

Consent Agenda  
Minnesota Section of American Water Works Association  
Governing Board Meeting  
May 7, 2010

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

January 28, 2010 – Working Session  
January 29, 2010 – Governing Board meeting

**Corrections/Additions:**

**FINANCIAL REPORT (Stew Thornley)**

As of March 2010, section income was \$48,137 and expenses were \$29,629 for a net gain of \$18,508. Investments are up since the beginning of the year by \$13,154 for a net income of \$31,662.

**ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Dave Schultz)**

A new National AWWA Executive Director has been selected by the executive committee. David LaFrance currently David is Director of Finance for Denver Water, where he Serve as a member of the Executive Staff reporting to the Manager and Board of Denver Water on all financial matters. Supervise and manage all financial operations and financial personnel of Denver Water.

David's past work experience includes: Project Manager/Utility Rate Economist, CH2M HILL, Natural Resources Economist, Corps of Engineers, Portland, OR. Craig Woolard, (AWWA President) called a Board Special Session at Washington D.C where Mr. Lafrance was ratified as the Executive Director. This special session was conducted in conjunction with the AWWA Water Matters! Fly-In. Pat Shea - Saint Cloud utilities, Bob Cockriel – Bloomington Utilities and yours truly represented the Minnesota Section at the Fly-In. Water Matters! Fly-In main focus this year was supporting:

A Water Infrastructure Bank

Action Requested:

Support creation of a water infrastructure bank that would provide low-cost capital to water utilities needing to invest in infrastructure, and to State Revolving Funds.

Support reform and expanded capitalization of state revolving loan fund programs for drinking water and wastewater. To that end, the Senate should bring to the floor and vote for S.1005, the Water Infrastructure Financing Act.

Remove water projects from the state volume cap on Private Activity Bonds by supporting H.R. 537, the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Investment Act.

A Federal Water Infrastructure Bank

To lower the cost of infrastructure investments and to increase the availability of lower-cost capital, AWWA urges Congress to create a federal Water Infrastructure Bank. AWWA commissioned a study of water infrastructure finance tools and developed a model for an infrastructure bank that would lower the cost of capital for water utilities while having no or little effect on the federal budget deficit. Our model would have the Water Infrastructure Bank obtain loans from the U.S. Treasury at Treasury rates and pass those savings onto local water utilities or state SRF funds.

Finally, there is something the federal government should not do: it should not impose any tax on water, water use, or water bills. AWWA will strongly oppose a federal water tax in any form.

AWWA urges members of Congress to support chemical security legislation that applies to water utilities only if it:

1. Does not include authority to order the use of "inherently safer technology." Decisions concerning utility choice of disinfectant are complex, are based on critical local factors, and must remain local decisions.
2. Provides adequate protection of sensitive information. Personnel (including collective bargaining agents) who are not water system employees, their contractors, or government agents, should not have access to or be involved in the development of vulnerability assessments or site security plans.

A Guide to Choosing the Appropriate Disinfectant

Disinfectants are the primary chemicals of concern in water security discussions, with chlorine gas the particular target. AWWA understands that the choice of disinfectant is based on a variety of critically important local factors, such as local water chemistry, particular pathogens, environmental factors, and local infrastructure.

Minnesota Section shines again

The Minnesota Section hosted the AWWA Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO) April 16th and 17th. 50 section officers participated in this year's event where they were treated to Minnesota hospitality. The meeting was held on the 50th floor of the IDS building in downtown Minneapolis. Participants were very impressed by the beauty of the city, the ease of transportation with the light rail system. "The best of all" was The Water for People Concert. Big congratulations must go out to all involved in the organization of this year's concert. I can see this event getting bigger and better every year. I know Minnesota Section AWWA wowed all RMSO participants. Great Job!!!

Getting ready for the Ace

Chicago ACE promises to be a great conference June 21st -24th. The board of directors meeting will be held Sunday June 20th with a special session held Saturday June 19th.

Minnesota Section luncheon will be held Monday June 21st at Heaven on Seven, 600 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL for more info e-mail [jfranz@engamerica.com](mailto:jfranz@engamerica.com)

Minnesota Section Base Ball Game Dave Allen is organizing a night out to see a MLB game. If you are interested in participating call Dave at 612-782-9716.

