INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DAMAGE PREVENTION ISSUE

CONTRACTOR SURVEY ON UTILITY HITS

CONTRACTOR CLAIMS FOR UNDISCLOSED UTILITIES

MS216D STAKEHOLDER REVIEW

WHAT’S IN YOUR SPEC: THE TRUTH ABOUT TRACER WIRE

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter…. What winter? The start of the construction season is off and running! As your crew leaders are already out there working hard, please encourage them to keep safety as their main concern; I know it’s yours too. MUCA’s main concern is solving problems for members through education, training, and legislative relations.

After an unpredictable election cycle, we have a new President who in his acceptance speech called out infrastructure: “We’re going to rebuild our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none. And we will put millions of our people to work as we rebuild it.” Let’s hope he keeps his word. The trouble for MUCA Members is finding people for doing the work. MUCA has engaged with several groups on several fronts to solve the workforce development issue for our members. We participate in Project Build Minnesota, The Legacy I-3 Initiative, the MN DOT DBE/Workforce Collaborative, and the Center of the American Experiment. Details on these efforts can be found in this issue.

The focus of this edition of the Underground Press is damage prevention. Similar to workforce development, several entities are working hard to prevent utility hits including Gopher State One Call and the Minnesota Regional Common Ground Alliance, plus we are involved with the MS216D Stakeholder Review to ensure contractor protections are included. While these efforts tout a “shared responsibility”, MUCA’s Member survey (see page 20) on utility hits shows that contractors feel like they’re paying a greater share of the responsibility than facility owners or locators.

MUCA’s strong value proposition for its members continues to increase. Our working committees are focused on bringing you valuable education and certification programs, great events to connect with your peers and customers, impactful and positive legislative results, and opportunities for scholarships for your employees’ children.

As your President, I encourage you to be active in your association! Join a committee, sponsor an event, submit an article on best practices, or support your association by advertising in this magazine or our directory. MUCA remains the only organization focused on the underground utility construction industry. As always, feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mark Magney
Magney Construction
Chanhassen, MN

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Magney Construction Co.

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 MUCA BELIEVES...

Our Mission
To promote the underground utility industry by providing safety training, continuing education, scholarships and legislative relations.

Our Vision
To be the best Association Value for our members.

Our Guiding Principles
Safety, An Educated Workforce, A Unified Voice.

Our Values
Honest Communications, Transparent Leadership, Authentic Engagement.

CONNECT AND ENGAGE

May 20, 2017
Undie 500 Charity Ride

June 22, 2017
37th Annual Jeff Hanson Memorial Last Ditch Open

August 20, 2017
MUCA Family Picnic Day at the St. Paul Saints

September 30, 2017
Day of the Dozers Benefit for Children’s Hospital

October 6, 2017
6th Annual Clay Shoot Classic Tournament

November 16, 2017
MUCA Annual Meeting, Vendor Fair & Silent Auction

LET’S GET SOCIAL!

Join MUCA’s LinkedIn Group
www.linkedin.com/groups

Search “Minnesota Utility Contractors” and simply click to join.

Topics include legislative issues, construction industry news, calls to action, MUCA event updates, and member recognition. Share an article, pose a question, and increase your online network by joining MUCA’s LinkedIn Group.

Stay informed, join the discussion, and add your perspective!
MUCA is served by Ewald Consulting, a professional association management firm. The team at Ewald Consulting can answer many of the questions you have.

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MUCA Lobbyist
MUCA Members gathered at Mystic Lake Casino on November 10 to celebrate the end of the construction season, review the Association’s achievements for 2016, recognize outstanding members and volunteers, and ratify the election of our Board of Directors.

As always, we kicked off the Annual Meeting with a vendor display and reception. This event is a great opportunity to connect with your industry peers, customers and friends and share a few laughs, good food and great entertainment. We had over 140 attendees this year, and thanks to the sponsors and vendors for making this event special! We honor them by placing their logos on the back cover of this magazine.

MUCA welcomed new Board Members Craig Habighorst, Rice Lake Construction Group, and Mark Jay, Lametti & Sons.

Part of the tradition of the change in leadership is the passing of the gavel and of course, a short speech by the incoming President. MUCA would like to take this time to thank Tim Culp, now with Quam Construction, for his leadership this past year, and welcome Mark Magney, Magney Construction, to his term as Board President. This association cannot accomplish its goals without good leadership!

We had two very special awards to give out this year too. Pictured above is Matt Brenteson, Brenteson Companies, receiving the Golden Backhoe Award for his leadership, commitment, and service to MUCA. Matt is one of the most active and engaged members! Gary Carlson with Gary Carlson Equipment Company received the Associate Member of the Year award for demonstrating consistently good customer service and support of MUCA Members.

Once the business was conducted, and the recognition of volunteers and award winners was finished, MUCA Members were treated to an outstanding presentation, perhaps involving a little discomfort, as they became actively engaged in learning how to develop an innovative mindset using the tools of improvisation.
Our keynote speaker, John Sweeney with the Brave New Workshop, shared “Innovation at the Speed of Laughter” by using improv techniques. He taught us how to go from fear to discovery by simply listening, deferring judgment, reframing the discussion, declaring (being authentic), and jumping in! We learned we needed to get comfortable being uncomfortable, to embrace fear, and to celebrate ideas instead of judging them.

Everyone enjoyed the venue so much, that the evaluations requested we return to Mystic Lake for our 2017 Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars for November 16, 2017! Thanks again to our sponsors, vendors, committee members, and board volunteers for making this association a success. We value your involvement and commitment to MUCA and to this industry!
WHEN BEING DRY COUNTS

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BLAKE DRILLING COMPANY, INC. has worked with countless municipalities and contractors, designing and installing hundreds of miles of dewatering systems throughout the Midwest. We look forward to working with you on your next project!
MUCA Members packed the Ewald Conference Center to learn a rare lesson — leadership and management skills for field crew, supervisors, superintendents, project managers and even owners.

Mark Breslin provided a high-energy, enthusiastic program that included straight talk and plenty of group discussions. He correctly pointed out that most construction supervisors and crew leaders are responsible for the oversight of projects including managing personnel, materials, equipment, changes, inspections, safety, along with a dozen other aspects of the job. In addition, all this work amounts to responsibility for hundreds of millions of dollars over a 30 year career… yet the ONE thing they never (or rarely) receive is training on how to elevate themselves as leaders.

As professionals in the construction industry, these leaders can positively impact those around them through motivation, communication, driving accountability, and coaching and mentoring. The cost to implement these strategies is nothing; the reward is an engaged, productive and dedicated crew, which will add to the bottom line and also continue to develop future industry leaders for your company.

Our congratulations to the following MUCA companies for investing in your leaders: Beemer Companies, Brenteson Companies, LaTour Construction, Belair Sitework Services, Ellingson Companies, HD Supply Waterworks, Hjerpe Contracting, Magney Construction, Midwest CATV, Rice Lake Construction Group, St. Paul Utilities, and Olson’s Sewer Service.

