

Worthington lends helping hand to small Brewster utility

by Steve Downer

It is not unusual for a large municipal utility to help a small one. But it may be especially important in today's world, where Minnesota electric cooperatives routinely offer to buy-out municipals (and have done so twice in the past decade).

Then there is the natural predator of municipal systems—the investor owned utilities—one of which has standing offers to purchase a number of municipal systems.

So where can a small municipal utility turn for help?

One of the best examples of municipal 'neighbors helping neighbors' is provided by Worthington Public Utilities (WPU) and the City of Brewster.

Brewster is nine miles northeast of Worthington, along Minn. Hwy. 60. WPU has 4,550 electric customers; Brewster has 221.

Like most municipal utilities, Brewster had listened to buyout offers from a neighboring electric cooperative. In 2010-11, it was faced with a significant investment, as the line that served

it from Worthington needed to be rebuilt. The need to make a large investment is a typical crisis point for many utilities.

"We had always helped them informally," said WPU General Manager Scott Hain. But faced with the investment to rebuild the line from a WPU substation to Brewster, Brewster wanted to formalize the arrangement.

Hain and WPU Electric Superintendent Pat Demuth met with Brewster representatives.

The parties agreed that WPU would help Brewster on an "as needed, as available basis."

But then tragedy struck Brewster: A talented young city/utility employee, holder of a lineman's license and dedicated to the community, was stricken with cancer and passed away. That left Brewster—unable to quickly replace the unique combination of talent and drive possessed by its late employee—at another crossroads.

Worthington was willing to help, again, and Brewster opted to become more dependent on WPU. The decision was a natu-

Helping hand: next page please

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MMUA annual Summer Conference

Municipal utility people gather to conduct business, learn and strengthen ties

Minnesota's municipal electric and natural gas utilities gathered for the 87th consecutive MMUA Summer Conference, Aug. 20-22, at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria.

Those attending enjoyed a variety of official and unofficial social events, but we also had a timely educational program.

Along with the learning and social opportunities, member delegates attended to the official reason for the meeting—association business.

The membership approved an overall five percent regular member dues increase. Dues for individual regular members will vary, depending on population and sales. Affiliate member dues were increased \$500 apiece and Associate member dues re-

main unchanged.

The largest driver of the dues hike is an increase in health insurance costs. MMUA has also budgeted for one additional full-time safety coordinator. This expense is expected to be partially offset by reduced reliance on independent contractors.

A bike ride and very popular golf tournament were held the afternoon of Monday, Aug. 20. The first official event occurred that evening, with a welcome reception and dinner.

President John Crooks, of Shakopee Public Utilities, welcomed attendees the morning of Aug. 21. The program launched with a 'performance improvement' talk by Jay Gubrud, titled *Shifting Gears & Changing Lanes*.



Shakopee Public Utilities' John Crooks (left) was thanked for his service as MMUA president by Greg French of the Virginia Department of Public Utilities.

Attendees had a chance to conduct unofficial business over a half hour refreshment break, followed by a presentation on *A New Vision for CIP*, by Mark Kotschevar, Rochester Public Utilities and Jared Echternach,

Beltrami Electric Cooperative.

MMUA Washington Representative Michael Nolan closed the morning with an insightful and humorous look at *The Washington Scene*.

Afternoon programming was divided into management or policymaker tracks.

Policymakers took a close look at *Board Policies that Work*, led by John Miner of Collaborative Learning, joined by Elk River Municipal Utilities General Manager Troy Adams.

Participants learned about the importance of documented policies in strengthening board leadership and decision-making. Focus was on the Board's role and responsibilities for per-

Conference: see page 4 please

Outstanding contributions recognized with MMUA awards program

Outstanding work is often taken for granted locally, so MMUA takes an opportunity at its Annual Conference to recognize a variety of significant contributions to Public Power in Minnesota.

As recommended by the Nominations and Awards Committee, MMUA presented awards at its Annual Conference, including five Honorary Lifetime Memberships. These awards went to:

Wally Schlink, Rochester Public Utilities Director of Power Resources and Customer Relations (retired)

The breadth of Schlink's talent and expertise can be seen in his responsibilities at RPU. He was responsible for all power supply and infrastructure planning, as well as customer service activities; Conservation Improvement Programs; marketing, and internal and external communication.

His passion for employee development and succession planning led to the creation of core competencies and a leadership train-



Wally Schlink (holding plaque) received an MMUA Honorary Lifetime Membership during the awards banquet. He was joined by RPU colleagues Sidney Jackson, Mark Kotschevar, Peter Hogan, Jeremy Sutton and Krista Boston, from left to right.

ing curriculum.

He served American Public Power Association committees and the APPA Board from 2013 to 2018. He was a frequent presenter at industry conferences and received

the James D. Donovan 'Individual Achievement Award' from APPA.

Schlink combined a skilled technical and

Awards: see page 6 please

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**Inside
Stories**

**Public Power's
Pole Attachment
Exemption In Peril**
page 3



**MMUA's Rita Kelly
Honored With
President's Award**
page 8



**MMUA Hires
Two New
Safety People**
last page



Helping hand:

continued from front page

ral one: Brewster retained the financial benefits of operating the municipal utility, and ceded most operations to another utility, one that had its best interests in mind.