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

### **Central District (Lisa Vollbrecht)**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The MN AWWA Central District Three Day Training session held at Ruttger's Lodge in Deerwood, MN is scheduled for June 9-11, 2010. There is still time to register!

The MN AWWA Central District One Day Training session held at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN is scheduled for October 20, 2010.

Anyone interested in speaking/presenting or assisting with the above session, please contact a Lisa Vollbrecht at (320) 255-7225 or a Central District Planning Committee member.

### **Metro District (Mike Bramwell)**

No report.

### **Northeast District (Mark Proulx)**

No report.

### **Northwest District (Brian Bergantine)**

A planning meeting for the Northwest District Operator School is tentatively scheduled for 10 a.m. on July 6, 2010 at the Holiday Inn-Lakeside hotel in Detroit Lakes. The Northwest Section encourages everyone who is interested in helping to plan this event to attend this meeting. If you are interested in speaking/presenting or have any topics that you would like to see covered during the 2010 Northwest District Operator School, please contact either Brian Bergantine or a Northwest District Planning Committee member.

The MN AWWA Section was the host for the Region III Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO) on April 16 and 17, 2010. This meeting was held in Minneapolis on the 50th floor of the IDS Center, also known as the WINDOWS on Minnesota. A few of the topics reviewed over the 1½ days included: 1) Affiliation Agreements; 2) AWWA Membership Retention; 3) AWWA Washington Update; and 4) Water For People (WFP). Dinner and a WFP concert showcasing Johnny Holm Band at the Medina Ballroom was the highlighted event and was very well attended. Thanks to everyone who came out to help WFP!

### **Southeast District (Dennis DuChene)**

No report.

### **Southwest District (Mark Sweers)**

The Southwest District held its winter planning meeting on February 4, 2010 in Redwood Falls. Present were nine SW District Officers and committee members. The winter meeting is held to plan the spring school and set a date and location for the fall school.

The spring school is set for April 15th at the Redwood Falls Community Center. The agenda includes an MDH Update, DNR Conservation Rates, Fusible C-900 Pipe, Lewis & Clark, Air/Water Backwashing, and Well Measurement. Also, included will be meter madness and a taste test contest.

The SW District spring business meeting will include the election of a new vice-chair and a trustee to represent the district at the section.

The SW fall school is scheduled for October 6, 2010 in St. Peter.

### **Trustee-At-Large (Lyle Stai)**

In the recent past, I have participated in these district school functions:

SE District planning meeting for their 3-day school

SW District planning meeting for their 1-day school

SE District 3-day school

Central District planning meeting for their 3-day school

What probably has impressed me the most over the years is how well thought-out these schools have been. Early in my 38 year work career, I realized that the success of these schools wasn't something that just happened. It happened because of the diligent work of the various planning committees in choosing excellent topics and speakers for each school. You are welcome to participate with your district education committee for each of the school planning meetings. Your district trustee will be able to tell you where and when these planning meetings will be held.

## **COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Administration Council (Jon Eaton)**

The Council has completed and the Board has approved the Section by-law update. AWWA approved the update at the Winter Board meeting.

Meeting schedule modifications

Volunteer coordinator

### ***Awards (Dave Brown)***

No notable activities since our last report.

If you are interested in joining the awards committee, new committee members would attend 3 meetings per year (either in person or by conference call) and perform various tasks between meetings to meet the committees goals. Please contact the committee chair, Dave Brown, if you are interested. Contact Dave at 763-463-5036 or david.brown@ae2s.com.

### ***Finance (Doug Rovang)***

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

10:00a –12:00p April 26, 2010

Bloomington Water Treatment Plant

Bloomington, MN

David Harris, Christine Meyer, Jon Eaton, Stew Thornley, and Travis Johnson (Wells Fargo Investment Representative) were present. Doug Rovang (chair) was absent.

The section financial status and investments as of March 31, 2010 were reviewed.

Travis Johnson, our Wells Fargo Investment representative, distributed and discussed the quarterly investment performance, discussed our current investments in relation to the investment policy statement or IPS, the investment platform (Wells Fargo Select), and the account signers.

