



Upcoming Events

April 14 –15, 21 –22 , 29 –30, 2010 Consumer Confidence Report Workshops (various locations). Register/more information: Here Note: Coralville & Independence full

April 21, 2010 Salt & Deicing Workshop. Register/more information: Here

April 27, 2010 Rain Garden Workshop. Register/more information: Here

May 5 – 6 , 2010 Gas Plastic Pipe Joining/Operator Qualification Workshop. Register/more information: Here

May 18 – 21, 2010 Overhead Electric Transmission & Distribution Workshop. Register/more information: Here

Successful debut for IAMU Municipal Utilities 2030



IAMU's inaugural Municipal Utilities 2030 conference has received high marks from participants and presenters. The April 7 – 8 event

drew utility representatives from around the state and speakers from around the country to discuss issues vital to the future of municipal utilities. Several of the topics will be revisited at IAMU's 2010 Annual Conference October 6 – 8 in Des Moines (watch for more information to come).

A sold out trade show for IAMU associate members was also part of the conference. IAMU thanks all utility representatives, speakers and associate member vendors who helped make the event successful (see conference photos at right).

IPERS changes will have impact on municipal utilities



Major changes were made to the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System during the 2010 legislative session. House File 2518 is a comprehensive bill, which, as of this date, has not been signed by the Governor. The portion of the bill that directly impacts IPERS is contained in Division II.

The following summary was taken from the Fiscal Note that was developed for the bill. For specific information related to your utility and its impact, please consult your City Attorney.



Major changes include:

- Increases vesting requirement from four years to seven years. Currently members vest at four years of completed service or at age 55, if active. A vested member, meeting requirement eligibility, is entitled to lifetime retirement benefits based on a formula. Vested members also may purchase service credits. Vested members that leave IPERS-covered employment and take a refund receive a portion of the employer's contributions made on their behalf, plus interest. A member is always entitled to 100% of their own contributions and interest earnings.
Calculates retirement benefits using a member's high five years of salary instead of the current three years. Currently, the final average wage is compared to 121% of the fourth highest year's wages. The change compares the final average wage to 134% of the sixth highest year. The benefit calculation uses whichever figure is lower. This continues to allow a wage increase of 10% per year.
Implements a 6% per year reduction in retirement benefits for each year the members receives a retirement allowance before age 65 when a member retires prior to normal retirement age. Current law reduces the benefits of anyone that retires before meeting one of the normal retirement eligibility requirements by 3% per year. The current 3% per year reduction is figured from the nearest normal retirement eligibility. The change proposed a reduction in benefits of 6% per year for a member that retires before meeting one of the normal retirement eligibility requirements. The reduction is applied from age 65.
Increases the total contribution rate to 13.45% beginning July 1, 2011, and allows the system to adjust the rate up or down by no more than one percent per year for regular members. The current FY 2011 rate is 11.45%.

Benefit changes are effective July 1, 2012, and are based on an estimated June 30, 2012, estimated valuation using a current valuation model.



Municipal Utilities 2030 offered many guest speakers, including (top, left to right): Charles Sharp, Heartland Energy Solutions (wind turbines); William Shefchik, Burns & McDonnell (carbon sequestration); Gene Takle, Iowa State University (climate change); Terry Besser, Iowa State University (demographics); Dr. James McCalley, Iowa State University (transmission grid); Jim Baller, Baller Herbst Law Group, left (telecom); and Dr. Robert Remick, NREL, right (fuel cells). A number of associate member businesses took part in the vendor trade show (left).



IAMU members receive RP3 award from APPA



◆ Five Iowa municipal utilities are among the recipients of the American Public Power Association (APPA) RP3 (Reliable Public Power Provider) Awards.

The award salutes entities that provide the highest degree of reliability and safe electric service for consumers. Winners are honored with "Gold" and "Platinum" designations.