“We want Brewster electric to survive,” said Hain, and the city of Brewster to prosper.

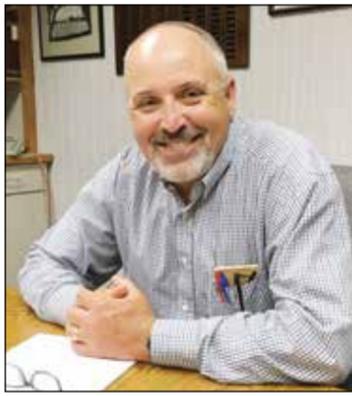
With a closer operational relationship, WPU’s DeMuth surveyed the Brewster system and recommended some improvements. Both distribution systems are underground and operate at the same volt-

age. Brewster, however, does have some poles, overhead transformers and pole-mounted fuse cutouts.

“Squirrels love those things,” said DeMuth. Once the busy WPU crew finds time to spend a week or so in Brewster, he thinks they can cut Brewster outages in half, if not more.

Brewster, at WPU’s urging, also has an arrangement with a local electrician to respond to calls. If the electrician determines it’s a system problem, he calls WPU.

WPU laid down some other simple requirements, including that the Brewster system should mirror the WPU sys-



Scott Hain

tem as much as possible. This would free Brewster from the need to inventory material, as WPU would take care of it.

Perhaps the biggest requirement is for Brewster to diligently plan and budget to support its utility.

Smaller communities have to be willing to make the necessary investment, said Hain. The Brewster system is “not a Cadillac,” he said, “but it’s pretty darn good.”

For time spent in Brewster, WPU charges its hourly rate (including benefits and weekend charges when called for), and materials. WPU tracks what materials are used and the cost of replacement. It



Perhaps showing one of the benefits of owning a municipal electric or natural gas utility, the City of Brewster paid cash for its city hall building.

does not charge for equipment, but does apply a ‘per foot’ price for horizontal directional drilling (underground boring).

For power supply, Brewster and WPU entered into a re-sale agreement. WPU supplies Brewster from a WPU substation. The line from the substation to Brewster is owned by Brewster. WPU reads the Brewster meter, figures the allocations from various power suppliers, and sends Brewster a monthly bill. The bill includes a facilities charge for voltage transformation and other substation costs.

It’s a business relationship, but a neighborly one.

“I think they really appreciate what we do for them,” Hain said.

Brewster Clerk/Treasurer Jim Naumann has been with the city 30 years. He also used to perform some of the outside work. He said Brewster and WPU “have always worked well together.”

With Brewster somewhat shorthanded, WPU has also

been providing wastewater utility support.

“We go up and look at things,” is how Hain put it. In a state where Class A wastewater operators are scarce, WPU has six (and two others working toward the designation).

“We encourage (the operators) to go as far as they can,” Hain said. All came to WPU with zero wastewater experience.

WPU and Brewster demonstrate how municipals can bring greater economies of scale to their operations, while preserving local control and other public power values. Hain, for one, is aware of the benefit of municipals coalescing to build strength. That concept has advanced, in various forms, over the years.

While it is uncertain what new forms ‘municipals helping municipals’ might take, one thing seems increasingly clear: Municipals need to advance the concept of working together, or continue to watch their numbers dwindle.

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FCC proposal threatens public power's exemption from pole attachment regulation

by Paul Ciampoli
News Director, American Public Power Association

The American Public Power Association is voicing opposition to legislation that would effectively repeal the public power exemption from Federal Communications Commission (FCC) pole attachment regulations.

The bill essentially would impose a "one-size-fits-all" approach to pole attachment rates and regulations that may ultimately require public power utility customers to subsidize infrastructure deployment of for-profit communications providers, the Association said.

At issue is S. 3157, which is sponsored by Sens. John Thune, R-S.D., and Brian Schatz, D-HI.

Under Section 224 of the Communications Act, which is the only section in the Communications Act related to electric utility infrastructure, public power utilities are explicitly exempt from FCC pole attachment regulation because pole attachments on public power utility poles are already subject to state or local regulations that are designed to local need.

The exemption reflects Congress' understanding that consumer-owned public power utilities have no incentive to block communications services that benefit their communities. The section also allows states to regulate electric utility poles within their boundaries if they choose to do so. Currently, twenty states plus the District of Columbia have "reverse preempted" FCC pole attachment regulations to set their own standards.

The Thune-Schatz bill, the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act, would revise section 332 of the Communications Act to require mandatory access for attachments to a "facility in a right-of-way (ROW) owned or managed by the state or local government." Currently, Section 332 gives the FCC authority over the provision of "wireless services," and it does not provide for FCC jurisdiction over electric utility poles.

The bill would also require the state or locality to charge fees for the placement, construction, or modification of a small personal wireless facility that is calculated "in accordance with section 224" of the Communications Act if placed "on a pole...or any other facility that may be established under that section."

Because utility pole attach-

ments are the only type of facility covered under section 224, and because public power utility poles are the only types of utility poles owned or managed by states or local governments and located in the public ROW, this language would require all public power utilities to charge the FCC pole attachment rate for all public power utility poles that are in the ROW. It would also create significant ambiguity in the law that would leave room for the FCC to assert jurisdiction over public power utility poles despite the explicit exemption for those utilities.

