**City of Grand Marais’**

**Successful Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Reduction Program Using Team Lab’s T197 Mega Bugs HC**

**Goal:** To reduce the volume and pounds of biosolids to be disposed

**Program:** Team Lab’s T197 Mega Bugs HC

**Successful Results:**
- Excellent settling enabled Grand Marais to decant for the first time in 26 years
- 2017 - Decanted 251,150 gallons
- Savings to the city of $26,197!
- Also saw a decrease in electrical consumption due to a reduction in blowers’ runtime

---

**City of Browerville’s**

**Successful Stabilization Pond “Island” Sludge Reduction Program Using Team Lab’s T195 Mega Bugs Plus**

**Problem:** 200 ft X 100 ft sludge island

**Solution:** Team Lab’s sludge reduction bug program

**Location:** Browerville, MN

City of Browerville was faced with the “sludge island” and started Team Lab’s T195 Mega Bugs Plus Bioaugmentation Program to see if the “sludge island” could be reduced.

**Successful Results:**
- Reduced Sludge
- Improved Settling
- Reduced Odors
- Improved Effluent Quality

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### Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>102nd Annual Conference Recap</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark Regional Water System Nearly Complete in Minnesota</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic St. Paul Ballpark Leads to Information on Early Water Supply in City</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Combines Beauty and Brainpower</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why AWWA Utility Membership?</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Departments

| Message from the Chair                                                  | 6    |
| Message from the Director                                               | 8    |
| Message from the Editor                                                 | 10   |
| Industry News                                                           | 18   |
| Ad Index                                                               | 43   |

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**Disclaimer**

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**Visit us at [www.mnawwa.org](http://www.mnawwa.org)**
Improving Our Future by Building on the Past

The saying “standing on the shoulders of giants” comes to mind when I think about some of the professionals who have influenced our industry – and today in the water industry we have the baby boomers working alongside our newest millennial generation employees. The thing to remember is that we are building on the successes of the hardworking and creative professionals that came before us. They laid a strong foundation in our profession that started in the drinking water business before the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1974 was developed and enacted. It wasn’t that long ago when our drinking water was without regulation. In the early 1900s the U.S. Public Health Service set several drinking water quality standards, but they were mostly just suggestions. Since the enactment of the SDWA the water treatment process has evolved much further than anyone could have expected in just over 40 years. The evolution of this industry didn’t start a mere five decades ago; it has been nearly five millennia. Around 3,000 BC the Scottish had water-flushing toilets. The Romans developed extensive aqueducts over 2,000 years ago, which supplied water to cities around the Roman Empire.

I have heard it said that by supplying safe, clean drinking water to our communities we are, in some ways, preventing more diseases than doctors do. Here’s something to remember when you are out working in your distribution system, designing a treatment plant, or taking samples to ensure the quality of our drinking water…You come from a long and proud line of professionals who not only laid the groundwork, but have continuously strived to provide safe, clean drinking water to our communities. As water professionals we are tied to the wisdom and efforts of our past and present workforce, and together we can assuredly continue our partnered pursuit with guided ingenuity.

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Up and Coming

September in Duluth provided another great experience this year. Aurel Arndt, the Association Treasurer, was our visiting representative from the American Water Works Association. Aurel was in awe as he visited the many functioning factions of the Minnesota Section. His exposure to the people of our membership left a lasting impression.

One question Aurel had that caught me by surprise was, “Who are your ‘up and coming’ members?” As I pondered a response I thought to myself, “we have so many, how do I identify just one or two? Maybe it’s five or six.” Then I thought, “Let’s just wing it and see if Aurel can tell who they are. Time will tell.”

Well, as time would have it, Aurel and I were on the run from Tuesday morning until Friday noon when the conference ended. Here is what we learned.

Tuesday was filled with many people who spent much of their own time to help develop a very complete “Water Equation” package; fishing, golf, shooting, bean bags, and beer led to a variety of other things, which kept everyone involved. I tried to introduce Aurel to as many people as possible, and his retention rate for names was outstanding. His evaluation of our staff and leadership was even better.

