Diversity... WHY NOW?

Inside:

101st Annual Conference Preview

A Bridge to Somewhere: Rerouting Highway 53

St. Joseph Water Plant
WATER WORKS HARDER WHEN DSG MAKES YOUR JOB EASIER

A successful waterworks project needs more than just the right pipe and meters. It requires experienced support from innovative professionals, and that’s where DSG gives you the edge.

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FlexNet provides near real-time data to control your water system remotely. Our reliable two-way network securely transmits and receives water distribution data. Giving you the visibility and control necessary to proactively manage your distribution system. That means more accurate billing, improved response time and better operational intelligence. So when you’re ready, we can help you turn the data on.

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Visit us at www.mnawwa.org
The year is speeding by and the fall conference in Duluth is upon us. It has been one amazing year for me being the Chair of our Section. Our Section is represented by some of the finest people I have ever met. As I have stated before, we are all on a journey. We control that journey and steer our lives down a path. You can steer your life now into a volunteer position with our organization. You will never regret it and it will pay back much more than you think in relationships, connections and enjoyable moments. Yes, we do have fun. I want to especially thank Ben Feldman for all his assistance this year in his role of secretary-treasurer. This saying is true: “He does all of the work and I get all of the credit.” He has served steadily and reliably in this very time consuming role. Thank you all for this wonderful opportunity to travel the state and country representing the Minnesota Section of American Water Works Association. I will carry the memories and relationships with me the rest of my life.

Water happens to connect all of us in the Section. Our pursuit of treating, storing, and delivering and/or preserving clean water to every Minnesota citizen is no small task. Bringing together various organizations in the state and making our Section more diverse in the future will go to great strides in achieving that goal. Our Section’s Water Utility Council is a great reflection of what it means to be diverse and collaborative. That Council has representation from our Section’s leadership, the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Rural Water Association, MN Warn, League of Minnesota Cities, State Plumbing Code, Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota, Gopher State One Call, and the Legislative Water Commission. This is a very powerful combination of many of our core water groups in the state. The meetings are very educational, extremely informative, and respectfully collaborative. Positions are open at various levels on this council. Please consider one of these positions in the future. Participation and membership are truly enlightening.

In alignment with our Association, the Minnesota Section has recently created a Diversity Committee. We welcome all to our Minnesota Section and will make more strides to reach out and be more inclusive to more ethnicities, backgrounds, and genders. We also successfully voted to raise our membership committee to a Council voting-level position on the Governing Board. This change has prompted our leadership to review our entire organizational structure. The goal is to align our Section’s leadership organization more closely with the Association’s. This is currently under executive review and study, and any proposed changes will be presented and voted on by the board sometime in 2018.

On behalf of the entire Section I would like to thank Jon Eaton and Uma Vempati. Both recently concluded their terms on the Board of Directors for the Association. We thank them both for all their time and effort at the national level – they have both made us proud with their strong contributions. Pete Moulton began his term as our national director. He continues to represent our Section with dignity and experience. We are so lucky to have such quality people represent us at the Association level.

I attended the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) in Philadelphia. Our Minnesota Associates Council hosted a wonderful Minnesota Section lunch that allowed all of us from Minnesota to visit and collaborate at the show. Thank you to Chris Larson and the MAC group for finding McGillin’s Olde Ale House, the oldest continuously operating tavern in Philadelphia, since 1860! I thought the ACE was well attended, the facilities were outstanding and the education tracts superb.

Finally, I thank all of our volunteers across our great state that volunteer their time and make our AWWA Minnesota Section a viable member of our Association. Your volunteerism inspires me and your daily work impresses me. You have all made me a better person and for that I am ever grateful.

“You can steer your life now into a volunteer position with our organization. You will never regret it and it will pay back much more than you think in relationships, connections and enjoyable moments.”
Trenchless pipe solutions allow you to forego securing additional right-of-ways during the project, eliminate digging and damage to the above-ground landscape, and keeps area businesses and roadways up and running. We offer these trenchless solutions.

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Stormwater Solutions
Quam provides stormwater solutions that range from a four inch pipe to massive concrete culverts.

CCTV
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Message from the Director

Meet Your New Section Director!

It is my pleasure to take over the Section Director position from Jon Eaton; he has served on the Board for the past three years and has made a significant impact while representing the Minnesota Section. I had the opportunity to tag along with Jon at the Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) in Philadelphia, and the circle of friends and prominent officers in the American Water Works Association (AWWA) that Jon has made and retained is amazing. Also serving Minnesota was Director-at-Large Uma Vempati; he also has taken the last three years to help organize the AWWA India, not to mention the changes and leadership he has provided to the diversity area within AWWA.

I look forward with great optimism to representing the Minnesota Section, leading the Association, and further participating in the future direction of the Association. Again, many thanks to my wife Cindy, my employer – the city of Saint Peter – and the Minnesota Section for allowing me this opportunity.

ACE

The Annual Conference and Exposition was again well attended… weekend workshops, exhibition, and conference. Attendance was over 11,000 with an exhibition hall full of booths.

It was very nice to see about 30 section members at the McGilin’s Olde Ale House luncheon…

Congratulations to Carol Blommel Johnson, who received the George Warren Fuller Award.

Nancy Sullivan, Manager of Section Services, who received the Archie E. Becher, Jr. Award, recognizing the outstanding accomplishments by a staff member of AWWA.

Mona Cavalcoli, our Section Volunteer Coordinator, for receiving the Jack W. Hoffbuhr Award, recognizing outstanding performance and accomplishments by a section staff member of AWWA.

The Bloomington Bluebirds, national champions as of the Hydrant Hysteria competition. With a time of 1:33.6, the Bluebirds edged out Sacramento, California, by over two seconds to win the top honor. Bloomington also finished third nationally in the water taste test. Great job, Bloomington.

And last but not least, to the Minnesota Section members who gave technical presentations and competed in the competitions like Meter Madness and Pipe Tapping. Nice job everyone!

Water Buffalos

Alex Hood (Buffalo member number #40) announced 29 bikes rode to ACE this year. In total, 33 riders participated, 103 vacation days were taken, 177 days were spent on the road, just over 1,200 gallons of gas at a cost of $3,034 were consumed, over 30,000 miles were traveled, and over $110,000 raised this year (so far) for Water for People and the Community Engineering Corps. Please congratulate and support our Minnesota Section Water Buffalos (Carol Blommel Johnson, number 92) and her husband (Dwayne Johnson, number 93) in their mission to Ride With Purpose (http://www.ridewithpurpose.org/).

In the 12 years of the organization’s existence, over $20,000 has been raised and donated to the Community Engineering Corps, and over $1,000,000 dollars have been raised and donated to Water for People.

Our Association… Continues to Thrive!

Membership continues to steadily grow; increasing annually for the past four years, we were at 50,886 members at the beginning of 2017, and surpassed the 51,000 mark in 2017. Financially, the Association continues to do well (slow steady growth). The budget is on track, financial position excellent even though additional work associated with the Flint, Michigan, lead crisis has been done, and the pension has begun termination.

Strategic Plan

At the 2016 ACE-Chicago meeting, the Board approved the Strategic Plan which updated the Core Principles as follows:

• Protect Public Health
• Safeguard the Environment
• Share Best Practices
• Inspire Innovation
• Foster Diversity and Inclusion

Based on the updated Strategic Plan, the 2017 Business Plan has 43 actions and was themed “Traction, Manage, and New.” To date, two have been delayed,
“Please congratulate and support our Minnesota Section Water Buffalos (Carol Blommel Johnson, number 92) and her husband (Dwayne Johnson, number 93) in their mission to Ride With Purpose”

two are in-progress with caution, six are completed, and 35 are in progress and on track.

The Association’s critical initiatives are AWWA2020 (the Sections and Association working as one), Total Water Solutions or TWS (looking at water as a whole), the Water Equation (philanthropy), and International (expanding our organization).

Future Association President
The Association had one candidate for President-Elect, who has experienced employer commitment concerns and removed his name from consideration in May, leaving no candidates. An ad-hoc committee was formed and will be led by Jon Eaton of Minnesota to solicit and bring a candidate to the 2018 Winter Board meeting for election.

Questions?
As always, if you have any questions about the Association, please contact me via email at petem@saintpetemn.gov. See you at the Fall Conference!

