In changing utility world, municipal utility gathering endures

by Steve Downer

Some things change, in the electric utility industry, some endure.

One enduring aspect is the MMUA Annual Summer Conference, which occurred for the 88th consecutive year, Aug. 19-21 at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria.

This long-running gathering reflects the fact that 67 percent of Minnesota’s 124 municipal electric utilities have been in business for more than 100 years. That’s a remarkable record of successful service.

Municipal utilities are generally considered stable, but history shows steady change, and occasional upheaval. The industry is again in the midst of a ‘sea change.’

Part of that change—an embrace of non-fossil fuels—has led to massive investment in renewable energy.

Part of that change—an emphasis on the future—led to potential new growth for decommissioning of old resources. This change has also led to potential new growth for utilities in the form of powering electric vehicles and other forms of electrification, now deemed ‘green’ due to the growth of renewable generation.

This year’s conference program reflected this movement.

Topics broke down into two main inter-related tracks: policy and electrification.

The event started pleasantly enough, with a Monday evening reception and dinner on the Marina Deck.

The next morning, MMUA President and Virginia Department of Public Utilities General Manager Greg French welcomed attendees to the meeting program.

One of the conference’s best inspirational speakers in memory kicked-off the program. Joe Schmit, author and KSTP-TV sportscaster, gave an insightful, poignant and humorous talk titled Silent Impact: Influence Through Purpose, Persistence and Passion. Schmit wove a tapestry of tales proving how “we make our biggest impressions when we are not trying to be impressive.”

That uplifting talk was followed by a utility-centric dive into The Utility of the Future by Vern Dosch, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). With technology rapidly changing and consumers demanding more avenues to interact with utilities, Dosch noted, it is imperative we empower consumers, and offer programs that enable us to leverage our data, communication avenues and solutions.

Measuring: see page 6 please

Planning, Investing for the future helped Spring Valley turn problem into improvement

by Seve Downer

With the need to meet growing electrical demand due to an industrial park expansion on the city’s north side, Spring Valley Public Utilities (SVPU) knew the time was coming for substation improvements.

That planning accelerated when the utility’s main substation transformer suddenly failed in April 2015.

With the city plunged into darkness, utility staff quickly responded. The municipal power plant went into action. Within 25 minutes electrical service was restored. While life continued as normal for its customers, the following weeks were a time of intense activity for utility staff.

The power plant operated non-stop for six days. Within a week, a 2,400 volt substation transformer—identical to the one that had failed—was located, shipped and installed in the substation adjacent to the municipal power plant.

This transformer served as a temporary stopgap, while engineers and utility staff put their heads together over a configuration that would serve the municipality’s needs for the foreseeable future.

Much substation and voltage upgrade planning had already been done. Plans for a new substation on the north side of town were put on hold. The utility moved ahead with upgraded infrastructure at the existing substation.

A new 10-kva, 69-kV transformer replaced the temporary transformer. Along with various related substation improvements, a control house was constructed to house relaying, measurement and control equipment.

A series of rate increases had been put in place to pay for substation upgrades, so Spring Valley: see back page

RPU charting, by 2030, renewable energy future

From RPU—The Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) Utility Board selected two Resource Plan scenarios that include 100 percent renewable energy by 2030, at the July 23 board meeting.

After a presentation of scenario options and costs of varying renewable energy levels and resources, the RPU Utility Board voted unanimously to direct staff to further pursue two 100 percent renewable scenarios, one including a peaking generator and one involving battery storage.

This historic vote comes after significant engagement with Rochester citizens, along with many hours of work and research by RPU staff.

“RPU prides itself on its commitment to work with the Rochester community and to be good stewards of resources. Today’s decision to go to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 is a testament to the commitment by RPU Board, RPU staff, and Rochester citizens working together to find the best outcome for all,” said RPU General Manager Mark Kotschevar.

Rochester joins the cities of St. Paul, Minneapolis, and St. Louis Park as Minnesota cities committed to 100 percent renewable energy.

The Resource Plan scenarios selected for substation upgrades, so
Along with a variety of learning and social opportunities at the MMUA Annual Summer Conference, membership delegates attended to association business.

Don Martodam of Hawley, Julie Kennedy of Grand Rapids and Scott Magnuson of Brainerd were elected to the MMUA board.

Julie Kennedy is the General Manager of Grand Rapids Public Utilities, a position she has held since October 2016. Originally from Anoka, she earned her engineering degree from the University of Minnesota, then worked as an engineering consultant in the Grand Rapids area, mostly on rural wastewater projects. She also taught Engineering, Professional Development and Ethics at Itasca Community College.

In 2013, she accepted the position of Grand Rapids city engineer, before moving to lead the utility. Kennedy has been active and involved with MMUA in a number of areas, including mutual aid and government relations efforts.

Grand Rapids Public Utilities has more than 7,300 electric customers and also provides water and wastewater services to Grand Rapids and nearby areas.

Scott Magnuson of Brainerd Public Utilities and Julie Kennedy of Grand Rapids Public Utilities were elected to the MMUA board of directors at the annual conference.

He works alongside the BPU Finance Director to plan, organize, and ensure that the goals and objectives established by the BPU Mission are met, and prepares the capital budget each year for new and ongoing projects within the utility.

Magnuson maintains a good working relationship with all the necessary government and consulting agencies to ensure that the utility is in compliance with applicable state and federal rules and guidelines.

He was recently elected vice-chair of the Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (NEMMPA). Magnuson has attended numerous MMUA and APPA conferences and seminars, most recently graduating with the first MMUA Leadership Academy cohort.

BPU has more than 8,000 electric customers and also provides water and wastewater services.

Don Martodam had been serving the unexpired term of a departed board member, and was elected to his initial full, three-year term on the board. He is a Hawley Public Utilities commissioner and takes one of two seats dedicated to policymakers.

He has served on the Hawley Commission for more than 30 years. He is also on the Northern Municipal Power Agency board.

Martodam was born and raised in Perham, the oldest of 10 children. He graduated from Perham High School. He has a degree in soil science and crop production from the University of Minnesota.

He was a respiratory therapist at St. Luke’s Hospital for two years and farmed for five years. He sold the farm and bought the John Deere dealership in Hawley, and ran that for 25 years. He was involved in a manufacturing business in the Philippines for four years.

He currently manages Martodam Holdings. He serves on the parish council and with the Hawley Lions. He is past president of the West Central Initiative board in Fergus Falls. He has served on the Rural Minnesota CEP (Concentrated Employment Program) board for over 30 years, is currently vice president and was president for 12 years. He is a Clean Energy Resource Team board member and a past president of the Minnesota Workforce Board.

