

JULY 2026

NEWSLETTER

WISCONSIN CHAPTER APWA



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Outgoing President's Baton Transfer

Chapter President, July 2025 to June 2026
 Rick Eilertson—AECOM
 Member since 2002

First of all, I'd like to start off by welcoming you to my last official meeting serving as the APWA WI Chapter President. It's been an absolute privilege to serve as the Wisconsin Chapter President this past year for APWA. I've thoroughly enjoyed this past year's events and have loved being part of the wonderful Community Engagement activities that the Chapter has been involved with.

Thank you 2025-26 APWA WI Chapter Volunteers

Serving as President this past year has made me appreciate all the "behind the scenes" dedicated volunteers that our Chapter has. It's always challenging to appropriately recognize key volunteers without slighting others, but here are a few that I'd to call out => **Jeff Mazanec** – while he's been transitioning several of the Web site and Whova app updates to others, he's still be putting in an incredible amount of time and effort with these items and has exhibited great historical knowledge of what's worked and hasn't for the Chapter in the past. **Jason Atchison** – for taking over the Communications/Web site committee and assisting with the Whova updates for the past several conferences. **Shelly Billingsley** – for taking over the Newsletter Editor position as well as reenergizing the Historical and Archives Committee, **Lee Igl** – for all his time and effort keeping our financials in order and working

through the issues between Quickbooks and Summit Credit Union, and **Eric Dundee** – for leading our Conference Planning efforts so diligently the last 5+ years.

Thank you 2025-26 APWA WI Chapter and Conference Sponsors

We couldn't put together such strong events for the \$15/member annual fee without the strong financial support of our Chapter and Conference Sponsors. Please make sure to review the sponsors on our web site, newsletters, and event posters/flyers and thank our sponsors when you see them.

Strategic Planning

I encourage everyone to review Chapter's 2023-26 Strategic Plan (pages 26 and 27 of the [Summer 2025 Newsletter](#)) and begin thinking about updates we can make as we start discussions for the creating the Chapter's next 4-year Strategic Plan. This past March 17th, Chapter members were invited to join APWA's Town Hall to review the [Draft 2026–2029 APWA Strategic Plan](#) with APWA President Vic Bienes and CEO Scott Grayson, and provide feedback. This plan lays out the three pillars of *People, Purpose, and Presence* and includes three separate strategic goals for each. I feel this will be a very useful tool as the Chapter continues its update of our next Strategic Plan. I'm excited to see that Kamron has already scheduled the next APWA WI Chapter Strategic Planning Retreat next month (July 23 at Otter Lake, Elcho, WI) and look forward to participating.

Congratulations 2026-2027 APWA WI Chapter Leaders and Best of Luck Kamron!

Finally, Congratulations to all the incoming and returning Chapter Leaders. I look forward to continuing to lend my support as Past President starting in July. Please make sure to welcome Kamron into her role as Chapter President and let her know what you can help with as she hits the track running.



Thank you!

Sincerely,

Rick Eilertson, PE, ENV-SP
608-402-5862
rick.eilertson@aecom.com



KAMRON NASH

The Wisconsin Chapter of APWA is proud to spotlight incoming Chapter President **Kamron Nash**, Public Works Director for the Village of Summit. With a passion for public service, a commitment to leadership, and a dedication to supporting the next generation of public works professionals, Kamron brings both experience and vision to the Chapter.

Outside of work, Kamron enjoys spending time with her family. She and her husband, Randy, live just west of Janesville with their 10-year-old daughter, Elyse. Their son, Kayle, recently graduated from high school and will begin active-duty service in the U.S. Army this summer. Family remains at the center of Kamron's life and serves as a source of pride and inspiration.

When she is not leading public works operations, Kamron enjoys being outdoors. An avid gardener, she spends much of her free time working in her yard and garden. She and her husband recently purchased a second home on a quiet lake near Eagle River, where they enjoy paddleboarding, kayaking, fishing, boating, and spending time on the water.

A lifelong reader, Kamron enjoys a wide variety of authors and genres, ranging from Jane Austen and Stephen King to James Patterson and Sarah J. Maas. While a busy schedule limits the time available for traditional reading, audiobooks have become a favorite companion during her daily commute.

Kamron credits her mother as her greatest hero, describing her as one of the most caring and selfless people she knows. She also deeply admires individuals who lead with honesty, integrity, and respect for others—values that continue to guide her both personally and professionally.

MEET THE PRESIDENT

Meet the President — Kamron Nash

Before joining the Village of Summit, Kamron served as the Operations Superintendent for the City of Janesville. Her time there provided a strong operational foundation in public works and allowed her to build lasting relationships with many professionals she continues to call friends today.

An active member of the Wisconsin Chapter since 2017, Kamron first became involved through the Emerging Public Works Leaders Program. Since then, she has served in numerous leadership roles at both the Chapter and National levels. As Chapter President, she intends to focus on updating the Chapter's strategic plan to align with APWA National goals while continuing to promote the value of public works, provide educational opportunities, and enhance the member experience.

Kamron's personal philosophy centers on honesty, integrity, respect, and compassion. She believes these principles are essential for navigating challenges, building meaningful relationships, and maintaining trust within organizations and communities.

One accomplishment she is particularly proud of is finding and developing her voice as a leader. Early in her career, she often hesitated to share her thoughts and ideas. Through determination and a willingness to step outside her comfort zone, she embraced public speaking, leadership opportunities, and difficult conversations. She credits much of her growth to mentors and colleagues who recognized her potential and encouraged her along the way. Today, she hopes to provide the same encouragement and support to emerging professionals as they develop their own leadership journeys.

Please join us in welcoming Kamron Nash as Wisconsin Chapter President and thanking her for her continued commitment to advancing the public works profession.



2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE CENTER



2026 Hosts: [City of Brookfield](#), [City of Wauwatosa](#) and [Waukesha County](#)

Thank you to all those who attended this year's Spring Conference and to the many volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, and planning committee members who helped make it a success! Held at the Brookfield Conference Center, the conference brought together public works professionals from across Wisconsin for three days of education, networking, collaboration, and professional development. Attendees participated in technical sessions, leadership discussions, hands-on demonstrations, vendor exhibits, and the popular Equipment Rodeo, all while sharing ideas and best practices that strengthen our profession and the communities we serve. It was a record-breaking year, with more than 500 attendees gathering throughout the event, making it one of the largest and most successful Spring Conferences in Wisconsin Chapter history. Below is a quick recap of some of the highlights from the conference.