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Victoria, MN

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Hey gang! Did you know we’re all getting old? That means, as we drop dead or retire, younger folks will be needed to fill our spots. Toward this end, Minnesota AWWA has formed a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Committee, designed to get students into STEM courses, particularly water technology.

Carol Kaszynski of Bloomington is chairing the committee, which had its first meeting in June. The committee will create a public awareness that leads to recruitment and retention of qualified and engaged water professionals, and its purpose is to develop a STEM program that provides high-quality, sustainable, and engaging material to municipalities, vendors, and consultants for distribution to a diverse and inclusive population.

For more information, contact Carol at ckaszynski@Bloomingtonmn.gov or track her down at the fall conference in Duluth.

Meanwhile, in celebration of the Twins being in first place as I write this, I offer a quote from my dad: “The guy with the sore hand never gets the ball.” (That refers to people trying to catch foul balls that come into the stands. Remember that when you’re at the game, and let some other sap get the sore hand while you get the ball).

Best wishes, Stew •
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UMA VEMPATI PE, PMP, ENV SP
ISG Water/Wastewater Group Leader
Watership Leadership Institute (WLI) Graduate
AWWA Outstanding Leadership Award Winner

8 OFFICES
40+ YEARS
250+ PROFESSIONALS
Governing Board Highlights

From the Governing Board Meeting, April 28, 2017, White Bear Lake

**Present:** Dave Brown, Tony Belden, Jim Sadler, Jon Eaton, Uma Vempati (by phone), Ben Feldman, Dan Portlock, Bob Stark, Stew Thomley, Jeanette Boothe, Bill Schluenz, Kyle Hinrichs, Rob Isabel, Chris Larson, Michelle Stockness, Eric Volk, Scott Fronek, Mona Cavalcoli (by phone), Pete Moulton.

**Guest:** Melina Maciag-Rindal.

**Water Bar**
Minnesota AWWA members will help staff the Water Bar at the EcoExperience Building at the State Fair. The Conference Council is considering whether or not to have the Water Bar at the Section conference in Duluth.

**Surface Water Treatment Workshop**
Eric Volk has been working on the revision of the memorandum of understanding between the Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota Sections to operate the Surface Water Treatment Workshop.

**Financial Committee Investment Review**
Feldman reported that Wells Fargo has not yet made itself available for members of the Finance Committee to meet to review the Section’s investments.

**Support for H2O for Life Poster Contest**
The board has considered financially supporting an annual water poster contest headed by H2O for Life. It postponed a decision on adding this to the budget until more information is available on how H2O for Life is spending the money it receives from other donations. The question of whether to budget money for a donation for the contest will be considered at the July board meeting.

**Membership**
A motion was approved to changing the Membership Committee to the Membership Council. This action recognizes the importance of membership and, by transforming a committee to a council, will make the leader of the council a member of the governing board. Reorganization of the other councils as a result of this restructuring is open for future discussion.

**Chair-Elect Candidates**
Jim Sadler, chair of the nominating committee, reported that Eric Volk and Bill Schluenz were candidates for chair-elect.

---

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Since 1977, Team Lab, based out of Detroit Lakes, MN, has been a recognized leader in the chemical business. The Team Lab family of biological formulations offer solutions for a wide range of applications including waste water treatment ponds, activated sludge plants, sequencing batch reactors, rotating biological contractors, and collection systems. Team Lab’s Bio-Augmentation programs can help you degrade and digest waste, reduce F.O.G. and improve the overall efficiency of your system.

Bio-Augmentation is the use of select micro-organisms and specific nutrients to break down complex substances within a waste water system, converting them to simpler particles. By fortifying the population of indigenous bacteria, you enhance system performance through accelerated waste digestion, improved pollutant reduction and odor mitigation. Team Lab’s Bio-Augmentation contain three basic elements needed to quickly and effectively break down waste.

### Table: Sludge Reduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>% Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gallons Sludge</td>
<td>1,137,598</td>
<td>542,000</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Solids</td>
<td>2.58%</td>
<td>1.67%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Tons</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These three elements are NUTRIENTS, FREE ENZYMES and BACTERIAL CULTURES.

**LOCATION:** Annandale, MN

**PLANT:** Activated Sludge

**AVERAGE DAILY FLOW:** 600,000 gpd

**PROJECT DETAIL**
Customer wanted to see if by adding Team Lab’s T197 Mega Bugs Plus HC™ bioaugmentation product, it would improve both the settling and reduce the amount of sludge to be hauled.
- Added 4 lbs per week.
- Added at the head of the aeration basin.

Results are as follows:

---

**City of Browerville’s Sludge Reduction**

Problem: 200’ X 100’ sludge island

Solution: Team Lab’s sludge reduction bug program

Location: Browerville, MN | System: Wastewater treatment ponds

City of Browerville was faced with the “sludge island” and went on Team Lab’s T 195 Mega Bugs Plus bioaugmentation program to see if the “sludge island” could be reduced.

---

38’ Depth

Sludge problem: Sludge island 200’ X 100’ (approx.)

32.5’ Depth

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This is the best chance you’ll have all year to make high-quality contact with new and existing clients in Minnesota.
- Exhibitors registered by August 15, will be recognized in the Conference Program.
- MN AWWA will provide Exhibitors with a FREE list of Conference attendees.
- It’s an opportunity to show off your goods and services while boosting the David B. Morris Scholarship fund.
- Being an Exhibitor is a great way to make your support of MN AWWA highly visible to its members.

REGISTER ONLINE FOR 2017

LINKS:
AWWA Member Vendor
Non-Member Vendor
http://www.mnawwa.org/event/101ACEXHIBITS

SPONSORS RECEIVE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:
- Sponsors have first priority in Trade Show booth assignments.
- Sponsors receive recognition throughout the Conference via Conference signage, a prominent thank-you in the Conference Program, and recognition during the Appreciation Dinner.
- Sponsors are appreciated as being supporters of MN AWWA at the highest level.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS TO DATE:
- AE2S
- Barr Engineering
- Bolton & Menk
- Engineering America
- HDR
- HD Supply
- HR Green
- Hawkins
- Hydro Corp.
- KLM Engineering
- Kodru-Mooney
- M.E. Simpson Co., Inc.
- Moore Engineering
- TKDA
- Treatment Resources
- WSB & Associates

NOTE
No written materials will be mailed out. All documentation, materials, and application form will be made available via the MN AWWA website.
EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION

CONFERENCE LOCATION
Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC)
350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN 55802-2698
Tel: 800-628-8385 ext. 208
Web: www.decc.org / E-mail: aeberhart@decc.org

EXHIBITING SCHEDULE
(Wednesday, Sept. 13th)
Exhibit booth setup ............................................................. 7 – 9 a.m.
Exhibition ........................................................10:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Breaks and lunch in Exhibition W/Raffle)
Meter Madness .............................................................. 1 – 2:15 p.m.
Exhibit booth teardown ............................................... 3:30 – 4 p.m.

BOOTH DESCRIPTION
• 8’ x 10’ space, piped and draped
• 8’ x 30” skirted display table and two chairs
• Rigging available, trailers allowed

BOOTH COSTS
Member (includes two Exhibitor Registrations): $345
Non-member (includes two Exhibitor Registrations): $500
Each additional Exhibitor Registration: $60
An Exhibitor Registration includes access to vendor show, lunch, and the Wednesday evening social for TWO people. The Exhibitor Registration does NOT include admission to the rest of the conference or Thursday evening appreciation dinner. Conference registration must be purchased separately.

110 volt electrical services are available for an additional $55.
(Call MN AWWA office if you have electrical needs greater than 110 volts.) Please be sure to indicate how many outlets you will need.

BOOTH LOCATION ASSIGNMENTS
Conference sponsors’ preferences are given first priority; then booths are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
MN AWWA reserves the right to alter Trade Show layout and vendor locations. Indicate your first, second, and third choices for booth location. No private room displays. See floor plan for booth locations.

SUBLETTING OF BOOTH SPACE
No portion of any booth may be sublet or assigned to any other firm or person(s).

FIRE AND SAFETY CODES
Each booth operator must comply with all federal, state, local, and DECC fire and safety codes.

INSURANCE
It is agreed that in no case shall MN AWWA or its officers or directors be responsible for any loss, theft, damage by fire, or injury to any person or article as a direct or indirect result of their participation in the show.