Wednesday found an outstanding speaker in Will Steger and his discussion on climate change. Aurel was positive that he had something to share with his section after hearing Will explaining the changes he has experienced, and, while climate change may be a theory to many, should you be fortunate enough to spend a short time with Will you too should understand the impact we are dealing with in climate change. At noon, Aurel joined the past chairs luncheon and had such a wonderful take on how come Minnesota is so successful. The mentorship was amazing on multiple levels. After helping with the water taste test and visiting with the many vendors, Aurel was ready for a great night out with the Bolton and Menk staff, who have graciously sponsored the visiting dignitaries from the Association for years.

Thursday we attended the educational sessions as well as a few committee meetings and just visited with the many volunteers of the Minnesota Section. It was interesting as Aurel often asked how we did things. It seemed so seamless, and Aurel was very complementary of our staff and our sponsors. Mona Cavalcoli did an outstanding job of overseeing the operations. The Conference Council, led by Rob Isabel, received outstanding marks for such a complete and well-run event. Our sponsors are the highlight of our Association, and we truly have some great people in this organization. Thursday’s final event was the trivia contest, which was entertaining and a challenge. Fun was had by all, and our attendance continues to increase at this event.

Aurel enjoyed his visit and never has he seen a Section that works like ours. Not sure how many are on his “up and coming” list, but don’t be surprised if you get a call asking for your opinion or advice. I’m sure some of the things the Minnesota Section does will surface in other Sections, and that’s a great compliment to all volunteers in our Section.

Have a happy holiday season.
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Nicknames

August 24-26 was Players Weekend in Major League Baseball with the players allowed to put their nickname on the back of their uniform.

Here are a few from Target Field that weekend:
- Matt Chapman – CHAPPY
- Tyler Austin – TA
- Joe Mauer – MAUER

The Twins provided some nicknames for people in the press box, including the official scorer…

Now, how about AWWA members? Others from around Major League Baseball were a little more creative:
- Hunter Pence – UNDERPANTS
- Shane Bieber – NOT JUSTIN
- Anna Jeannne Schliep – A. J.
- David Rindal – HOLLYWOOD
- Simon McCormack – MOOSE
- Lucas Hoffman – DUKE
- Ben Feldman – HODAG
- Dave Waldoch – DUCKSTER
- Shawn Mulhern – OTIS or MARSHMALLOW
- Todd Bredesen – BIGHEAD
- Brian Bergantine – BERGIE
- Lori Blair – BLAIR
- Pat Shea – PADDY
- Jennifer Koenig – LERD
- Myron Volker – MAD DOG

Rick “COLONEL” Wahlen supplied these from staff at the Eden Prairie water plant:
- Andy Groth – 4G (“He was the fourth Andy we had.”)
- John Adie – 80 (how his name is pronounced)
- Steve Borg – BORGIE
- Scott Schramm – SHRAMMY
- Dustin Bones – BONES
- George Tupy – BUTCH
- Larry Lind – HARRY (“He used to have a full head of hair — now he never takes his ball cap off, even for dress-up.”)

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St. Paul Regional Water Services

METER MADNESS
Austin Holm, St. Louis Park

PIPE TAPPING
Great Lakes Tappers, City of Duluth

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Industry News

From the *Waterline*, newsletter of the Minnesota Department of Health

**People**

Tony Belden, formerly of Engineering America of White Bear Lake, is now working in outside sales for Great Northern Environmental of Oakdale.

**Sign Up for Groundwater Updates**

Public water systems are encouraged to learn about when Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) chemical reviews are initiated and when health-base guidance for water is issued.

Use the link below to sign up for MDH Groundwater Email Updates and get notified about new and revised health-based guidance values for water.

www.tinyurl.com/ybsvkf6s

**Drinking Water Institute Held in Rochester**

The Annual Drinking Water Institute for Educators was held in August at Rochester Public Utilities. The Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Section of American Water Works Association have been conducting these institutes since 2001. Science teachers from around the state come together and develop action plans to create inquiry-based activities that they can integrate into their existing science curriculum. The 2019 Drinking Water Institute will be August 5-7 in Oakdale. Information on the institute is at www.health.state.mn.us/water/institute/index.html.