MUCA is pleased to offer valuable programs to help our members develop your most valuable asset, your people!
The Minnesota Utility Contractors Association presents

**A DAY WITH THE ST. PAUL SAINTS**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017 AT 3:00 PM · ST. PAUL SAINTS VS. CLEBURNE RAILROADERS**

**Schedule of Events**
3:30pm – Group Picnic  
4:10pm – Kids On-Field Activities  
5:05pm – Baseball Game

**Location**
CHS Field – St. Paul  
360 Broadway  
St. Paul, MN 55101

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**Tickets are just $33 each (includes pre-game picnic and reserved seat at game). Please specify quantity:**
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Contact ashleyc@ewald.com with questions

**Tickets are non-refundable after July 15, 2017**

Additional event information & registration can be found at www.muca.org
A LOOK AT LAST YEAR

FAMILY DAY AT THE SAINTS

Register online at www.muca.org
The top priority identified by MUCA’s Board of Directors in our strategic plan is workforce development. MUCA has joined with over 25 other construction organizations to support Project Build Minnesota, a movement creating a multi-year, multimedia campaign to promote and raise awareness of the great careers available in construction — all construction.

Did you know the construction industry represents one of the largest growing segments of the Minnesota economy? 79% of general contractors and 89% of specialty contractors report a steady workforce/some hiring in 2017. According to AGC of America, our industry is expected to grow 6-8% through 2019.

The greatest threat to the Minnesota construction industry is the lack of qualified labor entering the market. This is due to 70% of high school graduates going off to college. Yet less than 2/3 will graduate. Fully 30% of college and university students drop out after their first year.

We need to change the perception and highlight the career paths available! Back in 2016, MUCA came together with dozens of other construction organizations to form Construct Minnesota. We wanted to help our collective members find the quality workers they need, and also promote the construction industry and the viable long-term careers available.

Together, we formed Project Build Minnesota. This organization will establish, grow and sustain a movement that empowers young men and women with choices and ensure a steady flow of qualified labor into the construction market. We aim to raise awareness about career opportunities in the professional building trades. From the landscapers and materials providers to distributors, builders, and contractors of all sizes — we are united in our mission to recruit the next generation of hard-working builders to our industry.

Our job is to spread the word to both young and old, men and women, and people of all races and backgrounds, about the opportunities that exist for their to begin a life-long career in construction.

We will accomplish this by developing a brand, a communications plan, marketing materials and visual assets to use in websites, advertising, media campaigns, school outreach, trade shows and events across Minnesota.

MUCA is asking each Member Company to contribute $200 to help our association reach the “Association Trailblazer” level. If you’d like to contribute as an individual company, you are also welcome to do so by contacting Dennis Medo with The Builders Group at dmedo@tbgmn.com or (651) 389-1140.

Please complete the form with your payment information and email, fax or mail to MUCA’s offices. THANK YOU!
YES – WE ARE A MUCA TRAILBLAZER WITH PROJECT BUILD MINNESOTA!

Company: ____________________________________________________________
Contact: ____________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City: ________________________________________________________________
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Contact: stephaniem@muca.org with questions

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EVENTS

JEFF HANSON MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING JUNE
PICNIC DAY AT THE SAINTS AUGUST
DAY OF THE DOZERS SEPTEMBER
CLAY SHOOT CLASSIC OCTOBER
ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER

ENGAGE IN YOUR ASSOCIATION

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
EVENTS COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

VISIT WWW.MUCA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION
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PLEASE SELECT YOUR PAYMENT OPTION(S):

☐ Registration $125 (includes 18 station shoot with ammo, lunch, refreshments and prizes)
☐ Raffle Item Donation Please indicate your donation amount in the space provided below.
☐ Social Hour Host $200
☐ Station Sponsor $300 (reps at station)
☐ Lunch/Social Hour Only $25

Yes, I would like to make a contribution to MUCA: $ ____________

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SCHEDULE:
11:00am Registration and Lunch
12:00-2:30pm Shoot
2:30pm Social Hour and Prizes

Complete form and submit with payment to MUCA:
1000 Westgate Dr. Suite 252 | St. Paul, MN 55114
Phone: 651-735-3908 Fax: 651-290-2266
Contact info@muca.org with questions
Cancellation Policy: Registration fee less a $25 administrative charge may be refunded up to one week prior to the Shoot Out Classic. Cancellations after September 30, 2017 will not be refunded.
It was a sunny yet blustery day for MUCA’s Day at the Capitol this year. We again partnered with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce for their Business Day at the Capitol. This affords MUCA Members the opportunity to participate in a “Lobbying 101 and Issue Briefing Session”, a luncheon with a keynote panel discussion on health care reform, and connecting with other business leaders from around the state.

As we met with several legislative leaders in the afternoon, our focus was (and still is!) encouraging a long-term transportation funding bill, full support and funding of the Public Facilities Authority to ensure utilization of the federal matching funds available for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and business tax relief.

On our way to visits in the new Senate Office Building, and while admiring our beautifully remodeled State Capitol, we had a brief chat and photo op with Sen. Carla Nelson. We then headed over to the State Office Building for visits with several House Members, including Rep. Jim Knoblauch, and Speaker of the House Kurt Daudt. It was a busy day, but always worth the time spent lobbying for your business!
MUCA’s partnership with WSB University continues to reap benefits for MUCA members and non-members who are seeking certification in Erosion Control Site Management. In 2017 the tradition of excellent education continues as MUCA has certified, and re-certified, hundreds of construction professionals since the program’s beginnings back in 2009.

Key to MUCA’s success is an annual review of the content for updates to specifications, guidelines and permit requirements. We also have an extraordinary instructor in Jennifer Hildebrand, CPESC, CPSWQ, CESSWI with WSB & Associates, who has over 20 years of involvement in the construction industry.

This year, MnDOT returned as an instructional partner for added technical expertise on their specifications.

We’d also like to thank our Sponsorship Partner, Brock White, for supporting the Erosion Control Site Management Certification and helping to keep it cost-effective for MUCA attendees.

As with all successful training endeavors, partnerships with other agencies and various supporters add value to the program as well as the educational components. Thanks to WSB & Associates, Brock White, MnDOT and MUCA Members for making this program a success!
ON THE COVER

DAMAGE PREVENTION

EXCAVATION SAFETY, UTILITY LOCATING, PUBLIC AWARENESS, UTILITY MARKING, DAMAGE INVESTIGATION, AND MORE.

READ ON TO LEARN MORE
In a perfect world, every time you call 811, every utility will be accurately marked. Unfortunately, we do not live in a perfect world. In March, MUCA asked its contractors to complete a survey regarding the issues of abandoned, mislocated or no-locate utilities. This survey aimed to learn how pervasive the problem is, what the costs are for the contractor, and if “shared responsibility” is a reality. We received 30 responses; all are anonymous.