Hawley Public Utilities has Board: seeing page
approximately 1,200 electric customers and also provides natural gas, water and waste-water services.

Nibaur new president-elect
Mark Nibaur, General Manager of Austin Utilities, was elected president-elect.

In 2010, Nibaur accepted the Austin position. He was previously employed, for 23 years, by MidAmerican Energy in Sioux City, Iowa as Operations Manager.

He received his 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 a past president and member of the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency board of directors. He is also a member of the American Public Gas Association’s board of directors (APGA). APGA is a national, not-for-profit association representing the nation’s publicly-owned natural gas distribution systems.

Austin Utilities serves more than 12,000 electric and approximately 10,000 natural gas customers. The utility officially opened its new, energy-efficient 105,000-square foot Service and Operation Center in 2016.

Board selects (Hazelton)
Palmerton as new officer
The Board at its meeting elected Jenny Hazelton of Winthrop secretary-treasurer. Hazelton, the Winthrop city administrator/EDA director, was appointed to the Board last year, to fill the remainder of a retiring Board members’ term.

Following the meeting, Hazelton was married and took her husband’s surname—she is now Jenny Palmer. Congratulations, Jenny and Brad! Palmer has been with Winthrop for 21 years and in her present position for four years. She was previously clerk/treasurer, an accounting clerk and started as utility billing clerk/receptionist.

Palmer also serves as a commissioner on a multi-city cable commission and on several boards. She holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting and several professional certifications, including a municipal clerk certification from the Minnesota Clerks and Finance Officers Association.

Jenny (Hazelton) Palmer
Mark Nibaur
Bob Elston

Palmer is aWinthrop native and knows how cities operate. Her mother was the city librarian. Her grandfather was water/wastewater superintendent. After retiring, he served on the city council.

Now a resident of Fairfax, when nobody there filed for a city council seat, the administrator asked her to run. She did and was elected in 2015, and served through 2017.

Palmer is also a graduate of the MMUA Leadership Academy.

Three honored as they leave their board service
Three people, at the conclusion of their three-year board terms, were honored for their leadership during the award banquet, including:

Bob Elston, Sleepy Eye Public Utilities; Greg French, Virginia Public Utilities; H. Peterson, Blooming Prairie Public Utilities.

Dues approved
The membership approved an overall 4.5 percent regular member dues increase. Dues for individual regular members will vary, depending on population and sales. Affiliate and Associate member dues remain unchanged.

The largest driver of the dues hike is an increase in health insurance costs, along with the need to add a second full-time safety coordinator working with League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust regional safety groups.

Dues approved
The membership approved an overall 4.5 percent regular member dues increase. Dues for individual regular members will vary, depending on population and sales. Affiliate and Associate member dues remain unchanged.

The largest driver of the dues hike is an increase in health insurance costs, along with the need to add a second full-time safety coordinator working with League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust regional safety groups.

Palmer is a Winthrop native and knows how cities operate. Her mother was the city librarian. Her grandfather was water/wastewater superintendent. After retiring, he served on the city council.

Now a resident of Fairfax, when nobody there filed for a city council seat, the administrator asked her to run. She did and was elected in 2015, and served through 2017.

Palmer is also a graduate of the MMUA Leadership Academy.

Three honored as they leave their board service
Three people, at the conclusion of their three-year board terms, were honored for their leadership during the award banquet, including:

Bob Elston, Sleepy Eye Public Utilities; Greg French, Virginia Public Utilities; H. Peterson, Blooming Prairie Public Utilities.

Dues approved
The membership approved an overall 4.5 percent regular member dues increase. Dues for individual regular members will vary, depending on population and sales. Affiliate and Associate member dues remain unchanged.

The largest driver of the dues hike is an increase in health insurance costs, along with the need to add a second full-time safety coordinator working with League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust regional safety groups.

Palmer is a Winthrop native and knows how cities operate. Her mother was the city librarian. Her grandfather was water/wastewater superintendent. After retiring, he served on the city council.

Now a resident of Fairfax, when nobody there filed for a city council seat, the administrator asked her to run. She did and was elected in 2015, and served through 2017.

Palmer is also a graduate of the MMUA Leadership Academy.

Three honored as they leave their board service
Three people, at the conclusion of their three-year board terms, were honored for their leadership during the award banquet, including:

Bob Elston, Sleepy Eye Public Utilities; Greg French, Virginia Public Utilities; H. Peterson, Blooming Prairie Public Utilities.

Dues approved
The membership approved an overall 4.5 percent regular member dues increase. Dues for individual regular members will vary, depending on population and sales. Affiliate and Associate member dues remain unchanged.

The largest driver of the dues hike is an increase in health insurance costs, along with the need to add a second full-time safety coordinator working with League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust regional safety groups.
A joint petition from North Branch Water and Light Commission and East Central Energy to update service territory records was approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The area was somewhat less than 13 acres and contained 18 residential customers in a subdivision previously split between the utilities, and a city lift station.

Aitkin was among four Minnesota municipalities approved for loan and grant funding for water infrastructure projects, according to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. Aitkin will receive $1.9 million, for water and Authority. Aitkin will receive Minnesota Public Facilities

Minnesota municipalities and a city lift station.

The city council will now govern the utility.

Roger Moltzan (center) recently retired from Detroit Lakes Public Utility. Moltzan was heavily involved in various MMUA training efforts, often serving as an instructor at various schools.

Aitkin was among four Minnesota municipalities approved for loan and grant funding for water infrastructure projects, according to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. Aitkin will receive $1.9 million, for water and sanitary sewer improvements.

Willmar Municipal Utilities, following discussions with the city council, last fall agreed to pay for all water main replacements as well as street repairs caused by water main breaks, starting in 2021. Water treatment plant improvements will also need to be paid for.

Based on a rate study, water rates need to increase more than 59 percent in the next four years to keep the water utility in the black. Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission directed staff to write an ordinance for the rate increases. That ordinance will need to be approved by the Commission and the Council.

Water rates have been increasing since 2018.

There have been a number of developments regarding electric service in Rushford. Area contractors have been busy and declined to bid on a project to place a couple blocks of overhead line underground. A larger project may be bid out next year.

The transmission line providing an outside electric source to the municipal utility has been sold by ITC to Dairyland.

Roger Moltzan has retired after 30 years of service. The Detroit Lakes Public Utility held an open house potluck in his honor on July 26. The utility’s electric supervisor, Moltzan was a great help to MMUA over the years and will be greatly missed.