The Association said that taken together, the provisions would, in effect, repeal the public power exemption from FCC regulation and make the state reverse-preemption authority for pole attachments practically meaningless.

The Association noted that public power utilities support deployment of all types of broadband technology that will benefit the communities they serve and are willing to

work with industry to facilitate wireless attachments.

But the problem with S. 3157 is that it would effectively impose a "one-size-fits-all" approach to pole attachment rates and regulations and would ignore legitimate concerns related to the placement of small cells on public power utility poles, the Association argued.

It pointed out that safely accommodating wireless attachments on utility poles is much more complex than accommodating traditional horizontal wireline attachments. For example, small cells are often placed above the electric line and may create lineworker safety issues. The Association also highlighted significant engineering considerations unique to public power utility poles, such as loading, clearance, and interference, that must be taken into account to protect electric reliability for the communities served by public power.

MPUC accepts SMEC proposed rate hikes

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission July 23 accepted Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative's proposed rate increases for two years, for service territories SMEC had previously acquired from Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL). SMEC had previously been directed to adopt IPL's rates for three years, and was given regulatory approval to harmonize rates in its existing service areas with the acquired areas over the next two years.

That two-year transition period began Aug. 1.

All but three of the 12 cooperative members of SMEC plan rate increases in their service areas of up to the allowed 5 percent for the two-year transition period.

The class cost of service results for nine of the 12 member cooperatives support much larger increases, and the Commission found that the SMEC Cooperatives' Class Cost of Service Studies (CCOSS) supported the proposed rate changes.

Coop.	Proposed Increase	Overall Increase	CCOSS Study
BENCO	Up to 5.00%	5.00%	21.11%
Brown	Up to 3.89%	3.80%	3.89%
Federated	Up to 5.00%	5.00%	21.42%
Freeborn Mower	Up to 5.00%	5.31%	8.82%
Minnesota Valley	Up to 5.00%	4.98%	20.47%
Nobles	Up to 5.00%	4.97%	10.19%
Peoples	Up to 1.06%	1.06%	1.06%
Redwood	Up to 5.00%	5.00%	17.67%
Sioux Valley	Up to 2.50%	0.00%	24.90%
South Central	Up to 5.00%	5.00%	18.61%
Steele-Waseca	Up to 5.00%	5.00%	10.25%
MiEnergy (Tri-Cty.)	Up to 5.00%	4.49%	15.97%

Numbers are for the first year of the two-year transition period.

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Conference:

performance planning and evaluation of the chief executive.

Seminar participants also considered other governance issues that are common to municipal utility organizations.

The Management Track started by Looking Ahead at Large Scale Solar with Storage, presented by Mike Fosse, Dakota Electric Association.

Matthew Blackler, ZEF Energy and Tom Sagstetter, Elk

River Municipal Utilities continued the theme with a look at Electric Vehicles (EV's): Opportunity Now or Later?

Following a break, Scott Hain of Worthington Public Utilities; Jim Maras of Madelia Municipal Light & Power and Terry Wolf of Missouri River Energy Services discussed how they are involved in working with other municipal organizations to strengthen Public Power with a presentation called Municipals Helping Municipals.

That evening, a Trade Show and Reception led to



Rob Scott-Hovland of MRES, Elizabeth Wefel of Flaherty & Hood, Kent Sulem of MMUA and Deb Birgen of MRES visited during the trade show.

the Banquet and Awards program.

Members gathered the morning of Aug. 22 for the Business Meeting.

That was followed by a presentation on the Minnesota Public Power Forward Partnership, by Patricia Keane, American Public Power Association. MMUA, MRES, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) and APPA have entered into the Minnesota Public Power Forward Partnership to assist Minnesota's public power utilities as they plan for the future. The presentation included a look at the toolkit that will lead members through topics including rate design, new technologies, and IT/OT.

Dave Berg, of Dave Berg Consulting, followed that with an interesting look at Getting Rates Ready for Competition—A Guide for Policymakers. MMUA and Dave Berg Consulting are developing a guide designed to assist policymakers and other non-technical utility personnel in their understanding of electric rates and the theories

eration, storage and other new technologies, rate design must evolve with it.

Mark Fritsch of Owatonna Public Utilities and MMUA's Steve Downer presented on Electric Service Issues: Analysis and Developments.

Kent Sulem and Bill Black, MMUA and Joe Bagnoli of McGrann Shea updated members on State Legislative Developments. The meeting concluded with an Issues Round-Up, featuring Jack Kegel, Bob Jagusch and Mike Willetts, MMUA.

MMUA thanks all who attended and the cities, utilities and businesses that sent them. We also thank all the associate members who contributed greatly to the program through sponsoring a variety of events. We couldn't have done it without you!

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Hazelton



Grabe



Meyer

Hazelton, Grabe, Meyer unanimously elected to MMUA board of directors

Jenny Hazelton, Scott Grabe and Dave Meyer on Aug. 22 were unanimously elected to the MMUA Board of Directors. They were nominated for election by the MMUA Nominations and Awards Committee. Each will replace a director completing their board service.

Hazelton will continue her service on the board for an initial three-year term. Hazelton, the Winthrop city administrator/EDA director, was appointed to the Board last year, to fill the remainder of a retiring Board members' term.

