

**MINUTES OF THE
LABOR MANAGEMENT SAFETY COMMITTEE
MAY 5, 2010
ST PAUL REGIONAL WATER SERVICES**

PRESENT: John Blackstone, Mike Dreis, Scott Thompson, Mary Jo Kiewel, Angela Anderson, Lorrie Brown, Lynn Waldorf, Tom Perrier, David Schuler, Pat Gerlach, Tom Bosman, Derek Hollanitsch, Mark Pothen and Jean Karpe

The Labor Management Safety Committee met at the Saint Paul Regional Water Services, McCarrons Treatment Plant. This was the second Labor Management Committee site visit.

Dave Schuler, Chief Engineer for the Saint Paul Regional Water Services gave the committee a very informative presentation on the SPRWS, which included history of the facility, statistics, and handouts, brochures, and current information on our Saint Paul jewel.

The main source of the Saint Paul Regional Water Services is from the Mississippi River, the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes and six wells. From these water sources located in Fridley, the Mississippi River pumping station has a total capacity of 90 million gallons of water per day. The water is pumped through two parallel conduits to Charles Lake. From there, water is pumped by conduits and canals through Charles, Pleasant, Sucker and Vadnais Lakes.

SPRWS serves over 420,000 people in twelve communities. There are over 94,000 total customer accounts, and 4,000 commercial accounts. SPRWS has 240 personnel and have a very diverse workforce. Several suburbs of Little Canada, Roseville, and Arden Hills receive wholesale services from SPRWS. Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Mendota Heights and West Saint Paul receive retail services from SPRWS.

The minutes from the April 7, 2010 meeting were reviewed by members and approved.

There will be three Safety Messages in May emailed to committee members for posting:

Becoming a Professional Driver – May 3
Seat Belt Fact Sheet – May 10
Roadway Construction and Work Zone – May 17

Near Misses – What is the protocol for reporting near misses? John Ross requested that this topic be discussed by our committee at this meeting.

Lorrie Brown stated that SPRWS just started recording near misses in her department.

Pat Gerlach stated that the Libraries fill out a first report of injury for near misses in order to maintain a documentation log.

Angela Anderson asked about whether we need to document near misses if no one gets hurt. Does it need to be recorded?

Tom Perrier asked the question how do you determine whether something is a near miss? What qualifies a situation to become a near miss? What if a piece of equipment is damaged, but no one is hurt?

John Blackstone stated that recently a car almost got hit by a train in the SPRWS area and it really was a near miss. How can we prevent a near miss from happening, such as this incident where someone could have been badly injured or killed by the train. John has set up a meeting with representatives from the railroad, water, public works and the county to meet to discuss this railroad crossing and brainstorm ways to make it safe for motorists.

Tom Perrier asked what would happen if the ground where your crane is standing gives way, and the equipment is damaged, but there is no report of injury because no one is hurt.

John Blackstone stated that statistics show that a person who is involved in a car accident once, will most likely be involved in a car accident in the future.

Lorrie Brown stated that recently an SPRWS employee broke their ankle because they were standing on a bucket to reach for something, instead of using a footstool and now it is a workers compensation claim. Lorrie stated that SPRWS has a new policy that all return to work employees need to complete 14 hours of safety training on-line before returning to work.

John Blackstone stated that SEH and Michael's Engineering were both hired in the past to make safety corrections at the SPRWS. Corrective measures have been put in place to make their facility safe for staff and the public. The SPRWS has four safety committees which meet regularly on issues at the plant.

Walking tours of the SPRWS were given by Jim Bode and Justine Row. Our committee broke into two groups to start the tour from the administration building to the lime plant, and chlorine and ammonia building. LMSC members were asked to fill out their Safety Inspection Check lists while on tour and email their findings to Mary Jo Kiewel to compile in one report which will be forwarded back to the department for review and to implement safety changes.

Many thanks to the Saint Paul Regional Water Services for hosting our meeting, providing the beverages and donuts, and for the informative tour of the facility. Several committee members went on to the field site visit to view a SPRWS crew digging up a city street.