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Chaska Prevails in Great Minnesota Tap Water Taste Test

Minnesota American Water Works Association (AWWA) held its seventh annual Great Minnesota Tap Water Taste Test on the Sustainability Stage in the Eco Experience building at the Minnesota State Fair. With the audience serving as judges, Chaska was voted the best tasting water in Minnesota. Its water – along with the water of the other finalists, Eagan, Apple Valley, St. Louis Park, and St. Paul – was brought to the WCCO Radio booth. As a Minnesota AWWA spokesperson talked about the contest and drinking water in Minnesota, members of the live WCCO water tasted the samples and reaffirmed Chaska as the best tasting. In the photo below, Bert Tracy tells WCCO listeners the results of the taste test as hosts Jordana Green (not pictured) and Paul Douglas applaud wildly. Jordana and Paul both picked Chaska and St. Louis Park as their favorites.
Past Waterlines Archived at www.wateroperator.org

The Minnesota Department of Health is archiving past issues of the Waterline only for the previous three years at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/com/waterline/index.html. However, www.wateroperator.org is hosting past issues back to 1997. To access these, go to www.wateroperator.org/documents. Select the following filter criteria: HOST – Minnesota Department of Health; TYPE – Newsletters/Magazines; STATE – Minnesota. Click the “Retrieve Documents” button. ●

New Display at State Fair Eco Experience

The Minnesota Department of Health partnered with Dunwoody College of Technology in Minneapolis for a new Eco Experience display at the State Fair. It includes multi-sided pillars with information, including a map marking all community water systems (sorted by groundwater and surface water) in the state as well as private wells. There is also an interactive display on which fair visitors can use a magnet on a string to follow water through the ground. This is the beginning of a five-year partnership with Dunwoody students coming up with additional displays in the future. ●

Cool Videos

The Minnesota Department of Health has produced an instructional video for taking lead and copper samples. Lead and Copper Sampling: www.tinyurl.com/yabcp7y9

The Minnesota Section of American Water Works Association (AWWA) has produced a promotional video on the benefits of AWWA membership. Words of Wisdom of Being Involved: www.tinyurl.com/y7of5qr3

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Factsheets and Other Resources Now on MDH Website

The Minnesota Department of Health drinking water website www.health.state.mn.us/water has new factsheets:

Legionella Information
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/legionella.pdf

Home Water Treatment
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/pou.html

Beware of Water Treatment Scams
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/beware.html

Southeast School Changing Locations

After more than 30 years at the Kahler Apache Hotel in Rochester, the Southeast District Minnesota AWWA will have a new location for its water operator school in 2019. The hotel has closed, so the three-day school – from Wednesday, March 13 to Friday, March 15 – will be at the Rochester Event Center next to the airport on the south end of Rochester. An Americinn across the street is available for hotel rooms.

Blessed are they who have nothing to say and who cannot be persuaded to say it.
— James Russell Lowell


Drinking Water in Schools for Educators and School Professionals – www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/schools

Reducing Lead in Drinking Water (PDF) – www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/schools/pbschoolguide.pdf

It also has new templates water systems can use to communicate with their customers about water quality changes. The templates (which are Word documents) are linked at the bottom of the MDH Factsheets page: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/index.html

Important Information about Your Drinking Water
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/templatepn.docx

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The tentacles of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (LCRWS) are nearly fully extended. Worthington will be the last stop in Minnesota, nearly 30 years after the city signed an agreement to be a partner in the project.

LCRWS was conceived in 1988 with a simple idea: take water from a plentiful source and transport it to unplentiful places. The plentiful source is the Missouri River at Vermillion, South Dakota. The unplentiful sources range in different directions as far as 60 miles away.

Twenty members – in South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota – put up money up to reserve certain amounts of water. The Minnesota partners are Rock County Rural Water District, Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System, and the cities of Luverne and Worthington.

LCRWS executive director Troy Larson and construction administrator Clint Koehn at the system headquarters in Tea, South Dakota, just a few miles from the Tea reservoirs and pump station.
The system was originally envisioned at 23.5 million gallons per day (MGD). However, after authorization in 2000, members requested additional water; as a result, the system and plant were designed for 45 MGD with the ability to expand to 60 MGD in the future.

SOURCE AND TREATMENT
Eleven wells draw from an aquifer that is recharged by the adjacent Missouri River at Vermillion. For South Dakota and beyond, the Missouri River is “the greatest natural water resource available,” according to LCRWS operations manager Jim Auen. “It is high-quality, abundant, and drought resistant.”