LIABILITY
Each booth operator assumes responsibility for the space leased during the trade show and will keep it free from hazards to persons on the premises. MN AWWA will not be responsible for any injury that may occur to booth operators, their associates or employees.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES
DECC does not allow the selling or distribution of any food or beverages from display booths unless purchased directly from DECC. For more information, contact Annette Eberhart, Director of Event Planning, at 800-628-8385 ext. 208.

TO SHIP MATERIALS
You may ship directly to:
Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC)
350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN 55802-2698
Tel: 800-628-8385 ext. 208
Web: www.decc.org / E-mail: aeberhart@decc.org
Indicate that your shipment is for the MN AWWA Annual Meeting, September 12-15, 2017.

FLOOR PLAN
EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION

DUE AUGUST 16, 2017*

YOUR COMPANY INFORMATION
Company Name: _________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Contact Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Street Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Cty: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip: ___________________________
Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ___________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

TRADE SHOW EXHIBITOR BOOTH REGISTRATION
Booths $345 (member), $500 (non-member) per booth.
Qty: _________ $: _______________________

Two Exhibitor Registrations are included per booth. Please list name(s) of Exhibitor Registrant(s):
1. __________________________________________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________________________________________

Additional $60 per person
Qty: _________ $: _______________________
(covers admission to the Vendor Exhibitor Show, lunch, and evening social).

Please list Registrations name(s) of any additional Exhibitor Registrant(s):
Name: __________________________________________________________________________________________
Name: __________________________________________________________________________________________
Name: __________________________________________________________________________________________

Electrical Service $55 for each 110V service.
Qty: ____________________ $: _______________

Booth Location List booth preferences here, if any. (See diagram on page 3 of Call for Exhibitors brochure.)
1: ___________________________ 2: ___________________________ 3: ___________________________
Booth Registration Total $: _______________________

Note: This does not include registration costs for the full three-day conference. Conference details and a registration sheet will be distributed at a later date.

CONFERENCE SPONSOR REGISTRATION
Please check below to indicate that your organization wishes to be a Conference Sponsor. Sponsors have first priority in Trade Show booth assignments. Sponsors receive recognition throughout the Conference via such items as Conference signage, a prominent thank-you in the Conference Program, and recognition during the Member Appreciation Dinner. Sponsors are appreciated as being supporters of MN AWWA at the highest level.

☐ We wish to register as a Conference Sponsor. Cost: $550 (RECOGNITION ONLY, Does not include booth) $: ______________________

DONATIONS
To donate to the following, indicate your choices below. Donations help MN AWWA’s charitable efforts. Donors will receive special recognition at the Annual Conference.

☐ Philanthropic Golf Tournament Hole Sponsor (Suggested Donation: $200) $: ______________________
☐ Philanthropic Fishing Tournament Boat Sponsor (Suggested Donation: $200) $: ______________________
☐ Hydrant Hysteria Sponsor (Suggested Donation: $100) $: ______________________
☐ VP Team Trivia Contest (Suggested Donation: $100) $: ______________________
☐ Pipe Tapping Contest (Suggested Donation: $100) $: ______________________
☐ Water for People (Suggested Donation: $50) $: ______________________
☐ David Morris Endowment (Suggested Donation: $50) $: ______________________
☐ Philanthropic Sporting Clays Sponsor (Limit 5) (Suggested Donation: $200) $: ______________________
☐ Meter Madness Contest (Suggested Donation: $100) $: ______________________

TOTAL DUE $: _______________________

Booth Registration + Conference Sponsor + Donations $: _______________________

AUTHORIZED AND PAYMENT
Authorized Signature: ___________________________________________________________ Date: _______________________

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MN SECTION AWWA.
• Registrations without payment will not be processed.
• By registering, you agree to abide by the rules listed on the “Exhibitor Registration Information” page in the Call for Exhibitors brochure.
• Application and payment must be received by August 16, 2017.
*Exhibitors registering after August 15th may not be listed in the Conference Program.

SEND REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
MN AWWA c/o Joe Zauner
AMERICAN
21695 Highview Avenue
Lakeville, MN 55044
(651) 295-8163
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Patented extra-strength gripping system

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www.klmengineering.com
2017 MN AWWA
CONFERENCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Minnesota Associates Council (MAC) of the MN AWWA invites you to participate in our 27th Annual Golf Tournament. This year’s golf tournament will be held once again at the Lester Park Golf Course.

The tournament format will be a four-person scramble. You pick the team you wish to play with, or we can assign you to a team. Individual prizes will be awarded for contest holes and team prizes will be awarded to 1st & 2nd places in both A flight & B flight. All prizes will be distributed at the clubhouse after the event.

DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
COURSE: LESTER PARK GOLF CLUB
TIMES: LUNCH @ 12:00PM; SHOTGUN START @ 12:30PM
COST: $75.00/PERSON (INCLUDES: GREEN FEES, CART, LUNCH)

RESERVATION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 8, 2017 • NO REFUNDS CAN BE MADE
Please complete and return as soon as possible to assure your reservation. Any Questions or to Volunteer contact Joe Zauner.

GOLF REGISTRATION

DUE SEPTEMBER 8, 2017*

Name: __________________________ Representing: __________________________
Street Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________________________ Zip: __________________________
Phone: __________________________ Fax: __________________________

TEAM SELECTION:
☐ I have a team of four.
The full names of the people on my team are:
Name: __________________________ Company/City: __________________________
Name: __________________________ Company/City: __________________________
Name: __________________________ Company/City: __________________________
Name: __________________________ Company/City: __________________________

☐ I would like to be assigned to a foursome

PAYMENT:
$75.00/Golfer X _________ golfer(s) = __________________________
$: __________________________

Amount Enclosed $

Please mail your reservation form and check payable to MN AWWA to:

Joe Zauner
AMERICAN
21695 Highview Avenue
Lakeville, MN 55044

You can register for this event online, along with your conference registration.
2017 PHILANTHROPIC FISHING TOURNAMENT

The Minnesota Associates Council (MAC) of the American Water Works Association invites you to participate in the Annual Fishing Tournament. We have reserved nine of the top charter boats out of the Duluth Harbor. Remember to bring an ice chest!

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
PLACE: WATERFRONT PLAZA MARINA – CANAL PARK, DOWNTOWN DULUTH OR LAKE HEAD BOAT BASIN – 1000 MINNESOTA AVE., DULUTH
TIME: ARRIVE AT THE MARINA AT 11:00PM – BOATS WILL DEPART AT 11:30PM, RETURN AT 5:00 PM
COST: $120.00/PERSON ($50.00/STUDENT)
(REFUNDS CAN BE MADE IF CHARTER IS CANCELLED DUE TO BAD WEATHER)

Includes: All necessary fishing equipment, all required U.S. Coast Guard Safety equipment and fish filleting and bagging.
Note: A tip for the First Mate is not included. This is generally 10% - 15% of an individual's portion of the Charter Boat Fee.

WHAT TO BRING: Warm clothing and soft soled shoes, rain gear, snacks and beverages, sunglasses, camera or video camera, cooler and ice for your fish, a current Minnesota fishing license with a trout stamp.

DEADLINE: AUGUST 15, 2017

The nine boats and captains are:
Treble Hook – Dave Dahl
Happy Hooker – Jon Dahl
Hooker Too – Peter Dahl
Captain's Choice – Tom Cheetham
Blue Haven – Gerry Downes
Hooker IV – Marty Running
Cetee II – Carl Brandt
Additional boats will be reserved if available and as required.
Each boat can take up to six customers. It's first come first serve, so get your reservation in early.
All tournament questions should be directed to Doug Klamerus at (651) 704-9970.
Please fill out the reservation form below and send it with your check payable to MN AWWA to:
Douglas Klamerus – Rochester Public Utilities, 4000 East River Road NE, Rochester, MN 55906
Respond as soon as possible to ensure your reservation!

Boat Sponsorship to be paid with main registration (Note: Only boat sponsors will be guaranteed to fish with a preferred list)
Boat Sponsors: My Company would like to sponsor the following boat (Suggested Donation: $200/boat): ____________________ and the full names of the people on my boat are:

PAYMENT:
$110.00 per Fisherman X ______ Fishermen = $ ______
$50.00 per Student X ______ Students = $ ______
Total Amount Enclosed $ ____________________

[$ ] Optional Dinner. Yes, I will attend the informal dinner after fishing. Door prizes will be distributed during dinner. The restaurant will cook your catch or you can order off the regular menu. Cost of dinner not included in payment.