IAMU members Cedar Falls Utilities and City of Ames Electric Services received the Gold designation; Indianola Municipal Utilities, Muscatine Power and Water and Waverly Light and Power were honored in the Platinum category. The awards were presented at APPA's Engineering & Operations Technical Conference in Omaha.

To view a list of all 2010 APPA Individual and Utility award winners, click [here](#).

Report ranks Iowa tops in wind generation category



◆ The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) year-end report for 2009 shows Iowa leading the nation in the amount of energy consumed that is generated by wind, at 14%.

According to the report, Iowa added 879 megawatts of generational capacity in 2009, which ranks the state second in the nation in total wind generation, with 3,670 megawatts from 2,534 turbines. To view the report, click [here](#).

Governor Culver's Office reports Iowa leads the nation in wind energy jobs. The state hosts nine international companies manufacturing wind industry equipment, and boasts more than 200 manufacturers in the wind power supply chain, employing more than 2,300 Iowans.

Sewell, Schiebout to be honored by APPA in June

◆ Bob Sewell of Milford Municipal Utilities and Harold Schiebout of Sioux Center Municipal Utilities will each receive awards from the American Public Power Association (APPA) at



the group's National Conference in June.



Bob Sewell (top photo, right, greeting Congressman Leonard Boswell) and Harold Schiebout (bottom photo, left, receiving the IAMU Lifetime Membership Award from Algona's John Bilsten), will both be honored at the APPA National Conference.

Sewell, General Manager of IAMU member Milford Municipal Utilities, and 2009-10 IAMU Board President, will be a recipient of the APPA's Larry Hobart 7 Hats Award; Schiebout, Director of Government Relations & Special Projects at IAMU member Sioux Center Municipal Utilities, will receive the association's Harold Kramer – John Preston Personal Service Award.

The 7 Hats Award was initiated in 1966 to recognize utility managers who serve in the nation's smaller communities and whose variety of management responsibilities extends well beyond those of a manager in a larger system with a larger staff. Nominees must possess skills in the following seven areas: planning and design; administration; public relations; field supervision; accounting; human resources; and community leadership.

The Kramer — Preston award recognizes substantial contributions toward attaining APPA goals or enhancing APPA's national prestige. Both men will receive their awards in June at the APPA's National Conference in Orlando. IAMU congratulates both for receiving these awards, and for their efforts on behalf of municipal utilities.

Milford's GM Bob Sewell to retire; IAMU's Eric Stoll will take the job



IAMU Electric Services Coordinator Eric Stoll (right) is headed for Milford Municipal Utilities' GM post.

◆ Bob Sewell, General Manager of IAMU member Milford Municipal Utilities and 2009-10 IAMU Board President, has announced his retirement, which will officially take effect in July, 2010. His replacement will be Eric Stoll, who will leave his position as IAMU Electric Services Coordinator.

Sewell began his career at Milford Municipal Utilities in 1987, in the General Manager's role. Many improvements to the city's municipal utility systems were made during his tenure, including installing an underground electric distribution system.

Eric Stoll has served as IAMU's Electric Services Coordinator since 2005, and served on the association's Electric Safety & Training Committee prior to that, while working for Lake Park Municipal Utilities.

IAMU extends its best wishes to Bob Sewell in his upcoming retirement, and to Eric Stoll as he continues a tradition of excellence in leadership at Milford Municipal Utilities.

EPA's greenhouse gas "tailoring rule" close at hand



◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to soon issue what is known as the "tailoring rule" regarding greenhouse gas emissions through the Clean Air Act (CAA). EPA has said it plans to tailor the regulations in order to focus on the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions – which may include a number of utilities that own coal-fired power plants.



The issue is of great concern to many utilities, especially smaller utilities, which worry that the costs and administrative burdens of complying with the new rules could have a significant negative impact. It is estimated that a revised permitting threshold of 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year will be exceeded by many small utilities and other small businesses. EPA has moved to quell fears that compliance could involve expensive and untested technology such as carbon capture, stating that existing technologies would be implemented.

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*

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