Through 54-inch pipes the water is pumped to a massive treatment plant north of Vermillion, which has been built in two phases, totaling approximately $90 million. Phase 1 (high service pump station, underground reservoir and electrical switchgear building) was $23.2 million, and Phase 2 (the main treatment plant) was $66.6 million.

The three-level plant has more than a quarter-million square feet, with room for expansion. The water is softened to reduce total hardness from approximately 300 parts per million (ppm) to 160 ppm. The lime in the softening process raises the pH, so a carbon dioxide feed system and recarbonation basins are used to adjust the pH before filtration.

The eight sand-and-anthracite filters, which have a Leopold underdrain system, remove iron and manganese. Sodium hypochlorite is added with ammonia for disinfection. Fluoride is also added. The treated water has total dissolved solids reduced to fewer than 500 mg/L.

Next to the plant is a 4.5 million gallon underground reservoir with a high service pump station and electrical switchgear building in addition to a nearby decant pond and three lime drying beds.

DISTRIBUTION
The water is sent 50 miles north to Tea, which is the hub of the entire system. Just south of Sioux Falls, Tea has a pair of 7.5 million reservoirs flanking a pump building. Some of the water from the plant has already branched off to communities in South Dakota and Iowa, although 90 percent of the water passes through Tea, including off of the water to Minnesota.
In July 2012 the system’s first water was pumped, to Sioux Falls and several smaller communities along the way, as well as to Rock Rapids, Iowa. The Minnesota members – being the farthest from the source – were the last to receive water. In May 2015 the project reached Minnesota, crossing the state line to deliver water to Rock County Rural Water District outside Luverne.

Since then it has gotten to Luverne and Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System, which serves an area that includes 38 cities in 10 counties. Along the way, connection points in Magnolia and Adrian have been hooked up. The water has allowed Luverne to be the site of Minnesota’s first shrimp hatchery and harbor, a commercial-scale shrimp producer. Construction on the $48 million facility, which will produce 150 million shrimp a year, will start in 2019.
WORTHINGTON

Though Worthington was the first Minnesota partner to sign up, it will be the last in the state to connect. By highway, it is 115 miles from Vermillion, the remotest city on the system. Worthington is directly on the border of the Mississippi/Missouri River watershed. Its wellfield is surrounded and fed by man-made Lake Bella, seven miles to the south. With an average depth of fewer than 100 feet, the wells are susceptible to contamination and sensitive to drought.

Conservation is a way of life in Worthington, which has an aggressive leak detection program and high reclamation of backwash water. The city has also been creative in partnering with other organizations, including Pheasants Forever chapters, in source water protection, purchasing and setting aside land for conservation. “We have partners willing to do things that were unheard of in the past,” said Worthington water superintendent Eric Roos.
The ongoing need for water caused Worthington to become the first partner outside of South Dakota to reserve water. As the network of pipes extends west from Luverne to Worthington, LCRWS has constructed a meter building next to the Worthington water treatment plant while the city is building an adjacent high-service pump station. The pump stadium will receive water out of both the city’s ground storage and from the LCRWS supply to send out through its distribution system. “We’re going to put out a consistent blend to our customers,” said Roos.

“**When the project is completed, more than 300,000 residents – not to mention significant industries – will be receiving Lewis & Clark water over 5,000 square miles, a service area the size of Connecticut.**”

**REACHING THE FINISH LINE**

As the Minnesota portion of the project wraps up with Worthington as the 15th overall partner to connect, five more systems still await their water – four in Iowa and one in South Dakota.

The financing is covered on an 80-10-10 system: 80 percent from the federal government, 10 percent by the states, and 10 percent by the individual members. To this point, the states and local entities have paid 100 percent of their costs. Approximately $188 is still coming from the federal government. Troy Larson, executive director of LCRWS, says the Congressional delegations from the three states have been supportive, and he noted the efforts of Minnesota governor Mark Dayton, particularly with advances for eventual federal funding.

The total project cost is estimated at $605 million, with over half the capital cost for the construction of the distribution system, which will have more than 332 miles of pipes.

When the project is completed, more than 300,000 residents – not to mention significant industries – will be receiving Lewis & Clark water over 5,000 square miles, a service area the size of Connecticut.
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Skids Designed The Way You Want It
Cary Smith, a Minnesota native who works at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, discovered that an 1895 ballpark built in St. Paul had showers installed. “I am trying to figure out if by 1895 that was a common thing or a relatively new and high-tech thing,” he asked.