Local business leaders and representatives from the developer and Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency gathered near Pipestone July 16 to dedicate the 101-megawatt Stoneray Wind Project. The development includes 39 wind turbines.

Energy generated is currently being sold into the wholesale power market. In 2020, SMMPA will buy the full output of the development. It boosts the agency’s non-coal resources to 54 percent of its total. SMMPA also contracts for energy generated by the 100.5 megawatt Wapsipinnicon Wind Project in Mower County.

The Grand Rapids City Council has approved site design and related engineering for the Grand Rapids Public Utilities solar garden project, to be located near the Itasca County/Grand Rapids Airport. The utility will pay for the engineering.

The Federal Aviation Administration completed a glare analysis, and found no issues and granted preliminary approval to installed solar panels in the ‘B Zone’ of the airport flight area. Property zoning allows the proposed use.

The privately-owned Fibrominn/Benson Power electric generating plant is being razed. Explosives were used to demolish part of the plant Aug. 10, with additional blasting work on Aug. 14.

The plant, which burned turkey manure, wood chips and other biomass, was built in 2007 to supply renewable power to Xcel Energy. The high cost of the power, however, led to the plant’s demise.

Elk River was recently showcased in the Eco Experience building at the Minnesota State Fair. Elk River featured a solar array at city hall, electric vehicles and charging stations and a landfill-gas electric generating station.

RPU: 

continued from front page

call for RPU to meet all of its energy needs through 100 percent renewable energy sources and remaining capacity requirements with either a new 220-megawatt natural gas powered facility or battery storage.

The Resource Plan presentation is available on the RPU website at www.rpu.org.

As the municipal utility of Rochester, for more than 110 years, RPU provides high-quality and reliable electricity to over 55,000 customers. Water customers number more than 40,000. RPU continually investigates innovative technologies to help customers realize the best value from the services they receive. Current initiatives include photovoltaic offerings, wind energy, energy and water efficient equipment, and electric vehicle charging.
Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) celebrated the centennial of its Lake Zumbro Dam hydroelectric plant with open public tours Friday and Saturday, Aug. 9-10.

The 100-year-old facility took two years to construct and was placed into service on Nov. 7, 1919. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tours included learning about the dam and turbines, the history of the facility, the output of the turbines, and all of the safety procedures and inspections that are required to operate the dam.

The power house includes two turbines, which use water to create electricity. Approximately 600 cubic feet of water passes through both turbines each second when they are operating at full capacity. Tours included a look at water moving through the underside of the turbines, which generate about 12.5 thousand megawatt hours per year—enough to power 1,500 homes.

The tour ended at the top of the dam with a view of the 440-foot long spillway.

The Zumbro River Dam spans 440 feet and is 55 feet deep. Its impoundment creates the only lake in Olmsted County. The Minnesota DNR regulates the dam as run-of-the-river—what flows in, flows out, with minimum lake level fluctuations.

Far from being obsolete, the facility produced a record 17,566 megawatt hours in 2018.

Power from the facility is transmitted 15 miles south to Rochester.
The afternoon was devoted to a panel discussion titled Charging Ahead with Electric Vehicles. Panelists included leading lights: Diana McKeown, Great Plains Institute/CERTs; Brendan Jordan, Great Plains Institute; Mike Nelson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Marcus Grubbs, Minnesota Department of Administration; Steve Sanders, University of Minnesota; Brian Ross, Great Plains Institute. They took a penetrating look at what cities across Minnesota are doing to prepare for the ‘electric vehicle revolution.’

As a real-world follow-up to the electric vehicle panel, and with time to think about it and discuss it with other attendees, rates consultant Dave Berg, on Wednesday morning gave his well-considered thoughts on Electric Vehicle Rate Considerations and Advanced Metering Infrastructure.

Our political speakers were brought in to provide some insight on where the changing power-supply ferment might all be leading.

Joe Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Energy, Minnesota Department of Commerce, spoke on the subject of legislative priorities related to a clean energy agenda. He emphasized the importance of energy policy that promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Greg French completed his term as president at the conclusion of the meeting. Here he visited after the awards banquet.

Two award winners were among those pictured here, from left to right: Jamie Stahulak and Matt Zuehls of HDR, Sen. Dave Osmek, Kent Sulem of MMUA, Dr. Ed Evens of Anoka and Doug Carnival of the McGrann Shea Carnival et al., law firm. Sen. Osmek was awarded a well-earned Public Service Award. Dr. Evans also received a Public Service Award, for his service on the local utility board.

Golf tournament winners were, from left to right: Mike Leshovisky of Border States Electric, Hutchinson’s Dave Hunstad, Shakopee’s Greg Drent and Jordan Rykal of EMS Partners.
missioner of Minnesota Division of Energy Resources, provided a look at the agency’s thinking.

MMUA Washington Representative Michael Nolan gave an illuminating look at ‘The Washington Scene.’

The popular Trade Show and Reception commenced Tuesday evening activities, followed by the Banquet and Awards program.

The meeting’s final morning began Wednesday with the MMUA Business Meeting.

Mark Fritsch of Current Compass consulting provided inside information on new developments in Electric Service Issues.

With the state’s deadline to adopt a Distributed Generation interconnection policy recently in place, Bill Black and Bob Jagusch of MMUA discussed the Interconnection Policy and Procedure for Your Utility. This included an open discussion forum.

MMUA staff took the meeting to the finish line, with a look at State Legislative Developments by Kent Sulem and Bill Black, MMUA; (and Doug Carnival, McGrann Shea), while an Issues Round-Up was provided by Jack Kelgel, Bob Jagusch and Mike Willetts.

Pre-conference afternoon activities included the popular ‘best ball’ scramble golf tournament at Deacon’s Lodge and a group bike ride on the Paul Bunyan trail.

MMUA thanks all the attendees, and the cities and utilities that sent them. We also thank all our meeting sponsors and the associate members that help make the event both fun and informative.

Moody’s affirms WMMPA Aa3 financial rating

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Moody’s Investors Service has affirmed its Aa3 rating with a stable outlook for the Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA). WMMPA also holds a rating of AA- from Fitch Ratings, making it one of just a few joint-action agencies from across the country to earn ratings in the double-A category from both Moody’s and Fitch.

Moody’s affirms WMMPA Aa3 financial rating

SIoux FallS, S.d. – Moody’s Investors Service has affirmed its Aa3 rating with a stable outlook for the Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA). WMMPA provides financing and is the owner of electric generation, transmission, and other facilities that are used by Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) to serve its 61 member municipal electric systems in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

WMMPA also holds a rating of AA- from Fitch Ratings, making it one of just a few joint-action agencies from across the country to earn ratings in the double-A category from both Moody’s and Fitch.