Travis stated the majority of our investment losses have been recovered with the market and felt it was time to align our holdings with our IPS standards. The committee agreed. The transition term will be 6 to 12 months, and speed (amount of funds changed) and timing (done roughly on a monthly basis) depending on market performance and Travis's discretion. Travis will notify the committee chair (Doug Rovang) when transactions happen and the chair will notify the remaining committee members.

Travis suggested the Section change from the current Wells Fargo Select investment platform to the Wells Fargo Advisor investment platform. The change would allow higher performing investments not on the Select list to be utilized and limit the number of account signers needed per transaction. The committee agreed to the change.

Lastly, Travis identified the need to update the account signers; the listed signers were from calendar year 2002. He stated new laws require this update annually. Stew gathered the paperwork for the calendar year 2010 change. In the future, the Section should update the account signers just after the Fall Conference. In addition, the Finance Committee suggests the Board adopt the following policies in reference to Bylaw 6.3:

1. Management of Section investments will be performed by the Finance Committee
2. The Section Secretary/Treasurer and Section Chair shall be authorized signatures for purposes of repapering any financial accounts (banking, investments, etc.)

The budgeting process for the 2011 calendar year will begin soon. The committee suggests the following schedule:

Budget requests to Councils, Committees, Districts, and Board will go out in mid-May

Budget requests are due by 7/15

Finance Committee budget meeting is scheduled for 8/2

Executive Committee will have the proposed budget before 8/15

The Board will have the proposed budget before 9/1

The change from cash to accrual accounting began 1/1/2010.

KDV is working on the 2009 tax return and should have it completed by the May 15th deadline.

Stew noted that there were no finance committee related actions taken by at the previous board meeting.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for August 30, 2010 at the Bloomington Water Treatment Plant

Actions:

1. Approve the current investment alignment with the Section IPS
2. Approve the investment platform change
3. Approve the two policy recommendations
4. Approve the budget process schedule

### *Information Technology (Carol Kaszynski)*

The IT Track for the annual conference is almost complete. The topics will include field computing, GPS, GIS, Asset Management.

The Committee will be meeting to discuss the technology opportunities that can be provided to the various committees.

The website continues to have outdated pages. Past practices have included the webmaster continually requesting for updated information. Very few members respond to that request- thus the outdated pages. If the website is to be sustainable and a "go to" location for information, these updates will need to be more forth coming.

If any member or section leader has any suggestions regarding the updates, please contact the IT Committee Chairperson- Carol Kaszynski, ckaszynski@ci.bloomington.mn.us

### *Membership (Herb Watry)*

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS:

Total enrollment: 1054

Individual	395
Additional Actives	70
Operators	236
Students	36
Named Rep	93
Utility	97
Service Provider	15
Unknown	7

The Minnesota section is still ranked #22 among the other sections.

I attended the 2010 membership summit held in Henderson, Nevada Feb 4-6th. 37 Sections were represented from across the US, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico. Retention and recruitment were the hot topics. The key note speaker Sheri Jacobs gave a presentation on the new technology that is available today. Some sections are using a web site already. But the new trend is FACEBOOK, TWEETER, UTUBE just to name a few. President Elect Joe Mantua welcomed the attendees and gave the group a "POUR IT ON" PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE.

Incentives for section recruitment: We need to develop a membership plan (if not in place) set a target (goal) and recruit. To receive cash incentive we must produce 1% growth by Dec. 31, 2010 in the utility and service provider category.

Committee projects:

The committee met in January at the PWMC in Litchfield and included members via conference call. Topics of discussion,

New member welcome letter

New member kit: letter, cap or visor (gender) section pin,

Committee member duties

New hat and visor design

New member meet and greet at annual conference

The committee would like to be notified of your contact information changes. So the data base can be updated. Do you have a new employer, change of e-mail address, retired etc. Send information to herb.watry@ci.litchfield.mn.us membership Chair.

***Nominating*** (Bill Spain, Dave Schultz, Lyle Stai)

Director (Dave Schultz) and Chair-elect (Bill Spain)

At this year Annual Conference in Duluth the MN Section will be electing a Section Director, a Chair Elect and appointment (by the Chair) of Secretary Treasurer. The nominating committee consists of Lyle Stai – Trustee at Large, Bill Spain – Past Chair, Dave Schultz – Director. Dave and Bill will present the candidates at the upcoming Board meeting.

