



THE POWER OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Community Minded



December, 2017

Community Proud

Community Owned



The employees and commissioners of Rice Lake Utilities would like to say thank you to our consumer/owners for the privilege and honor to serve you in 2017. We will continue to strive to maintain the high quality you have come to expect while keeping costs to a minimum in 2018. Happy Holidays!!

As we embark on another year we would like to share some of our more significant projects that we have worked on throughout 2017.

The electric department conducted a pole maintenance study which showed 109 potentially failing poles within the city. So far they have replaced a total of 53 poles. The next phase of pole replacement will continue in 2018 as budgeted. They were also busy putting in new services such as: The Holiday Inn Express, Moon Lake Twin Homes, Cambridge Care Center on Bear Paw Ave and a new Rice Lake Animal Hospital for a total of 55 new customer meters being installed in 2017. Several of the electric crews also helped in mutual aid efforts in Barron, Chetek and Cameron following the F3 tornado. The electric utility was nationally recognized for safety from the American Public Power Association. It was their 6th year without an OSHA recordable incident/injury. They also received a certificate of excellence in reliability from the American Public Power Association.

The water department repaired approximately 36 leaks city wide which included services and mains for a recovery of nearly 180 million gallons of unaccountable water. They accomplished this by physically listening to the main and service lines to some of the older piping we have in Rice Lake. This program will continue each year as budgeted. The Don Robarge Well #6 was completed after two plus years of planning at a cost of \$1 million. The well went online in October of 2017.

The wastewater department treated over 486 million gallons of wastewater in 2017. Over 54 million gallons of that total was brought in by outside wastewater haulers for treatment at our plant. A large portion of the hauled in wastewater was high strength industrial waste that was generated from GreenWhey Energy of Turtle Lake, WI. The wastewater department is almost at 100% of cleaning/root cutting in the city. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, root intrusion is probably the single most destructive element involved in maintaining a wastewater collection system. Left untreated, roots will spread throughout the pipe. Material passing down the drain gets trapped in the roots, restricting the flow or even causing a complete blockage. We have also installed over 4286 feet of cure-in-place-pipe (see article on back page for cure in place pipe facts). We also said goodbye to Emil Rohrsen who had worked for Rice Lake Utilities for over 40 years. Emil was also the proud recipient of the NorthWest District WasteWater Operator Association' 2017 Operator of the Year award.

Sewer Main Rehabilitation Program

Sewer mains have a limited life span. As the pipes age, their condition deteriorates and the flow is restricted. Problems develop in the pipe and can include cracking, root intrusion, erosion of the bottom, corrosion, and eventually complete failure. Failed pipes can lead to flooding, road failure and property damage.

To avoid a pipe failure, the pipe must be:

- 1) Replaced using open-cut construction; or
- 2) Rehabilitated using a trenchless technology.

Pipe replacement is costly and disruptive to the public. Rehabilitation, on the other hand, restores the existing pipe without having to excavate and disrupt the surface. The city has been using a trenchless process known as cure-in-place-pipe (CIPP) since the early 2000s to rehabilitate pipe in the ground, typically without requiring any excavation or surface restoration. Advantages of this process can include reduced cost, less impact to the public, and also reduced construction time since the project can be done in about 20% to 30% of the time it takes to perform an open-cut repair.

What exactly is CIPP?

CIPP is a trenchless method of rehabilitating underground utility pipes. Essentially, a new pipe is formed in the existing pipe (host pipe). First, prior to inserting the new pipe, flow in the host pipe is bypassed or held back so the pipe is mostly dry and clean. Then, a resin-saturated felt tube is inserted into the host pipe, inflated with air, and then filled with steam or hot water to cure and harden. After the liner has finished curing, the ends are cut-off and the individual sewer services are reinstated using a robotic cutter. Flow is then returned to the pipe. Time savings with this rehabilitation method is significant, since the entire process can typically be completed in a single day.



Rice Lake Utilities participates in mutual aid

Two Rice Lake Utilities linemen are heading to the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Croix to bring back power after Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the area. According to Steve Hedden with the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW), more than half of St. Croix is still living without electricity. Last week, the U.S. Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority called energy agencies across the country desperate for help to get power back on the island. Wisconsin utility workers answered the plea with 11 men and five trucks.

"They're really trying to make a push to try to get everybody back with power in the next couple of months," explains Hedden.

The Wisconsin crew will drive their utility trucks to Jacksonville, FL where the trucks will be shipped over to St. Croix. The crew is scheduled to work 12 to 14 hour days for the next 30 days.

"All of the crew members headed to the US Virgin Islands are doing so voluntarily and at a time of year most people don't want to be away from their families," said Hedden. He added, "The way that mutual aid works is you go help others when they're in need, and then when you're in need, they come and help you. It's a two way street. This time, we're going in their direction."

Just this past September, over 40 MEUW crew members were among the first on the scene to restore power in Florida. "Time and again, when the call for help goes out, our members respond no matter how limited their resources," Hedden added.

Utility workers from Rice Lake, Clintonville, Reedsburg, Two Rivers, Arcadia, Fennimore, Marshfield, and the MEUW will be working on the island to restore power. Three months after the hurricanes over 50% of the population still does not have power. Wisconsin's municipal crews hope to make an impact on the number using their skills and equipment. Wisconsin Proud!