Hazelton has been with Winthrop over 21 years and in her present position for four years. She was previously clerk/treasurer, an accounting clerk and utility billing clerk/receptionist.

Hazelton also serves on several boards. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and several professional certifications.

Hazelton is also enrolled in the MMUA Leadership Academy.

Grabe serves as the Utilities Superintendent for the City of Henning. Henning has electric, natural gas, and water and sewer utilities.

He also manages the public works department and the municipal airport. There are three other full-time employees in the utility and public works departments.

Grabe also volunteers for the city-owned ambulance service and Fire Department.

Grabe has been active in MMUA meetings and training. He is also enrolled in the MMUA Leadership Academy.

Meyer is General Manager of Glencoe Light and Power and a Central Minnesota Power Agency Services (CMPAS) board member. He regularly represents and advocates for Public Power. He has traveled to Washington, D.C., for the APPA legislative rally for each of the past eight years. He has also, except for one year, attended the MMUA legislative rally annually since 2010.

He is always monitoring proposed legislation and evaluating it for possible effects on the local utilities.

Meyer is also formerly the superintendent at Halstad Utilities.

MMUA thanks outgoing board members Troy Adams of Elk River Municipal Utilities and Kevin Berg of Hawley Public Utilities.

French assumes MMUA presidency

Greg French, general manager of the Virginia Department of Public Utilities, is the new president of the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA). French, who previously served as president-elect, accepted the president's gavel at the association's annual conference Aug. 21 in Alexandria. French was elected to the MMUA board in 2013.

French has served as general manager of the Virginia Department of Public Utilities (DPU) since April 2010. He is in charge of the supervision and operation of the electric and steam generat-

ing plant along with electric, water, gas, and steam distribution systems serving approximately 6,000 customers. From 2006 to 2010 he served as DPU's director of operations for steam and water distribution.

He previously served as city engineer for numerous communities across the Iron Range, providing engineering design, project management and construction administration services, and designed a full range of municipal/private projects.

A Mountain Iron native, he attended Mesabi Range Community and Technical College



Greg French

and graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Minnesota.

Members elect Roberts to position of president-elect

MMUA delegates Aug. 22 at the business meeting unanimously voted for Vernell Roberts as their President-Elect.

Roberts is General Manager of Detroit Lakes Public Utility, a position he has held since August 2012.

Roberts was Wadena's Director of Utilities from November 1997 until May 2006. He served his first stint on the MMUA Board starting in June 2001, and served on the Board until he joined the association staff as a Regional Safety Coordinator/Job Training and Safety Instructor in May 2006.

While at Wadena, he was also chair of the MMUA Job Training and Safety Committee.

Prior to joining Wadena, the Henning native worked 14 years for the City of Loveland (Colorado) Light and Power. He started at Loveland as an apprentice lineman and earned journeyman lineman and substation technician status and maintained substation/hydro facilities.

Roberts also serves on the boards of the Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and Missouri River Energy Services.



Along with his election, Roberts and Detroit Lakes collected a System Innovation Award at the meeting.

Board selects Nibaur to serve as its secretary-treasurer

The MMUA board of directors has picked Austin Utilities General Manager Mark Nibaur to serve as its secretary-treasurer. Nibaur was elected to the board in 2017. Nibaur accepted the posi-

tion of General Manager for Austin Utilities in 2010. He was previously employed, for 23 years, by MidAmerican Energy in Sioux City, Iowa as Operations Manager. He received his



Mark Nibaur

MBA from the University of South Dakota-Vermillion.

Nibaur is involved with a number of local organizations, including serving as a board officer for the Development Corporation of Austin, an economic development organization.

Nibaur is also a board member of the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency.

He also serves on the American Public Gas Association's Board of Directors. APGA is a national, not-for-profit association representing the nation's publicly-owned natural gas distribution systems.

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Awards

continued from front page

operations background with a strong understanding of the need to build relationships and trust with customers and the community. He is a true believer in the value of Public Power and benefitted it at the national, state and local levels.

Mark Erickson, Winthrop city administrator, MMUA board member (retired)

Winthrop enjoyed significant economic development under his guidance, and he was the driving force behind RS Fiber, a fiber-to-the-home broadband project, which was created by 10 cities and 17 townships in the Renville and Sibley County areas.

Erickson chaired the League of Minnesota Cities telecommunications task force and was a member of the Blandin Foundation's Broadband Strategy Board. He is a nationally-recognized expert and speaker on municipal broadband issues.

Now retired from the city, he continues on the RS Fiber Board and with various broadband efforts. Erickson also served on the MMUA Board and as Board President in 2013-14, and was ac-



Mark Erickson

tive with MMUA government relations efforts.

He has shown that people from small towns can do big things for their communities, and made outstanding contributions.

Mark Fritsch, General Manager, Owatonna Public Utilities

After a long career at Xcel Energy, Mark became the Owatonna General Manager, where he has strengthened the organization in many respects, including 'succession planning.'

His signature accomplishment at Owatonna has been conversion of the power plant building into a utility headquarters with multiple community benefits.

