



Quarterly Newsletter

August 2020 Issue

A&WMA Upper Midwest Section News & Events

◆ Register for the 2020 Virtual Arrowhead Environmental Conference

This series of webinars beginning August 4 brings together environmental professionals representing industry, consulting, government and academia, in the areas of air quality, water quality, remediation and waste management. Through a series of three technical sessions, attendees will learn about new, relevant issues and network with other professionals. This event is co-hosted by the Upper Midwest Section of the Air and Waste Management Association (A&WMA-UMS) and the Solid Waste Association of North America.

Session details are as follows:

- **August 11:** Four 25-minute sessions covering various air and water topics including a discussion on the evolving regulation of Waters of the US, Practical implications of a recent court ruling on the Clean Water Act Conduit Theory, ambient boundary security plans and air emissions for risk assessment for environmental reviews.
- **August 18:** Four 25-minute sessions covering various waste and remediation topics including a presentation on the Ashland Superfund Remediation Project, PFAs in the environment, integrated solid waste management planning and PFAs emission testing.

Registration for the remaining two sessions are located at this [link](#).

◆ Mark your calendars for the virtual Conference on the Environment to be held November 5

Mark your calendars for the 35th annual Conference on the Environment (COE) which will be held virtually on Thursday, November 5, 2020. The all-day virtual conference offers concurrent technical sessions of specific topics associated with water, air and waste management issues. The conference is co-hosted by the Central States Water Environmental Association and the Air and Waste Management Association Upper Midwest Section.

If you are interested in speaking or know of a particular topic that you would like to hear presented, please consider the Call for Abstracts at this [link](#).

Also, please visit the 2020 COE event page on the A&WMA-UMS website for more details related to the conference at this [link](#).

◆ Recent Upper Midwest Section Recognition

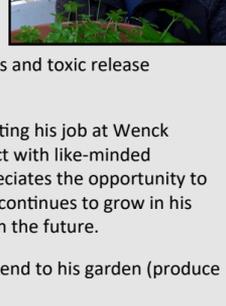
The A&WMA-UMS recently received the following recognition from the international A&WMA organization:

- Based on our responses in the 2019 Annual Report, the Upper Midwest Section was ranked 7th out of 56 A&WMA sections. This was based on our strong performance in conferences, networking events and webinars, as well as our quarterly newsletter.
- The Upper Midwest Section was awarded a 2019 Membership Performance Recognition Award based on our membership growth in 2019. We will be recognized in the A&WMA Conduit Newsletter and EM, as well as at the upcoming international A&WMA meeting.

Thank you to all of our members for your support of the organization and congratulations to us!

A&WMA UMS Member Spotlight!

Liam Brady



Liam graduated in 2018 from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. He currently works for the consulting firm, Wenck Associates, which he started at in 2019. He has experience in working on projects in air permitting, environmental compliance audits, air emission inventories and toxic release inventory reporting.

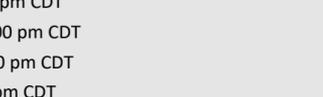
Liam became an A&WMA-UMS member in December 2019 after starting his job at Wenck Associates. He values the A&WMA-UMS as an opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals beyond his company. Being new to his career, he appreciates the opportunity to get to know others in the industry and the support he receives as he continues to grow in his career. Liam will be involved in the Young Professionals Committee in the future.

In his spare time, he likes to play board games and table top games, tend to his garden (produce and floral) and spend time with his twin sister and older brother.

Upcoming A&WMA National Events/Webinars

◆ FTIR-CEM Applications, O&M Concerns, Data Management and Process Control

Thursday, August 20, 12:00 pm—2:00 pm CDT



◆ Webinar Series: Air Pollution Control: Design, Operation and Troubleshooting

Tuesday, August 25 & Thursday, August 27, 12:00 pm—3:00 pm CDT

◆ COVID-19 and Environmental Compliance—Federal, State and Company Actions

Wednesday, September 2, 12:00 pm—1:30 pm CDT

◆ Webinar Series: New Source Review (NSR) Workshop

Part 1: Tuesday, September 1, 12:00 pm—2:30 pm CDT

Part 2: Tuesday, September 8, 12:00 pm—2:30 pm CDT

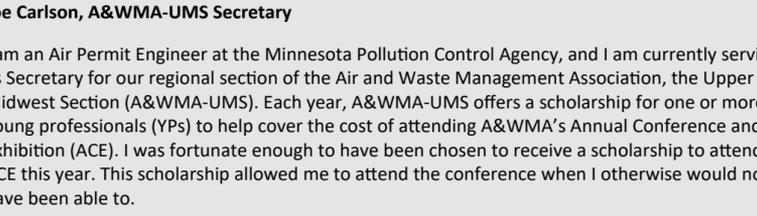
Part 3: Thursday, September 10, 12:00 pm—2:00 pm CDT

