



Central Chapter

SOUTH DAKOTA ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Member National Society of Professional Engineers

<http://www.sdes.org>

P.O. Box 685

Pierre, SD 57501

Minutes from September 19, 2014, Monthly Meeting in the Matthew Environmental Training and Conference Center - by Steve Pirner, Secretary/Treasurer

President Andrew Bruels called the meeting to order at 12:11 with 22 in attendance from DENR, DOT, OSE, BOR, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Wenck Associates, and the City of Pierre (see attached sign-up sheet). President Bruels opened the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the May 16, 2014, minutes and the budget statement. Mike Perkovich moved, second by Dave Templeton, motion approved. President Bruels asked everyone to introduce themselves, and then began committee reports.

Committee Reports:

- Legislative (**Mike Perkovich**) – No report.
- Scholarship (**Laurie Schultz**) – President Bruels reported the Central Chapter Scholarship went to Christopher Rumrill from Pierre. He will be attending SDSU.
- Community Service (**Patrick Wellner**) – President Bruels reported that Patrick will be sending out an email shortly regarding the SDES Central Chapter Fall Ditch Cleanup.
- Entertainment (**Tim Schaal**) – President Bruels reported the annual Central Chapter Fall Picnic on August 15 that was organized by Tim Schaal was a good time, and led to a week-end event for some members who elected to stay and camp out.
- Professional Development (**Jim Wendte**) – Jim Wendte reported the annual SDES Fall PDH Conference is being hosted by the Black Hills Chapter in Rapid City on October 9, 2014, with 8 PDH hours being credited. Sign up soon as early registration ends September 26, 2014.
- Public Relations (**Kent Woodmansey**) – No report.
- Design Professionals Coalition (**Al Berreth & Jeff Heinz**) – President Bruels reported the SDES President is still in discussions with the other groups belonging to the Design Professionals Coalition regarding its future.
- Mathcounts (**Dave Coley**) – President Bruels reported Dave Coley just received the list of school contacts in the Central Chapter region and will be soon asking for their opinions regarding whether the Central Chapter should continue to host a local Mathcounts event.
- Mathcounts Fundraising (**Mike Durick & Dave Templeton**) – Dave Templeton reported no action will be taken on Mathcounts Fundraising until the Central Chapter makes a decision regarding the future of its local Mathcounts event.
- Engineers Week (**Andy Bruels**) – No report.

- Membership (**Vacant**) – President Bruels reported the Central Chapter has gained three new members: William Marcouiller with DENR; John Trebesch with Interstate Engineering; and Drew Huisken with DENR. Welcome to the Chapter!
- Bylaws (**Tom Gilsrud**) – No report.
- Licensure (**Jeanne Goodman**) – Jeanne Goodman reported that she followed up on her report from the May meeting regarding the FE on-line exam being available only in Sioux Falls. She contacted Mark Humphreys who is the Executive Director of the Board of Technical Professions. He relayed that SDSM&T is investigating establishing its own exam center to be used by their students, but costs for security are high and they fear it may not be self-sustaining. Jeanne also contacted Janelle Toman, Executive Director of the Capital University Center here in Pierre, and learned there are a couple of other groups interested in establishing an on-line test center as well, so CUC was glad to hear of our interest as they are investigating the feasibility.
- Communications (**Stacy Froelich**) – Stacy Froelich reported the new SDES website must be working as she has heard of no problems.
- Discovery Center (**Andy Bruels**) – President Bruels reported the new Peanuts Exhibit was going over well this summer. He also showed the slide below of the SDES Central Chapter sponsorship tiles obtained through our \$1,000 donation to the Discovery Town display, and reported sponsorship tiles are still available for smaller donations by other organizations and individuals.



Old Business: President Bruels reported the first planning meeting for the annual SDES Conference to be held next April 8-10 here in Pierre was held during July at the American Legion Cabin. Now that the agenda for the Rapid City Fall PDH Conference is out, follow-up on ideas from that meeting will begin.