He has also undertaken two valuable MMUA projects:



Mark Fritsch

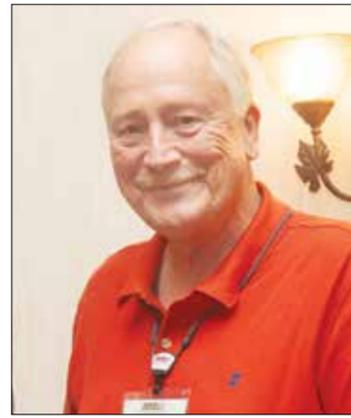
the MMUA Leadership Academy, where his experience with Xcel's internal staff college was invaluable and a well-thought-out basis for service territory negotiations.

He hasn't been with Public Power for most of his career, but he has made his mark.

Al Crowser, General Manager, ALP Utilities (retired)

After serving as a transmission engineer at Missouri River Energy Services, Al joined the staff of ALP Utilities in 1987. He was ALP General Manager from 1994 until his recent retirement.

Crowser worked to get city water service to all of Alexandria city limits and was a key part of a 12-year orderly annexation project. He also worked hard on service territory agreements with a



Al Crowser

neighboring cooperative and established the first internet service available to the Alexandria community, through a partnership with REA.

He was a natural leader and was widely respected among his peers.

Crowser was a frequent spokesperson for MMUA in our meetings with legislative leadership and our Congressional delegation. He served as Chair of the MMUA Government Relations Committee. He served on the MMUA Board of Directors and was MMUA President in 2005-06. Crowser was a leader on the MMUA 'Grow With Your Cities' Committee and was always willing to provide advice to other MMUA communities facing service territory issues.

He was also active in APPA and represented Minnesota

on the APPA Board of Directors. He was an important part of our team and made significant contributions on many levels.

Dale Narlock, electric line superintendent, Thief River Falls Municipal Utility

Narlock started out as a lineman for the city. He worked his way up to foreman and then electric superintendent. He has worked 40 years with the city. You generally know when he is in the room, as you can hear his laughter and voice.

He always has the best interest of the city and the electric department employees in mind. He was the driving force behind installation of AMI and SCADA systems. He makes sure his employees are well-trained and well-equipped.

Narlock has been involved in MMUA training for many years, and has been an instructor, rodeo participant, and judge.

He is always willing to help out, in ways big and small. He was part of the mutual aid efforts after floods in Grand Forks in 1997 and Roseau in 2002. He embodies the best of Public Power. (See Narlock photo facing page.)

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Leadership, innovation result in presentation of MMUA System Innovation Awards

MMUA presented three System Innovation Awards at its recent Annual Conference. The awards went to:

City of Thief River Falls

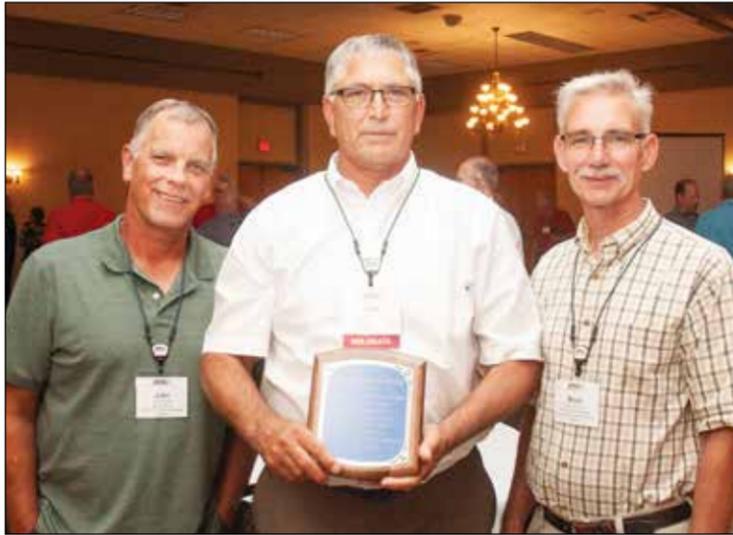
When Digi-Key announced on February 2017 that it was considering a \$300 million expansion, there was no guarantee that the largest employer in Thief River Falls would select that city for its expansion.

The company already employed 3,300 people, with plans to add 1,000 more over ten years.

Three months after Digi-Key announced the expansion, state incentives were secured and the company would remain in Thief River Falls.

The municipal utility headquarters was located in the project expansion area. The electrical department had to move, and quickly. What had been a single operating unit was spread to four separate locations.

Electrical department employees stepped up to the challenge without complaint, knowing that the move had to be done to help ensure the continued success of the city's largest employer.



John Kinsman, Dale Narlock and Brian Jacobson (left to right) of Thief River Falls Municipal Utilities with their MMUA System Innovation Award.

The utility has broken ground on a new building. It continues to provide exemplary customer service through a trying time, making it a deserving recipient this award.

Detroit Lakes Public Utility

Detroit Lakes Public Utility staff dreamed of constructing a Community Solar project. After much research, the utility built a 29.3 kW project, within its service territory, for its customers. The 'Select Solar' project was in commercial operation in October

2017. The local array gives customers an easy way to get into solar.

The Detroit Lakes crew was his crew quite involved in the construction of the project.

The utility also overcame the challenge of its original panel supplier going out of business just prior to executing a contract.

This is a great demonstration on how to get the community involved with the utility, and is a perfect example of what Public Power is all about.