Spring Conference - Brookfield

In Photos



- ● Maggie Anderson, Dave Simpson, and Boris Veleusic (City of Wauwatosa) provided an overview of the flood mitigation efforts in Hart Park



Dave Simpson (City of Wauwatosa) describes the planning that went into Firefly Grove Park (including the creation of the Thomas Dambo Troll – Mama Rosa) during the Bike Tour.



Committee Chairs reported on committee activities and planned collaborations between committees. Minor revisions to the Chapter Bylaws were reviewed and recommended for approval at Friday's Chapter Business Meeting. Highlights were covered for upcoming Chapter Events and Conferences.

The Vendor Hall and Equipment Expo were highlights of the 2026 APWA Wisconsin Spring Conference in Brookfield, featuring more than 50 exhibitors showcasing the latest equipment, technology, and services for public works professionals. Attendees connected with industry partners, explored innovative solutions, and gained valuable insights, while the outdoor exhibits and Equipment Rodeo provided hands-on opportunities to see equipment and technology in action.





EQUIPMENT ROADEO

The 2nd Annual Equipment Roadeo Competition was a huge success, bringing together 56 operators for a day full of skill, precision, and friendly competition. Contestants put their talents to the test by racing against the clock to see how many alligator heads they could pick up in just five minutes using a backhoe. The event kept spectators entertained from start to finish and showcased the impressive abilities of equipment operators from across the region.

One of the highlights of the day was the outstanding camaraderie between participants. Operators encouraged one another, shared laughs, and demonstrated the strong teamwork and professionalism that make the public works community so unique.

A special thank you goes out to the City of Green Bay, City of Stevens Point, and City of Milwaukee for providing judges and assisting with course setup to help make the event possible. Thank you as well to Brooks Tractor for supplying the backhoes used during the competition.



Congratulations to all competitors, especially the top three finishers. The first-place winner earned the honor of advancing to PWX to represent the Wisconsin Chapter in the National Backhoe Roadeo Competition.

1st Place: Jim Fox—City of Wauwatosa

2nd Place: Justin Sachse—City of Milton

3rd Place: Dennis Fredrick—City of Brookfield

Since Jim Fox is unable to attend PWX, Justin Sachse will be representing the Wisconsin Chapter at PWX.



Equipment Roadeo Sponsored By:



BROOKS
TRACTOR SINCE 1945



2026 - 2027 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



President
Kamron Nash
Village of Summit



President Elect
Aaron Jahnke
Village of Waunakee



Director
Cory Horton
Ruekert- Mielke



House of Delegates
Bob Givens
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Vice President
Genevieve Stollenwerk
Village of South Milwaukee



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Howard Crofoot
City of Platteville



Alternate Delegate
Scott Brandmeier
Village of Fox Point



Director
Caroline Burger
Carollo



Secretary
Chris Tippery
CDM Smith



Past President
Rick Eilertson
AECOM

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Dane County Highway Department - CTH M Reconstruction

TRANSPORTATION \$5M - \$25M



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Clement Abongwa (Dane County), Brian Rice (Dane County), Brad Cunningham (KL Engineering), Gerry Schmitt (KL Engineering, Inc.), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

For more than 20 years, CTH M served as a critical east–west connection north of Madison, but growing traffic demands, congestion, unreliable travel times, and limited pedestrian and bicycle accommodations made the corridor increasingly unsafe and inefficient. The 2.6-mile reconstruction project widened the roadway to a four-lane divided highway in key segments, improved major intersections, added safer crossings and access management features, constructed a continuous multi-use trail, and upgraded the Six Mile Creek bridges to increase capacity. Because the corridor is surrounded by environmentally sensitive wetlands, parks, wildlife areas, and conservation land, the design team prioritized context-sensitive solutions that minimized environmental impacts while meeting long-term transportation needs. Completed in 2025 at a construction cost of approximately \$22 million, the project transformed CTH M into a safer, more reliable, and more accessible corridor through extensive coordination among agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

● *Managing Agency / Consultant*

Dane County Highway Department

● *Primary Consultant*

KL Engineering, Inc.

● *Primary Contractor*

Mashuda Contractors, Inc.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

City of Milwaukee - E. Wells Street

TRANSPORTATION < \$5M



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Dave Tapia (City of Milwaukee), Jakob Anderson (Super Western), Andy Axt (raSmith), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

The E. Wells Street project in downtown Milwaukee was the first roadway project in Wisconsin to incorporate raised, separated bicycle facilities on a state highway, while also enhancing pedestrian spaces, landscaping, and public gathering areas. The reconstruction included replacement of sidewalks, curb ramps, storm sewer, traffic signals, lighting, underground conduit, and pavement markings. Despite challenges related to the dense urban setting, complex utility networks, nearby festivals and events, and the need to accommodate multiple transportation modes, the project delivered innovative and connected multimodal improvements.

● *Managing Agency / Consultant*

City of Milwaukee

● *Primary Consultant*

raSmith

● *Primary Contractor*

Super Western

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

City of Madison Parks Division - Door Creek Park Shelter

STRUCTURES > \$75M



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Maria Delestre (City of Madison – Engineering), Tony Lemke (CG Schmidt, Inc.), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

Door Creek Park is a 160-acre community park on the far east side of Madison, Wisconsin, established on native prairie and forest land. As a regional community park, it provides a wide range of amenities including sports courts, playgrounds, multipurpose fields, hiking and skiing trails, parking, and restroom facilities while preserving natural prairie and forest areas. This project developed a multi-season park shelter designed to create an equitable, inclusive, and universally accessible park shelter that supports cultural, educational, and community gatherings while providing a safe, healthy, and durable environment for users.