Trustee-At-Large (Lyle Stai)

The current term ends in Oct 2012.

### **Conference Council** (Corey Lubovich)

The 94th AWWA Minnesota Section Annual Conference will be held on Tuesday September 21st to Friday September 24th, 2010 at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. The planning and scheduling for this great event is in full swing. Speakers are being secured to fill the slots for such educational tracks as Information Technology, Research and Technical Case Studies. The Research tracks are mostly completed, but openings are still available for speakers in the areas of Information Technology and Technical Case Studies. If you have an interest in wanting to speak at one of these sessions, please contact the following:

Research Track: Doug Lubbin, 651-497-6498, doug.lubben@ch2m.com

Information Technology: Carol Kaszynski, 952-563-4848 ckaszynski@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Technical Case Studies: Jay Whitaker, 651-765-2915, jwhitaker@sehinc.com

The agenda for this year's conference will be similar to last year. On Tuesday September 21st, the Water for People golf, fishing and sporting clay tournaments are planned. The opening session on Wednesday September

22nd will once again be held at the OmniMax Theatre. The Vendor Exhibits will now be held in Pioneer Hall which is larger in space availability than last year's Fitzgerald Room location. The MAC Social is once again going to be held at Grandma's Sports Garden on Wednesday September 22nd. Thursday September 23rd will offer the educational tracks, with the evening banquet to follow. We will round out the Conference with a Friday morning technical session.

Please visit our Minnesota AWWA Section web site at [www.mnawa.org](http://www.mnawa.org) for more information in the coming weeks.

### **Minnesota Associates Council (Tony Belden)**

Minutes of the April 1, 2010 Meeting of the  
Minnesota Associates Council  
Minnesota Section, AWWA

The April 1, 2010 MAC meeting was held in the conference room of Engineering America, in Oakdale, MN. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tony Belden at 9:00 AM.

#### Attendance

MAC members present at the meeting: Voting Members - Tony Belden, Steve Mereness, Scott Bredehoft, Brad Forester, Chris Larson, Bob McNutt, Rod Ganther and Greg Johnson. Non Voting Members – Jay Whitaker and Ben Mason, MAC National Liaison

#### Non-Agenda Item

There was a short discussion of current business climate. While business remains relatively slow, some segments are starting to pick up. Ben reported that Hansen Concrete announced the closing of their plant in Apple Valley. The majority of the work out there right now is municipal work or plant work. The hope is that things have leveled off and will start to recover slowly towards the end of 2010.

#### Approval of Minutes

Chris Larson made the motion to accept the minutes from the December 3, 2009 meeting. Greg Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### MAC Roster Update

Ben Mason's term on the National MAC runs through the end of the year. Bernie Bullert term on the National MAC has just begun. Bernie will be the liaison for the National MAC to the MN Section MAC beginning next year.

Tony's term expires at the end of 2010. Tony indicated that after nine years on the MAC he will not be continuing as a member of the MAC Committee. Rod Ganther of Plant & Flange will take over as the MAC Chair after Tony.

Chris Larson's term expires @ the end of 2010 but, he indicated that he would like to continue on as a member of the committee.

There will be one roster opening on the MAC committee for a Manufacturer's Representative Tony discussed possible candidates for the positions and the need to get new people involved.

#### Committee Reports

Exhibits Committee: Chair Scott Bredehoft gave the report.

The fall conference will be in Pioneer Hall at the D.E.C.C. This is a much bigger space that will allow for more vendors. We will also need the extra space to more adequately handle the competitions.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the mini sessions at the conference and the process that should be used to select which topics or presenters are selected. After considering several options the group felt most comfortable with a "Call for Presentations" that will be sent out to all vendors from last year. It was agreed that being an exhibitor at the conference in 2010 is required in order to be considered as a presenter. It was also suggested that companies that were presenters last year be excluded from presenting this year. A selection committee lead by Brian Zinnel will review the presentation submissions and select 6 of these for conference presentations in the exhibit hall. Dave Harris will moderate the sessions again at the 2010 conference.

It was decided that the meter madness competition will need 2 booth spaces and the pipe tapping competition will need 4 spaces. This should not be a problem with our new venue.