John Crooks presented a System Innovation Award to Mark Nibaur (center) and Alex Bumgardner (right) of Austin Utilities. Bumgardner also earned an MMUA Rising Star Award.

Austin Utilities (AU)

AU has undertaken four major initiatives over the past three years that clearly set it apart as a System Innovator.

AU brought together its operations from three different locations into one new, efficient, centralized location. The 18 million dollar project created a building that worked better, but a utility within that building that also worked better.

AU engaged the community throughout the process and earned its support. The new building is a source of

pride for the utility, its employees and the community. AU is realizing the cost benefits it anticipated and a more closely-knit workforce.

AU has also installed new customer information system, deployed AMI and a load management system, and rolled out a community solar program. AU has also been named a "Best Places to Work" in Mower County in spring of 2018. AU embodies a spirit of service, which gives employees a strong sense of purpose and a connection to their community.

Public Power recognizes Fuchs' 'Distinguished Service' with award

For outstanding service locally, and to the wider Public Power community, Mark Fuchs of Elk River Municipal Utilities was honored with an MMUA Distinguished Service Award.

Fuchs serves on the MMUA Job Training

and Safety Committee, helped develop the MMUA specifications book, MMUA Training Center curriculum and safety 'best practices.'

When the American Public Power Association announced that the Lineworkers Rodeo would

be coming to Minnesota, Fuchs along with many others, tackled the big task of hosting the event.

Fuchs also believes that neighborly support aligns with the core values of public power, and is always willing to help other utilities in need.

He is a key member of the ERMU leadership team and was instrumental in overseeing the operational plan for a 2,000 customer, 12-square-mile electric territory purchase.



Mark Fuchs

AU's Bumgardner recognized with Rising Star Award

Alex Bumgardner of Austin Utilities was recognized with a Rising Star Award.

Alex was hired as a Power Production Director in 2009, and in 2016 he was promoted to Energy Resources and Utility Operations Director. He is responsible for all gas and electric resource management, IT/OT management and general plant & utility operations.

Alex is hard working, has common sense, a sense for industry and business operations, and is ethical, with good project management skills.

Alex has overseen the decommissioning of two power plants and the demolition of one, several major department re-organizations, and has accepted broader leadership roles including natural gas buying, power resource coordination and special strategic outcomes.

Alex has also participated in local and national training/growth opportunities when available.

Alex's input has been vital to the progress of Austin Utilities.



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Marwick, Kietzmann earn 'Community Service' awards

MMUA presented two 'Community Service awards' Aug. 21 at its Summer Conference: to Dave Kietzmann of Pierre, S.D., and Jeff Marwick of Virginia.

Kietzmann worked for Pierre since 1975 and displayed 43 years of dedication, leadership, mentoring, and safety-driven hard work. He made Pierre an underground distribution system and influenced policies, safety regulations, the city hierarchy. He also served as instructor at the MMUA Underground School.



Kietzmann



Marwick

Dave was valued as a community leader and will be greatly missed. Like many career linemen, he can be proud of his accomplishments.

Dave Marwick knows the Virginia Department of Public Utilities inside and out, top

to bottom.

Hired in 1975 as a laborer, Marwick then worked as a utility man, power plant operator, moved into management in 1992, and retired as the Power Plant Director in 2013.

In 2014, he was appointed to serve as a Commissioner for the Public Utilities by the City Council and is currently serving his second term.

Few people have the in-depth understanding or have shown the dedication to public power that Marwick has.

Andrew J. Shea

MMUA was saddened to learn that Andrew J. Shea, former MMUA general counsel and co-founder of the McGrann Shea et al., law firm, died on July 8th in Edina.

Born in Minneapolis to Daniel B. Shea and Dorothy Lonergan, he is survived by his children, siblings as well as a large clan of nieces, nephews and cousins.

He attended Cretin High School, St. Thomas College then received his law degree from George Washington University. During law school, he prepared legislative briefs at the Library of Congress. He followed in his father's footsteps by fundraising for churches, a skill he later used to help sustain Regina High School (which his daughter attended).

After private practice, he joined and became a partner at O'Connor & Hannan and was a founding partner of McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn & Lamb, Chartered in 1989. He focused on corporate law, municipal utilities and defending unions and their pensions. In 2001, as general counsel for the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, he led the team that successfully enforced the Twins' contract to ensure the future of Major League baseball in Minnesota. Andy was actively involved in national political affairs throughout his life: fundraising for the Humphrey-Muskie ticket in 1968, assisting the DNC Treasurer from 1969-72 and directing the 1974 Conference on Democratic Party Organization and Policy. In 1976, he was Manager of the Democratic National Convention in NYC.

Shea will be missed by all who came in contact with him from the municipal utility community. An Irish wake was held in his honor at Kieran's on August 7.



President's Award goes to MMUA's Kelly

MMUA's highest honor—the President's Award—this year went to MMUA Director of Administration Rita Kelly. In making the award, President John Crooks noted that Kelly is "the glue that holds the association together," and recounted her many contributions, particularly during the Public Power Lineworker's Rodeo, which came to Shakopee in 2017.



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The City of White Bear Lake has joined MMUA as a Regular Member.

The city is located at 4701 Hwy. 61, White Bear Lake, MN 55110. Contact person is Rick Juba, assistant city manager. He can be reached at 651-429-8505.