You can register for this event online, along with your conference registration.
SPORTING CLAYS SHOOTING EVENT

The Minnesota Associates Council (MAC) of the American Water Works Association invites you to participate in the 7th Annual Sporting Clays Event.

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
LOCATION: OLD VERMILION TRAIL – CHECK WEB SITE AT WWW.OLDVERMILIONTRAIL.COM
TIME: ARRIVE AT THE CLUB AT 9:30 AM FOR MORNING SHOOT, LUNCH AND ADDITIONAL AFTERNOON SHOOT
COST: $75.00/PERSON FOR TWO ROUNDS OF 50 (WILL NEED FOUR BOXES OF SHELLS).

All questions should be directed to Aaron Vollmer at (763) 463-5036 or aaron.vollmer@ae2s.com
Please fill out the reservation form below and send it with your check payable to MN AWWA to:
Aaron Vollmer
AE2S
6901 E. Fish Lake Rd., Ste 184, Maple Grove, MN 55369

Respond as soon as possible to assure your reservation!

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name: __________________________ Representing: __________________________
Street Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________
Phone: __________________________ Fax: __________________________

Name: __________________________ Company/City: __________________________
Name: __________________________ Company/City: __________________________
Name: __________________________ Company/City: __________________________
Name: __________________________ Company/City: __________________________

PAYMENT:
Total Amount Enclosed $ __________

You can register for this event online, along with your conference registration.
The Young Professionals Committee will host a Trivia Contest to raise funds for the David B. Morris Endowment Fund. We are asking businesses to support the contest with prize donations and/or table sponsorship.

The David B. Morris Endowment Fund is used to support education through scholarships that help advance the technology needed for providing safe drinking water to people of Minnesota. The primary objective is to increase the endowment so that scholarships will include vocational technical training in operations, professional studies in science or engineering, and advanced studies or applicable research in water related areas. Recognizing the significance of the scholarships provided by the endowment fund, we encourage you to participate and consider table sponsorship and/or prize donations.

Please join us as sponsors for the Trivia Contest with a donation of $100 as an event sponsor and/or donate a prize. We will prominently display company sponsors at the registration table and announce sponsors throughout the event. Send your $100 check and/or indicate your prize donations on the enclosed form and return by August 15th.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and we look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sincerely,

Jim Hauth
City of Eagan
3419 Coachman Pt.
Eagan, MN 55122
(651) 675-5216 - Office
(651) 675-5211 - Fax
jhauth@cityofeagan.com

☐ Yes, I wish to support this year’s Trivia Contest to benefit the David B. Morris Endowment Fund.

☐ I have enclosed my check for $100 for a contest sponsor.

☐ I will bring my prize(s) to donate to the event. Please fax or email this form.

Contact Name: ____________________________________________________________

Company Name (to appear on acknowledgements): ____________________________

Street Address: ___________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: __________________ Zip: ______________

Phone: ___________________________ Fax: _______________________________

E-mail: ___________________________

Please make checks payable to: MN Section AWWA
Mail your check with this form to:

Jim Hauth
City of Eagan
3419 Coachman Pt.
Eagan, MN 55122
(651) 675-5216 - Office
(651) 675-5211 - Fax
jhauth@cityofeagan.com

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### CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

#### TUESDAY 12TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Welcome/General Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Opening/General Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Research Case Studies System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Business Solutions Admin/Prof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Conference Events/Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>MNAWWA Meetings/Meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Social Events</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### WEDNESDAY 13TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Opening and Welcome by Tony Belden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Philosophic Committee Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>The Leadership Connection</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Conference Events/Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>MNAWWA Meetings/Meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Social Events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Legend
- MNAWWA Meetings/Meals
- Conference Events/Sessions
- Social Events

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**Pre-Conference**
- **8:00 - 3:00** Water for People Sporting Days
  - Shooting Old Vermillion Trail
- **11:00 - 5:15** Water for People Golf Tournament
- **11:00 Lunch**
- **12:00 Start** Lester Park Golf Club

**Conference Events/Sessions**
- **8:00 - 8:30** Opening and Welcome by Tony Belden
- **8:30 - 10:00** The Leadership Connection Erik Therwanger
- **10:00 to 3:30** Vendor Exhibitions
- **11:00 - 12:15** Water Utility Council Meeting Room 202
- **12:00 - 2:00** Past Chair Luncheon Bella’s Restaurant
- **2:00 - 3:00** Water for People Committee Meeting Room 202
- **3:00 - 3:30** Research Committee Meeting Room 202
- **3:30 - 3:45** Membership Committee Meeting Main Registration Hallway
- **4:30 - 7:00** MAC Social

---

**Conference at a Glance**
- **9:30 - 3:00** Old Vermillion
- **7:00 - 9:00** Pre-Conference Board Meeting Glensheen
- **7:00 - 10:00** Beer and Bags Tourney Canal Park Brewing Co.
### THURSDAY 14TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:45</td>
<td>The Microbiome and Water Quality of Drinking Water Storage Towers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Kimol Gomez-Smith, University of Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:30</td>
<td>Microbiotically Contaminated Groundwater: Communicating Results and Risk</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anita C. Anderson, Minnesota Department of Health-Duluth</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 - 10:30</td>
<td>Communication Strategies for Emerging Contaminants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alice Fulmer, WRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 - 11:15</td>
<td>Communicating Drinking Water Risk and Health Research Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Ragain, WRF</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:30</td>
<td>Minnesota’s Water Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 - 1:30</td>
<td>Removal of Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) in GAC Biodeffilers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Ma, University of Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 - 2:30</td>
<td>Combining Biological and Conventional Filtration to Meet Treatment Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeremy Wurpts, Tonka Water and Greg Johnson, WSB &amp; Assoc., Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 - 3:30</td>
<td>Treating 1,4-Dioxane with Advanced Oxidation at the City of St. Anthony</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Greg Johnson, WSB &amp; Associates, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 - 4:15</td>
<td>Use of Analytics to Predict Pipe Failure</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chad Donnelly, Minneapolis Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 - 5:00</td>
<td>AWWA Appreciation Night Meet and Greet with Hors d’Oeuvres</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harbour Side Ballroom</td>
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### FRIDAY 18TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:15</td>
<td>Minnesota’s Water Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anna Henderson, State Water Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 - 9:45</td>
<td>Infrastructure Stress Transparency Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rebecca Otto, State Auditor</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 - 10:30</td>
<td>Advancing Safe and Sustainable Water Reuse in Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anita Anderson, MDH, Jon Eaton, City of Eagan</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 - 11:30</td>
<td>Panel Discussion with State Agency Representatives</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julie Ekman, MDH, Jason Moeckel, DNR and Ali Elhassan, MGE2S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 - 12:30</td>
<td>Lunch/Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE**

**Pre-Conference**
- Sporting Clays
  - 9:30 - 3:00

**TUESDAY 12TH**
- Water for People
- Golf Tournament
  - 11:00 - 5:15
  - 11:00 Lunch
  - 12:00 Start
  - Lester Park Golf Club
- Dock at 1:00 pm
- DECC Dock to Board Meeting
  - 10:30 - 12:00
  - 12:30 - 6:30

**WEDNESDAY 13TH**
- MAC Social
  - 3:00 - 3:45
- Committee Meeting
  - 11:00 - 12:15
  - 4:30 - 7:00
- Council Meeting
  - 2:00 - 3:00
  - 3:00 - 3:30

**THURSDAY 14TH**
- Council Meeting
  - 1:00 - 1:45
- MAC Social
  - 2:45 - 3:30
- Committee Meeting
  - 1:45 - 2:30

**FRIDAY 18TH**
- Council Meeting
  - 2:45 - 3:30
- MAC Social
  - 3:30 - 4:15

---

**AWWA Appreciation Night Dinner Featuring Comedian David Harris**
- 7:00 - 8:00

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**AWWA Appreciation Night Awards Presentation**
- 9:00 - 10:00

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**Vendor Exhibitions**
- Tony Belden
  - Philanthropic Committee Update
- The Leadership Connection
  - Opening/General Session O & M
  - Harbor Side Ballroom
  - Room 202
  - 11:00 - 12:15
  - 4:30 - 7:00
- 12:30 - 6:30

---

**City of Blaine Water Pressure Lessons Learned**
- John Sierzega, Sherwin Williams
- George Linnegren, City of Blaine
- Lisa Vollbrecht, City of St. Cloud
- Sarah E. Page, Arcadis
- 9:45 - 10:15
- 10:15 - 11:30
- 1:00 - 1:45
- 2:45 - 3:30
- 1:45 - 2:30
- 1:00 - 1:45
- 10:00 - 11:00
- 11:00 - 12:00
- 12:00 - 1:00
- 1:00 - 2:00
- 2:00 - 3:00
- 3:00 - 4:00
- 4:00 - 5:00
- 5:00 - 6:00
- 6:00 - 7:00
- 7:00 - 8:00
- 8:00 - 9:00
BILL SCHLUENZ  
City of Waite Park

Bill Schluenz is the Public Works Director for the City of Waite Park. Bill is a graduate from Mankato State University, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and Construction Management. He started working for the City of North Mankato’s Utility Department where he spent 16 years, working his way up from Utility Operator to Utility Foreman. Bill then took the Public Works Directors position in Waite Park, where he has been for the last 18 years. Bill leads a staff of 11 for which he is responsible for the water, wastewater, streets, parks, storm water, refuse and buildings. Bill has been actively involved in AWWA at the district level, from Secretary to Chair to Trustee. He has planned numerous district operator schools in the central district, along with helping at the annual conference.