● *Managing Agency / Consultant*

City of Madison

● *Primary Consultant*

Aro Eberle Architects

● *Primary Contractor*

CG Schmidt, Inc.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Marquette County - CTH D Buffalo Lake Causeway Reconstruction

TRANSPORTATION <\$5M



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Bill Biesmann (KL Engineering, Inc.), Brad Domasky (KL Engineering, Inc.), Brian Trebiatowski (Marquette County), Mike McConnell (Kopplin & Kinas Company, Inc.), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

The CTH D Buffalo Lake Causeway Reconstruction Project provided a long-term solution to chronic flooding, roadway deterioration, and repeated closures that had disrupted transportation and emergency access in Marquette County for decades. The design incorporated a resilient roadway solution that balanced technical challenges, budget constraints, and coordination among agencies, contractors, and specialty consultants. The reconstructed causeway raised the roadway above flood elevations, stabilized poor soils, replaced deteriorated culverts, added ADA-accessible and bicycle amenities, and introduced the innovative use of wood chips as lightweight roadway fill in Wisconsin.

● *Managing Agency / Consultant*

Marquette County Highway Department

● *Primary Consultant*

KL Engineering, Inc.

● *Primary Contractor*

Kopplin & Kinas Company, Inc.



This project was selected as an APWA NATIONAL AWARD WINNER. The project will be recognized at the APWA 2026 PWX National Conference in Houston.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Village of Fox Point - Beach Drive Coastal Resiliency

SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENT



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Dan Williams (MSA Professional Services, Inc.), Scott Brandmeier (Village of Fox Point), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

The Village of Fox Point faced severe shoreline erosion challenges along Beach Drive with rising Lake Michigan water levels and storms threatening a narrow strip of land separating the roadway from the lake. Powerful storms and wave action caused significant shoreline loss, roadway flooding, and debris wash-over, while also endangering critical infrastructure including the Village's sanitary sewer main located near the shoreline. This project developed both immediate protective measures and long-term resilient shoreline improvements designed to safeguard the roadway and infrastructure for future generations.

● **Managing Agency / Consultant**

Village of Fox Point

● **Primary Contractor**

Michels Corporation

● **Primary Consultant**

MSA Professional Services,
Inc.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

City of Beloit - 80-100 E. Grand Avenue Riverwalk Extension

SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES STRUCTURES



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Bill Frisbee (City of Beloit), Kevin Saxe (Batterman, Inc.), Frank McKearn (R.H. Batterman, Inc.), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

The 80–100 E Grand Avenue Riverwalk Extension Project transformed a state-mandated structure removal into a key component of downtown Beloit’s riverfront revitalization and trail connectivity efforts. The project included demolishing a deteriorated building integrated with a downtown bridge, restoring the Rock River shoreline riverwall, and constructing a new riverwalk segment within a dense urban environment.

● *Managing Agency / Consultant*

City of Beloit

● *Primary Consultant*

Batterman & Co. Inc.

● *Primary Contractor*

R.G. Huston Company Inc.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

City of Wauwatosa - Firefly Grove Park

SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES STRUCTURES / ENVIRONMENT



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Chris Carr (The Sigma Group, Inc.), Boris Veleusic (City of Wauwatosa), Dave Simpson (City of Wauwatosa), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

Firefly Grove Park transformed a long-dormant former landfill into a vibrant public park featuring accessible play areas, nature-based recreation, stormwater management features, and one of the region's only bicycle pump tracks. The park blends recreation, environmental stewardship, and public art, including "Mama Rosa," Wisconsin's first troll sculpture by internationally recognized artist Thomas Dambo, created from recycled local materials. Designed for visitors of all ages and abilities, the park includes trails, a living willow hut, public gathering spaces, native landscaping, and wildlife-friendly habitats, quickly becoming a popular community destination in the Milwaukee metro area.

● **Managing Agency / Consultant**

City of Wauwatosa

● **Primary Consultant**

The Sigma Group, Inc.

● **Primary Contractor**

Vinton Construction Company

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Village of Fox Point - Bradley Road Reconstruction

SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES TRANSPORTATION



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Scott Brandmeier (Village of Fox Point), Ryan Wallace (Baxter & Woodman, Inc.), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

The Village of Fox Point reconstructed Bradley Road to improve safety, manage traffic speeds, and better accommodate high pedestrian activity near commercial areas and key connectors between Port Washington Road and Lake Drive. The project included roadway realignment, narrower lanes, and the addition of a separated pedestrian path, along with major stormwater upgrades such as buried storm sewer, bioretention basins, and bioswales to improve drainage and flood storage capacity. It also involved significant utility coordination and infrastructure improvements, including water main replacement and a new culvert, while enhancing overall roadway safety and environmental performance.

● *Managing Agency / Consultant*

Village of Fox Point

● *Primary Consultant*

Baxter & Woodman, Inc.

● *Primary Contractor*

UPI, LLC

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

City of Wauwatosa - Potter Road and 109th Street

SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES TRANSPORTATION



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Troy Hartjes (raSmith), Boris Veleusic (City of Wauwatosa), Dave Simpson (City of Wauwatosa), Todd Dorner (Dorner, Inc.), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

The Potter Road and 109th Street corridor in Wauwatosa experienced chronic flooding that regularly closed the roadway, threatened nearby homes and infrastructure, and jeopardized a critical water reservoir and pumping station serving the City's west side. The project addressed these issues through a comprehensive stormwater and utility redesign involving extensive coordination with multiple agencies and utilities to manage complex underground conditions and a 132-acre watershed. Final improvements included roadway reconstruction, new storm sewer and water mains, culverts, traffic calming, and multi-use paths, ultimately transforming the corridor into a system capable of withstanding up to a 500-year storm event while improving safety and reliability.

● **Managing Agency / Consultant**

City of Wauwatosa

● **Primary Consultant**

raSmith

● **Primary Contractor**

Dorner, Inc.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Village of Whitefish Bay - Buckley Park Critical Storm Sewer Repair

SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES
DISASTER OR EMERGENCY CONSTRUCTION / REPAIR



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Matt Collins (Village of Whitefish Bay), CJ Beyer (Clark Dietz, Inc.), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

In June 2024, Buckley Park in Whitefish Bay experienced a critical infrastructure failure when a 60-inch storm sewer collapsed, eliminating the only stormwater outlet for over 230 acres and creating an immediate risk of flooding and erosion. The team worked quickly to design and install a temporary bypass system within five days to safely redirect stormwater to Lake Michigan and protect surrounding neighborhoods and parkland. A permanent, trenchless repair solution was then constructed using secant pile shafts, tunneling, and pipe lining, restoring long-term system capacity while minimizing surface disruption and ensuring no flooding or service interruptions occurred.

