

Patrick Shea named MN AWWA Section Director

Patrick Shea was named the new section Director in this year's Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association elections.

Patrick has served as the Central District Chair. Later he was elected to the Section's Trustee-at-Large position. Patrick continued to serve in a leadership role as the Section Chair from 2012-2013. He has volunteered on the Research Committee and the Water Utility Council.

Patrick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from St. Cloud State University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of South Dakota. Patrick was employed by the city of St. Cloud for 25 years and concluded his tenure as its Director of Public Services before being appointed SPRWS General Manager.

He is currently helping manage Minnesota's largest drinking water facility improvement project along with the replacement of over 26,000 lead service lines with the Lead Free SPRWS program.



Patrick Shea

Bob Meyer presented at MN AWWA in Duluth

Bob Meyer, distribution supervisor, presented at the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association conference.

Bob presented "The Development of a Water Hydrant Inspection Program" on Thursday, Sept. 15 at the DECC in Duluth.

Bob has been presenting this information to other water groups as well as the MN AWWA.



Bob Meyer



Jonathan Kirk, Steve Nystrom, and Andy Knuth listen to Bob Meyer's presentation at MN AWWA Sept. 15.



Staff attend MN AWWA

About 30 staff members from the water utility attended the MN Section of the American Water Works Association annual conference in Duluth Sept. 14 -16. Here most of the attendees gather for a group photo on Sept. 14. All divisions of the utility were represented at the conference, which offers educational courses and opportunities to network with other water professionals.

Staff compete in Hydrant Hysteria at MN AWWA in Duluth



Kelsey Feier and Jonathan Kirk, water utility workers, compete in the Hydrant Hysteria competition at the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Conference in Duluth Sept. 14. Winners progress to the national conference in Toronto, Canada.

Distribution holds final retiree picnic for former staff



Dolly Ludden, business division manager, and Dave Wagner, retiree, gather at a final distribution picnic at the B-Dale Club on Sept. 9. Distribution previously had a retiree fund from which these events were financed. That fund has now been closed out and distribution staff who contributed to it over the years have been paid out what they would have received at their retirement.

New horizontal directional boring machine used on leads



Jake O'Donnell, water utility worker, runs the horizontal directional boring machine on Lincoln Ave. Sept. 21. Some lead replacement crews started using the new machinery on Sept. 20. The machine operator can track and guide the drilling head through the ground, resulting in more accuracy than a pneumatic bullet. It can be used to drill directly into a home, after which the copper piping is attached and pulled back to connect to the water main or copper service line.

Castillo joins maps and records

Diana Flores Castillo has joined the water utility in maps and records as a GIS specialist I.

Her first day with the utility was Sept. 12.

She is located on the second floor of the administration building in the maps and records section.

Please welcome Diana to the water utility.



Diana Flores Castillo