1. How many of your projects are delayed due to utility issues?
   a. Almost all on almost every project 26.67%
   b. Several projects are affected annually 56.67%
   c. Just a few projects — it’s manageable 3.33%
   d. Hardly ever — it happens, but only rarely 13.33%
   e. Never — all utilities are always properly marked and located 0%

2. How often do you find mismarked, abandoned or no-located lines when excavating?
   a. Often — at least once per job, or every other job 36.67%
   b. Regularly — not on every job, but more than 2-3 times a year 56.67%
   c. Rarely — only once in a great while 6.67%
   d. Never — lines are always located and marked properly 0%

3. What major factors contribute to hitting utilities? (check all that apply)
   a. Locator error — mismarked or not-marked properly (26) 86.67%
   b. Contractor error — didn’t see the markings (14) 46.67%
   c. Utility error — abandon line that was unknown by utility owner (25) 83.33%
   d. Unknown depth of the utility (18) 60.00%
   e. Erratic alignment or deviation from markings (18) 60.00%

4. After a line is hit, what is the average time your crew sits idle for response and “fix” by the utility?
   a. Under 1 hour 0%
   b. 2-3 hours 76.67%
   c. Over 3 hours 23.33%

5. What factors cause delays (for the down time)? (check all that apply)
   a. Time spent finding the correct contact information for utility owner (18) 60.00%
   b. Contact information on the locate ticket is incorrect or not helpful (11) 36.67%
   c. Utility didn’t have a crew available to come to the site (25) 83.33%
   d. Requested by utility to perform additional excavation in fixing the issue (14) 46.67%
   e. Several additional trucks/personnel on site (fire, plus utility vehicles) (11) 36.67%

6. When a utility is hit, due to a no-locate or mismarked facility, should the contractor be compensated by the utility owner for the down-time?
   a. Yes 73.33%
   b. No 0%
   c. Depends on the circumstance 26.67%

7. How often do utilities and/or locators “share responsibility” for the mismarked, no-locate or abandoned lines being hit?
   a. Always — it’s equal responsibility across the board 0%
   b. Often — they recognize errors in the system 13.79%
   c. Occasionally — once in a while it’s a fair assessment 27.59%
   d. Hardly ever — the contractor is the default on responsibility 58.62%

8. Care to share your story? What happened? Was the resolution to the hit solved with a ‘shared responsibility’ approach?
   a. Some of the utility companies understand the issues out there and have a general understanding. But more and more utility companies are using the contractors as a revenue stream to incur their costs by billing contractors excessively along with upgrading their system and passing the entire cost to the contractor. It is also becoming a common practice for one utility in general to hold invoices for over a year and sometimes 3-4 years before invoicing the contractor in hopes that the contractor doesn’t have the documentation to defend their case. It is pretty tough to defend a case when the incident happened years ago. There should be a statute that the utilities must notify the contractor within 30 days of the damage in order for them to be able to provide a thorough investigation.

Continued on Page 21
b. Utilities always blame the contractor. Most will send us a bill and then turn it over to collections when we dispute it. We then send our damage prevention or insurance people after them to get it taken care of.

c. Hit a Comcast coax cable in 2014 that was marked 8’ off. I have pictures and measurements. They still sent a bill. Locator even apologized for incorrectly marking the line. There’s never once been a shared responsibility. It’s always the contractor’s fault. Even if it was mismarked and you prove it with pictures, they will still send a bill. Most locators are incompetent and never show up when they say they will.

d. We hit the unmarked gas line and we called 911. The fire department came. Then about 1.5 hours later the gas company came. We should have been paid down time.

e. Had a gas line marked in a blacktop parking lot; we needed to remove blacktop as part of our scope of work only to find out that the gas line which was two inch was poured into blacktop. The line was hit shutting the job down for the day because they needed to rebury the line to proper depth, we paid the cost for the repair because we were told we did not hand dig first. How do you hand dig 4” blacktop?

f. The major one was a gas line that was a mismatch and our site was clear until we found a gas line in our site that was not marked, but since the locate was on day 15 of 14, the contractor was at fault even after we had pictures proving that it was not marked. Cost the excavator just over $25,000. Pipeline safety was not reasonable at all, so now every job gets located every 12 days until the job is 100% complete which may take over a year. Now the locators complain about having to remark when the last marks are still visible; we tell them they make the rules, not us!

g. A small utility company billed us 9 months after they had a hit line. Problem was they sent it to the wrong guy. They do the same thing when we hit a line, and they come out and admit we are not at fault and won’t see a bill. Then they send a bill 8 months later. I emailed them again as my superintendent had the wrong site and was thinking of one down the road. Their address didn’t match our site address, which happens often. We did hit a different line on that property, which they fixed and they were at fault as the line was on top of gravel under the bituminous (4” deep) and it got scraped when we removed the blacktop. They came out and told us there would be no charge because of where the line was. Then they replaced another line on the site that had a weak signal and blamed us for that one and sent a bill.

h. We recently had a hit line and called it in. The line was not marked. The guy came out to the site, flagged and painted it. He took pictures of his locates and pulled the flags out and left. We called them right away and asked what they were doing and they said it “was part of their investigation”. I am sure 6-8 months from now we will see a bill claiming that the line was marked.

9. On an annual basis, what is the cost in total down-time experienced — specifically regarding utility hits?
   a. Under $2,000 0%
   b. Between $2,000 - $5,000 20.00%
   c. Between $5,000 - $10,000 30.00%
   d. Above $10,000 23.33%
   e. Well above $20,000 26.67%

In summary, the system is not perfect and many damages are due to mismarked or no-locate lines. Utility hits occur on almost every job performed. In addition, the plethora of abandoned lines is a reality that no one claims as a responsibility. Facility owners are simply able to walk away from something that should have been noted as their asset... it didn’t get there on its own, regardless of how long ago it was installed or who owned the utility back then.

Contractor downtime is also a costly and painful reality. There are several complaints about facility owners sitting on damage claims and waiting two to three years to present a bill for damage to contractors. The bottom line is the majority of contractors in this survey do not feel that utility hits are a shared responsibility. Can you call something a “shared responsibility” if one group is bearing the majority of the cost, and the blame, even when it was proven as not their fault? I don’t think so. MUCA will continue to work with all stakeholders; we definitely need more contractors to come forward and share their stories!
Contractors frequently request change orders to cover the cost of dealing with underground utilities that were not disclosed or inaccurately shown on the drawings. They may want to push back when owners deny those requests by pointing to disclaimers in the specifications making the contractor responsible for locating utilities.

Existing Utilities as “Differing Site Conditions”

Undisclosed or improperly-shown utilities are in most instances considered “differing site conditions” (or “changed conditions”) entitling the contractor to extra time and money under differing site conditions (DSC) clauses. A DSC is typically defined in the contract as a subsurface condition that varies materially from the conditions indicated in the drawings and other contract documents.

Most courts hold that DSC clauses override inconsistent disclaimers because the public policy behind DSC clauses is to coax contractors into removing contingency amounts from their bids in exchange for the promise to pay extra a DSC if is encountered. Though much depends upon their specific terms, disclaimers are not usually enforced because they would cancel out the beneficial promise of the clause. If the contract does not contain a DSC clause, courts are more likely to enforce disclaimers.