Bill also belongs to the APWA and has volunteered at both annual conferences in Minneapolis and in New Orleans. Bill is also actively involved with the State of Minnesota’s All Hazard Type III Team. He was fortunate to be able to spend a week in Albany, New York working out of the EOC for the State during Hurricane Sandy. Bill also is an MnWARN Alternate Director for Region IV, and is involved with MCSC, Minnesota Cities Storm Water Coalition Board.

BILL’S WORDS

Being involved is what gives me the greatest reward with all these great organizations. AWWA is the ONE organization that gives me the greatest reward: getting to know and working with so many great members over the years gone by and years to come. Our organization has a strong commitment to training, research and networking. Networking has always been to me the backbone of all our successes, it offers you the chance to meet other individuals, give and get advice, and share resources or knowledge with members. Which in turn creates a community.

It is truly an honor to be considered for the position of Section Chair. I believe I can continue the great leadership that has been shown over all the years by so many great leaders in the organization. AWWA is not just one individual but more a collection of all the members working with one common goal, to build a community that strives to be the BEST water stewards, Now and into the Future.

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System reliability, pump efficiency and industry-specific controls are imperative to successfully maintaining a reliable water management system. But did you know that the right VFDs can also save energy with extended sleep cycles, adjust for system fluctuations, and minimize wear and tear on your pumps and piping systems?

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ERIC VOLK  
Elk River Municipal Utilities

Eric started as a water/wastewater operator for the City of Blaine. He then moved to Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) five years ago to be the lead water operator, after one year he was promoted to water superintendent. Eric also served for nearly 23 years in the service, and four deployments, he retired from the military in December 2014. Eric has earned his Public Works Certificate, and is currently working towards a B.S. in Business Administration.

At ERMU, Eric leads an outstanding group of water operation specialists. The water department in Elk River covers all aspects of pumping, filtration, and distribution for the residents of Elk River. Eric has worked his way up in the industry over the last fifteen years. He was recruited to the Minnesota American Water Works Association by Jim “The Bulldog” Sadler to serve as the council chair for the MN AWWA Training and Education Council, he is a committee member on the Professional Operator Development Committee, and is also on the Executive Committee for the Suburban Utilities Superintendent Association (SUSA). As chair, Eric would focus on operator recruitment and training. He would continue to work with the Professional Operator Development Committee to ensure our current, and future operators, have the training they need to meet the challenges of enhancing regulations. Eric would also work to recruit new operators by working with the various programs around the state that train the next generation of utility operators.
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Industry News

From the Waterline, newsletter of the Minnesota Department of Health

Lewis & Clark Project Gets Needed Funding

The Minnesota Legislature approved a bonding bill, which was signed by Governor Mark Dayton that included a federal funding advance to connect the southern Minnesota city of Worthington to the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (LCRWS) by the end of 2018.

Conceived in 1988 as a way of serving water-challenged areas in South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota, the Lewis & Clark project takes water from a series of wells that tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River near Vermillion, South Dakota. The water is delivered to communities as far away as 125 miles.

The state had previously provided advances of $22 million in fiscal year 2014 and $19 million in fiscal year 2016. “Due to an extremely favorable bidding environment these last two years, there is an estimated $8 million surplus from the $19 million advance,” said LCRWS executive director Troy Larson, who explained that Lewis & Clark was prevented from using the surplus toward construction of the 16.8 miles of pipeline between Adrian and Worthington. “The bonding bill approved includes language allowing Lewis & Clark to use the surplus toward construction of this segment of pipeline. It also includes a third and final advance of $3.5 million to also be used toward construction of the pipeline.”

“We are extremely relieved to get this final piece of the funding puzzle in place so we can finally get Lewis & Clark water to Worthington,” said Worthington Public Utilities manager and Lewis & Clark director Scott Hain. •

Area to the north of existing revetment where the extension is needed

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Industry News

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

**Update on Luverne Shrimp**

The Summer 2017 issue of the *Breeze* reported the possibility of Luverne acquiring a commercial-scale shrimp facility, a result of the abundance of water from the Lewis & Clark project. In June it became official: the truShrimp Company announced it will place a $50 million shrimp production facility, known as a “harbor,” in Luverne with groundbreaking scheduled for 2018. Larson said the shrimp harbor will take 14 million gallons of water to fill its basins and, once underway, will use up to 100,000 gallons of water per day. Beyond the economic impact for Luverne and the surrounding area, the harbor will provide a boost for farmers, as the shrimp will be fed soybeans, corn, and wheat.

“Anytime we can help our local farmers is a plus for Main Street Luverne,” said the city’s Mayor, Pat Baustian. “When our farmers do well, the whole region does well.”

**Safe Drinking Water Week in Minnesota Department of Health**

Minnesota Lt. Governor Tina Smith (center) holds a proclamation signed by Governor Mark Dayton that made May 7-13 Safe Drinking Water Week in Minnesota. In the photo representatives of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Section of American Water Works Association, and the Minnesota Rural Water Association join Smith. MDH also released its annual report, documenting monitoring results from 2016. The report also looks at water issues that have developed elsewhere in the country with the theme of “Unsafe Water: Could It Happen Here?” The report can be found online at: [http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/com/dwar/report2016.pdf](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/com/dwar/report2016.pdf).

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Congratulations, Chad and Justin!

Congratulations to Chad Bauer and Justin Johnson of the city of Bloomington, utilities division. They drenched their competition and took home the hydrant trophy by winning first place.

Bauer and Johnson competed at the Annual Conference & Exposition in Philadelphia.

The duo competed against 17 strong challengers. Their finishing time was 1:33:6.

Hydrant Hysteria is a competition in which a team of two competes to assemble a fire hydrant the quickest. According to the American Water Works Association, Hydrant Hysteria is meant to challenge the competing teams’ skills while assembling the hydrant. Once the team finishes, the judges test the product to ensure it functions as it’s supposed to.

The team competed and won 1st place at the Minnesota AWWA Annual conference in 2016, which allowed them to advance and compete at the national level.

The team is headed to Las Vegas next June and are looking forward to securing another 1st place win.

People Section

Wanck of Golden Valley, Minnesota, named Jim Bullert senior project engineer. Bullert, who has a B. S. in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota, has more than 40 years of experience as an engineering consultant for municipal and industrial clients.

From the Waterline, newsletter of the Minnesota Department of Health
Accurate, versatile chemical pumps

- Cut chemical costs through higher accuracy metering
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Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota AWWA request abstracts for both verbal and poster presentations for the 2018 Surface Water Treatment Workshop.

