

North Central Regional WWOA Meeting

September 16, 2009

Village of Whiting

The summer meeting of the North Central Region of the WWOA was held on September 16, 2009. The meeting was hosted by the Village of Whiting. The meeting was held at the Blue Top Supper Club in Stevens Point, WI. There were 34 people in attendance with 8 vendor displays.

Matt Saloun opened the meeting at 8:30 am. He welcomed those in attendance and introduced Nathan Cassity, AECOM, the first speaker of the day.

Nathan was the lead designer for the Whiting WWTF upgrade project. He reviewed the Whiting WWTF history and discussed the issues that lead to the decision to upgrade the WWTF. He discussed the design issues and challenges that the Whiting faces while planning and constructing the upgrade.

Nathan detailed Whiting's commitment to incorporate many energy saving and environmentally friendly aspects into the project. Features of the project included solar hot water heat, extensive use of sky lights, re-using existing structures, and an effluent water re-use system.

The next speaker was Mark Kane from Altronex. He gave a brief overview of the instrumentation and telemetry upgrades at the WWTF. He went on to focus on lift station. Mark outlined general best practices regarding lift station control and design. He discussed control strategies, sophistication, and specific equipment used in lift station controls.

After a short break, Don Voigt, Engineered Equipment Integration, gave a lively presentation on how to identify energy wasting equipment in the Utility. He discussed how to evaluate pumps and motors and how to compare them to design criteria and or benchmarks to determine their relative energy efficiency. Don stressed the importance of looking at the energy billing statements to understand and use the information on them to the Utility's advantage. He also passed around several pieces of equipment that are used to evaluate energy use.

Eric Donaldson, DNR Area Engineer, followed with the DNR update. He stated that the EPA objected to the chloride variance procedures that the DNR has been using when re-issuing permits. The procedures are now under review. He said that the Thermal Standard is moving forward and is expected to be implemented sometime in 2010. The initial implementation will probably be to monitor effluent temperature.

Lyle Lutz called the business meeting to order.

1. He thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. He thanked the speakers for their presentations.
2. He thanked Matt Saloun, Nic Schmeiser, and the Village of Whiting for hosting the meeting.
3. Bloom announced the results of the Steering Committee election. Boden and Dickrell were re-elected to 3 year terms.
4. Lutz called for any questions/comments/ or changes to meeting minutes from the April regional meeting as posted on the WWOA website. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted as printed.
5. Treasurer's report was read and accepted.
6. The next meeting will be hosted by Merrill in January. No one has volunteered to host meeting in 2010. Please consider hosting an upcoming meeting.
7. WWOA annual conference will be October 6th – 9th at the KI Conference Center Green Bay. Lutz outlined several activities that will take place at the conference.

8. Tuition reimbursements- Six for \$150 each academic year, credit courses or advanced non-credit seminars. Contact Wade Peterson for more information.
9. Membership for all non-members is encouraged. Benefits include discounted rates to annual convention and training opportunities, student scholarships, tuition aides, the Clarifier Magazine, the Membership Directory, and eligibility for WWOA awards.
10. Nomination forms for the Regional operator of the year awards are available on the WWOA website. The 2009 recipient has been selected, but keep the award in mind for next year.
11. Lutz announced that the Village of Spencer Wastewater Laboratory was received the DNR Laboratory of the Year Award and congratulated Chris Helgestad and the rest of the staff from Spencer.
12. Lutz reminded operators that the Steering Committee is looking for suggestions for topic at future meetings. Contact any steering committee member with ideas for topics.
13. There was no new business. The meeting was adjourned. Lunch was served.

Gary Hansen, AECOM, gave a presentation on startup of equipment and processes at Whiting. Gary shared his insight on starting up and fine-tuning processes. He also discussed O&M manuals and other startup training and documentation.

Matt Saloun concluded the program with a heartfelt presentation on getting through an upgrade project from the operators' perspective. Matt shared the hopes and frustrations he experienced as construction progressed. Everyone in attendance identified with Matt's experience.

The meeting adjourned with Matt and Nic giving tours of the Whiting WWTF facility.

Submitted by Rich Boden, Secretary, North Central Region