Solutions for Electric Generation

We'll deliver reliable, competitively-priced natural gas service for all your projects.

Contact Russ Wagner today.
612-321-5003
800-234-5800, ext. 5003
Russell.Wagner@CenterPointEnergy.com
www.TelcomConstruction.com

CenterPoint Energy
Always There.

Turn Key
Aerial Underground Construction
Urban and Rural Construction
Fiber Splicing/Testing
Project Management
Horizontal Directional Boring

Self Perform
Power/Gas/Wind Distribution Services
Trenching; Joint and Single Trench
Pole Replacement
Wireless Network Services
Material Procurement/Warehousing & Logistics

Larry Sanders
320-589-5117
www.telcomconstruction.com
320-536-9485

It may never be as big as the golf tournament, but the group bike ride continues to prove popular. Thanks to Scott Dietz of Alexandria (fifth from left) for being the unofficial leader of this group.

MMUA staffers Theresa Neddermeyer (left) and Rita Kelly made sure everything was in order prior to the Awards Banquet.
Doing a good job locally is in a day’s work, so sometimes it takes somebody a little further removed to recognize and honor outstanding contributions to local utilities, and Public Power in Minnesota. MMUA’s awards program recognizes municipal utility colleagues, public officials, and utilities for leadership and innovation and providing a good example for others to follow.

The Nominations and Awards Committee makes the determinations on the awards, which were presented Aug. 20 at the Summer Conference banquet. Unless covered elsewhere, our award winners this year included:

**Rising Star**
This year’s award was claimed by Nic Jenson, Journeyman Lineman, Anoka Municipal Utilities.

Municipal utility people often wear multiple hats and do whatever is needed. Jenson is one of those people. A lineman, Jenson stepped up to help with the purchases and technology implementation and also provided training. This has lowered costs. More importantly, it has helped with a paradigm shift in how utility employees see themselves and the possibilities open to them. Engaged employees now talk about how to improve and take on added responsibilities, including additional training in substation controls, power quality, metering, and safety.

A lot of this results from Nic talking with the others and getting their buy-in, and that is what makes him a Rising Star.

**Community Service**
The first recipient was Edward (Doc) Evans, Commissioner, Anoka Municipal Utilities.

Evans was appointed to the Anoka Planning Commission in 1972. He was appointed to the Anoka Utility Board in 1991 and has been a member ever since. He has been Anoka’s MMUA Representative since 1991 and its Power Agency Representative since 2003.

He has regularly attended MMUA summer and legislative meetings. When funds were cut, Ed either paid his own way to meetings or secured donations to attend.

His dedication to the local utility has provided continuity and direction. Anoka

**Awards:** see facing page
ERMU's Adams receives MMUA’s highest individual honor—the President’s Award

President Greg French bestowed MMUA’s highest individual honor—the President’s Award—on Troy Adams, General Manager, Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU).

Adams is a licensed professional electric engineer and Elk River’s General Manager for more than 10 years. In his remarks, French said he considered many people. As a utility general manager for a decade and working with the MMUA board for six years, there were a lot of very credible honorable mentions, said French.

But there was one person who continually came to his mind, “mostly because of the passion he always portrays not only to his utility, but also to public power utilities, MMUA, APPA, and his family.” Adams is one of a select group of individuals who has served as both President of MMUA and Chair of the MMUA Government Relations Committee, and has also been the recipient of the MMUA Distinguished Service Award.

Adams led Elk River through the process of achieving APPA’s Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) status, sits on the RP3 Review Panel, and represents Minnesota on the APPA Board. He was very instrumental in developing the MMUA Leadership Academy, is a strong advocate of the value of public power, and has been a leader and strong voice in the issue of lineman compensation.

Utility Director Greg Geiger said Ed has saved him hours of research into why things were done a certain way, and has prevented him from falling into potential pitfalls. His leadership and knowledge has allowed management to steer a new direction for the utility, and his knowledge and friendship are greatly appreciated.

Gary Nansen, Commissioner, Detroit Lakes Public Utilities Also honored with this award was Gary Nansen, President of the Detroit Lakes Public Utilities Commission. He was the principle owner and founder of a civil engineering firm and served as the Detroit Lakes City Engineer. When he retired, he agreed to serve on the local Public Utilities Commission. He also works as a Civil Engineering technology instructor at the technical college in Detroit Lakes.

When Gary became Commission President in early 2016 he became a member of the APPA Policy Makers Council. Gary has always been an excellent advocate of Public Power and has worked hard at the national and state levels to protect the interest of municipal power.

Connie Wangen, General Manager (Retired), Princeton Public Utilities Connie Wangen started at Princeton Public Utilities as a secretary in 1985—She retired in May of this year as the utility’s general manager. Over those 34 years, she held a number of different positions, and was named general manager in December 2012. Connie is an outstanding example of a person giving much of their working life to a municipal utility, and MMUA was pleased to honor her.

Paul Teicher, Public Works Director, City of St. Francis Paul Teicher has been the City of St. Francis public works director for 11 years. Paul runs an efficient department, works well with other departments and the city council and plays an important role in planning the future of growing city utility system.

ZIEGLER POWER SYSTEMS

RELIABLE POWER WHEN YOU NEED IT

SALES AND RENTAL

• Diesel and natural gas generators
• UPS, switchgear, circuit breakers, protective relays, and Automatic Transfer Switches
• Portable temperature control units

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE:
888.320.4292

Providing Turnkey Construction Services Since 1973
Safe, Reliable, Quality Services

www.mpotech.biz

Gas, Overhead & Underground Electric Installation, Splicing & Terminations, Cable Pulling, Pole Replacement, Maintenance & Support, Conduit & Man-Hole Installation, Hydro Vac, Storm Restoration, Alternative Energy

Minnesota Office:
9938 State Hwy 55 NW Annandale, MN
Texas Office:
14140 Cypress N Houston, Houston, TX

September 2019 The Resource/9
This prestigious award symbolizes a long professional life dedicated not only to the advancement of municipal utilities locally, but also for the betterment of our industry on a statewide basis. Two people received this award:

Darryl Tveitbakk, Northern Municipal Power Agency

Darryl Tveitbakk started in the municipal utility industry as a city of Thief River Falls technician, where he worked for 17 years. He left to teach electronics before being hired to do a marketing study for Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA). Following three years as a consultant, the Agency hired Tveitbakk as Director of Customer Service in 1996. He was promoted to General Manager in 1999, where he served for almost 20 years, until his retirement in November 2018.