What Makes this Workshop the Best?
- The only joint conference with MN, ND, and SD sections hosted by AWWA
- With common water sources, geology, and climate, this workshop provides an opportunity to work jointly on solving this region’s unique and challenging issues
- Collaboration with other sections will bring home value to your system
- Over 250 attendees expected

Who Should Attend?
- Utility Operators, Educators, Regulators, Engineers, Municipalities, Manufacturers, and everyone in between

TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:

**UTILITY MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS**
- Emerging Contaminants
- Regulations
- Sustainability
- Financing
- Asset Management
- Utility Management
- Water Conservation
- Source Water Issues
- GIS Applications

**WATER TREATMENT & TECHNOLOGY**
- Treatment Technologies
  - Lime Softening
  - Membrane Technologies
  - Chemical Feed Optimization
  - Innovative Treatment
  - Filter Optimization
  - Biological Treatment
  - Residuals Handling
  - Taste & Odor Removal
  - Chemical Usages

**SUPPLY, DISTRIBUTION & GREEN TECHNOLOGIES**
- Disinfection
- Disinfection By-Products
- Water Storage Issues
- Distribution
- Water Age
- Water Modeling
- Stormwater
- Surface Water Intake Issues
- Green Technologies

The presentation selection committee will view quality of the abstract as an indication of the quality expected in the presentation and final manuscript. Review of the abstracts will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme of the conference and the theme of the individual session(s)
- Significance of the work to a broad audience
- Technical content
- Originality of the work, including new concepts, innovations, or data

Questions? Contact
Adam Zach, AE2S
Adam.Zach@ae2s.com
701-746-8087

Submit abstracts for a presentation or poster at www.AWWAND.org by August 15, 2017.
Imagine that you work at a well-known cellphone company and you are sitting in your family room reading while your spouse watches TV. You hear a commercial begin by talking about cellphones. Your curiosity is piqued. You put down your book and watch. The commercial has set up a display of various cellphones. An actor is asking consumers which one they would like to try while letting them know that putting it up to their ear comes with the acceptable risk of contracting a brain tumor, as approved by the Federal Government. The ad concludes by hawking their protective cellphone cover that reduces potential radiation by 99%. I am pretty sure you are on the phone and subsequent defamation suits are filed defending the honor of the cellphone industry. You find it almost unfathomable that one company would do that to an entire industry, especially one they are dependent upon to exist – if you find that hard to believe, then you have not watched the PUR water filter “Water Bar” ad. That is exactly what happened to me watching that ad, minus the lawsuits, because everyone knows it is fair game to say that about public water suppliers. It has become a calling since the Flint Water Crisis.

Armed with my usual righteous indignation, I tapped some of my fellow water providers to gauge their outrage. Sadly, I found more resignation than riot. Somewhere along the journey to deliver one of the greatest health advances in the 20th century, we accepted that this is our lot. We will toil away: the last infrastructure considered, the silent and invisible utility, and now we passively accept the assumption that despite our best intentions, we provide poison straight to your tap.

Well for this water provider that is one bridge too far. My colleagues say, “why fight it? We can’t change it. It is not worth it?” I hear that but I refuse to listen to it. I won’t take it in and hold that in my heart. Instead, I choose to heed the words of Dylan Thomas:
*Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

I won’t sit back and just accept that this is where we are – that a profession, so full of the people I admire most, is painted as violating their most sacred duty, the provision of clean safe drinking water. I can’t do that when I know, despite an irresponsible website or inflammatory commercial, that it isn’t true. Please indulge me for a minute and let me tell you what I do know.

I know men and women who run into danger, who run in when others are running out. I know men and women who forsake time with their families to work a single alarm that indicates something might not be functioning. I know that everything these men and women do is subject to enormous scrutiny. I know they aren’t there for the glory and the pay. They are largely invisible, just like the infrastructure and service they provide. They are the water heroes who work 365 days a year regardless of weather, seven days a week regardless of weekends, and 24 hours a day whether 4am or 4pm.

There is a danger in silence. We are trained to accept silence as consent. As an industry, we cannot consent to the idea that the water we provide is tantamount to poison. I have heard some of my colleagues say, “Who cares if they drink it. That is such a small amount of what we sell.” That is a slippery slope. Water is not a widget; it is not simply a commodity.

Clean water is one of the greatest public health advancements of the 20th century. If we acquiesce to the idea that the water we provided is good enough for grass, but not for making baby formula, we have lost the trust of the public.

The moment our customers look at the water coming from their tap with suspicion instead of appreciation our industry has stepped back in time. Being silent and accepting is costing us every day in a million small ways.

If no one appreciates the value of clean drinking water how do we as an industry make the case for billions of dollars in

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infrastructure investment? That eroded trust plays out on the phone in your call center every day. A filter company thought nothing of maligning an entire industry and creating a website full of misinformation and fearmongering with the complete confidence that we as an industry would sit silently and let it happen.

We have a story to tell – it is a complicated, long, and often difficult narrative. We are fooled into thinking that if we don’t talk about it no one else will. That belief has been demonstrated to be false in so many instances and still we refuse to tell our story. We refuse to stand up for the water industry. That is baffling to me. It is difficult to explain that water has chemicals in it, that it is not “pure.” It is even more difficult to explain if it were pure, it would kill you because it is so corrosive. I do not suggest we start there. I am not naïve – engaging citizens in discussions about water may lead to these difficult topics, and you should be prepared to discuss them.

I believe water is a very local issue and you begin by telling the story of water in your community. Have you ever asked children if they know that clean safe drinking water and sanitation are the reason they can attend school and get an education? They are skeptical at first, but once you tell them how much of the world (women and children) has to spend their days finding and carrying sources of water that are potentially deadly, they figure it out. They could not go to school and also do that. Then we talk about maintaining them, replacing them… and the true cost of water pales in the face of the value it brings.

You work in an industry that provides better health for your citizens, education for their children, and economic prosperity for your community. Without you and what you provide, your community ceases to prosper and may even cease to exist. Don’t your citizens deserve to know that? I understand that Flint opened the lid on a Pandora’s Box for the water industry. Some of our detractors would say it shined a light on the problems with the industry. I don’t know anyone more heartsick about what happened in Flint than water providers. I understand the desire to hide from the light. This moment in history is like the early 20th century; it will set the course for the water industry’s next phase. What will that be? From greatest public health advancement to… greatest public health threat? I do not think that is inevitable. If we stop standing idly by and letting others tell our story, I think the next chapter is far brighter. I think the next chapter is ripe with possibility. We are the economic engines of our communities. We are the environmental stewards of our most essential resource. We are innovating sustainable water supply into the future. We don’t need a celebrity spokesperson, we just need to raise our heads and our voices and tell our stories.

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The history of the Mesabi Iron Range in northeastern Minnesota includes towns being moved so land could be mined for iron ore. Hibbing, Minnesota is the most notable, its residents and businesses displaced by a growing open-pit mine nearly 100 years ago.

The trend continues in the 21st century with the rerouting of U. S. Hwy. 53 through Virginia, a serpentine course around the city and over the Missabe Mountain Pit (also known as the Rouchleau Pit), which is the source of drinking water for Virginia.

In the early 1960s the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) secured an easement to turn Highway 53 into a four-lane road. The agreement allowed the mining company to retain ownership of the land and the power to have the state vacate the land. Through 1987 the mining company – U. S. Steel, the original owner, or its successor – was responsible for moving the road. It became the state’s responsibility after 1987.

In 2010, it happened. The landowner, RGGS Lands and Minerals of Pelham, Alabama, notified MnDOT that it wanted to expand its Thunderbird Mine to access the iron ore on the south and west side of Rouchleau Pit that is beneath a section of Hwy. 53. MnDOT, RGGS, and Cliffs Natural Resources of Cleveland (the lessee of the land) negotiated a schedule that called for the highway, along with all utilities of the city of Virginia and the Virginia Public Utilities Commission; infrastructure; and the Mesabi Trail to be removed by 2017.

The result was a massive project in terms of coordination and planning that involved other state and federal agencies. The relocation of U. S. Hwy. 53 in Virginia, Minnesota, needed for mining companies to reach iron or reserves under the existing highway, includes a bridge over the Rouchleau Pit, the source of drinking water for the city of Virginia. Minnesota Department of Health engineers are making sure the water is protected during and after construction. One of the features during construction is silt curtains, part of a multi-layered approach to keep materials away from the drinking water intakes that includes an impermeable liner and rock berm on the causeway below the bridge. Water and sewer lines are also being relocated with the highway and will pass under the bridge.
agencies, including the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), to perform, plan, review and source water protection measures related to the city’s water supply.

The project used the process of Construction Management General Contractor (CMGC) as opposed to a low-bid or design-build method. CMGC, which is relatively new to the transportation industry, incorporates the owner, designer, and contractor and allows the owner to hire a contractor to collaborate with the owner and designer to explore efficient construction means and methods, reduce risk, define and reduce the construction schedule, and

An aerial view from the north of the mammoth Terex crane lifting girders into place.

