



Upcoming Events

August 24, 2009

Smart Grid Course presented by Skip Collier Register/more information: [Here](#)

Sept. 1 — 2, 2009

IAMU/APGA Natural Gas OQ Workshop Register/more information: [Here](#)

September 9 — 10, 2009

Water Distribution & Leak Detection/Line Locating Workshops Register/more information: [Here](#)

September 15 — 18, 2009

Underground Electric Distribution Workshop. Register/more information: [Here](#)

October 7 — 9, 2009

IAMU Annual Conference, Holiday Inn Des Moines — Airport/Conference Center.

November 17 — 19, 2009

Annual Water/Wastewater Operator Conference, Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines.

Skip Collier brings Smart Grid Course August 24



◆ Learn about the timely subject of smart grids from one of the electric industry's foremost instructors, Skip Collier. Mr.

Collier will present a Smart Grid Workshop at IAMU August 24.

A Smart Grid Workshop brochure has been distributed. Mail or fax the enclosed registration form to IAMU, or register electronically by clicking [here](#). You can also access the workshop brochure and electronic registration page under "Hot News" on the front page of the IAMU web site, www.iamu.org.

Energy efficiency stimulus money is on the horizon



◆ Since the passing of the Recovery Act and the federal government's release of stimulus funding, much of the focus has been on efforts to increase energy efficiency. Through conversations with our state's Office of Energy Independence (OEI), IAMU has learned that a significant amount of money will soon be available through the OEI's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG). It is IAMU's understanding that this funding opportunity is specifically available for communities with a population of less than 35,000.

There are ten categories OEI is interested in funding to support energy efficiency efforts and conservation activities. The OEI encourages each community to develop a strategy, including its component activities, that is likely to result in maximum energy efficiency improvements, fossil-fuel emission reductions, economic benefits and total energy use reduction. Eligible activities for use of program funds will likely include:

- Residential and commercial building energy audits
- Financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements
- Energy efficiency retrofits to existing facilities
- Energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities
- Development and implementation of transportation programs
- Building codes and inspections
- Energy distribution technology that increases efficiency
- Reduction and capture of methane and greenhouse gases
- Traffic signals and street lighting
- Renewable energy technologies on government buildings



It is critical for municipal utilities and city government leaders to cooperate and coordinate their grant application efforts because only one application may be submitted from each community. Applications for this funding will be made available soon and due dates for the applications are expected to be this fall. OEI is charged with the distribution of this funding and provides updates about Recovery Act funding opportunities on their website – click [here](#).

Visit this site for updates and to subscribe to OEI's email distribution list in order to receive updates about funding opportunities.

Wastewater apprenticeship program off to good start



◆ Over the past year, IAMU has been working with the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) and Central Iowa Public Employees Council (CIPEC) on finalizing the Standards of Apprenticeship for their apprenticeship program. We are pleased to announce that the Standards were approved in May and six employees of WRF were enrolled into the program during June and July.

Over the next 2 – 3 years these apprentices will be earning on-the-job learning hours during their regular work shifts. The education component will be met by taking eight online classes, and then the final piece of the puzzle will be for each apprentice to sit for and pass both the Grade 1 & 2 state exams.

If you are interested in more information about IAMU's wastewater or water apprentice programs, contact Jill Soenen at IAMU, jsoenen@iamu.org, or 800-810-4268.

Common Ground Iowa event set at IAMU; you're invited

◆ IAMU members are invited to join Common Ground Iowa (CGI) for the group's Excavation Safety Summit at IAMU's Training & Office Complex September 3.

CGI is a regional partner of the Common Ground Alliance, a national organization devoted to promoting public safety through damage prevention by using best practices for underground utility safety.

The Excavation Safety Summit will begin with a CGI membership meeting from 9 – 11 a.m., followed by lunch. The afternoon will see various demonstrations and vendor activities held on IAMU's Safety & Training Field from 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.

There is no charge to attend any of the day's activities, but registration is required. See the Common Ground Iowa website at www.commongroundiowa.com for registration and a detailed agenda.



Appearing in this photo from the August 3 issue of the IAMU Informer is Steve Troyer (second from left) of IAMU associate member FOX Engineering Associates. FOX Engineering was instrumental in the process design of the City of North Liberty's wastewater treatment facility that incorporates Membrane Bioreactor technology. The system received a Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Award, which was presented by Gov. Culver (far left) in a recent ceremony.

Federal broadband grants available; first round soon



◆ The deadline for the first round of broadband grants to be awarded at the federal level is fast approaching.

The American Resource and Recovery Act appropriated \$7.2 billion and directed the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS -- click [here](#)) and The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA -- click [here](#)) to expand broadband access

to unserved and underserved communities across the U.S., increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits. The result is the RUS Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

BIP will make loans and grants for broadband infrastructure projects in rural areas. BTOP will provide grants to fund broadband infrastructure, public computer centers and sustainable broadband adoption projects. The first application deadline is August 14, 2009. It is expected that there will be two more rounds of grant applications; the dates for those application deadlines have not yet been released. For additional information on broadband grants, click [here](#). For a copy of the Federal regulations that govern the application process, click [here](#).

Hawarden's Patty Anderson appointed to Broadband Deployment Governance Board

◆ Congratulations to Patty Anderson, City Council, Hawarden for her appointment to the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board (click [here](#)). Hawarden Municipal Utilities

As part of Iowa's I-Jobs bonding legislation during the 2009 legislative session, \$25 million was allocated to provide matching moneys for federal broadband grants. The Board has been established, and is in the process of organizing and drafting administrative rules to govern the distribution of the grants.

Water tower in-service procedure demonstrations



◆ Liquid Engineering Corporation (LEC) has invited IAMU members to demonstrations of in-service water tower inspection, cleaning and coating touch-up at two Iowa sites, Waverly and Postville. During the demonstrations, the maintenance team will be exhibiting:

- ▣ Proper gear used during in-service potable water maintenance
- ▣ Disinfection of all gear and in-tank equipment
- ▣ Equipment and process for monitoring the inspector in the water
- ▣ Safety procedures implemented for all operations
- ▣ Ability to remove sediment
- ▣ Ability to apply an approved epoxy to prevent corrosion

The Waverly demonstrations will take place August 24-26. The towers are located at 308 10 St. NE (East Tower), 1205 West Bremer (West Tower) and 1005 4th St. NW (North Tower); LEC is not sure of the order of the three Waverly tower demonstrations. The Postville demonstration is set for August 27-28 (with the 28th likely being one-half day). The Postville tower is located at 335 N. Maple St.

All demonstration days will start between 8:30-9:00 a.m. Guests will be able to come and go as they please.

An approximate count of attendees for each day is desired. If you are interested in observing a demonstration, please R.S.V.P. to IAMU's Jill Soenen at jsoenen@iamu.org or 515-289-1999, with which site (Waverly or Postville) and which date you plan on attending.

The IAMU Informer is an electronic publication of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

Editor: John Burnett 515-289-1999 jburnett@iamu.org

To add an Informer subscriber: contact Sandy Longfellow at: slongfellow@iamu.org*

To unsubscribe from this publication, contact Sandy Longfellow at: slongfellow@iamu.org*

* When emailing to add or remove a subscriber, please include full name and affiliation