is compiled from numerous reports:

**Thursday, August 4**

A storm toppled and rolled Babe the Blue Ox in Brainerd. The tourist attraction weighs 6,000 pounds. Plans were made to repair the 24-foot long fiberglass beast. Minnesota Power reported 4,400 customers without power. For some northeast Minnesota residents, it was the third time in a month that they had lost power.

**Thursday, July 21**

Several storms, with winds up to 100 miles per hour, caused widespread damage in northeast Minnesota and affected an estimated 75,000 electric customers.

Minnesota Power reported 46,000 customers in the dark, including most of the city of Duluth. Crews came from as far away as Missouri to assist in service restoration. Lake Country Power reported 25,600 customers without service. Mutual aid was provided by a number of entities, including Grand Rapids Public Utilities. Three roads in Cass County were still impassable several days after the storm.

Crown Power reported 10,000 customers without power. Brainerd Public Utilities was among the organizations providing mutual aid to power companies providing mutual aid to ties was among the organizations providing mutual aid.

East Central Power and 4,300 of Lake Country Power. East Central Energy reported 3,600 customers without service.

In Moose Lake, 67 customers were without power over-night. In the rural areas, service restoration continued for several days.

MMUA regrets to relay a report that the storm killed the brother of U.S. Rep. Tim Walz, who was camping in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and badly injured his son.

**Cross Training School**

Oct. 18-20 at MMUA’s Training Center

Anyone who works with electricity understands how important it is to know what the hazards are and what you are dealing with. MMUA’s annual Cross Training School can benefit those who don’t work with electricity day in and day out, but who may be called to help out on an outage or in day-to-day operations.

Cross Training School offers basic, yet practical, instructions—what to do and what not to do. Participants gain an understanding of how electricity works, tools and equipment used, safety, etc. Watch for additional details for email or visit www.mmua.org.

Instructors: Cody Raveling and Art Gatchell of MMUA.

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**Upcoming MMUA Events**

**Calendar**

- Overhead School
  - Sept. 13-16
  - MMUA Training Center
  - Marshall

- Cross Training School
  - Oct. 18-20
  - MMUA Training Center

- T&O Conference
  - Dec. 6-8
  - St. Cloud

- 2017 Transformer School & NESC Workshops
  - Watch for more information

**MMUA Training Center Coordinator and former Marshall Municipal Utilities lineman, was in Granite Falls Monday and Tuesday. He brought a bucket truck.

The majority of the town was back on Monday night at about 10:30 with a few blocks here and there still out until Tuesday afternoon,” Raveling said.

“Everybody worked safe to get the power restored in a timely manner with no incidents.”

St. Clair spent a lot of time with Reznechek, who has seen more than his share of storm damage. But there is nothing like people without power to rejuvenate a utility person.

“Once a lineman, always a lineman,” St. Clair said. He admitted it was extremely motivating to be involved in the mutual aid situation, particularly helping rebuild a crucial substation switch.

“You can’t be afraid to get your hands dirty, that’s for sure,” he said. “It was exciting, doing the (lineman’s) job again.”

There were no injuries and no homes lost. A tornado with 215-mph winds hit Granite Falls in 2000, and destroyed 367 homes and took one life. While the 2016 storm brought less intense damage, it cut a wider swath, causing damage over the entire city. A 1997 flood, the worst in recorded history, was nearly matched by a similar event in 2001.

**Specialized equipment was called in to repair crucial double circuit line located in difficult terrain.**