● *Managing Agency / Consultant*

Village of Whitefish Bay

● *Primary Consultant*

Clark Dietz, Inc.

● *Primary Contractor*

Mid City Corporation



This project was selected as an APWA NATIONAL AWARD WINNER. The project will be recognized at the APWA 2026 PWX National Conference in Houston.



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Heidi Jeninga (Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

Outstanding New Member

Recognizes and encourages new or young members who have demonstrated an initial commitment to the profession and the association and show potential for future growth within the association.

As a municipal engineer, Heidi's experience spans stormwater management, parks, roadways, and sanitary sewer rehabilitation.

She joined APWA in 2021, and in 2024 she completed the APWA Wisconsin Chapter's Class XVIII Emerging Leader Academy and was named an APWA Emerging Leader. Heidi now serves as the Chapter's Community Engagement Committee Chair, where she has helped strengthen outreach and connections across our communities. Within APWA, Heidi also helped revitalize the Diversity Committee and expand its mission into broader community engagement, increasing the Task Force's impact.

At Ruekert-Mielke, she supports municipal clients through project delivery, grant-writing, and the preparation of plans, specifications, and bid documents—and she helps guide public information and stakeholder meetings that build trust and transparency.

HEIDI JENINGA

Ruekert & Mielke



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Shelly Billingsley (Kenosha County), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

John W. Curtis Chapter Service Award

Recognizing outstanding individual achievement through Chapter activity and service while supporting APWA's strategic plan, goals, and objectives.

After getting a BSCE from UW-Milwaukee and an MBA from UW-Parkside, along with her PE license, Shelly had a brief stint in the private sector with GRAEF, before starting a 20-year career in the public sector with the City of Kenosha. She worked for the City, rising through the ranks to become the Director of Public Works. After managing her public works teams through a severe flooding event, a severe winter storm event and civil unrest in the City of Kenosha, Shelly accepted the role of Director of Public Works and Development Services for Kenosha County.

Shelly has been an active member of Wisconsin Chapter APWA starting with being a member of the Water Resources Committee, then moving to the Facilities and Grounds Committee where she rose to be chair of the committee from 2017 – 2019. She was Chapter Secretary from 2020 – 2022, Vice President from 22 – 23, President-Elect in 23-24 and Chapter President in 2024 – 2025. In addition to being a Past President, she has been the Chapter Newsletter Editor and the Historical & Archive Committee Chair since 2025.

SHELLY BILLINGSLEY

Kenosha County



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Joseph Terry (AECOM), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

William O Rheinfrank Public Works Impact Award

Recognizing a person who has provided a positive, wide-reaching impact on public works programs, services, or policies through distinguished public service and commitment to their community and the State of Wisconsin.

Licensed Professional Engineer with more than 30 years of experience in municipal engineering, public works leadership, and infrastructure program delivery across Wisconsin.

Proven executive leader with a strong record of managing complex organizations, multimillion dollar budgets, and high visibility public works projects.

Recognized for collaborative leadership, technical excellence, and the ability to align engineering solutions with community, regulatory, and stakeholder needs. Experienced in consulting, municipal administration, utility management, and capital improvement planning at the local and regional level.

JOSEPH TERRY

AECOM

SNOW & ICE CONTROL AWARDS

Village of Paddock Lake

UNDER 10,000 POPULATION



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Alex Attiah (Village of Paddock Lake), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

Village of DeForest

BETWEEN 10,000 AND 25,000 POPULATION



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Judd Blau (Village of DeForest), Greg Hall (Village of DeForest), Nathan Roberts (Village of DeForest), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

SNOW & ICE CONTROL AWARDS

City of DePere

OVER 25,000 POPULATION



From left to right: Rick Eilertson (APWA WI Chapter President-AECOM), Chase Kuffel (City of De Pere), Scott Thoresen (City of De Pere), Tony Fietzer (City of De Pere), Mike Millette (APWA Region V Director)

This project was selected as an **APWA NATIONAL AWARD WINNER**. The project will be recognized at the APWA 2026 PWX National Conference in Houston.



City of Oak Creek

OVER 25,000 POPULATION

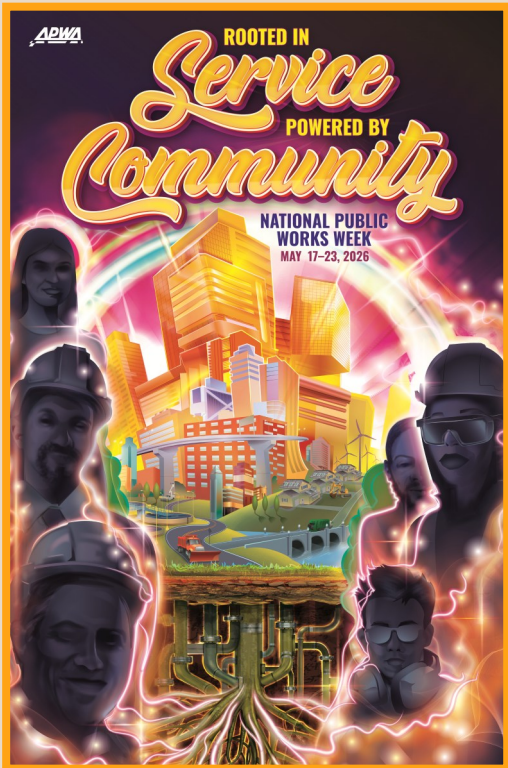


From Left to Right: James Ruetz (Aldersperson Dist. 3), Alicia Haase (Aldersperson Dist. 1), Daniel Bukiewicz (Mayor), Jennifer Barlas (APWA / Baxter & Woodman), Tyler Buerger (Asst. Director of Public Works), Chris Guzikowski (Aldersperson Dist. 6), Matthew Trebatoski (Director of Public Works)

This project was selected as an **APWA NATIONAL AWARD WINNER**. The project will be recognized at the APWA 2026 PWX National Conference in Houston.