MMUA has a number of new associate members.

They include:

Bell Lumber and Pole Co. Bell Lumber & Pole Company are wood experts who provide excellent products, aesthetics, value and services--all customized for your needs and available even in unplanned events.

The company is located at 778 1st St. NW, P.O. Box 120786, New Brighton, MN, 55112. Phone number is 651.633.4334. Contact person is Jim Davis, Sales Representative. He can be reached at 715.418.3792. Company website is at www.blpole.com

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The company is located at 12150 Nicollet Avenue, Burnsville MN 55337. Phone is 952-894-4204 and fax is 952-894-7903. Website is at www.northlandsys.com

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tems, representing Emerson Automation Solutions as a local business partner through our offices in Illinois, Northwest Indiana, Wisconsin, Upper Peninsula Michigan, Minnesota, South and North Dakota.

The company is located at 2885 Water Tower Place, Chanhassen, MN 55317. Phone is 952.934.5100 and fax is 952.361.6802. Main contact is Grant Thorstad, Reliability Sales, 612.669.5884.

For more information, visit www.novaspect.com

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The company is located at 3660 Technology Drive NE,

Minneapolis, MN 55418. Phone is 763.201.2000 and fax is 763.201.5333. Main contact is Glen Fisher, Business Development, 763.201.2068 Website is www.oati.com

Southern Minnesota Inspection. Southern Minnesota Inspection was started in 2003 and since then we have become an industry leader in Hoists, Cranes, Auto-lifts, and Aerial lift inspections. Throughout our numerous certifications and qualifications, we also offer operator training, with over 40 years of combined Hoist, Aerial lift and Forklift experience. Southern Minnesota Inspection is committed to ensuring customer safety through training, knowledge and experience.

The company is located at 211 Johnson St., Eagle Lake, MN 56024. Phone is 507.257.3742 and fax is 507.257.3472. Main contact is Scott Wilson, Sales Representative, 507.257.3742 ext. 228

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The company is located at 1320 12th Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411. Phone is 612.522.4040, toll free 800.515.4040 and fax is 612.522.2829. Main contact is Bridget Grotins, bkgrotins@engunl.com

Website is found at www.sterlingpadlocks.com

Vistra Energy. Vistra Energy (NYSE: VST) is an integrated power company based in Irving, Texas. Through its retail and generation businesses which include TXU Energy, Homefield Energy, Dynegy, and Luminant, Vistra operates in 12 states and six of the seven competitive markets in the U.S., with about 6,000 employees. Vistra's retail brands serve approximately 2.9 million residential, commercial and industrial customers across five top retail states, and its generation fleet totals approximately 41,000 megawatts of highly efficient generation capacity, with a diverse portfolio of natural gas, nuclear, coal, and solar facilities.

The company is located at 6555 Sierra Drive, Irving, Texas, 75039.

Main contact is Jeffrey Vance, Director Origination, jeffrey.vance@vistraenergy.com or call 217.753.8908

Visit the company online at www.vistraenergy.com

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The company is located at 225 S. 6th St., Suite 2300, Minneapolis MN 55402. Phone is 612-876-4500 and fax is 612-238-8900.

Primary contact is Anna Nelson, senior marketing associate. She can be reached at 608-240-2615 or anna.nelson@bakertilly.com

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Director of Electrical Systems
 The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission is seeking an individual for the full-time position of Director of Electrical Systems. HPU is comprised of electric and steam generation; electric, steam, water, and gas distribution. Minimum Qualifications: BS in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis in power preferred; Minnesota PE license or ability to obtain. Preferred Qualifications: Experience in a power generation setting; experience working with transmission and distribution lines; experience working with plant and system controls; working knowledge and understanding of codes, standards, laws and regulations relevant to utility operations; knowledge in the development of construction bid packages and specifications; supervisory position overseeing Electrical Lineworkers, Plant Electricians and Instrumentation Technicians, Engineering Technicians, and Meter Technicians. Excellent health and leave

continued on facing page:

benefits. Salary DOQ. A job description is available at www.hpuc.com, or by calling 218-262-7732. Completed applications should include a letter of application, a resume and an HPU job application found at <https://www.hpuc.com/about-us/employment-opportunities> should be sent to: Jane Garrity, Hibbing Public Utilities, 1902 6th Ave E, Hibbing, MN 55746; fax to 218-262-7756 or email janeg@hpuc.com. Application deadline is September 17, 2018 or until filled.

Lineworker

The New Ulm Public Utilities Commission is currently seeking to fill three full-time Line Workers (Apprentice or Journey) for the Electric Distribution Department. The successful candidates will be responsible for constructing, maintaining and repairing overhead and underground electric distribution, transmission and substation systems. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, completion of a one-year technical college line worker training program or two years of electric distribution experience, must be able to respond to the Public Utilities building within 30 minutes and maintain a Class A Driver's License (CDL) within six months of hire. 1st Class Line Workers must have a Journey Line Worker Certification. Position pay for apprentice (5th or 6th Class) is \$28.83 - \$29.99. Position pay for Journey Certification (1st Class) is \$35.08. EOE You must apply online by visiting our website at <http://www.newulmmn.gov/>. Please call the Human Resources Office at 507-359-8235 with any questions. Application deadline is 4:00 PM on September 26th.