Social Committee report

Paul Thom was not present. Tony reported that Paul has signed a contract to have the social hour at Grandma's Sports Garden again.

Tony suggested that congestion at the bar area could be alleviated by have barrels of bottled or canned beer away from the bar. Paul is going to check with the people at Grandma's.

The budget for the social hour is \$4,000, \$3,000 for Liquor and \$1,000 for food.

#### Conference Gift Budget

The general consensus is that the Best Buy gift certificates went over well last year. It was decided to do that again this year. Greg Johnson volunteered to purchase the gift certificates. It was agreed that we will give away \$1,500 total, (4) \$250 gift card and (1) \$500 gift card.

#### ACE Breakfast/Lunch

Tony reported that he has made reservations at "Heaven on Seven" in Chicago for the Minnesota Section lunch. We decided to try a lunch this year instead of a breakfast as we have done in years past. We'll see how it works out.

Tony asked for suggestions for speakers. While several people thought Mike Ditka would be a good choice, the feeling is that we could not afford his fee. Tony thought that he could get Tom Thayer, a former Chicago Bears player. Stay tuned as we are open for suggestions from others on a potential speaker.

Endowment Committee report  
Rod had nothing new to report.

#### Competitions Committee

Chris Glassing was not present but supplied Tony with an update via email. Tony reviewed the dates for the various District schools which will all feature a meter madness competition. There was some discussion about the date selected for the Northwest District School as it comes after the fall conference.

Harvey Maas from the City of Duluth was the 2009 Meter Madness State Champion and will attend the ACE to compete for the national title. A budget of \$1,400 has been set to pay his travel and expenses.

The Water Taste Test competition was very well received at the fall conference. Some of the District Schools will be holding Water Taste Test competitions.

Chris Larson reported that interest in the Pipe Tapping Competition is growing. Chris indicated that we will have to spend some time working on the logistics of actually doing the pipe tapping competition. It was suggested that we do a trial run at one of the district schools or at a Rural Water school. The question was asked as to whether we have asked the D.E.C.C. if we can do the competition. Cory will be asked to check on this.

#### Minnesota Section Update

Bert Tracy from the City of Golden Valley is the Chair-elect. He will be taking over from Pete Moulton at the end of the year.

Next Section meeting is in May, 2010.

There was discussion about the budget. Tony voiced the opinion that there needs to be flexibility within the budget to allow for unexpected things that come up during the year. Overall, the investments have come back some and the finances are in good shape.

#### National MAC Report

Ben reported that he and Bernie Bullert will be going to Las Vegas at the end of the month for the National MAC meeting.

David LaFrance is the new Executive Director of the National AWWA. He comes from the Denver Water Board with an accounting and finance background.

The Water Industry luncheon speaker in Chicago will be the Second City Theater group. There has been discussion about speakers for next years' meeting in Washington, D.C. Two names that have been discussed are Newt Gingrich and Michael Oehr. Mr. Oehr was substantially more expensive.

Young Professionals: Kevin Renslow was not present.

Tony read a report provided by Kevin. Young Professional April events include the Water For People concert and an Earth Day clean-up at Loring Park. The membership subcommittee will hold a recruitment event at the U of M in early spring. The WoW! Poster competition begins in May in conjunction with Drinking Water Week. The YP spring meeting will be held at Tnemec/Coating Resources in Hopkins.

Water for People Concert: Chris Voeltz was not present.

Tony reported that there is a meeting April 1 to go through the final details of the concert and any last minute changes.

There will be an Elvis impersonator, Brad Boyce, before the concert. There will also be a palm reader who will donate half of what he collects back to W.F.P.

Tony explained how we are distributing the drink tickets in an effort to reduce our expenses and be fiscally responsible. We do not want to pay for drink tickets that go un-used.

We will definitely be in the black this year. The only variable is how big the walk-in business will be. This is very good for only our second year with this event. We doubled the number of sponsorships this year. The income from the sponsorships is \$19,000. The National AWWA supplied insurance this year which saved \$600-700.

We were able to negotiate a room rate of \$79/night at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth. They do have a shuttle service to the Medina Event Center.

The tentative schedule is for the Elvis impersonator will start at 8:30pm with Johnny Holm starting at around 9:15pm. The concert must be done by 12:00 midnight.