The EJCDC general conditions specifically address “underground utilities.” (The EJCDC general conditions are the most-commonly used general conditions on municipal and other civil projects.) Under Paragraph 4.04B, contractors are entitled to an extra amount for any utility that “was not shown or indicated, or not shown or indicated with reasonable accuracy in the Contract Documents” and that the contractor did not know of and could not reasonably have been expected to be aware of or to have anticipated. Contractors are not entitled to extra compensation for those utilities that are “shown or indicated” in the contract documents with reasonable accuracy. In the case of J. F. Allen Corporation v. The Sanitary Board of the City of Charleston, the West Virginia Supreme Court ruled that the EJCDC general conditions shifted the risk of undisclosed utilities onto the owner despite the usual disclaimers.

During pre-bid site investigations, bidders should be able to assume that all known utilities have been disclosed. A contractor, however, cannot recover if surface features (like telephone pedestals, utility boxes, or signs) should alert a reasonable bidder that an undisclosed utility exists or a disclosed utility is not accurately shown. If surface features are inconsistent with the drawings, the bidder should notify the engineer and ask for clarification.

The fact that any delays may be caused by the utility company, not the owner, does not necessarily protect the owner from liability to the contractor, even if the utility was disclosed on the drawings and the contract disclaims liability for a utility company’s delays in moving a conflicting utility. Under a Minnesota law, no-damages-for-delay clauses in public contracts are unenforceable “if the delay, disruption, or acceleration is caused by acts of the contracting public entity or persons acting on behalf of the public entity for which the public entity is legally responsible”. In a case decided under a similar law in another state, a court ruled that a public owner was responsible to the contractor for a power company’s delay in moving light poles because the owner’s power to compel the power company to relocate its utilities under a franchise agreement meant that the utility was “act[ing] for” the City for purposes of the statute.

The Owner’s One Call Duties

Claims for undisclosed utilities must be considered in light of the owner’s affirmative duties under Minnesota’s One Call law to obtain and disclosed information about existing utilities. The law requires owners to (1) ask the One Call Notification Center to request information from the utility companies on the “type, size, and general location” of utilities on the site, and (2) disclose the information received “on the final drawing used for the bid or contract.” The owner must also include a note on the drawings stating the quality level of the source of the utility information on the drawings:

- Level D—Existing records: Using utility owner records or conversations.

- Level C—Survey of surface features: Surveying and plotting visible above-ground utility features and correlating with Level D information.

- Level B—Designating: Using surface geophysics to identify existence and approximate horizontal locations.

Continued on Page 24
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Most utility information on drawings is Quality Level D.

The One Call law limits an owner’s ability to shift the risk of identifying and locating existing utilities before bidding.

An owner who does not ask the One Call Notification Center for a “design locate,” or does not place the resulting information on the drawings, cannot escape liability for its failure to follow the law.

A real-life example best illustrates the significance of the owner’s One Call duties. The claim arose on a municipal street improvement project that included the installation of new sanitary sewer and other utilities underneath existing city streets. When designing the project, the owner’s consulting engineer asked for a “design locate” and obtained information about the type, size, and location of existing utilities in the project area. The final construction drawings showed the type and location, but not the size, of an existing telephone and an existing gas line. When bidding, the contractor assumed that the lines were minor lines that could be easily worked around. When digging, the contractor found that the gas line was a major 10-inch main and the telephone line was a 9-way fiber optic cable in a large concrete conduit. Not only was the contractor’s progress slowed by the need to protect the lines and by restricted work space, but the new lines would not fit with the existing utilities, particularly existing manholes and catch basins. The new lines had to be modified to avoid many direct conflicts. Citing the usual disclaimers, the engineer denied the contractor’s claim for the cost created by the interference. The contractor sued and recovered $300,000 from the owner.

Unfortunately, many owners and engineers remain unaware of their One Call duties. With education, more of them will request “design locates” and take care to place better utility information on the drawings. This could reduce the number of undisclosed utilities and the disruption and claims that come with them.

Notice to the Owner

Most DSC clauses require the contractor to notify the owner promptly in writing of any differing site conditions. This is to give the owner the opportunity to study the conditions, address any related design issues, and monitor the contractor’s costs. Most courts are not harsh on contractors who don’t give the written notice, particularly if the owner or its engineer knew about the conditions shortly after they were encountered. A contractor, however, risks its claim by not giving the specified notice.

Direct Claim against Utility Company

Minnesota does not have any reported decisions on the question of whether a contractor may have a direct claim against a utility company for any delays caused by the misidentification or late marking of underground utilities. Decisions in other states go both ways. In the Illinois case of Illinois Bell Telephone Co. v. Plote, Inc., for example, the court ruled that a telephone company had to pay a contractor for delays in marking utilities based upon the utility’s obligation under statute (requiring utilities to locate utilities when requested). A handful of cases in other states have reached similar results. Others have rejected contractor delay claims against utilities due to the lack of a contractual relationship. Time will tell whether Minnesota courts will recognize a contractor’s direct claim against a utility.

Conclusion

Contractors sometimes tussle with owners and engineers over who should bear the cost of underground utilities that are not shown or are inaccurately shown on the plans. Contractors should win that battle in most instances. Disclaimers have limited effect in the face of DSC clauses or the owner’s failure to perform its One Call duties. To preserve their right to extra time and money for undisclosed utilities, contractors should always promptly notify the owner in writing of any undisclosed utilities.
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The law that established Gopher State One Call, along with all the definitions of excavation, excavator, damage, underground facility, etc., is being reviewed by stakeholders from across the state for possible revision in the 2018 legislative session. There are a scant few contractors who attend, which means the changes may not reflect any protections or recourse for contractors when the new revisions become law. If you want your voice heard — now is the time to get involved!

After the initial meeting of the 216D Stakeholder Review group, several subgroups have been formed to review specific sections of the 216D law to discuss revisions for various definitions:

- Subgroup on the Definition of Excavation / Exemptions
- Subgroup on Emergency Notification
- Subgroup on Boundary Surveys
- Subgroup on 48-hour Notification
- Subgroup on Civil Penalties

Jerome Vikse, with Duininck Inc., has been engaged with the Minnesota Regional Common Ground Alliance and has attended the MS216D Stakeholder Review meetings. Based on Jerome’s experience at these meetings, MUCA coordinated visits with his legislators to submit our own “wish list” for changes to the MS216D Law:

1. **Contact Information Database** – The notification center must create a database to collect, maintain, and annually update the contact information for each operator in Minnesota. At a minimum, the contact information stored in the database must include the name, telephone number, mailing address, and other relevant contact information for the operator or the person responsible for damage prevention for each underground facility. The information contained in the database must be made available on request.

2. **Standardized Depth** – An operator must install underground facilities including but not limited to gas, electric, cable, fiber optic, and telephone facilities, at least two feet but no more than four feet below the surface of the earth.

3. **Cost Reimbursement** – An operator must reimburse the excavator for the cost, including lost labor time, equipment use, and any additional work required, incurred as the result of the discovery of an abandoned or incorrectly marked underground facility during routine contract work.