Building Momentum Across Wisconsin



Heidi Jeninga

Community Engagement Committee Chair



The Wisconsin Chapter APWA Community Engagement Committee is energized and excited after a highly successful Spring Conference. One of the key highlights from our time together was the opportunity to collaborate closely with the Public Relations Committee. By joining forces, our committees aligned our goals and began shaping a shared vision for strengthening outreach, storytelling, and community connection across the state. The enthusiasm and ideas generated during that meeting have created tremendous momentum, and we are eager to carry that energy forward throughout the year.

Our combined efforts come at a perfect time, as agencies across Wisconsin recently celebrated National Public Works Week (NPWW) (May 16–23, 2026). This year was especially meaningful, with Governor Tony Evers officially proclaiming the week in recognition of the vital contributions public works professionals make to healthy, safe, and thriving communities. Local communities embraced the proclamation and used it as an opportunity to showcase the essential work happening behind the scenes every day.

Across the state, municipalities and counties hosted engaging events that brought public works into the spotlight:

The **Village of DeForest** brought families together with a Touch-a-Truck event, offering hands-on experiences that were both fun and informative.



NPWW COLLAGE

1



The **City of Milwaukee** kicked off the week with its popular Big Truck Day, drawing large crowds and even welcoming the Mayor. Families had the chance to get up close with the equipment that keeps the city running—an experience that continues to inspire curiosity and appreciation among residents of all ages.

2



In **Stevens Point**, the annual 4th Grader Day once again proved to be a fantastic educational opportunity. Students spent time learning about the wide range of careers in public works, helping to spark interest in the next generation.

3



The **City of Waunakee** hosted a Public Works Open House, giving residents a rare behind-the-scenes look at the people, tools, and operations that support their daily lives. Events like this help humanize public works and foster trust within the community.

4



Kenosha County joined in the celebration by issuing its own proclamation, reinforcing the importance of public works at the local level.

These events highlight exactly what community engagement is all about—creating meaningful opportunities for residents to connect with the essential services that often go unnoticed. From young students exploring future career paths to families learning how infrastructure supports their everyday lives, the impact of these efforts is both immediate and long-lasting.

Light the Hoan



In honor of National Public Works Week, Scott Brandmeier, Director of Public Works in the Village of Fox Point coordinated with the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Light the Hoan to recognize the incredible work of public works professionals across our communities.

As part of this recognition, the Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee was illuminated in public works colors – orange and white – on Wednesday, May 20.

This special lighting tribute is in honor of each of you and the important work you do every day to serve our residents, maintain critical infrastructure, support public safety, and keep our communities running. Public works often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is seen and felt every single day.

Thank you for your continued dedication, professionalism, and commitment to public service. We are proud to recognize and celebrate all of our DPW employees during National Public Works Week.



City of Milwaukee



Brown Deer



Germantown



South Milwaukee



Whitefish Bay

What is Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning and How Does It Fit In?

Chris Barnes—Emergency Management Committee Chair



Wisconsin is vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards. The state has incurred hazard-related damages totaling nearly \$3 billion in the last three decades. Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning breaks the cycle of damage and repair by reducing the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. A 2019 study by the National Institute of Building Sciences found that every \$1 spent on mitigation saves an average of \$6 in future reduced losses. This savings increases to \$7 for FEMA-funded flood mitigation projects, like those completed in Wisconsin communities.



What does the plan consist of?

Hazard Mitigation Plans are focused on natural weather-related hazards, including flooding, coastal bluff failure, tornadoes, thunderstorms, extreme temperature events, and severe winter storms. After identifying these risks, the plans include long-term and equitable strategies for protecting people and property from similar events.



Effective mitigation actions can include a variety of projects and activities. For example, mitigation can include relatively simple projects such as elevating a home furnace, water heater, and air conditioner. Mitigation strategies within the Public Works sector typically include floodplain protection, and construction of stormwater detention or retention basins to minimize flooding, structure acquisition or buyouts, dam inspections, critical infrastructure protection, green infrastructure (or nature-based solutions), and warning systems to protect people and property from natural hazard events.

Who does the planning?

The local effort to prepare the plan begins with a local planning working group. In the case of the Town of Verona, this group consists of the Public Works Committee. If the plan is part of a multi-jurisdiction or county wide, the local working group prepares and updates a specific chapter attached to the plan addressing the hazard mitigation and the potential steps that can be taken in that particular jurisdiction. The information collected by the local working group to support the planning process includes the following:

- o Background information about the local jurisdiction;
- o Plans, technical studies, and data related to hazards and risks.
- o Compilation of recent hazard events, such as flooding, specific mitigation strategies and cost impacts.
- o Compilation of public infrastructure and replacement cost information.
- o Current governing codes, ordinances, regulations, and procedures whose intent is to minimize future losses.



SNOW PLOW ROADEO AND WINTER MAINTENANCE CERTIFICATE

Mark your calendars! The **36th Annual APWA Wisconsin Snow Plow Rodeo and Equipment Show** will return to the Fox Valley Technical College Appleton Campus on **Thursday, August 20, 2026**, bringing together snowfighters, equipment operators, vendors, and Public Works professionals from across Wisconsin for a day of competition, education, and networking.

The Snowplow Rodeo continues to be one of the premier events for Wisconsin Public Works professionals. Participants will test their knowledge of vehicle safety, snowplow operations, equipment maintenance, and driving skills while navigating a challenging obstacle course designed to showcase operator talent and precision.

In addition to statewide bragging rights, the top two drivers will earn the opportunity to represent Wisconsin at the National Snowplow Rodeo during the Western Snow & Ice Conference in Loveland, Colorado. The APWA Wisconsin Chapter will provide travel reimbursement of up to \$1,500 per driver.

Not interested in competing? There will be plenty to see and do throughout the day. The Equipment Show will feature more than 30 vendors displaying the latest equipment, technology, and products designed specifically for Public Works operations. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with industry representatives, explore new innovations, and enjoy lunch while participating in vendor-sponsored door prize drawings.

Thursday, August 20, 2026

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Dylan Rollo - Event Chair



920-232-5379



drollo@oshkoshwi.gov

The popular **Mini Equipment Roadeo Challenge**, sponsored by Brooks Tractor, will also return this year. Operators can test their precision and equipment handling skills against some of the best in Wisconsin while competing for bragging rights and recognition among their peers.