Darryl provided support to many small communities in a variety of areas, while impressing the value of public power to the communities served. He presented many utility-specific topics to local service clubs, which provided another valuable opportunity to reach people about electric utility issues, and their impact on the local utility and public power.

Darryl was also a key person on political issues. State and federal elected officials often sought his input on bills and were appreciative of his knowledge and insight.

Darryl was involved on many MMUA task forces and committees over the years. He testified whenever requested. He also encouraged and gained the participation of others at the state and federal level. Darryl was also a great resource in the development of the "M" State Lineworker Program in Northern Minnesota. Darryl continues to serve as a Pennington County commissioner. He has always been a strong advocate for public power and will no doubt continue to provide direction to the industry. Darryl's 40 years of service and dedication places him firmly in the ranks of those well-respected, hard-working public power advocates who have earned an MMUA Honorary Lifetime Membership.

Harold 'H' Peterson, Blooming Prairie Public Utilities

Peterson (pictured on page 3) has been a model advocate for public power on the state and national level.

'H' moved to Blooming Prairie after college to become an art teacher. He found a great place to live and raise a family and worked tirelessly to make it a wonderful small city. He has retired from teaching but remains active with local government and civics.

'H' was a fixture at MMUA and APPA legislative rallies. As mayor, he could relate to elected officials while advocating for our state and federal legislative priorities. His friendly nature and quick wit made him a favorite in any legislative visit, and being an elected official from a small town added great credence to the message he delivered.

He served on the MMUA board from 2016-2018 and also chaired the Minnesota Mayors Association board.

For his dedication to bettering our industry on a state and national level, we are pleased to honor ‘H’ Peterson.

The Willmar contingent included, from left to right: Bruce DeBlieck, John Harren, Distinguished Service Award winner Carol Laumer and Michelle Marotzke.

The MMUA Leadership Academy is a high-level executive leadership development course, focused in four intense, two-day sessions over the course of a year. The primary instructor for the Academy is Kent Myers, who provides strategic visioning, operational effectiveness, and technology alignment consulting services to global companies.

The journey addresses key challenges that leaders must master in four intense, two-day sessions over the course of a year.

Awards: continued from facing page

President and Secretary for the Willmar Municipal Utilities (WMU) Commission. She has chaired the WMU Labor Committee and has served as an Alternate for the Planning Committee.

Carol has been a long-time supporter of MMUA and local utilities. She has spent countless hours working with local community leaders and staff, state legislators and national officials to advocate for policies that benefit public power.

Outside of her APPA, MMUA and WMU service, Carol has been involved in many national, state and local organizations including Willmar Downtown Development, Inc., which she served as president. She also served as a local chamber board member and is an MMUA board member.

System Innovation Award

This year the award went to Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) and its Douglas Trail Substation.

A large medical records company asked RPU to construct a dedicated substation to provide service to a data center. This presented a number of challenges, including a very condensed schedule for a project within a small, oddly shaped parcel.

RPU partnered with its consulting engineer created together, the utility and its planning to reach people about electric utility issues, and their impacts on the local utility and public power.

Darryl Tveitbakk is an NMPA and MMUA board member and is an MMUA board member.

One size fits all – DOESN'T. And neither do our solutions.

We work for your community with your needs and best interest in mind.

bolton-menk.com

For more information, contact Rita Kelly at rkelly@mmua.org or 763.746.0707.

Groups Forming Now for Leadership Academy 2020

The MMUA Leadership Academy is a high-level executive leadership development course, focused on meeting the needs of MMUA members. Curriculum was developed and tailored based on feedback from well-respected municipal utility leaders. The Academy is designed to instill the key skills, awareness, and perspective needed by today’s leaders.

The primary instructor for the Academy is Kent Myers, who provides strategic visioning, operational effectiveness, and technology alignment consulting services to global companies.

The journey addresses key challenges that leaders must master in four intense, two-day sessions over the course of a year.

Sessions for 2020 include: •March 4-5 •May 27-28 •September 23-24 •December 2-3

For more information, contact Rita Kelly at rkelly@mmua.org or 763.746.0707.

10/September 2019 The Resource
State Sen. Osmek and Breckenridge duo recognized with Public Service Awards

The MMUA Public Service Award is given to a local, state, or federal elected or appointed official who has been a strong supporter of MMUA and its members. MMUA has a clear winner of this award in 2019.

Senator Dave Osmek, Chairperson of the Minnesota Senate Energy and Utilities Committee, represents the western part of Hennepin County. His district does not include a municipal electric utility. Still, Sen. Osmek has proven to be a loyal friend to municipal utilities and the recently completed 2019 legislative session shows why Sen. Osmek is a worthy recipient of MMUA’s Public Service Award.

MMUA worked with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association to develop legislation that would modernize and improve the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP).

In the House, the energy committee chair wouldn’t give our bill a hearing.

In the Senate, however, Chair Osmek requested a member of his committee to be the chief author while he signed on as a co-author. Sen. Osmek promptly gave the bill a thorough hearing, even indulging a short “time-out” while an amendment was worked out to address concerns of some opponents. The Sen. also included the amended CIP language in his Omnibus Energy bill. Then he went to work trying to obtain final adoption of the desired reform, including blocking an attempt to strip the language from the omnibus bill, and pushing back strongly when special interest groups that had not previously testified on the bill waited until the last minute to attack it.

Unfortunately the House’s insistence that CIP be traded off for support of their 100 percent carbon free mandate and equally unacceptable provisions of a Clean Energy First bill doomed any CIP reform for 2019.

It would have been easy for Sen. Osmeb to have cut a deal with the House and secure a “green” vote for members of his party. Instead, he stuck by to his mantra of “Don’t reward bad behavior” and would be bullied into accepting what would have been active with other public power entities, local organizations and activities.

They are great commission-ers, said Breckenridge Director of Public Service Neil Crocker. They are active, fully-engaged and well-prepared for meetings and making important decisions. They don’t spend much time looking back, but are committed to moving Breckenridge forward and keeping it a good place to live and work, for future generations.

These gentlemen are outstanding role models for the public power policymaker. For their positive outlook, and long-standing support for Breckenridge Public Utilities and public power in Minnesota, we honor Glen Rakow and Gordon Martinson.

In a presentation made locally, Glen Rakow (left) and Gordon Martinson (right) received their awards from MMUA’s Steve Downer. (photo courtesy of Carrie McDermott, Wahpeton Daily News.)
Minnesota utilities respond to call for ‘mutual aid’ coming from Hurricane Dorian

The MMUA-organized mutual aid crew took time for a quick picture Saturday, Aug. 31, before departing for Florida.

The United States saw a surge in new wind capacity in the first half of 2019 with a record amount under construction, according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA).