4. **Damage Notification** – An operator must notify the excavator of any damages to facilities immediately or within 60 days after construction is concluded.

While these all appear as reasonable requests in adding contractor protections and recourse, it is unlikely most of these changes will be implemented and I guarantee you the utility operators are likely to fight every one of them. Cost reimbursement is such a contentious issue that one Senator even labeled it a “death knell” for the bill.

MUCA will continue to represent you at both the Minnesota Regional Common Ground Alliance and the MS216D Stakeholder Review; however, we need more voices to add to our chorus. Ask yourself a few questions:

- Have you been billed two to three years after completion of a project claiming damage to underground facilities? What did that cost you in staff time to research and respond?
- Have you been invoiced by utilities for damage, even after the locator and/or the utility personnel on-site told you that the line was mismarked or not marked at all? Perhaps even after you shared photos or video proving the mismatch or no-locate?
- How many times have your equipment and your crew sat idle waiting for the utility to show up? How much did that cost you?

While we understand no system is perfect, when the opportunity presents itself to make adjustments to the MS216D Law by adding protections and recourse for contractors, we should take advantage of it. A little time and effort now could save you thousands in the years to come.
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NATIONAL EXCAVATOR INITIATIVE

By Lindsay Sander

For more than a decade, underground damage prevention outreach efforts have resulted in an increased number of notifications being made to One Call centers, and a decrease in the incidence of damage to underground facilities.

Despite this progress, the Common Ground Alliance’s DIRT (Damage Information Reporting Tool) Report, issued in 2015, indicated the percentage of excavators who still do not contact 811 prior to digging remains at an estimated 30 percent — a number that has remained stagnant since 2009 and is one of the primary reasons for the occurrence of damages today. While contacting 811 is the key way excavators can ensure safety for themselves and others, prevent damage to underground facilities and avoid unnecessary financial costs, it is evident that a significant percentage of the population has not yet embraced this critical safety message and the consequences of ignoring it. Collectively, this has led to development of the next phase in excavator outreach — a unified approach to excavation education and improved damage prevention.

The National Excavator Initiative (NEI) seeks to reach excavators through a multifaceted communications effort featuring acclaimed television personality Mike Rowe, known by many as the voice of America’s skilled trade workforce. Not only is Mike a nationally recognized personality from his television work, hosting Dirty Jobs and narrating The Deadliest Catch, but according to Forbes, he is consistently ranked as one of the most trusted celebrities in America.

MUCA, has invested in the National Excavator Initiative at the “Shovel Level”, as they believe Mike Rowe identifies with the contractor community and is certainly aware of the daily rigors of working in underground utility construction. Through MUCA’s engagement with NEI, Members Matt Brenteson, Brenteson Companies and Lee Beemer, Beemer Construction were interviewed by Mike regarding the importance of calling 811 during this year’s ConExpo in Las Vegas.

While other efforts to get the word out have helped, the NEI implementation of a nationwide excavator program seeks to develop a Mike Rowe video series featuring damage prevention and pipeline safety messages, as well as corresponding public service announcements and print materials. They are also planning web and mobile content, targeted social media, and earned media placement in print and online publications.

NEI was proud to host the MUCA Team in Las Vegas and offer them the opportunity to spend some quality time with Mike Rowe. Thanks to Matt, Lee and Stephanie for joining us. We are hopeful more members of MUCA will join this effort through your financial support.

To participate or learn more, please contact Lindsay Sander at (713) 208-0273 or LNS@SanderResources.com

Pictured Left to Right: Matt Brenteson, Lee Beemer, Mike Rowe, and Stephanie Menning.

The National Excavator Initiative is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. This effort is open to anyone interested in supporting and promoting damage prevention. They have varying levels of support available to fit any budget:

- Shovel $500
- Friend $5,000
- Skid Steer $10,000
- Backhoe $25,000
- Trencher $50,000
- Bulldozer $75,000

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Pictured Left to Right: Matt Brenteson, Lee Beemer, Mike Rowe, and Stephanie Menning.
When a municipality modifies, updates or adopts a new section to a traditional standard specification for construction, a few key components in the process are vital to ensure success. These key components — the design engineer, the construction inspector and the contractor — all need to understand what’s changing, proper implementation of the change and the benefit of the required outcome.

The Trace Wire Specification Solution

This explanation is intended to do just that, with regard to the Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) Trace Wire Specification, for the purpose of locating underground water and wastewater utilities for the entire lifecycle of the utility. The MRWA Trace Wire Specification was published for public use in March 2014, and is now being recognized as the new standard with numerous Minnesota municipalities, as well as municipalities across the country and outside of the U.S.

If any tenured design engineer, construction inspector or contractor was told that we have been installing trace wire on water and wastewater projects, for many, many years, that doesn’t work, some disagreement is likely to ensue. But this is in fact the case, and now that the problem and a solution have been identified, it is imperative to get all involved parties on the same page and up to speed as quickly as possible.

While there certainly are exceptions, it does seem fair to say that most engineers, inspectors and contractors have limited expertise in utility line locating. To understand the proper workings of a complete trace wire system, it is necessary to also understand a few basic principles of underground utility line locating and the equipment used.

The Basics of Underground Utility Line Locating

For the purpose of locating properly installed trace wire, the required locating equipment includes:

- transmitter with connective leads (red & black),
- ground rod for the transmitter and
- hand-held receiver used to locate the transmitted signal

Most typical utility line locating equipment will offer a low frequency 512Hz signal, which will travel the greatest distance and have the lowest likelihood of bleed-off onto other adjacent utilities. The 512Hz frequency is not well suited for tolerating or negotiating poor conductivity, but is well suited for traveling desired distances on a perfect conductor such as trace wire. The loss of a locatable signal using 512Hz frequency during a verification locate is a very likely indication of a wire damaged during installation. These are a few of the main reasons why the specification requires that verification testing be performed using only the 512Hz frequency.

The theory of locating requires a utility locator to complete a circuit, through a traceable system, and back to their transmitter for a locatable signal to exist. Simply put, when a complete circuit exists, the chosen frequency is traveling out of the transmitter through the red connective lead, and returning back into the transmitter through the black connective lead, by way of the chosen conductor or trace wire. It is not feasible to connect each of the transmitter’s connective leads to opposite ends of the chosen conductor, so moist soils provide the return path for the signal to reenter the transmitter, through the black connective lead, via a ground probe placed in the ground at the transmitter connection point. If the chosen conductor does not go to ground in the earth, the alternating current (AC) locating signal will not follow the conductor and this return path will not be achievable. A locatable signal will not exist.

One of the main reasons that utility locators cannot locate previously installed trace wires is because they improperly terminate without going to ground. For example, at a hydrant or in a valve box or manhole, if the trace wire is not properly grounded, the AC current will not follow the trace wire, and will not have a return path back to the transmitter. A complete circuit does not exist; thus, a locatable signal cannot exist.

The New Trace Wire Specification Details

The MRWA Trace Wire Specification was published only after extensive research, including field testing and verification. For a trace wire system to meet expectations, it must not only be locatable, but continue to be locatable for the full lifecycle of the utility. Like many utilities, once a trace wire system is installed, the greatest threat to its integrity and longevity is corrosion. For a trace wire system to be corrosion-proof it must also be completely waterproof.