The ballpark was on the northwest corner of Aurora Avenue, one block south of University Avenue, and St. Albans Street, one block west of Dale Street. Fuller Avenue is to the south. Known as the Dale and Aurora Grounds, the ballpark was built for a new

Ben Feldman, a project engineer for St. Paul Regional Water Services, looked into the water history of the area and got drawn into a mystery that required gumshoe work worthy of Hercule Poirot, Sherlock Holmes, or even Jim Rockford.
St. Paul minor-league team—owned and managed by Charles Comiskey—that played in the Western League. A few years later the Western League changed its name to the American League and became a major league. However, after the 1899 season, Comiskey moved the St. Paul team to Chicago. The team still exists, as the Chicago White Sox, and Comiskey is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Ben Feldman, a project engineer for St. Paul Regional Water Services, looked into the water history of the area and got drawn into a mystery that required gumshoe work worthy of Hercule Poirot, Sherlock Holmes, or even Jim Rockford. Feldman found that a water main was installed for Aurora Avenue in 1889 and first thought that the city would have brought the service from near the intersection of St. Albans and Aurora to the grandstand of the ballpark.

However, he could find no record of old services in that location. “There are some abandoned services to the east of the intersection that had potential, but the one closest to the ballpark wasn’t installed until 1921—1899 is the oldest date of those services, but they don’t quite coincide with the stadium construction date. The 1899 dates are not known for sure, but they all indicated having served the north side of Aurora. Again, not likely.”

Once started on the history of water supply and St. Paul ballparks, Ben Feldman kept digging and found the original permit for water at Lexington Park, used by the St. Paul Saints from 1897 to 1956. The water installation date was December 10, 1917.
the stadium service. There doesn’t appear to ever have been a main installed in St. Albans and it remains that way today.”

Feldman referred to a 2004 online article www.tinyurl.com/yajb2l that included a photo of the ballpark being used for curling. “The entire field was flooded, which means they had to be getting water from somewhere. Either they were getting it from a hydrant, a service, or a well. Given there was a main in the street at the time, it wouldn’t make sense to have drilled a well. There are only two hydrants nearby – one at the intersection of St. Albans and Aurora and one at St. Albans and Fuller. It didn’t make sense to be dragging a hose across the street on Aurora, so it got me wondering if they were using the Fuller hydrant or possibly had a service off of Fuller.”

Feldman found that the main on Fuller was installed in 1891. “There are only two services on Fuller installed prior to 1900. One in 1891 to a house mid-block on the south side and one in 1895 right next to the hydrant at St. Albans and Fuller.” On top of it all this service is still being used today by a corner duplex now on the site. “It looks like we have quite a few services in the old neighborhoods that date back to the 1880s. Whether or not you had running water in your home at the time probably had more to do with your financial ability and if the city had the infrastructure in place,” Feldman concluded.
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The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is known for gardens, tree collections, sculptures, prairies, woods and trails. Covering more than 1,200 acres in Chanhassan, Chaska, and Victoria, the arboretum is one of the top visitor attractions in the area. It continues its heritage as a research center and also plays a role in protecting and maintaining water resources through environmental stewardship.

HISTORY
The arboretum's roots go back to 1908 with the establishment of the Horticultural Research Center to develop crops and plants that can tolerate and thrive in a northern climate. Plant breeders from the University of Minnesota developed hardy cultivars of many types of fruits, with apples being the largest project. Only the hardiest survive, and an extremely cold winter in 1917 to 1918 helped pick out the survivors.

Peter Moe, who has been with the arboretum for over 40 years and is now its director of operations and research, said, "It just takes one night of 32 below in January or February; any plant that is not hardy to that temperature could have injury." Flower buds on azaleas are the most vulnerable part of the plant, and one cold night could damage the buds. "It wouldn't kill the plant, but it wouldn't bloom, so you lose the main reason for growing that plant."

Extreme cold can cause a trunk injury or xylem damage within the trunk that can shorten the life of a tree. Beyond the issue of temperature, Moe said plants need the ability to mature during season in this area, typically from May to October.

The arboretum's apple-breeding program has developed a number of renowned varieties. The Haralson apple in 1922 was the first to catch on with the orchard industry, according to Moe. "What we call the modern breeding program started with Honeycrisp, introduced in 1991 with the original cross done in mid-1960s."