Wind developers brought online 1,577 megawatts in the first six months, up 53 percent from the year-ago period, AWEA said in an Aug 1 report.

Texas added 734 MW in the first half of this year and Iowa installed 536 MW, the trade group said. AWEA expects wind additions to grow in the near-term, with a record 20,900 MW under construction at the end of the second quarter and the same amount in advanced stages of development, up 10 percent from the first half of last year.

In the midst of extremely hot and humid weather, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas on Aug. 13 issued an energy emergency alert, a call for conservation that hadn’t been declared since January 2014.

On the afternoon of Aug. 13, ERCOT’s average real-time market energy price hit the $9,000 per megawatt-hour offer cap.

A July 18 joint staff report released by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation offered recommendations and identified sound practices for power industry participants to consider related to cold weather events. On Jan. 17, 2018, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Southwest Power Pool called for voluntary reductions in electricity use due to abnormally cold temperatures and higher than forecast demand. The report found that, despite prior guidance from FERC and NERC, cold weather events continue to result in unplanned outages that imperil reliable system operations.
MMUA recently gained several new Associate Members. They include:

**Basic Concepts, Inc., d/b/a Countryman Network Supply**

Justrite Engineered Solutions offers a variety of customizable oil containment and filtration systems for the power utility industry. All are in compliance with IEEE Std. 980 and meet or exceed SPCC and Clean Water Act regulations.

Justrite has installed more than 10,000 secondary containment solutions globally. Our in-house assessment and engineered drawings to identifying the best customized solutions and installation, our consultative team of experts will ensure you covered.

**Address:** 1310 Harris Bridge Road, Anderson, SC 29621. Phone: 864.224.7227. Main contact is Thom White, Regional Sales Manager, 502.267.0101 ext. 5554.

**Countryman Network Supply**

Countryman Network Supply has been providing communications products and services to electric utilities for over 10 years. We supply all communication products required to keep electric projects connected and central offices supplied with grid information: security cameras, load feeder monitoring cables, hardened switches and connectivity, optical test tools and training, as well as smart mesh wireless and backhaul to connect remote locations. With over 60 years in the telecom provider space, Countryman Network Supply is uniquely qualified to provide products and expertise in FTTH deployments. Countryman can also provide long-haul substation OPGW terminations through our services division, HFC.

**Address:** 4245 East 26th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406. Phone: 612.724.4400. Main contact is Louie Bumgardner, J.V.P. Sales/Operations, 651.269.1281.

**DC - Group**

With more than 25 years of experience in critical backup power, we know the manpower, experience, and knowledge to fully execute all aspects of UPS system requirements. With over 60 years in the telecom provider space, Countryman Network Supply is uniquely qualified to provide products and expertise in FTTH deployments. Countryman can also provide long-haul substation OPGW terminations through our services division, HFC.

**Address:** 1977 West River Road North, Minneapolis, MN 55411. Phone: 612.529.9516. Toll Free: 800.838.7927. Fax 612.529.9518. Main contact is Meg Jaskowiak, Executive Sales, 612.787.0707.

**Gallagher**

Gallagher’s public sector experts understand the market, the players, the legislation, and the cost factors. With Gallagher Better Work℠, our comprehensive approach to benefits, compensation, retirement, employee communication and workplace culture, we help public sector employers align financial realities with employee expectations and organizational goals. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. (NYSE: AIG) is an international insurance brokerage and risk management services firm.


**HomeServe USA**

HomeServe USA is an independent provider of home repair plans. For over a decade, we have helped homeowners protect against water, sewer, electrical, heating, and cooling home emergencies by managing affordable coverage, and offering a quality service.

**HomeServe** serves over 3.7 million homeowners, and has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau. HomeServe provides emergency repair services through leading utility partners, municipalities and directly to consumers.

**Address:** 601 Merritt 7, 6th Floor, Norwalk, CT 06851. Phone: 412.874.9545. Toll Free: 855.356.8143. Contact Brianna Govoni, Senior Manager, Business Development, 617.719.3672.

**KPGCo**

KPGCo is the country’s largest product distribution and service solution provider in the telecommunications industry. A Tier 1 woman-owned diversity business. KPGCo is the only large scale organization that combines a comprehensive suite of communication network management, engineering, and implementation services with a national logistics network and portfolio of manufacturer partnerships. We evaluate ‘cloud’ solutions developed and operationalized in a live network environment. KPGCo provides a comprehensive array of products, services and solutions to the communications market.

**Address:** 3305 MN-60, Faribault, MN 55021. Phone: 507-334-2208. Contact Alli Miller, field sales development manager, 507-261-4645.

**Master Meter, Inc.**

Master Meter is a high-service solution provider specializing in advanced digital water metering, data delivery, and Utility Intelligence (UI) software in support of water utilities evolving role within Smart Cities. Everything we do is designed to help our utility customers reduce costs, improve efficiencies, and promote water stewardship for their customers.


**PMA Financial Network/4M Fund**

PMA Financial Network has been a leading provider of public sector financial services since 1984, currently serving over 2,400 public entities in 11 states. Through our administration of the League of Minnesota Cities-sponsored 4M Fund for Minnesota municipal entities, PMA has built a reputation as a reliable, professional financial organization offering unique products and services to meet community needs. Public entities in Minnesota turn to PMA as a trusted partner and integral component of their long-term financial success.

**Address:** 5209 Tyler Avenue NE, 2nd Floor, Albertville, MN 55301. Phone: 763.497.1490. Toll Free: 800.783.4273. Fax: 763.497.1491. Website: www.4mfund.com. Contact Kent Johnson, Sr. VP, Director - MN Office, 612.509.2560.

**Ramco Turf Products**

Our slogan is and always will be, “...it starts with the seed!” It is the foundation of the company – from lawn and turf seed, forage and wildlife mixtures, native grasses and wildflowers, and more. We provide mixtures for every state agency and federal program and beyond. It doesn’t stop there – Profile Products for hydro mulch, Eco-Guard for erosion blankets, WinFAB for geo-textiles – all heavy hitters in our market and all close partners.


**Ulteig Engineers, Inc.**

Ulteig delivers comprehensive engineering, program management and technical and field services that strengthen infrastructure vital to everyday life. Ulteig connects people and resources to develop compelling, integrated solutions across multiple Lifestyle Sectors®, including power, renewables, transportation and water. Ulteig’s footprint spans the country and leverages its expertise with a wide range of public and private clients.