The specification covers the entire trace wire system, including wire, connectors, termination/access, grounding, procedures for installation and testing. All components specified are readily available from water and wastewater utility/contractor supply distributors.

Continued on Page 31
Trace wire:

- Type shall be Copper Clad Steel (CCS), introduced to the market in 2004. CCS costs less than solid copper and has twice the strength. A perfect combination of strength and conductivity designed specifically for line tracing purposes.
- Size shall be 12 gauge (AWG), specified for strength to endure construction/installation. The size of the conductor does not have bearing on the conductivity or locatability. Damage during installation is the leading cause of failure. Wire specification includes installation methods; open trench/direct bury, directional boring and pipe bursting.
- Insulation/jacket shall be High Density Polyethylene (HDPE), designed for direct burial. Color coding shall follow American Public Works Association (APWA) Standards for each applicable utility.
- Installation shall be by method of strapping to the lower half of the pipe only. Installation on upper half of pipe significantly contributes to likelihood of breakage/damage during backfilling and compacting.

Connectors:

- Shall be moisture/corrosion displacement connectors and include only those approved as mainline-to-lateral lug connectors and 3-way connectors.
- Methods of twisting wires together and wrapping, or use of wire-nut style connectors are forbidden in the specification, as any exposure of the conductor will result in the loss of a locatable signal.

Grounding:

- Shall be provided using magnesium drivable grounding anodes only, driven into virgin soils at approximately the same elevation as the utility being installed. Grounding anode wire shall be connected directly to the trace wire, using a 3-way connector, where the beginning or end of an installation will occur within a roadway. Grounding anode wire shall terminate in a grade-level or above-grade access box, where wires terminate outside of a roadway, at the edge of or within the road right-of-way. A trace wire shall never be attached to an existing conductive utility pipe, hydrant, valve, fitting, etc.

Termination/Access:

- Shall be provided using grade level access boxes or above grade access boxes as specified by location. Both the trace wire and grounding anode wire shall terminate in each box and shall be linked together so as to properly ground each dead-end wire installation.

Testing:

- Shall be provided by means of a physical locate, performed both at the time of rough grade and just prior to final acceptance of the project, witnessed by the owner, engineer and contractor. As previously mentioned, all verification locates shall be performed using only 512Hz frequency equipment. Continuity/conductivity testing is not allowed on trace wire systems, because it does not prove locatability of the system.

Even if you have the best trace wire in the ground, it’s only as good as the sum of its parts, including connectors, grounding anodes, access boxes and quality workmanship.

For More Information

The MRWA Trace Wire Specification is intended to only reside on the Minnesota Rural Water Association website at www.mrwa.com. All other electronic references to the MRWA Trace Wire Specification are intended to be links back to the original on the MRWA website, so all references will be properly updated in the event that any modifications are made to the original specification in the future.

This specification was researched, developed and made public by its authors, with no associated fees or liabilities.

The MRWA specification and this article were prepared mutually by Frank Stuemke, Jeff Dale and Joe Rubbelke.

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j.rubbelke@copperheadinnovations.com
37th Annual Jeff Hanson Memorial Last Ditch Open

This annual tourney supports the MUCA Scholarship Fund. Last year we were able to award scholarships to four high school seniors. We are looking forward to gathering with our industry friends and continuing Jeff’s legacy by hosting the largest and most unique tournament in the construction industry in Minnesota. Sponsor tents will again feature fantastic food, and beverage service is available throughout the course. Be sure to come hungry and thirsty! If you’d like to join us, please complete the enclosed registration form, or go to the MUCA website to register online.

MUCA is the only construction association dedicated to the underground industry.

2017 Last Ditch Open Schedule:

10:30 am  Golfer Registration, Bloody Mary Bar  
Noon  Shotgun Start  
~5:00 pm  Award & Networking Reception

Registration is $175 per golfer ($200 after May 22) and includes round of golf, cart and host tents. Tons of door prizes will be drawn as well as the annual raffle. FREE driving range access prior to the shotgun start.

Majestic Oaks Golf Club: www.majesticoaksgolfclub.com
2017 Registration Form

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Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be made in writing by June 15, 2017 to qualify for a refund, less a $20 administrative charge. Notices of cancellation must be faxed to the MUCA office at 651-290-2266. No-shows will not receive a refund. You can make substitutions at any time.
What Is it?
Day of the Dozers is a fun family event in Minnesota. The event provides an opportunity to educate families about the construction industry, while at the same time, raising money for Children’s Hospitals & Clinics of Minnesota.

How Can You Help?
To make Day of the Dozers a success, we need your help. There are two ways to donate to help make this event a success — simple dollar donations or becoming a Day of the Dozers Diamond Equipment Sponsor.

Who Does it Support?
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS AND CLINICS OF MINNESOTA. Last year, we raised over $38,770 for this worthy cause.

What Are the Benefits of Contributing?
Your company will be recognized in a number of ways before, during and after the event. As families enter the motor park, a large sign will display your company logo and sponsor level. The event map will list all sponsors by level. All sponsors will be listed in a full-page thank-you ad in the Underground Press magazine. Day of the Dozer Diamond Equipment Sponsors, Platinum Trench, and Golden Bucket Sponsors will receive year-round logo promotion on the Day of the Dozers website.
MUCA PRESENTS $38,770 CHECK TO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

By Stephanie Menning

It seems impossible that in just four short years, MUCA’s Day of the Dozers event continues to reach record donations that help families and children with debilitating illnesses. 2016 was no exception as we provided the Ronald McDonald House located in St. Paul’s Children’s Hospital with a donation of $38,770 to help support the work they do for families who need a comfortable respite from the daily rigors of dealing with a child in need of serious medical attention. While we were not allowed to take any internal pictures of the facility, MUCA members can be assured that these accommodations for the families are just what they need; a home away from home, with plenty of support and services dedicated to helping them get through trying times.

Day of the Dozers is one of the most unique charity events in the construction industry! MUCA members and its supporters should be very proud of the work we do on behalf of others less fortunate.

Our goal for 2017 is $40,000, with the intention of sponsoring an Emergency Triage Room for $25,000 at Children’s. Any remaining donations will again go to the Ronald McDonald House. Mark your calendars to join us on Saturday, September 30, 9 AM – 4PM, at ERX Motor Park in Elk River.

Many thanks are owed to all those who donate, support, volunteer and attend the Day of the Dozers! If you are interested in lending a hand in service of others, please contact MUCA for more information or visit the website, www.dayofthedozers.com

Left to right: Stephanie Menning, MUCA; Ashley Cunstedt, Ewald Consulting; Michelle Nilson, Plaisted Companies; Matt Brenteson, Brenteson Companies; Lori Hall and Elizabeth Nguyen, Ronald McDonald House.