Next Meeting

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM, Friday, August 6, 2010, at the Engineering America offices, in Oakdale, MN.

Adjourn

Scott Bredehoft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

*Competitions* (Chris Glassing)

No report.

**Public Affairs Council** (Myron Volker)

*Public Information* (Terry Neuman)

No report.

*Publications* (Karla Peterson)

No report.

*Water for People* (Chris Voeltz)

No report.

*Scholarship* (Doug Klamerus)

No report.

*Young Professionals* (Kevin Renslow)

No report.

**Training Council** (Chris Glassing)  
*Education Committee* (John Thom)

*Management Schools* (Scott Anderson)  
No report.

*Research Committee* (Doug Lubben and Roger Scharf)  
No report.

*Safety Committee* (Phil Zollinger)  
No report.

**Water Utility Council** (Pat Shea)  
**AWWA-MN Section Water Utility Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday - March 18, 2010**

**Location:** Minnesota Department of Health, 1645 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul, MN

**A. Roll Call:** 10:00 a.m.

**In-person attendance:** Carol Blommel Johnson, Bernie Bullert, Bob Cockriel, Chris Elvrum, Mary Fralish, Scott Fronek, Jim Japs, Craig Johnson, Kurt Johnson, Adam Kramer, Bob Peplin, Doug Rovang, Laurel Reeves, Dave Schultz, Pat Shea, Bert Tracy, and Dave Wagner.

**Via phone attendance:** None.

**B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The December 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes were approved.

**C. Congress, EPA Update**

**Bob Peplin** provided an update on various issues related to the EPA. Chemical Security at water plants continues to be of interest in 2010. AWWA has submitted official comments on their position regarding this issue.

He reminded everyone that the AWWA Washington, D.C. "Water Matters! Fly-In" will occur on March 24 and 25. **Pat Shea**, **Bob Cockriel**, and **Dave Schultz** will attend the event.

**Dave Schultz** indicated that MDH recently attended an inorganics conference in Denver and presented an ammonia study. He indicated that Minnesota is a leader in the country with respect to understanding copper corrosion and the effects ammonia has on it. Ammonia may be a future regulated compound, based on the work MDH has done to date.

**D. Legislative Report from LMC Representative**

**Craig Johnson** indicated that in the Capital Investment Bill signed by the Governor on March 14, no line item vetoes were included for water or wastewater projects. The Bill did include \$57M of funding to the Minnesota PFA for financing of water and wastewater projects. Of this amount, \$14M is allocated for the Clean Water Fund, \$25M for WIFF, and the balance to the Drinking Water Fund. It also includes \$1M for groundwater monitoring and \$3M for mitigation of I/I issues.

Some of the sales tax revenue from the Clean Water Amendment may be directed to private correction of I/I issues.

**Craig** indicated that a ban may be forthcoming on coal tar products. The City of White Bear Lake is currently dealing with this issue, which primarily affects the clean up of contaminated storm water ponds. The ban would require each city to ban coal tar products before they could complete their clean up of contaminated materials. LMC is introducing a bill to ban coal tar products at a higher governmental level, which would remove the burden from individual cities.

A "green cleaning" products bill was introduced which would require all cities to use "green" cleaning products. LMC strongly opposed the bill, since there are too many industrial products required at water plants, wastewater plants, airports, and other industrial type municipal facilities.

In 2006, public service corporations were exempt from imminent domain issues. A bill was introduced to include public service corporations, but LMC successfully prevented public service corporations from being added to this.

A bill was introduced dealing with ground water monitoring in the 11 county Metro areas. The MN legislature asked DNR for a proposal to fill data gaps in the ground water levels around the area. The legislature is trying to fund the plan by using \$5M from the Clean Water Sales Tax Amendment plus an \$8/MG surcharge from facilities that utilize groundwater. This would equate to approximately \$1.1M/yr. **Bob Cockriel** asked if the surcharge would be a dedicated fee and **Jim Japs** from the DNR said yes. The LMC has not rendered an opinion on this issue. **Bob Cockriel** asked about private entities that utilize ground water wells and if they would pay. **Jim Japs** confirmed they would pay, as well as those that utilize ground water for agricultural purposes. Some efforts were made to include surface treatment facilities to the bill, but it was defeated.