---

**BE PREPARED WITH FS3’s EXCAVATION VERIFICATION KIT**

FS3’s Excavation Verification Kit Includes:

1. (1) tri-fold ruler, (3) foldable “MARK” markers, (1) foldable “HIT” marker, whiteboard, marker set and eraser all compacted neatly into a 13” x 17” drawstring backpack.

---

September 2019 The Resource/13
Classified Ad

Director of Public Works
The City of Sleepy Eye and Sleepy Eye Public Utilities are seeking a Director of Public Works.

Position Summary
Performs highly responsible management, administrative, and professional duties as the Director of Public Works of the City and Public Utilities. The employee is expected to exercise a high degree of independence, initiative, and professional expertise in the administration and day-to-day management of the Public Utilities and Public Works departments in accordance with policy established by Public Utilities Commission, the City Council, the City Charter, and City, State, and Federal laws, regulations, and guidelines. Overall responsibility for Electric, Water, Wastewater, Street, and Parks departments by providing visionary, innovative leadership, supervision, and general direction for the department leaders to coordinate their efforts toward achieving their departmental objectives. Directs the development and administration of the Public Utilities budget and capital program, provides input to the development of the Street department budget and capital program, and oversees development, planning, and implementation of a strategic plan, goals and objectives to meet the operational needs of the City and Public Utility.

Job Duties or Essential Functions
Administers and enforces the City Charter as it relates to Public Utilities and is responsible for the operations of the Public Utilities. Manages and supervises the operations of all Utility and Public Works departments. Directs the financial activities of the Public Utility pursuant to Chapter 11 of the City Charter. Performs communications activities. Attends all PUC meetings, City Council meetings and other public meetings as necessary. Performs other duties as assigned or apparent.

Minimum Qualifications
To perform this position successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential function satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the formal education, experience, and training required.

Education
Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university

Experience
Significant related experience

Additional Qualifications
Significant related experience

Classified Ads: see facing page

Accountants and Consultants

Engineers and Engineering Firms

Attorneys

Electrical Equipment and Suppliers

Like us on facebook!

This newsletter contains all the news that is fit to print. Our facebook page contains... well, so much more! see us (and Septemberbe yourself!) at Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association While you are at it, follow us at #MMUAtweets

Professional Services Directory

Like us on facebook!

This newsletter contains all the news that is fit to print. Our facebook page contains... well, so much more! see us (and Septemberbe yourself!) at Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association While you are at it, follow us at #MMUAtweets

Professional Services Directory

Classified Ad

Director of Public Works
The City of Sleepy Eye and Sleepy Eye Public Utilities are seeking a Director of Public Works.

Position Summary
Performs highly responsible management, administrative, and professional duties as the Director of Public Works of the City and Public Utilities. The employee is expected to exercise a high degree of independence, initiative, and professional expertise in the administration and day-to-day management of the Public Utilities and Public Works departments in accordance with policy established by Public Utilities Commission, the City Council, the City Charter, and City, State, and Federal laws, regulations, and guidelines. Overall responsibility for Electric, Water, Wastewater, Street, and Parks departments by providing visionary, innovative leadership, supervision, and general direction for the department leaders to coordinate their efforts toward achieving their departmental objectives. Directs the development and administration of the Public Utilities budget and capital program, provides input to the development of the Street department budget and capital program, and oversees development, planning, and implementation of a strategic plan, goals and objectives to meet the operational needs of the City and Public Utility.

Job Duties or Essential Functions
Administers and enforces the City Charter as it relates to Public Utilities and is responsible for the operations of the Public Utilities. Manages and supervises the operations of all Utility and Public Works departments. Directs the financial activities of the Public Utility pursuant to Chapter 11 of the City Charter. Performs communications activities. Attends all PUC meetings, City Council meetings and other public meetings as necessary. Performs other duties as assigned or apparent.

Minimum Qualifications
To perform this position successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential function satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the formal education, experience, and training required.

Education
Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university

Attention: Classified Ads

Classified Ads: see facing page

Classified Ad

Director of Public Works
The City of Sleepy Eye and Sleepy Eye Public Utilities are seeking a Director of Public Works.

Position Summary
Performs highly responsible management, administrative, and professional duties as the Director of Public Works of the City and Public Utilities. The employee is expected to exercise a high degree of independence, initiative, and professional expertise in the administration and day-to-day management of the Public Utilities and Public Works departments in accordance with policy established by Public Utilities Commission, the City Council, the City Charter, and City, State, and Federal laws, regulations, and guidelines. Overall responsibility for Electric, Water, Wastewater, Street, and Parks departments by providing visionary, innovative leadership, supervision, and general direction for the department leaders to coordinate their efforts toward achieving their departmental objectives. Directs the development and administration of the Public Utilities budget and capital program, provides input to the development of the Street department budget and capital program, and oversees development, planning, and implementation of a strategic plan, goals and objectives to meet the operational needs of the City and Public Utility.

Job Duties or Essential Functions
Administers and enforces the City Charter as it relates to Public Utilities and is responsible for the operations of the Public Utilities. Manages and supervises the operations of all Utility and Public Works departments. Directs the financial activities of the Public Utility pursuant to Chapter 11 of the City Charter. Performs communications activities. Attends all PUC meetings, City Council meetings and other public meetings as necessary. Performs other duties as assigned or apparent.

Minimum Qualifications
To perform this position successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential function satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the formal education, experience, and training required.

Education
Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university

Attention: Classified Ads

Classified Ads: see facing page
Professional Services Directory

Equipment Manufacturers, Suppliers, Service

Products you need service you expect

Where you need us, when you need us, with 11 Minnesota locations to serve you.
Contact us today.

Utility Construction

Materials & Equipment

Tools & Safety Products

9300 64th Street NW
PO Box 989
Annandale MN 55302
(320) 274-7223
FAX (320) 274-7205
WWW.WS3INC.BIZ

Equipment and Supplies

Contact RESCO for all of your distribution, transmission and substation project needs.
1-800-364-3300 info@resco1.com www.resco1.com
P.O. Box 140 | Monticello, MN 55361