The success of the Snowplow Roadeo would not be possible without the support of volunteers and judges. Event organizers are seeking approximately 40 judges and 10 volunteers to assist with course operations, event setup, and scoring. Volunteers and judges will receive lunch and an event T-shirt as a thank-you for their participation.

Vendors and manufacturers are also encouraged to participate by displaying equipment and supporting the event through sponsorship opportunities. Vendor setup will begin on Wednesday, August 19.

Registration for both the Snowplow Roadeo and Backhoe Competition is \$40 per participant and includes lunch and an event T-shirt. Registration forms and event information are available online, with registrations due by **August 14, 2026**.

Whether you're competing, volunteering, networking with vendors, or simply supporting fellow Public Works professionals, the APWA Wisconsin Snowplow Roadeo offers something for everyone. We look forward to seeing you in Appleton for another outstanding event celebrating the skill, dedication, and professionalism of Wisconsin's Public Works operators.

*Register
Now*



PUBLIC WORKS

FIRST RESPONDER

36TH ANNUAL WISCONSIN SNOWPLOW ROADEO — & EQUIPMENT SHOW —



**SKILLED. DEDICATED.
ALWAYS READY.**



AUGUST 19-20, 2026



**FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE
APPLETON, WISCONSIN**



When winter strikes, Public Works professionals are among the first to respond—keeping roads open, communities moving, and the public safe. The Snowplow Rodeo celebrates the skill, dedication, and professionalism of these **First Responders of Public Works**.

SNOWPLOW ROADEO DRIVERS



Drivers will be tested on their knowledge of vehicle safety and operations, mechanical knowledge of snowplow equipment, and their driving ability through an obstacle course.

The TOP TWO drivers will represent Wisconsin at the National Snowplow Rodeo in Loveland, Colorado September 30–October 2, 2026. \$1,500 stipend towards travel paid for by the Wisconsin Chapter APWA.

DRIVING COURSE
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:
**LAKESIDE
INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS**

MINI EQUIPMENT ROADEO CHALLENGE



Test your skills in this exciting competition using the bucket of a stationary tractor-backhoe.

**BROOKS TRACTOR
WILL SPONSOR THE
MINI BACKHOE
COMPETITION!**

Two timed challenges!
No operator license
required!

Competition runs Thursday
morning in the outside
exposition area.

BACKHOE COURSE
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



**BROOKS
TRACTOR** SINCE 1945

EQUIPMENT SHOW



Come and enjoy the equipment show featuring State of the Art equipment and products geared towards Public Works.

7:30 AM – 2:00 PM
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20
© FOX VALLEY TC LOT 13

PIZZA LUNCH



Enjoy a pizza lunch, network with peers, and celebrate the professionals who keep Wisconsin moving!

12:00 PM
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20



**WHEN THE STORM BEGINS,
PUBLIC WORKS RESPONDS FIRST.**



GET INVOLVED!

If you don't want to drive...opportunities to participate include set up/take down and event judging...so get involved!



EVENT DETAILS & REGISTRATION

www.wisconsin.apwa.org

CONTACT: Dytan Rollo | 920-232-5384

What is Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning and How Does It Fit In?

Continued from Page 27

It is important that the plan shows what the local and regional communities are doing now to limit future disaster losses.

When are these plans due?

FEMA requires all local jurisdictions in Wisconsin to have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to maintain eligibility for pre- and post-disaster federal grant funding. Contact your local Emergency Management or Regional Planning organization to determine if your community is included in a multi-jurisdictional plan. The County Emergency Management agency is a good place to start. Wisconsin Emergency Management <https://wem.wi.gov> has excellent resources for Hazard Mitigation Planning.

Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, multi-jurisdictional plans must be systematically updated and approved every five years and are typically led by local Emergency Management or Regional Planning organizations. Grant opportunities can be found on the Wisconsin Emergency Management web site at <https://wem.wi.gov/grants/>

Building Momentum Across Wisconsin—Continued from Page 25

As we reflect on National Public Works Week, it's clear that engagement is growing stronger across Wisconsin. Communities are not only participating—they are embracing public works in new and exciting ways. This momentum is something we plan to build upon.

Looking ahead, the Community Engagement Committee is already turning its attention to the fall, where planning is underway for our Truck & Treat event in Onalaska. This event promises to be another fantastic opportunity to bring communities together in a fun, interactive setting while continuing to showcase the important work we do.

We are incredibly proud of the creativity, dedication, and passion demonstrated by agencies across Wisconsin. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's National Public Works Week a success. Together, we are strengthening connections, increasing awareness, and building a greater appreciation for public works in our communities.

Wisconsin Professional Engineer License Renewal Reminder

Attention Wisconsin Professional Engineers! Your Wisconsin Professional Engineer (PE) license renewal is due **July 31**. To maintain an active license and continue practicing without interruption, be sure to complete your renewal before the deadline. Remember to verify that you have met all applicable continuing education requirements and retain your documentation for your records. Don't wait until the last minute—renew early to ensure your license remains in good standing.





THANK YOU SPONSORS!

2025-26 APWA WI CHAPTER AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS



Thank you to all of our sponsors for supporting the Wisconsin Chapter !

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



The APWA Wisconsin Chapter is accepting Scholarship Program applications now through August 14, 2026. This scholarship is available to students enrolled full time in accredited associate or bachelor's degree programs related to public works. These scholarships are awarded in-person at the Chapter Fall Conference. In the past three years the Chapter has awarded over \$62,000 in scholarships! The Summer Golf Outing is the key fundraising event our Chapter holds to endow our scholarships. Please consider signing up for the 16th Annual Golf Outing at Washington County Golf Course on July 22, 2026. Details can be found at the Chapter website.