New Business: Stacy Froelich reported on the “Hometown Hero” program sponsored by the local Modern Woodmen chapter. This program recognizes volunteer organizations like SDES with a dinner and presents them with a certificate and a \$100 donation to the charity of their choice. If people are interested, Stacy would be willing to follow-up to see if the Modern Woodmen would be interested in hosting such a dinner on December 8th for the SDES Central Chapter. Mike Perkovich moved to support Stacy following up on behalf of SDES and the Discovery Center, Mark Mayer seconded, motion passed.

Door Prizes: President Bruels held the door prize drawings for:

- **Free lunch** – won by Dave Templeton (for the second time in a row), and
- **Interstate hat** – won by Dean Hyde.

Presentation: Kelli Buscher, Engineering Manager III of DENR’s Surface Water Quality Program, gave a presentation entitled, “*State Regulatory Water Quality Efforts.*” She began with a quote from a 1969 edition of the Times Magazine: “*Almost Every Great City has a River...*” and briefly described the legislative history of protecting those rivers dating all the way back to the Federal River and Harbors Act that was passed by Congress in 1899. Congress followed up with other water quality protection acts:

- 1912 Drinking Water and Public Health Act;
- 1924 Oil Pollution Act;
- 1948 Federal Water Pollution Control Act;
- 1956 Amendments to the Water Pollution Control Act; but
- it was only after the Ohio River started on fire and burned in 1969 that Congress passed the comprehensive 1972 Water Pollution Control Act.

Back in the 1970s, water quality problems were extensive nationally. South Dakota had its problems too, with the Homestake Gold Mine discharging tons of raw mine tailings daily into Whitewood Creek as shown below. The pollution from these tailings extended half-way across the state, with pollutants from the tailings tracked to the Belle Fourche River, the Cheyenne River, and the Cheyenne Arm of the Oahe Reservoir on the Missouri River.



To begin the clean-up efforts statewide, South Dakota established water quality standards that categorized eleven different beneficial uses for surface waters and established water quality criteria to protect those uses. Next, South Dakota established a surface water quality monitoring network consisting of 146 stations that are still sampled today to verify if the criteria are being met or not. Finally, in 1993, South Dakota sought delegation from EPA of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). This is a permitting system to control the discharge of pollutants to surface waters from point sources such as municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants and has now extended to certain categories of storm water runoff.

Recent articles by the Sioux Falls Argus Leader have focused attention on the water quality of the Big Sioux River and have led to the City of Sioux Falls holding its second “*Big Sioux Water Quality Summit.*” Nineteen municipalities discharge directly to the Big Sioux River, but wastewater treatment has been greatly enhanced during the past thirty years through the expenditure of \$176 million for upgrading all nineteen wastewater treatment plants. Nonpoint source pollution still impairs the water quality of segments of the Big Sioux River, but progress is being made with trends in fecal coliform, total suspended solids, and ammonia all showing improvement over time. However, the job is far from done and now new water quality issues are on the horizon, such as nutrients, personal care products, more stringent storm water runoff controls, and aging wastewater infrastructure as many of the existing wastewater treatment plants are nearing or past their design life.

After thanking Kelli for her presentation, President Bruels asked for a motion to adjourn; motion by Jeanne Goodman, second by Tom Gilsrud, motion passed.



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Sign-In Sheet for September 19, 2014 Meeting

No.	Name	Department/Past or Present Employer
1	Steve Firner	DENR
2	Stacy A. Foreman	Reclamation
3	Alexis A. Hyde	SDDOT (Retired)
4	Darrel Entsch	Wenck
5	Tom Giersuo	DOT (RETIRED)
6	Andy Bruels	DENR
7	Dave Templeton	D Retired
8	Kayla Fawcett	DENR
9	Kelli Discher	DENR
10	Jim Wendt	"
11	Jeanne Goodman	DENR
12	Kevin Goeden	SDDOT
13	Nick Retac	OSE
14	Mike Perkovich	DENR
15	Tim Bjornson	DOT Retired
16	MARK MATER	DENR
17	Drew Huisman	DENR
18	Mike Durick	DOT Retired
19	Lee Jay Templeton	USACE
20	James Oehlerking	U.S. Corps of Engin.
21	John Child	City of Pierre
22	John Hatach	SSENK-Ret
23		
24		
25		