Honeycrisp trees thrive in a climate with cool nights and moderate daytime temperatures leading up to the harvest season. The development of the Honeycrisp apple was honored as one of the top 25 innovations of the decade by the Association of University Technology Managers, which recognizes significant academic research and technology transfer.
“Apples are really heterozygous [having alternative forms of the same gene],” said Moe. An F1 apple cross [a term used in breeding] has all sorts of genes that aren’t expressed in either one of the parents and might show up in the progeny. The seedling apples can be very different from either parent because you’re combining two different parents with different DNA – getting a lot of variation showing up with apples."

After 50 years of fruit research, the arboretum was established in 1958 as part of the University of Minnesota’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

THE ARBORETUM TODAY
With a recent acquisition of 78 acres of land in Victoria, the arboretum now has 1,225 acres, more than five times the size of the initial research center.

“The arboretum initially did some of the same breeding work with landscape plants,” Moe said, “such as the hardiest azaleas that could be found and then did some crosses and developed hybrids that could survive in extreme cold.”

The arboretum still has generic collections, but Moe said most visitors go through the display gardens and landscape plantings.
“where we take the best plants for Minnesota, which have been evaluated in our generic collections – the best shade trees, best flowering shrubs – and combine them with best perennials and annuals and other plants to make attractive landscapes.”

The University of Minnesota has also become recognized as one of the top wine-grape research programs in the country, developing cold-hardy and disease resistant wine-grape cultivars.

WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT
The arboretum researches methods to preserve water quality and restore wetlands. In wetland demonstration sites, researchers are investigating whether 1) short-lived perennials can be used to suppress reed canary grass that invades damaged wetlands, and 2) whether nutrients increase the likelihood of weedy plant invasion.

Rainwater gardens of hardy plants sited in low-lying areas trap and absorb runoff from roofs and streets. Runoff from parking lots is channelled into beds to support a variety of plants.

As for the facilities own water needs, municipal water from Chanhassen serves the northern part of the arboretum, including its visitors and learning center. A research center and greenhouse, to the west in Victoria, uses a non-community public well with softening and deionizing performed on the water. “In the conservatory, we don’t want spotting on the leaves from minerals,” Moe said. “In the research center is a wine lab that needs pure water.”

“We don’t want the water to be a variable in the work they’re doing.”

Much of the irrigation throughout the arboretum is done with surface water from Lake Tamarack, to the north, and Green Heron Pond within the grounds. Moe said drip irrigation requires pure water, and they have three filters with sand media on the shore of the lake.

FUNDING
Memberships and private donations are part of the funding for the arboretum. Grants from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment of 2008 made possible the most recent acquisition of land.

However, royalties from the plants developed remain a major part of keeping the research center and arboretum going. Ornamental plants and trees are patented or trademarked. The University of Minnesota supplies nurseries and other growers with other propagation materials. Moe said, that from the twigs of an apple tree, a nursery might make as many as 10,000 trees and pay the University a royalty for each one.

The market is competitive, Moe says, adding that a large grocery store may contain produce from as many as 50 different countries. “We’re competing in a global market. We need a variety that is better than any other variety.

“As the standards get higher, consumers benefit.”

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Utility membership in AWWA comes with many benefits that are not included with an individual membership. In addition to the benefits individuals receive, AWWA provides utilities with resources to help manage a utility – tools for assessing infrastructure needs, rate-setting, training and certification programs, communicating the value of water service to the public, and opportunities to craft regulatory policy.

I’m Andy Chase, and I’m incredibly proud to be the first Utility Relationship Manager in the 137-year history of AWWA. I joined the Member Engagement & Development team in January 2015, and I was charged with developing AWWA’s utility recruitment process. I realized, early on, the power of partnering with AWWA Sections and recruiting volunteers to join me in meetings with utilities and municipalities. Our process: We identify nonmember utilities through a variety of sources and group them geographically. I reach out to Section leaders and ask for volunteers to commit one day to visiting utilities with me.

When meeting with utilities, we discuss how each water utility benefits from its AWWA membership differently; for most, at least three areas of value rise to the top.