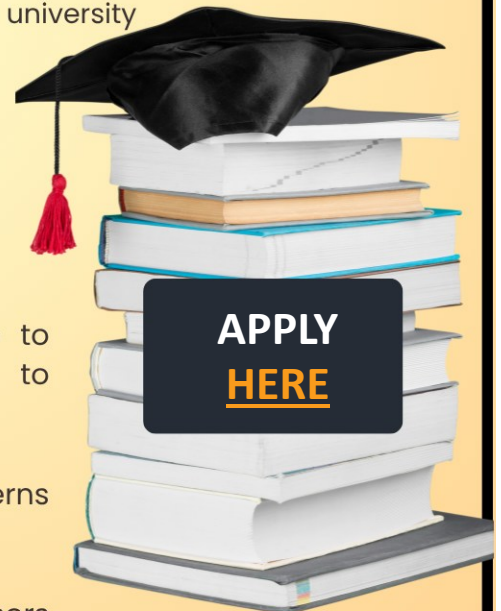
To be eligible for consideration the applicant must:

- ✓ Be a full-time undergraduate student who at the time of application has attained a Junior or Senior status in an accredited program and is seeking a degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering, Public Administration, Public Works Management or a related field.
- ✓ Be a full-time student attending an accredited college or university
- ✓ Have a college cumulative grade point average of not less than 3.0 on a 4.0 basis.
- ✓ Be sponsored by a current member of the Wisconsin Chapter of APWA.

Second-year associate degree students can receive up to \$1,000 and bachelor's degree junior/senior students up to \$2,000.

Help spread the word and encourage your promising interns and co-op students to apply by August 14, 2026.

Awardees, their immediate families, and their APWA sponsors are encouraged to attend the Fall Banquet (October 29, 2026, in Onalaska) to receive this award. Candidates selected for the award will be notified by September 18, 2026.



Tim Schleeper
 tsch@vierbicher.com
 (608) 821-3959



Announcements



WEDNESDAY

July 22, 2026

9:00 AM Shotgun Start

Washington County Golf Course
1365 Clover Road
Hartford, Wisconsin

INCLUDES:

- 18 Holes + Cart
- Lunch
- Giveaways & Prize Drawings

Fee: \$ 100 per player

REGISTER NOW



Correction:

In the previous newsletter article titled “Connecting Locally: How Peer Networks Strengthen Green Infrastructure in Public Works,” the author was incorrectly stated. The correct author is Julia Noordyk, Water Quality and Coastal Communities Outreach Specialist at the UW-Madison Aquatic Sciences Center. We apologize for the error and appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification.



Additional Signatures Needed:

Anyone interested in adding their signature to those already gathered for developing a Wisconsin Public Works First Responder License Plate please reach out to Rick Eilertson at rick.eilertson@aecom.com.

The [16th Annual Wisconsin Chapter Summer Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser](#) is all set! The event will be golfing at Washington County Golf Course located in Hartford, WI. Registration for golf is \$100 and includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, giveaways and inclusion in the prize drawings.

If you can't attend this year summer outing, there is a registration option to donate to the scholarship fund. Using the link above, Click “Register Now” at the top of the screen, and select “Myself”. From this screen you can select Scholarship Donation. It is set up as a \$25 item, but you can increase the quantity if you wish to donate more. For example, you would enter a quantity of "2" to donate \$50.

As a fundraiser, all money raised through event registration, sponsorships and donations go directly to the Wisconsin Chapter scholarship fund. The event committee would like to thank the sponsors (listed on the event webpage) who have already committed to this great event and we welcome anyone else who wants to sponsor this year's outing!

If you have any questions about the registration or sponsorships, please contact Aaron Jahncke at ajahncke@waunakee.com.



Announcements

The Young Professionals Committee Presents

7TH ANNUAL BASEBALL WITH CHICAGO METRO

BREWERS



VS

CUBS



SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
AT AMERICAN FAMILY FIELD
GATES OPEN AT 3:40 PM