Operational Technology Superintendent

Elk River Municipal Utilities is accepting applications for a full time exempt Operational Technology Superintendent. This position's responsibilities include: oversee operational technology related software and hardware initiatives; assist with the development of cyber and informational security policy and procedures; and contribute through leadership team collaborative strategic planning and implementation of initiatives. Position qualifications include: Bachelor's degree for applicable discipline or equivalent experience required. Please visit our website at <http://www.elkriverutilities.com/pages/employment-opportunities> for full job description with required and preferred qualifications. Sala-

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ry range is \$40.59 - \$47.77 per hour with excellent benefits. Resumes must be received by September 28, 2018. Please submit resume to: Elk River Municipal Utilities, 13069 Orono Parkway, PO Box 430, Elk River, MN 55330, or via email to: mcanterbury@ermumn.com

Communications and Administrative Coord.

Elk River Municipal Utilities is accepting applications for a full time Communications & Administrative Coordinator. Please visit our website at www.elkriverutilities.com/pages/employment-opportunities for a full job description with required and preferred qualifications. Salary range is \$22.22 - \$31.73 per hour with excellent benefits. Resumes must be received by September 14, 2018. Please submit resume to: Elk River Municipal Utilities, 13069 Orono Parkway, PO Box 430, Elk River, MN 55330, or via email to: mcanterbury@ermumn.com

Journey Lineworker

The City of Thief River Falls, MN is seeking qualified candidates for a full-time licensed Journey Lineworker in the Electric Department. Lineworker shall perform a variety of technical tasks involved in the installation,

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

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Mailed Outside-County Subscriptions	1858	1859
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Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail	0	0
Total Paid Distribution	1931	1927
Free of Nominal Rate Outside County Copies	0	0
Free or Nominal Rate Inside County Copies	0	0
Etc	0	0
Total Distribution:	1931	1927
Copies Not Distributed	56	106
Total	1987	2033
Percent Paid	100%	100%



James Monroe joins MMUA as regional safety coordinator; apprenticeship instructor

MMUA has hired James Monroe as Job Safety and Training and Apprenticeship Instructor.

Monroe, a journeyman lineman, comes to MMUA from New Ulm Public Utilities, where he was employed as a lineman beginning in June 2006. While at New Ulm, he performed a variety of job duties and maintained his Journeyman License to meet all regulations. He planned layout and installations, diag-

nosed and corrected malfunctions, operated a variety of tools and equipment, among other duties.

Prior to joining New Ulm, he worked for Carr's Tree Service in Sleepy Eye from 2002-2005.

Monroe earned his powerline diploma from Minnesota West Technical and Community College in May 2006.

Monroe also participated in many MMUA schools and workshops, and served as

an instructor for the Underground Schools from 2014-2017.

He also has experience in storm repair and mutual aid, and has responded to snow and ice storms and tornadoes in Minnesota and Hurricane Irma in Florida.

Monroe takes the place of Mike Taylor, who has retired.

"We are pleased to have a person and instructor of James' abilities on staff," said MMUA Director of Job Training and Safety Mike Willetts. "We are proud to welcome him to the MMUA Safety Team."



James Monroe has served as an instructor at several MMUA training schools, including the Underground School.

Upcoming training events — Cross Training School

Cross Training is intended for the non-lineworker employee who may be called into service to work alongside a qualified lineworker due to an outage or other emergency. 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/equipment, broaden their understanding of electricity and the hazards, and increase confidence in their ability to assist.

Qualified instructors Cody Raveling and James Monroe will incorporate safety and best practices into the hands-on training, which simulates commonly experienced situations. Additionally, 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.

Registration fees increase Sept. 20 and deadline is Oct. 1. For more info, see the 'Events' calendar at www.mmua.org or contact Theresa at tneddermeyer@mmua.org

St. Clair joins MMUA as safety coordinator

Jordan St. Clair has joined MMUA as a regional safety coordinator. He will cover the southwest part of Minnesota.

St. Clair most recently worked as a Safety and Compliance Director for a multi-location auto dealership. He worked with all levels of employees to ensure safety policies and procedures were followed. Among his many and varied duties, he conducted walk-through checks for hazards as well as compliance with state and federal law.

He also facilitated all safety trainings for all employees.

St. Clair also has customer service and other work experience.

St. Clair holds a B.S. in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University. He also has an associates degree in Digital Media Production. He has taken a variety of National Safety Council courses and South Dakota Safety Council courses. He earned his Advanced Safety Certificate in 2017.

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FEATURES

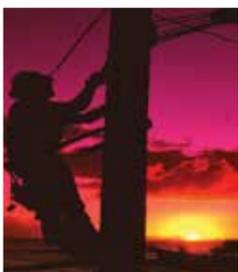


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T&O Conference and Transformer School coming up soon

We may be heading into fall, but MMUA asks that you plan your early winter training calendar now.

The annual MMUA Technical and Operations Conference is set for Dec. 4-6 in St. Cloud. Final program details are being worked out, but watch your email inbox for the program and registration materials, coming soon.

The Transformer School and Pre-Conference are scheduled for Dec. 11-14 at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall.

Mark your calendar now for this school and watch for the brochure later this month via email.



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