



Utility Operations Division Report

February 14, 2020

Trustee: Dan Sleeth

- **Utility Management** continues to step up its role within PNWS the past year producing an extremely successful one day training. The training was held in Olympia during the month of January and covered many successful topics regarding disasters, disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation as well as the outcomes and lessons learned. Speakers represented utilities and cities across the Section including, East Sound Sewer, City of Mercer Island, Seattle Public Utilities, Valley View Sewer and Department of Health. The current leadership within the committee has been very open to change and continues to be receptive to new ideas. Utility Management also stepped up big for the upcoming 2020 Spring Conference in Spokane with submittals for a full day session, an early bird session as well as Public Officials, which has merged with the Utility Management Committee.
- **Engineering** worked hard at putting together a full track for the upcoming 2020 Spring Conference as well submitting an entire Pre-Conference track, two early bird sessions, and two full day sessions. Their Conference detail was well thought out and very well submitted. Based on the needs of some of the upcoming hot topics in our industry surrounding the American Water Infrastructure Improvement Act I have reached out along with Cheryl Capron the program chair to ask for collaboration between Utility Management and Engineering to offer sessions covering this topic. This directly feeds into the thought process behind having Divisions within the Section, along with promoting collaboration. There has also been talk of a collaborative training opportunity between the Engineering and Distribution committee to take place in 2020. As an outgoing Trustee I will be transitioning into a leadership role on the Distribution Committee. This transition will only be for one year and I hope to help revitalize the committee and address some of Cheryl Capron's issues. As the Utility Operations Trustee I am very pleased with the opportunities being presented during the 2020 Spring Conference.
- **Distribution** has had some obstacles the past year but still managed to put together and submit a full Pre-Con, two early birds and a full day session for the upcoming 2020 Spring Conference in Spokane. After speaking with Doug Schlepp (incoming Trustee) and Cheryl Capron (incoming Trustee) it was determined that after my transition out as Trustee I would transfer into a leadership role within the committee as was mentioned

above in the Engineering report. The Section have expressed significant interest in helping the Distribution Committee to return to its previous success's and provide the needed training and education that is required for distribution workers all across our section. Topics for potential trainings are as follows;

- Practices in maintaining distribution system water quality
 - Why, how and where to measure WQ parameters (Cl₂, pH, DBPs, etc.)
 - Sample collection techniques and sample stands
 - Water main break classification & response
 - Where to monitor for low psi
 - Water main break disinfection
 - Pressure zone disinfection & flushing
 - Sanitary surveys
 - Storage
 - TCR monitoring plans
 - Cross-connection control audit
 - Stored water quality
 - Cycling
 - Cleaning & inspection
 - Booster chlorination
- Wells & springs (I didn't have springs, and rarely used wells, so I guessing here)
 - Sanitary protection and control area, sanitary survey
 - Well maintenance (cleaning, shocking, rehab)
 - Pumps
 - Common treatment – Cl₂ for GUI wells, softening, iron, H₂S, etc.
 - Pressure tanks
 - Drawdown & yield monitoring – how & why
 - Spring box diversions
 - Location
 - O&M
 - When does it have to come off line, and how to bring it back on line
- Pressure Zone Anatomy
 - Basic hydraulics
 - Siting tanks, pump stations, control valves, pressure sensors, meters
 - How these things work together in a pressure zone
 - Troubleshooting system hydraulic problems
- Troubleshooting & fixing
 - Water main Leaks & breaks
 - Water main break classification
 - Throttle vs shutdown
 - Shutdown procedures
 - Repairs on various types of pipe
 - Thrust restraint – what it looks like, don't move it, how to replace it when necessary

- Service leaks & breaks
- Pumps
- Hydrants
- Control Valves
- Isolation Valves
- Other appurtenances (AV, BO)
- Meters
- SCADA & Instrumentation (with Water Info Tech committee)
 - Why and types of sensors
 - How sensors work
 - Telecommunications
- War Stories (or to be politically correct, Incident Case Studies)
 - Big & bad (Spokane recently had a cross-connection incident with hydro seed getting injected into the system)
 - Smaller chronic problems (you finally got rid of that low Cl2 area)
 - System rehab (replaced a tank, how did you live without it? How did you decommission, bypass, re-commission?)

Obviously this is too much for one conference; it's more like 4 or 5 years' worth, at which point it can be recycled. It can also be used to develop training-in-a-box and delivered around the section. There will be some overlap here with Engineering, but far less than we've had in the last several years. This type of content is a slam-dunk for CEUs, and has the potential to boost attendance by drawing more operators; right now, we're getting them at the subsection level, but not at the section level.

This is a Committee that is near and dear to my heart since I came up through the ranks as an Operator. This proactive approach would help bolster the long term health of the Committee and the content for the annual Spring Conference.

The Committee has worked specifically at soliciting abstracts from peers but never with the type of outline that is listed above. With this type of specific outline I believe that we could find the subject matter experts across our Section that would be happy to submit and present this type of relevant material each year at the Section Conference. This effort would be worth the time spent as Operators provide the day to day activities that provide all of us clean, safe, drinking water.

Submitted respectfully,

Dan Sleeth

Washington Trustee