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The House/Senate Omnibus Transportation Conference Committee has started work on reconciling the differences between the House and Senate Omnibus Transportation Funding Bills. Both the House and Senate versions propose to shift auto-related sales tax revenues on transportation-related items from the General Fund to boost spending on the state’s roads and bridges. They would also rely on bonding to fund transportation projects across the state over the next two years.

The House transportation funding bill calls for utilizing $1.3 billion in bonding over the next two years for state road construction and the Corridors of Commerce program. The Senate proposes $325.3 million in borrowing with $200 million to go toward Corridors of Commerce. The Senate includes earmarks for three specific projects: U.S. Highway 12, state Highway 14 and state Highway 212.

Both the House and Senate versions limit future funding of Metro Transit light-rail projects, with the House cutting base funding to the Metropolitan Council for Metro Transit service. The House also proposes to end the state’s contributions to Metro Transit’s operations and maintenance budget.

Stating that Minnesota’s current investments in transportation are inadequate to maintain current conditions and do not provide for the needs of Minnesota’s growing population and state’s economy, the legislature has been unable to pass a comprehensive transportation bill in recent years that would provide much needed increases in road and bridge funding, due to disagreement on how to provide that funding.

Transportation

Lawmakers have been unable to pass a comprehensive transportation bill in recent years that would provide much needed increases in road and bridge funding, due to disagreement on how to provide that funding.
Providing $1.3 billion in tax relief, the House bill also contains:

- $585 million in reduced individual income taxes
- Exempting the first $200,000 of commercial-industrial property from the state general tax
- Freezing the state general tax at the 2017 level
- Exempting a Major League Soccer stadium to be constructed in St. Paul from state and local property taxes
- $161.7 million in changes to the estate tax
- $97.1 million in reduced corporate franchise taxes
- $92.9 million in sales and use tax reductions
- $269 million for a Social Security benefits subtraction
- Student loan tax relief
- Relief for first-time home buyers
- Refundable tax credits for foundations that provide scholarships for non-public schools
- Sales tax exemptions on building materials for local governments and non-profits
- Agriculture property tax credit equal to 50% of the school bond levy

**Infrastructure Funding**

At the beginning of session, Gov. Mark Dayton revealed a $1.5 billion package of bonding projects. A nearly $1 billion bonding bill fell apart in the final moments of the 2016 session over partisan disagreements about light rail funding. Gov. Dayton said his new bonding bill, which includes many of the same projects that were proposed last year, would create a total of 23,000 new jobs. Details of the proposal can be found at [http://mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/2017_01_04_MMB_Spreadsheet_and_Descriptions.pdf](http://mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/2017_01_04_MMB_Spreadsheet_and_Descriptions.pdf).

The Senate has produced a capital investment bill, SF210 (Senjem, R-Rochester) that is nearly identical to the capital investment bill that failed to pass in the final minutes of last year’s legislative session due to controversy over funding for Southwest Light Rail. Go to [http://www.senate.mn/departments/scr/billsumm/summary_display_from_db.php?id=4726](http://www.senate.mn/departments/scr/billsumm/summary_display_from_db.php?id=4726) for a summary of the bill’s contents, which includes funding for numerous water infrastructure funding programs for both wastewater and drinking projects. The Senate bonding bill also provides funding for the state match for federal grants for the clean water revolving fund and the drinking water revolving fund. SF210 has worked its way through the Senate committee structure and is currently waiting for debate and vote on the Senate floor.

The House has yet to bring forward a capital investment/bonding plan. Because the legislature traditionally acts on capital improvement projects in even years, the House maintains that its highest priority is to produce a state budget before the mandatory adjournment date of May 22, but has hinted it might be interested in passing a bonding bill later in 2017.

**Tax Relief**

The House and Senate have begun to reconcile differences in omnibus tax bills which have been passed by both bodies.

Both the House and Senate tax bills contain numerous items that were included in the tax bill vetoed in 2016 by Gov. Mark Dayton due to a drafting error. The House tax bill (HF4, Davids) also includes tax provisions linked to funding roads and bridges contained in the House Transportation omnibus bill — including $450 million in reprioritized General Fund vehicle-related fees and taxes.

**Senate Omnibus Tax Bill**

The Senate passed its Omnibus Tax Bill recently. SF2255, chief authored by Sen. Roger Chamberlain (R-Lino Lakes), proposes $900 million in tax relief focused mainly on individual taxes, rural Minnesota and business owners. Highlights of the bill include:

- $393 million for permanent reduction to the lowest bracket
- $64 million federal conformity for Section 179 expensing
- $75 million for Social Security income subtraction
- Tax credit for student loans
- $85 million for exemption from the statewide business property tax for first $100,000 of market value
- Phase out statewide business property tax automatic inflator
- $14 million to modify school debt service equalization aid
- Ag property tax credit equal to 40% of the school bond levy
- Move toward federal conformity for estate tax
- Tax incentives for new small businesses to purchase equipment
- Increases Local Government Aid to cities by $12 million for 2018
- Increases County Program Aid by $6 million for 2018
- Workforce housing credit for 2018
- Simplify research and development credit
- First-time home buyer program
- Student Loan Credit up to $700 for 2018 only

Continued on Page 38
Wage Theft
The Senate Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy Committee recently heard testimony on SF1329 (Champion, DFL-Minneapolis) which proposes to strengthen wage theft enforcement in Minnesota. The bill specifically proposes to:

- Increase penalties from $1,000 to $10,000 for failure to provide employment records to the Department of Labor and Industry
- Give DLI additional subpoena power
- Expand record keeping requirements and provides fines for not doing so
- Create a criminal penalty for violations over $10,000
- Appropriate $500,000 in fiscal year 2018 and 2019 for additional FTEs for DLI to perform outreach, education and enforcement under the bill.

Testifying in opposition to the bill included groups such as the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and the Minnesota Retailers Association. The bill did not receive a vote by the committee and was laid over.

Uniform Labor Standards
HF600 (Garafalo)/SF580 (Miller) propose to maintain uniform labor standards state-wide by prohibiting local governments from enacting ordinances requiring employers to:

- pay minimum wage rates higher than the state minimum wage
- require a private employer to offer paid or unpaid leave
- give advance notice about work schedules or
- provide particular benefits, employment terms or working conditions

The legislation has passed the House 76-53 and the Senate 35-31 and is waiting for the appointment of a conference committee to work out differences between the two bills.

Prevailing Wage Reform
HF1864 (Baker)/SF2302 (Draheim) propose to reform Minnesota’s prevailing wage provisions for highway and heavy construction workers. However, neither bill advanced before the legislative deadlines.

At just over 300 pages long, the bill also increases the working family credit, encourages online filing and conforms with the federal government level of estate tax. The bill does not contain the extensive property tax articles contained in the House Omnibus Tax Bill.
SITE VISIT

CREST PRECAST

MUCA Member Crest Precast and the City of Minneapolis Field Services Department had an interesting project earlier this year with a Surge Chamber designed to protect residents from Stormwater surge.

Crest Precast furnished 19 each 10’ x 7’ sections to include 14 each with 2’ x 8’ intake slots, 1 special 45º bend and one with a 3’ sump.