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is part of the bridge and separated by a railing from the traffic lanes. Pedestrian plazas are at each end of the bridge with a time capsule on the eastern side.

Kiewit had first considered using barges to bring in materials and stage its operations but instead opted for an earthen causeway beneath the bridge. The causeway was created with more than 300,000 cubic yards of fill, waste rock owned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources taken from near the project. The causeway, which is permeable enough to allow water in the pit to pass through, remains in place for maintenance uses.

With the eastern pier of the bridge rising more than 200 feet above the pit, the bridge is one of the tallest—if not the tallest—in the MnDOT system. Pilings for both piers were drilled into bedrock. Shoring towers, which had been used for the new Minnesota Vikings stadium in downtown Minneapolis and made adaptable enough for use on other projects, were brought in to temporarily support the large steel bridge girders until they were all in place and spliced together.

The placement of 80 girders, totaling 10 million pounds, began in the fall of 2016 and was completed in January 2017. A gigantic Terex CC6800 1375 Ton Crawler, the same model as was used for the Vikings stadium, was brought in to lift the girders from the causeway to the bridge deck. Huston said the girders were spliced into “four packs,” two pieces end-to-end coupled with another parallel pair. Weather was a factor with the schedule; the girders could not be lifted if the wind was more than 12 miles per hour.

“The Terex crane minimized the number of picks the contractor had to make, thus reducing the risk and increasing safety,” Huston said, adding that the heaviest of the lifts was 750,000 pounds.

The girders were fabricated at Veritas Steel in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, more than 200 miles from the project. A special route needed to be worked out to get the girders to the site and had to be
The girders were fabricated at Veritas Steel in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, more than 200 miles from the project. A special route needed to be worked out to get the girders to the site and had to be coordinated with paving and other road projects along the way.

In addition to the highway, watermains were also rerouted along the highway and across the bridge. MDH engineers Brian Noma, David Weum, and David Rindal oversaw the plan review portion of construction related to water supply. All have been involved since the beginning of the project, working with the contractors on concerns related to the Safe Drinking Water Act and the impacts of construction.

MDH hydrologist Tracy Lund worked on issues related to source water protection and noted that stormwater runoff goes to retention ponds on the east side of the bridge rather than directly into the water below, slowing the infiltration process. The bridge has no deck drains; in addition, snow will be plowed to the side of the bridge and then removed by MnDOT, using snow blowers and trucks.

The bridge is opening to traffic in August 2017 with the infrastructure removed along the old portion of the highway so that mining operations could begin as soon as possible. Even the final work, including landscaping, is being completed in 2017 instead of the following spring, as was originally planned.

Huston said the early completion will save money by not having overhead through another winter, helping with the price tag of $240 million for the total project. The cost includes the purchase of the mineral deposits below the highway so that MnDOT has full ownership of the highway and the land.

Even though he won’t be around for the life of the bridge, projected to be at least 100 years, Huston thought of those who will follow and said, “We don’t want to have to go through this again.”

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According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, diversity is defined as, “the condition of having or being composed of differing elements: variety; especially: the inclusion of different types of people (as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization.”

In the article What Is Diversity in the Workplace and Why Should You Care? published on December 8, 2014, in the magazine Knowledge Leader, the writer provides a more comprehensive definition for workplace diversity. “Diversity is about including different ideas, backgrounds, and opinions in the mix when making key decisions, developing and generating new ideas and solutions to our internal challenges, and also to our clients’ toughest challenges externally. It is about encouraging variety of thought, embracing new ideas, and creating a culture that fosters innovation by valuing these differences.”
Furthermore, the concept of inclusion is used in addition to diversity to enhance the need to go beyond the appearance of diversity to a culture where all who are present feel like they belong and are genuinely valued. Moreover, in a culture of diversity and inclusion, everyone has the same opportunities for growth and advancement based on general standards that are universally implemented. Notwithstanding, some people struggle to embrace diversity and inclusion in the workplace not because of malicious intent, but merely ignorance. All of this sounds great, but why are we dealing with this issue now? Have we not made enough strides in the areas of diversity and inclusion that we no longer need to address it anymore? Yes, great progress has been made already but still, whenever topics of diversity and inclusion are raised in certain social, corporate, or municipal circles, so are the hairs on the backs of some people’s necks. Some think to themselves or even articulate the question, “Can we not talk about this now?” To which we respond, “Why not? Would tomorrow be more appropriate? What about next week, month, or year? What about never?”

WHY DIVERSITY?
Now that we have established the definition of diversity and eliminated some confusion concerning what it is not, let’s answer the question of “Why diversity?” What are the benefits of establishing a culture of diversity and inclusion within the workplace? Is it even necessary? Does it make things worse or does it make things better? Based on the overwhelming findings of recent research, what we do know is that diversity, when done right, is good for business.

Barry Chignell listed seven benefits of diversity in the CIPHR blog, 7 Reasons You Should Embrace A Diverse Workforce published on September 30, 2014, that are worth noting:

1. Improved understanding of your customer base. With employees from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences comes a greater understanding of customers’ points of view.
2. Increased productivity.
   Greater diversity offers different ways of thinking.
3. Greater innovation and creativity. As with productivity, different backgrounds, experiences, and skills lead to greater innovation and creativity.
4. Increased skill set. The more diverse your employees, the greater the set of skills and competencies your brand will have at its disposal.
5. Improved employee onboarding and retention. New employees can be onboarded and integrated more easily when there are employees that they can relate to.
6. A larger talent pool. Brands that embrace diversity benefit from a larger talent pool than those looking at select groups of potential applicants.
7. Positive employer branding. Diverse brands are seen favorably by many and this can only be a positive thing for any business.

UNDERSTAND THE RESEARCH
Josh Bersin – founder and principal of Bersin by Deloitte, a leading provider of research-based membership programs in human resources (HR), talent, and learning – stated in an article in Forbes Magazine published on their website on December 6, 2015, that diversity and inclusion will be a top priority for American business in 2016. Based on a survey of 454 global organizations that generated more than $750 million in revenue in 2013, his firm’s researchers concluded that diversity and inclusion top the list of talent practices linked to stronger financial outcomes.

In a report titled Diversity Matters, which was re-released in February 2015, McKinsey and Company examined...
proprietary data sets for 366 public companies across a range of industries in Canada, Latin America, the United Kingdom, and the United States. By comparing metrics such as financial results and the composition of top management and boards, they were able to present the following results:

- Companies in the top quartile for racial and ethnic diversity are 35% more likely to have financial returns above their respective national industry medians.
- Companies in the top quartile for gender diversity are 15% more likely to have financial returns above their respective national industry medians.
- Companies in the bottom quartile both for gender and for ethnicity and race are statistically less likely to achieve above-average financial returns than the average companies in the data set (that is, bottom-quartile companies are lagging rather than merely not leading).
- In the United States, there is a linear relationship between racial and ethnic diversity and better financial performance: for every 10% increase in racial and ethnic diversity on the senior-executive team, earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) rise 0.8%.
- Racial and ethnic diversity has a stronger impact on financial performance in the United States than gender diversity, perhaps because earlier efforts to increase women’s representation in the top levels of business have already yielded positive results.

In May 2013, Deloitte Australia (Deloitte) and Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission published a research report titled Waiter, is that inclusion in my soup? A new recipe to improve business performance. The report was based on the results of a survey of 1,550 employees who responded to a diversity, inclusion, and business performance survey. The most important findings of the report can be summarized as follows:

“Employees who perceive their organization is committed to, and supportive of, diversity and who feel included, are 80% more likely to believe they work in a high performing organization, in comparison to a workplace perceived as having low commitment and support for diversity and employees not feeling included.

Even when there is high diversity and low inclusion, or low diversity and high inclusion, the business outcomes are never as impressive as the high diversity and high inclusion combination.”

We should consider it our mission to promote and create organizational environments that effectively recruit and utilize diverse workforces and memberships within all water utilities. Therefore encouraging and recognizing individuals who bring an array of backgrounds, styles, perspectives, values, and beliefs that are positive, productive, and inclusive. By this, we foster continued growth and progression throughout the water industry.

Nevertheless, what’s the current state of leadership diversity in the water industry? Take note of the word leadership because that’s very important. It’s easy to boast of a diverse workforce while maintaining a lack of diversity in leadership. It takes minimal effort to embrace workforce diversity at the lower levels. The true challenge comes when we’re no longer satisfied with opening the door to the mailroom for everyone while closing the door to the boardroom for some.