Part 4: Monday, September 14, 12:00 pm—2:00 pm CDT

Part 5: Friday, September 18, 12:00 pm—2:00 pm CDT

Click this [link](#) for more information and to register for the webinars above

A&WMA Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) Feedback



Each year the A&WMA Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) attracts thousands of environmental professionals from around the globe. ACE is the premier opportunity for networking, professional development, and learning more about A&WMA. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's ACE was hosted virtually. Two of the A&WMA-UMS Board/Committee Chairs were given the opportunity to attend this conference, Miranda Mair, Membership Committee Chair and Joe Carlson, Secretary. Below are some key takeaways they had regarding the ACE conference.

Joe Carlson, A&WMA-UMS Secretary

I am an Air Permit Engineer at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and I am currently serving as Secretary for our regional section of the Air and Waste Management Association, the Upper Midwest Section (A&WMA-UMS). Each year, A&WMA-UMS offers a scholarship for one or more young professionals (YPs) to help cover the cost of attending A&WMA's Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE). I was fortunate enough to have been chosen to receive a scholarship to attend ACE this year. This scholarship allowed me to attend the conference when I otherwise would not have been able to.

The virtual conference featured a mix of live presentations and prerecorded on-demand presentations. This structure provided a unique opportunity to attend more sessions than I otherwise would have been able to, since the on-demand sessions will remain active for a full year following the conference. I plan to continue viewing more of these on-demand sessions in the coming months.

This year's live keynote presentation was focused on environmental challenges for the transportation sector. The featured keynote presenters were Shane Stephens (Founder and Chief Development Officer, First Element Fuel, Inc), Laurie Shelby (Environment, Health and Safety, Tesla, Inc.), Delphine Hou (Director of California Regulatory Affairs, California Independent System Operator), and Severin Borenstein (Professor of Business Administration and Faculty Director of the Energy Institute at Haas School of Business, University of California Berkeley). The keynote panelists examined many logistical and regulatory challenges that lie ahead for electrification of the transportation sector, including expansion of hydrogen fuel and electric charging service stations, recycling of battery materials, investment in green technology and public transportation, and management of the power grid to meet the shifting demand patterns.

In addition to the many technical sessions I attended, I was also able to participate in several young professionals live (virtual) events, including a virtual trivia event and the YP Mentor Breakfast. These events allowed me the opportunity to connect with other young professionals across the country, hear about programs that other A&WMA sections are offering, and learn about professional development opportunities in my field. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to represent the Upper Midwest Section at ACE in 2020, and I encourage you all to consider going to the conference in Orlando, FL next year!

Miranda Mair, A&WMA-UMS Membership Committee Chair

While we were unable to meet for a physical conference due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Air & Waste Management Association was able to provide a forum for information exchange with the recent Virtual Annual Conference & Exhibition. The A&WMA Upper Midwest Section provided me the opportunity to attend the virtual conference. It was an engaging, worthwhile experience – and I didn't even have to leave my house!

There were plenty of presenters and timely content, as well as numerous opportunities for online networking. I was really impressed with the amount of available access to the recorded talks and other session materials for a full year. Often the biggest challenge presented by attending a conference is prioritizing one session over another, as we can't be in two places at once. This year's Virtual ACE blended live sessions with on-demand recorded presentations (including complete slide decks) to allow attendees to maximize their attendance fee and get the most value possible. If you're worried you missed out, registration for online access to this library of material is still open!

Virtual ACE 2020 featured presentations on topics including: U.S. EPA Priorities and modeling updates; emerging PFAS concerns; air impacts on the marijuana industry, climate risk; the impacts of COVID-19 on air quality; landfill gas issues; reducing marine emissions; and this year's Critical Review on air quality impacts of wildfires and prescribed burning. Speakers addressed environmental challenges and discussed paths for bringing innovative solutions to those problems. In total, there are over 70 sessions available online. As much as I miss being able to meet like-minded environmental professionals in scenic locations, this was still a great conference and I would participate in another virtual event in the future. Hopefully one is not needed for the upcoming 2021 ACE, currently planned to be held in Orlando, FL. Perhaps I'll see you there!

IN THE NEWS

Potential Air Toxics Reporting Changes

On July 16, MPCA held a webinar about potential air toxics reporting changes, and the associated recording is available on their website ([link](#)). MPCA is looking into rulemaking to change the toxics reporting from a triennial voluntary basis to an annual or triennial mandatory basis.