There were 52 cast-in epoxy dowel assemblies in each section for connection to the cast-in-place chimney risers and grating for storm water access.

As it happened, I noticed a few other MUCA Members’ equipment on the jobsite, including All Rentals, who provided the crane service to lower the sections into the ground, and United Rentals Trench Safety, who provided the trench boxes to ensure safe installation.

Congratulations to Crest Precast for supplying the Como Ave Surge Chamber and helping the residents of Minneapolis rest easy when storm events happen. Thanks also to United Rentals Trench Safety and All Rentals for helping the City of Minneapolis complete this project!

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON THE MUCA WEBSITE
LET’S RIDE!
Saturday, May 20th
You’re invited to the ‘Undie 500’!

Where: Meet at Joseph’s Grill, 140 Wabasha Street S., St. Paul
When: 9:30 AM – kickstands up at 10 AM
Why: To benefit the Union Gospel Mission as we ride and have fun!
Cost: Seeking donations of $15 per person (rider & passenger) and/or a 6-pack of new underwear (men’s sizes)
Destination: We’ll be riding along the Wisconsin side of the river, with one stop, to the Harbor Bar in Hager City, WI for lunch and river boat watching. Ride concludes at the Harbor Bar.
CONFIRM: Please email stephaniem@muca.org or call (651) 288-3422 and confirm your participation!
Warning: Not a MUCA-sponsored event. Participation is on your own and all riders assume entire risk of accident or injury.
Sure, there are genuinely tough projects, but when you have an experienced team on your side and all the right parts in the right place at the right time, everything becomes much easier. Fortunately, HD Supply Waterworks has the people with the know-how that can easily provide you with the right parts, in the right place, at the right time for all of your infrastructure projects.
SITE VISIT

SUNRAM CONSTRUCTION

Talk about “draining the swamp”… Sunram Construction did just that this past year, starting with dewatering Mirror Lake in the City of Saint Anthony back in September. The lake did not provide sufficient flood protection for residents, and had poor water quality due to polluted stormwater runoff and the former hog farm that surrounded it decades ago.

It took several months to dewater the lake, leaving a dry lakebed to excavate. Sunram needed to remove about 42,500 cubic yards of material from the bottom to meet the proposed grades, so the bottom needed to freeze hard enough to support trucks and equipment. The warm winter made it a little tough to keep everything frozen and progressing.

The lake is currently filling back up and the City is waiting for warmer, dryer weather to finish grading the slopes, planting trees and shrubs, and restoring the site.

Congratulations to Sunram Construction for cleaning up Mirror Lake and protecting its residents from flooding!

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON THE MUCA WEBSITE
Minnesota Utility Contractors Association

MEMBER APPLICATION

1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 252  |  St. Paul, MN 55114
Phone: (651) 735-3908  |  Fax: (651) 290-2266  |  info@muca.org

What we do for you:

- True Utility Contractors Representation
- Safety and Business Training
- Jeff Hanson Memorial Golf Tournament
- MUCA Annual Meeting
- Gopher State One Call Representation
- Member Directory and Other Publications
- Government Relations in St. Paul and D.C.

Company ____________________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________
City ______________________________________________________ State _________________ Zip ____________________
Individual MUCA Representative ____________________________________________
Company Phone __________________ Company Fax __________________________
Website Address ________________________________________________________
Email Address ____________________________________________________________
# of Employees __________________ Specialty Area ___________________________
Committee(s) of Interest _________________________________________________

I understand that by providing my mailing and email addresses, telephone and fax numbers, I consent to receive communications sent by or on behalf of MUCA via mail, email, telephone or fax.

MEMBER TYPE

Contractors (volume based on overall underground work)  Contributions or gifts to MUCA are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses. I understand that by providing my mailing and email addresses, telephone and fax numbers, I consent to receive communications sent by or on behalf of MUCA via mail, email, telephone or fax.

Sales Volume                     Dues
☐ Under $1 Mil                    $1,300
☐ $1-2 Mil                        $2,250
☐ $2.1-5 Mil                      $3,400
☐ Over $5 Mil                     $4,000
☐ Associates                      $950
☐ Government/Institutions         $300

PAYMENT

☐ Check (made payable to MUCA)    ☐ Mastercard  ☐ Visa    ☐ Discover

If paying by credit card, please fill out all information below:

Card Number __________________________________________________________________________________
Cardholder Name ______________________________________________________________________________
Phone_____________________________Expiration Date _______________ Security # ______________________
Cardholder Signature ___________________________________________________________________________
☐ Billing address is same as above  ☐ Billing address is:
Address ______________________________________________________________________________________
City____________________________________________State___________ Zip  __________________________

7% of MUCA dues are not deductible as business expenses.

MUCA is the ONLY trade association dedicated to the underground contracting industry –
IT’S YOUR INDUSTRY! So let’s keep digging!

Complete form and submit with payment to MUCA:
1000 Westgate Dr. Suite 252  |  St. Paul, MN 55114
Contact stephaniem@muca.org with questions
The Minnesota Utility Contractors Association 2017 MUCA Scholarship Program

To be eligible, a student must have a parent employed by a MUCA Member Company. The student must be completing their senior year in high school and set to enter their first year of post high school education in the fall. The applications are reviewed and winners selected by the Scholarship Committee.

Congratulations 2016 Winners - Your kid’s photo could be here!

- **ALYSSA WEBER**
  Daughter of Missy and Jeff Weber
  HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS

- **HALLIE HANSON**
  Daughter of Kelly and Quin Hanson
  KS ENERGY SERVICES

- **BRADY LEAHY**
  Son of Jill and Mike Leahy
  ST. PAUL UTILITIES

- **ANTHONY ORFEI**
  Son of Caroline and James Orfei
  HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS

Entries must arrive at the MUCA offices on or before May 12, 2017. Get your application on-line at www.muca.org or see your Company’s MUCA Representative.
### Publications Advertising Form

- **Minnesota Utility Contractors Association**
  - 1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 252 | St. Paul, MN 55114
  - Phone: (651) 735-3908 | Fax: (651) 290-2266 | info@muca.org

### Magazine Specs
- Trim size: 8.375" x 11"; Full page non-bleed: 7.625" x 10.5"; Full page bleed: 8.625" x 11.25"; Half page: 7" x 4.685"; Quarter page: 3.375" x 4.6875"

### Directory Specs

All art must be provided as PDF, JPG, TIFF or EPS, minimum of 300 dpi.

- **New Ad Will be Provided**
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### Company Information

- **Company**: ____________________________________________________________
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### Payment Options

- **Check (made payable to MUCA)**
- **Mastercard**
- **Visa**
- **American Express**

*If paying by credit card, please fill out all information below:*

- **Card Number**: ________________________________________________________
- **Cardholder Name**: ____________________________________________________
- **Expiration Date**: __________ **Security #**: _____________________________
- **Cardholder Signature**: ________________________________________________

- **Billing address is same as above**
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  - **Address**: ____________________________________________________________
  - **City**: ____________________________ **State**: __________ **Zip**: ____________

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### Advertising Rates

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