Equipment and Supplies

Enterprise Software Solutions

Designs for Utilities

National Information Solutions Cooperative

www.NISC.com

Generation Services and Equipment

energis

High Voltage Resources

“Serving everything inside the substation fence”
ENERGISINC.COM
800.928.6960

Ziegler

Power Systems

Proven Power Solutions
Sales, Service, Rental.
888.320.4292

Management & Professional Consultants

Avant

220 South Sixth Street Suite 1300 Minneapolis, MN 55402
TEL 612.349.8888
FAX 612.349.8108
Info@AvantEnergy.com

Training & Education

MINN E D U. (888) LINENWOK

Linenman.edu | (888) Linenwork

New Programs Available

Electrical Lineworker Program

$73,000 Average Wage
15 Week Program

Gas Distribution Program

$66,000 Average Wage
7 Week Program

Telephone Communications Lineworker Program

$63,000 Average Wage
1 Week Program

Total Number of Copies (Net press run) 2018 2064
Copies Not Distributed 56 51
Total Distribution: 2013
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Inside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 2012
Free of Nominal Rate Outside County Copies 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Inside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 1992
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Copies Not Distributed 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Outside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 2015
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Copies Not Distributed 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Inside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 2019
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Copies Not Distributed 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Inside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 2019
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Copies Not Distributed 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Inside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 2019
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Copies Not Distributed 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Inside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 2019
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Copies Not Distributed 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Inside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 2019
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Copies Not Distributed 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Inside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 2019
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Copies Not Distributed 0 0
Free of Nominal Rate Inside County Copies 0 0
Total Paid Distribution 2019
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Paid Distribution Outside the Mails 0 0
Effective Date: 2017-05-01

Legal Notice:

United States Postal Service
Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation
USPS Form 3526 (as filed)
1.) Publication Title: The MMUA Resource
2.) Publication Number: 1080-3750
3.) Filing Date: 9/11/2019
4.) Issue Frequency: Monthly (combining the months of July-August)
5.) Number of Issues Published Annually: 11
6.) Annual Subscription Price: $12.00
7.) Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 3025 Harbor Lane N., #400, Plymouth, MN 55447-5142
8.) Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: same
9.) Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Steve Downer – MMUA – same address
Managing Editor: same
Contact Person - Steve Downer, 763-551-1230
10.) Full Name: Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association. Complete Mailing Address: 3025 Harbor Lane N., #400, Plymouth, MN 55447-5142
11.) Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 months
12.) Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 months
13.) Publication Title: The MMUA Resource

September 2019 The Resource/15
some of the funds to help pay for the improvements were already being collected. Rate studies continue along with future bonding plans.

With the substation work complete, the utility built underground, heavy feeder lines to the industrial park, which continues to expand. It also replaced all of the old overhead ‘delta’ voltage, in this area, with a new 12.5-kV system, underground, in the entire north half of the city. A couple of south feeders, including downtown, await the upgrade from 2,400 volts.

On July 8, 2019, the city received a $609,000 business development infrastructure grant for the industrial park project from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Spring Valley Public Utilities contributed about $200,000 to the project. The remaining $500,000 will come from city funds — $320,000 is in an industrial park fund while the rest was set aside last year, pending the state grant.

The utility is now well-positioned to handle anticipated growth for the foreseeable future. The growing city of 2,500 a half-hour south of Rochester has recorded a peak electrical demand of 5.4 megawatts. The substation has 10 MW capacity and the power plant can generate up to seven MW.

The power plant proved its worth again during the early ‘polar vortex.’ With many other types of electrical generation, including wind turbines, wouldn’t work in the 30-below temps, the Spring Valley crew responded to the challenge and kept their plant online throughout the emergency. If necessary, “We can live off the grid pretty comfortably,” Smith said.

The plant houses four engines: a Fairbanks Morse opposed-piston vintage workhorse, a 2-megawatt Cooper and two new Caterpillars. Fuel is either diesel, a bio-diesel blend or natural gas. The engines meet current federal emissions regulations.

When Smith started at the utility in 1971, it generated all of its own power locally, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Spring Valley now buys its power at wholesale and is a member of the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA). Wholesale power rates are stable. Along with generation, the utility boasts a robust local distribution system. A 2019 ice storm knocked out power in the surrounding areas, but there was “not a spot of trouble in town,” Smith pointed out.

Dedicated, qualified staff

The utility does it all with eight people: two in the office and five on the generating/line crew. They are overseen by Smith, a Spring Valley native who has worked two stints at the utility, the second starting in 1993. Each member of the line crew worked their way through the MMUA Apprenticeship Training Program to achieve journeyman status. Each is also a proficient power plant operator. The utility also provides water service.

The first electric provider was the Spring Valley Electric Light and Investment Company, which generated power from a now-demolished plant located across the street from the current municipal plant. The local investor-owned utility eventually merged with a larger company, and Spring Valley municipalized electric service in 1936.

Rodeo and Overhead School Registration Re-Opened!

Municipal electric crews responded to the call for mutual aid in advance of Hurricane Dorian. To answer the call MMUA postponed the September Lineworkers Rodeo and Overhead School.

If you previously considered attending but the September dates didn’t work, we hope these new dates will.

Minnesota Lineworkers Rodeo - Tuesday, Oct. 15
Overhead School - Tuesday to Friday, Oct. 15-18

Registration is open through Thursday, Sept. 19. Schedules and programs are unchanged. Cross Training School held with the Overhead School.

For more, see the ‘Events’ calendar at www.mmua.org or contact Theresa Neddermeyer at 763.551.1230 or tneddermeyer@mmua.org

The Spring Valley Public Utilities power plant is located across the street from the original privately-owned plant that served the city, and next to a trout stream – Spring Valley Creek. The creek is a tributary of Bear Creek, which feeds into the Root River and enters the Mississippi at Hokah.

Morning light illuminates a Cooper-Bessemer engine.

The main control panel in the power plant has been upgraded over the years. A clipboard for record-keeping remains, as a back-up to computerized methods.

Upcoming MMUA Events

Transformer School Pre-Conference Dec. 10-11 Marshall
Transformer School Dec. 11-13 Marshall

Scott Meinecke brings more than 25 years of instruction experience. Meinecke was a technical school instructor and now works for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. This school offers the ultimate combination of classroom and hands-on instruction. The Pre-Conference covers single-phase connections and theory. Register now!

Technical and Operations Conference Dec. 3-5 St. Cloud

Watch your email for information on this popular conference for managers, crew leaders, lineworkers and other interested Public Power professionals.

Save these 2020 dates:

Jan. 21-22.................Overhead and Underground Line Design Workshop - Plymouth
Feb. 11-14..............Meter School and Pre-Conference, Marshall
Feb. 26-27............Lineworker Rodeo Clinic, Marshall
March 17-18...........PCB/Spill Cleanup Workshop, Plymouth
March 24-26............Substation School, location TBD
March 31/April 1.....Legislative Conference, St. Paul
April 21-23.............Generation School, Hutchinson
May 12-15..............Underground School, Marshall
May 30..................MN ‘Public Power’ Walleye Fishing Tournament, Ottertail

“Everybody does everything,” is how Smith put it.

Early electric service Electric power and waterworks came to the city in 1893.