## E. State Related Water Issues

### 1. Miscellaneous: Updates

- a. Environmental Quality Board. **Carol Blommel Johnson** indicated that the EQB met in February. They will be completing their State Water Plan in 2010 for a 10-year period.

### 2. Reports

- a. Minnesota Rural Water. **Ruth Hubbard** was not present, however she provided the following report:

The annual conference for Minnesota Rural Water occurred in early March and participation was high at 1,500 participants. Water conservation rates were discussed at the conference, which was met with some criticism. Some large water users use private wells in lieu of public water supplies and therefore do not have to follow conservation guidelines. **Laurel Reeves** said this was difficult to enforce, since private owners are able to put in private wells, per statutory requirements. The DNR has no basis for denying a water permit if someone wants a new well.

Minnesota Rural Water has been active in flooding issues related to the Red River and other rivers close to flood stage and is assisting where feasible.

Minnesota Department of Health. **Dave Schultz** indicated there was significant attention being paid to potential flooding throughout the state. The good news is that most communities seem prepared. Education materials are being provided by MDH relative to home flooding and well protection issues. MDH is increasing staff to handle the influx of additional money related to the Clean Water Sales Tax Amendment. Water chemistry testing and education will be starting this summer. A study related to extensive water chemistry has not been done for many years. This testing will involve approximately 1000 water systems. **Dave Schultz** indicated that the testing will involve chemicals that are non-regulated, but believed to be helpful to communities in managing their water supplies.

For 2010, the Drinking Water Fund administered by the PFA will increase. He indicated that any project that wants funding will most likely get it. **Pat Shea** indicated that beginning in 2010, all PFA loans will now require Federal Davis-Bacon wage rates, which may increase project costs for wage rate monitoring and reporting.

The Federal EPA requirement for source water monitoring is now in effect as of January 2010. This requirement will significantly affect communities if a contaminant is identified as a "positive".

**Dave Schultz** recommended WARN training for communities relative to emergency response training.

- b. Metropolitan Council. **Chris Elvrum** indicated that the master water supply planning process was nearly complete. Approval for the document was going to council next week and then on to the DNR commissioner for approval. Some of the Clean Water Sales Tax Amendment funding has been used for mapping for this master plan.
- c. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. **Laurel Reeves** said proposals are being reviewed by LCCMR. One of these proposals relates to setting up a system to collect ground water data in an automated fashion.

She also indicated that all funding provided by the Department of Health will require water conservation rates be in place before funding is granted.

- d. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. **Nicole Blasing** was unable to attend.
- e. Association Director. **Dave Schultz** indicated that AWWA has selected an executive director --- David Lefrance. He is the current finance director from Denver Water Services. The budget for AWWA, despite the current economic times, is better than last year with nearly \$1M of excess funds. Jerry Stevens is the new president for AWWA.
- f. WARN Update. **Bob Cockriel** said there has been no need for a WARN activation, other than some general communications on flooding around the state. WARN currently has over 100 active members. He hopes that membership grows and that communities will continue to recognize its benefits.
- g. Minnesota Plumbing Code Revisions. No update was presented. **Doug Rovang** said he was at a recent meeting with plumbers where there is a push for tankless water heaters. He cautioned that these units are typically rated for a certain water temp (55 deg), but in winter source water is colder, and therefore does not function as well.
- h. Gopher One-Call. **Adam Kramer** said the management of a new ticket system is being put into place for Gopher One-Calls. Call volumes are down significantly from last year. Currently, 43% of tickets use the internet in lieu of phone calls. Bob Cockriel encouraged those cleaning sewers to also contact Gopher-One.
- i. University of Minnesota. Since **Michael Semmens** was not able to attend the meeting, there was no report.
- j. Domestic Water Sustainability. There is a current domestic water sustainability workgroup which includes several WUC members. A list of these members is **Karla Peterson, Randy Ellingboe, Cliff McLain** and **Jim Bode**. This item will be added to future agendas for report and discussion.

## F. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on June 17, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., at MDH's Snelling Office Park.

## G. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

*Legislative (Bob Cockriel)*  
No report.

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Last Saved On: 4/27/2010 2:11:00 PM  
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Total Editing Time: 168 Minutes  
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