MPCA Air Dispersion Modeling Draft Guidance and Modeling Open House

MPCA posted the draft 2021 Air Dispersion Modeling Practices Manual ([link](#)) in redline strikeout and is accepting feedback through today, August 5. MPCA scheduled a virtual Open House on July 30 to provide updates to the modeling community, to facilitate discussion regarding modeling best practices, and to hold a Q&A session.

EQB Environmental Review Climate Integration Status Update

On May 20, the MN EQB posted an update ([link](#)) regarding "drafting recommendations for incorporating information related to climate change into Minnesota's Environmental Review (ER) Program." The next steps for the technical team include:

- Create Draft Guidance that aligns with the new EAW form requirements
- Assess mandatory EAW and Environmental Impact Statement categories
- Assess EAW Decision Criteria

New report from the Bureau of International Recycling suggests growing use of recovered fiber in paper and board production

According to an article posted on Recycling Today on July 28, 2020, 50.2 percent of global paper and board production in 2018 was made of recovered fiber. A new study from the Bureau of International Recycling indicates that in 2018 of the 211 million metric tons of paper and board produced using recovered fiber, about 86 percent of that paper and board was used for packaging materials. For more information please click on this link to [Recycling Today](#)

Clean Water Act "Conduit Theory" – US Supreme Court Ruling identifies factors for determining what constitutes a functional equivalent of a direct discharge to surface waters

Conduit Theory is a regulatory theory that relies upon the supposition that a release from a point source, such as a pipe, channel or well, to the environment resulting in the conveyance of the contaminate through the groundwater to a surface water body may be subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

On April 23, 2020 the Supreme Court of the United States published its opinion in a case (County of Maui v Hawaii Wildlife Fund) which considered whether an unpermitted discharge of treated sewage water into the ground water was an activity subject to regulation under the CWA. In this case treated sewage water was pumped into ground wells. The Supreme Court concluded that discharges of pollutants into groundwater do require a CWA permit when the discharge is the functional equivalent of a direct discharge to surface water.

The significance of this opinion is that the Court has acknowledged that the "Conduit Theory" is valid. The Court's opinion also establishes some general factors to consider when evaluating whether the conditions associated with a release is the functional equivalent of a direct discharge. The factors discussed in the Court's opinion includes transit time, distance traveled, geology, the extent to which the pollutant is diluted or chemically changed, the amount of pollutant discharged, the method by which the pollutant enters the navigable waters, and the degree to which the pollutant has maintained its characteristics after discharge.

MPCA Quarterly Air Mail Newsletter

MPCA publishes a quarterly Air Mail newsletter, which may be accessed here:

[MPCA Air Mail Newsletter Link](#)

- Regulatory Updates
- Reminder: Air permit online submission service updates
- The MPCA is unable to refund application fees
- Temporary delay for Clean Cars Minnesota rulemaking
- General Updates
- Get ready for Air Quality Awareness Week 2020!
- Changes in air quality due to COVID-19 slowdown
- 2020 marks the 50th Anniversary of the original Clean Air Act
- Coming soon! MPCA grants for ethylene oxide emission reductions
- Volkswagen settlement grant funding for 2020-2023
- Minnesota GreenCorps application coming soon!
- Updates on Clean Air Minnesota projects
- American Lung Association's 2020 State of the Air report now available
- Help available to identify and eliminate TCE
- Updated: Minnesota electric vehicle dashboard
- Study on COVID-19 and long-term exposure to air pollution
- EPA and NHTSA finalize greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles
- EPA finalizes decision that it should not have regulated mercury from coal power plants
- Particulate matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards review
- Integrated Science Assessment for ozone NAAQS now available
- EPA publishes supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking for the 2018 "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science" rule proposal

MPCA Form Updates

The following common MPCA air permit application forms have been updated from January 1, 2020 through today ([Link to MPCA Forms](#)):

- SCP-01: Submittal Cover Page (6/5/2020)
- GI-05B: Emission Unit Information (5/8/2020)
- GI-07: Facility Emissions Summary (5/8/2020)
- GI-09C: Requirements—New Source Review (5/8/2020)
- ME-01: Continuous Monitoring System Information (5/8/2020)
- CH-03: Major Permit Amending Determination (5/8/2020)
- CH-04e: Required Elements for a PSD Application (5/8/2020)
- CH-08: Administrative Amendment Determination (5/8/2020)
- PAL-01: Plantwide Applicability Limit (PAL) Cover Page (5/8/2020)
- PAL-02: Determination of PAL Limit for Major NSR Sources (5/8/2020)