What do you think? Before we delve into the committee’s plan to gather these facts, please allow me to pose the same question in a different manner to further drive home the main point. Is there a realistic and equitable path to the top for everyone? That’s a difficult question that few want to ask and even fewer would attempt to answer. Yet, it’s a question that will have to be asked while the parameters of the new Diversity Committee get under way.

The Workforce Diversity Network (WDN), a think-tank out of Rochester, NY, published a thought-provoking article written by Joe Gerstandt in June 2009 called Diversity, What it isn’t. In it, he elaborated on the following five points:

- Diversity is not about compliance.
- Diversity is not about tolerance or sensitivity.
- Diversity is not about special treatment for some people.
- Diversity is not about charity.
- Diversity is not about ethnic food celebrations.
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What are the benefits of establishing a culture of diversity and inclusion within the workplace? Is it even necessary? Does it make things worse or does it make things better?
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- What other industry uses a renewable resource and recycled stock as its main ingredients?
- What other industry has worked harder on improving its environmental performance with partners and advocates including governments, customers and environmental groups?

Paper is an essential part of human civilization. While we all use and depend upon electronic communications, it is easy to ignore that it comes at an environmental cost. Worldwide spam email traffic creates greenhouse gases equivalent to burning two billion gallons of gasoline yearly, with numbers rising. More than 200 million items of toxic e-waste are thrown away every year in the US alone, with a recycling rate of only 18% compared to 57% for paper. Estimates are that North Americans throw out more than 500,000 toxic computers and cell phones every day.

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The world abounds with examples of form taking precedence over function. However, the water treatment plant in St. Joseph, Minnesota, combines function and form. The plant, which opened in 2007 and removes iron and manganese, is on the edge of town, across Interstate 94 away from the rest of the city.

Now standing virtually alone off the freeway and Stearns County Road 2, the plant was designed to be aesthetically pleasing in anticipation of the additional development that will be taking place in the area. “They didn’t want to build a typical square building,” said operator Mike Sworski. “Being the first ones out here, they wanted to set a pattern.” With an arch and a curved roof, the structure has more of a look of a community center rather than a municipal utility.

But the building has some brawn in addition to the beauty as it features plate settlers to reduce the sludge, which typically would go to a sanitary sewer. The sewer is nearly a mile away, and plans to extend the line are not in the works and will not be until future development reaches the outskirts. “We figured that out rather quickly when we got across the freeway,” said John Thom of SEH, Inc. of Vadnais Heights, Minnesota, the design-engineering firm. With the sewer not an option, the plant was built with plate settlers, normally used in the wastewater industry, to keep the sludge to a minimum. The sludge is stored on site before being hauled into town.
“With an arch and a curved roof, the structure has more of a look of a COMMUNITY CENTER rather than a municipal utility.”

The backwash water is recycled at 10 percent of the raw-water flow coming into the plant. “So if we have 800 gallons coming in, 80 gallons go into plate settler,” explained Sworski. The end result is two percent or less of waste from the backwash water. Sworski noted that at the old plant, which is still being used, the backwash water sits for eight hours. At the new plant, they are able to start the reclaim process right away.

The new plant oxidizes iron and manganese through aeration, and then has four cells of anthracite/greensand filters. It can produce three million gallons per day, three times the capacity of the old plant, which is tucked in amid houses and other buildings in the heart of St. Joseph, leaving no room for expansion. Sand filters remove primarily iron at the old plant because water from the wells that serve it is low in manganese. The plants are run separately, and the water is blended in the distribution system.

With the construction of the new plant came three new wells and a one-mile extension of the distribution system. Thom said that the ground had to be built up since they were below the water table. “The bottom of any basin must be above the water table by two feet,” he explained.

“It was quite the learning process for us,” said Sworski of the plate settlers, adding, “It definitely does what it’s supposed to do.” •
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An Estimated 11,000 Water Professionals Gather in Philadelphia to Make a ‘Better World Through Better Water’

Source: awwa.org

(Philadelphia) – The 136th American Water Works Association Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE17) brought together an estimated 11,000 water professionals to Philadelphia to confront the many challenges facing the water sector.

During a packed opening general session at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, AWWA President Jeanne Bennett-Bailey acknowledged the water utility professionals, technology providers and others who assure safe and reliable water and wastewater services in North America and beyond. “Every day, you make it possible for everyone else in your community to go about their day without a single thought about their most basic need – water,” Bennett-Bailey said. “Sometimes you go back in the middle of the night and do some more… Thank you for your service, your dedication, your commitment. Thank you for going to work every single day and making this a better world through better water.”

The opening session was highlighted by a “Morning Show” panel discussion among prominent water utility leaders, including Carla Reid, CEO and general manager of Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in Maryland; Sue McCormick, CEO of Great Lakes Water Authority in Michigan; and Bill Stowe, CEO and general manager at Des Moines Water Works in Iowa.

Hosted by AWWA CEO David LaFrance, the conversation centered on leadership and examined water sector issues such as cybersecurity, source water protection, regional partnerships, communications and maintaining a robust water workforce.

The conference, which took place from June 11-14, features more than 420 technical sessions in 14 professional development tracks. An exposition floor includes more than 550 technology providers in 1,100 booths.

Brenda Lennox of Washington Takes Gavel as AWWA President

Source: awwa.org

(Denver) – Brenda Lennox of Touchet, Washington began her one-year term as president of the American Water Works Association, the world’s largest association of water professionals, in a gavel passing ceremony at the conclusion of AWWA’s Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE17) in Philadelphia.

ACE17 drew over 11,200 water professionals to Philadelphia from June 11-14 to participate in 490 technical sessions and explore solutions from more than 500 technology providers. During her term as president, Lennox will focus her attention on embracing diversity, attracting and training veterans and inspiring and recruiting young professionals on behalf of AWWA and the water profession.

“We know from our own experience that if we introduce people to our work, they can find the same lifelong passion for water that we enjoy,” Lennox said.

An AWWA member for over 20 years, Lennox is currently the strategic relations manager at RH2 Engineering, Inc. She was previously the long-standing manager of customer and support services for the Tualatin Valley Water District in Oregon. “At the heart of our work is our customers,” Lennox said. “They are the reason we show up and stay late. They are the reasons we strive to provide quality water 24/7, no matter what the challenge.” Lennox accepted the gavel from Immediate Past President Jeanne Bennett-Bailey of Fairfax, Va.

Photo courtesy of Mark Anthony, Anthony Productions
News and Notes

Greeley, Colorado wins “Best of the Best” Tap Water Taste Test

...And the City of Bloomington, Minnesota takes third place!

Source: awwa.org

The American Water Works Association announced that the City of Greeley, Colorado, has won the thirteenth annual “Best of the Best” Tap Water Taste Test. The event, composed of regional winners from water-tasting competitions across North America, was held at AWWA’s Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE17) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Second place in the taste test went to Montpelier Municipal Utilities, Montpelier, Ohio. Third place in the competition went to last year’s winner, City of Bloomington, Minnesota.

The People’s Choice award winner, as determined by the conference attendees, was also awarded to the City of Greeley. The City of Greeley has two conventional water treatment plants that provide water for the 103,000 citizens of Greeley and surrounding communities.

The Greeley-Bellvue Water Treatment Plant was completed in 1907 with a capacity of 32 million gallons per day (MGD) and the Boyd Lake Water Treatment Plant was completed in 1974 with a capacity of 38 MGD. With the adoption of the 1958 City Charter, Greeley citizens created a Council-appointed Water Board with the duty to “acquire, develop, convey, lease, and protect water and sewer assets, supplies, and facilities.”

An esteemed judging panel rated each water system on its flavor characteristics. Judges included Andrea Dietrich Monique Durand, engineer with Hazen and Sawyer P.C., and AWWA Public Affairs Council member, Cliff Shrive.
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We are looking for topical, timely and informative articles provided by operators, managers, engineers, consultants, environmentalists, etc. who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise by contributing an article to the Breeze magazine. It is an ideal way to:

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✓ gain exposure and recognition with your peers

* Note: We will provide additional details and any assistance you require to ensure a smooth and efficient contribution process.

If you are interested in being published in a future issue of Breeze magazine and contributing significantly to the advancement of our profession, please contact:

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