First, AWWA is the preeminent forum for knowledge and solutions to help water professionals – and water utilities – do their jobs better and more efficiently. Through its international and local conferences, peer-reviewed journal and other publications, and online training and webcasts, AWWA helps its members discover the right technologies, management strategies, and operational tactics to ensure each customer dollar is being spent efficiently and in a way that best protects public health.

Second, AWWA is the entity that produces water industry standards for materials, equipment, and practices used in water treatment and supply. AWWA members have a voice in the creation of these standards, and utility members always have access to the full, updated set. AWWA also produces a robust set of manuals of practice to complement the standards. Members further enjoy substantial discounts on a vast collection of handbooks, reports, and other tools created through the intellectual capital of AWWA’s members.

Third, AWWA provides the water sector with a critical voice in Washington, D.C., where legislative and regulatory decisions can dramatically affect each of America’s more than 52,000 community
ty Membership?

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water systems. Working closely with its utility members, AWWA’s Government Affairs group and Water Utility Council bring sound science and the real-life experience of water utilities to the public policy dialogue. AWWA brings critical technical information to the regulatory process and frequently testifies before Congress on legislative and other matters. Utility members stay informed through regular public affairs, legislative, and regulatory advisories, and a bi-weekly Water Utility Insider newsletter.

We’ve recently had substantial success in AWWA’s Southwest Section. The AWWA Membership Engagement & Development Team has been working closely with the Section to recruit new utility members. I’ve had the pleasure of meeting with 12 utilities with Executive Director Don Broussard, and we are excited to welcome Baton Rouge Water Company, the City of Shreveport, and the City of Monroe, LA, as new utility members. From Arkansas, we welcome Benton/Washington Regional Public Water Authority as new utility members. We also hosted a luncheon in Oklahoma City, an active utility member, and we welcomed the City of Norman and the City of Broken Arrow, OK, as new utility members. Utilities benefit from their utility membership and the Section benefits as well, since a portion of membership dues is returned to the Section for operations to maintain member services locally.

Successes such as these help maintain AWWA as the largest nonprofit, scientific, and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world’s most important resource. With its 51,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy, and enhance our quality of life.
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As hiring managers in the water industry, we all share a common concern. How can we locate quality employees to improve our operations? AWWA is recommending that you consider Veterans as a talent pool for your next hiring decision, and they have assembled a valuable toolkit to help you with the process.

WHY YOU SHOULD HIRE A VETERAN
Veterans have the skills necessary to thrive in the water sector. They have experience working in a highly regulated environment, they have shown a commitment to public service, and they handle stress well in crisis situations. Veterans are returning to homes in rural and urban locations and looking for employment. You need skilled employees, and Veterans need jobs. It’s a perfect fit!

HOW CAN AWWA HELP?
AWWA believes military members are a good fit for the water sector because of their technical expertise and experience working non-traditional hours in a regulated environment. In early August 2017, AWWA President Brenda Lennox and other AWWA volunteers and staff met in Washington D.C. with representatives from Soldier for Life, Marine for Life, Veterans Affairs, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Defense to build awareness and strategies to help Veterans work in the water sector. The AWWA Veterans Workforce Initiative was thus born. The goal of the Veterans Workforce Initiative is to help Veterans secure jobs in the water industry. Volunteers from AWWA Sections are available to network with Veterans and help connect them to the water sector. Interested Veterans and/or volunteers should e-mail veterans@awwa.org for more information.

VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR EMPLOYERS AND VETERANS
The Veterans Workforce Initiative has developed toolkits for employers looking to hire Veterans and flyers for Veterans interested in the water sector. You can also visit the Veterans homepage on the AWWA site awwa.org/veterans to discover valuable new toolkits for employers and veterans.

EMPLOYER TOOLKIT
The AWWA Employer Toolkit (PDF) contains links to valuable resources to help your organization recruit, hire and retain Veteran employees.

FLYER FOR VETERANS OUTREACH
The AWWA Flyer (PDF) for Veterans Outreach encourages Veterans to consider a career in the water sector and connects them with AWWA resources and our AWWA Section volunteer network.

AWWA SECTION LIAISONS
A network of volunteers in each AWWA Section are available to assist individual Veterans interested in the water sector. They can give advice and help connect Veterans to training and job opportunities in your region. Connect to a liaison an AWWA Section Liaison by e-mailing veterans@awwa.org.
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