Tickets Include: Pregame activities and access to the game

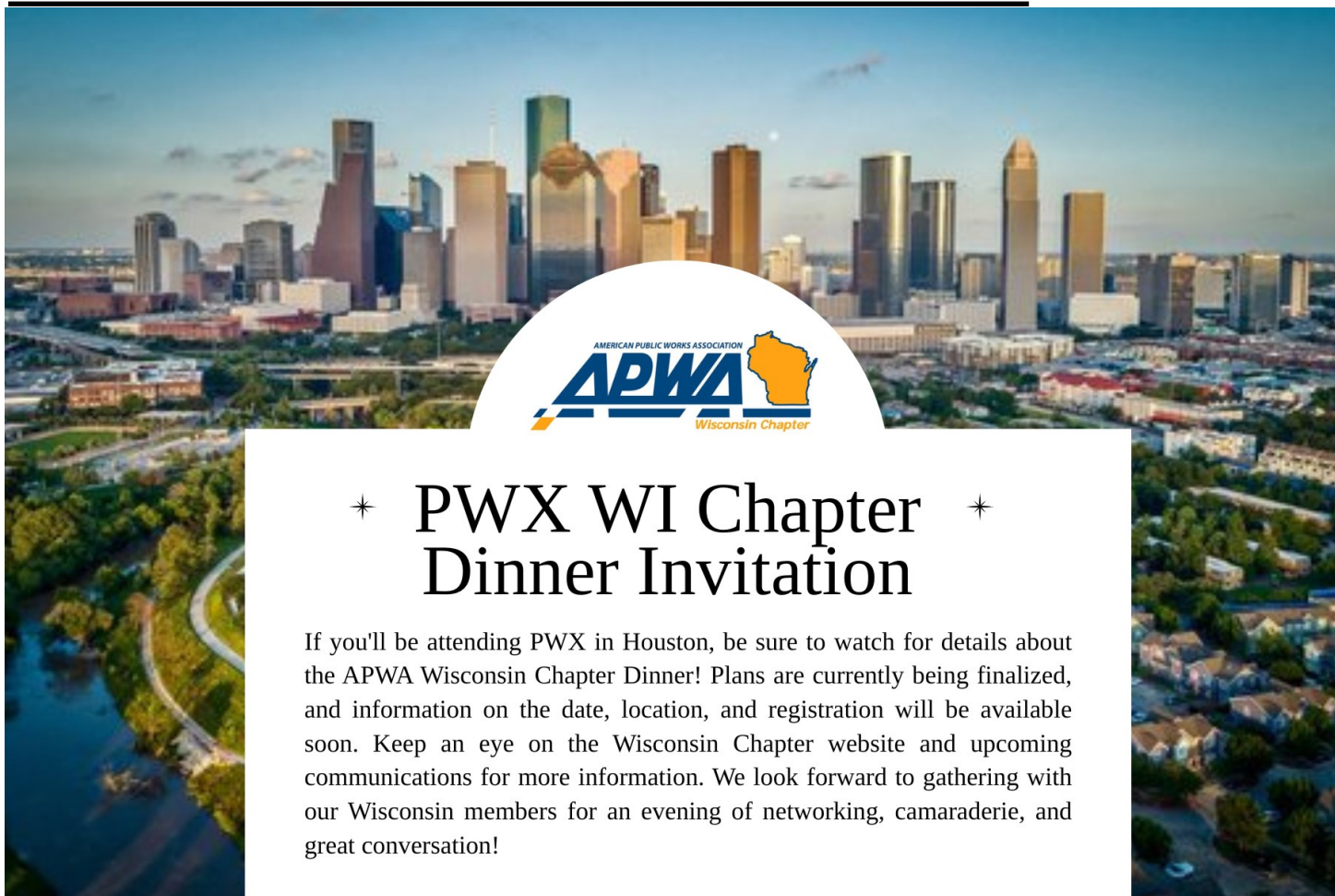
NOT SO BREAKING NEWS

PUBLIC WORKS BID THRESHOLD INCREASED

A recent change to Wisconsin law has increased the public works competitive bidding threshold for local governments from \$25,000 to \$50,000. This update provides municipalities and counties with greater flexibility in delivering smaller public works projects by reducing administrative requirements for lower-cost work. Projects under \$50,000 may now be completed without the formal public bidding process, helping agencies respond more efficiently to maintenance needs, infrastructure improvements, and time-sensitive projects while continuing to ensure responsible stewardship of public funds.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

Announcements



* PWX WI Chapter Dinner Invitation *

If you'll be attending PWX in Houston, be sure to watch for details about the APWA Wisconsin Chapter Dinner! Plans are currently being finalized, and information on the date, location, and registration will be available soon. Keep an eye on the Wisconsin Chapter website and upcoming communications for more information. We look forward to gathering with our Wisconsin members for an evening of networking, camaraderie, and great conversation!





INDEPENDENCE DAY

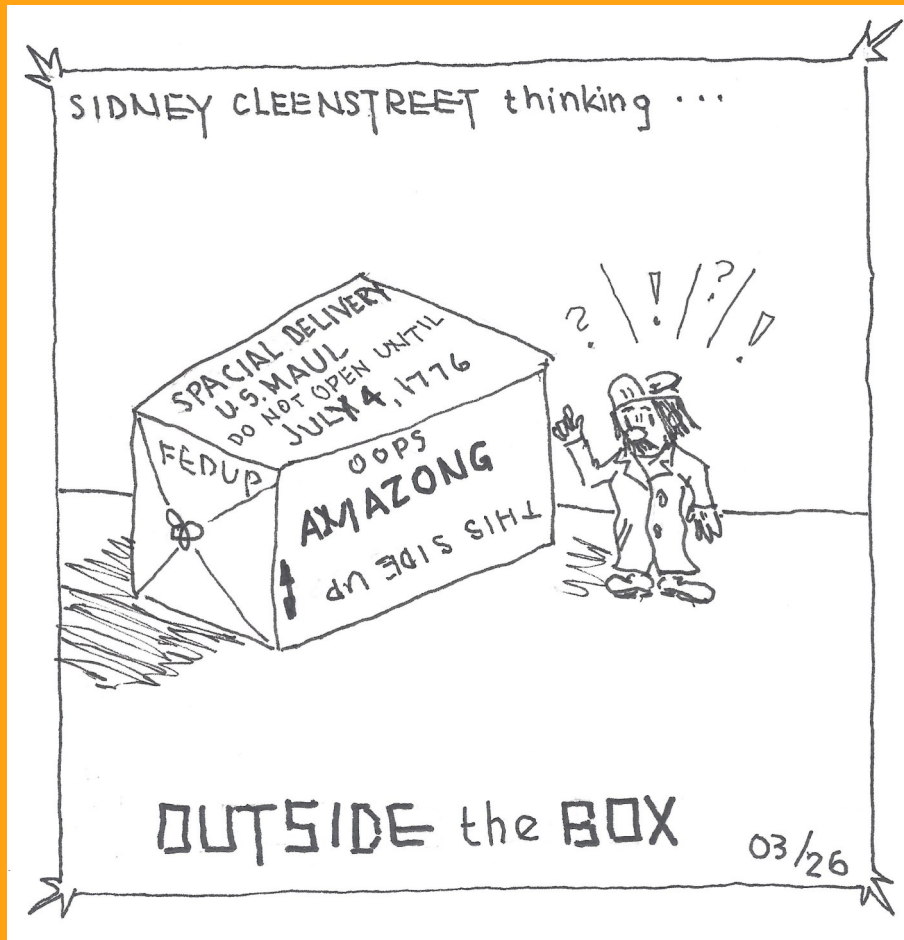


4TH OF JULY
SINCE 1776



Happy Fourth of July! We hope you have a wonderful holiday filled with time spent with family, friends, and community.





Call For Submissions

Share Your Story in Our Quarterly Publication

We're now accepting article submissions for the upcoming edition of our quarterly professional publication! This is your chance to showcase projects, share insights, highlight team achievements, or offer helpful tips and lessons learned in your area of expertise.

Whether you've recently completed a major project, launched a new initiative, or have a perspective that others in our field could benefit from—we want to hear from you. Articles can be brief or in-depth, and photos are always welcome.

Deadline for submission for next Newsletter: **September 4, 2026**
Submit to: newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org

Help us continue to highlight the great work being done across our organization and profession. Your story could inspire and inform others—submit today!



FROM OUR DESK TO YOURS
NEWS THAT MATTERS ...

Check out our website
Wisconsin.apwa.org

Join the WI APWA's Social
Media on LinkedIn



1915ish

This historic image captures an early form of municipal street maintenance—a horse-drawn street flusher working to clean city roadways. Marked “Department of Street Cleaning,” the tank wagon uses pressurized water to wash debris from the street surface, a precursor to modern street sweeping and stormwater management practices.

Scenes like this highlight the long-standing commitment of public works professionals to keeping communities clean, safe, and functional. While the tools and technology have evolved significantly, the core mission remains the same: protecting public health, maintaining infrastructure, and serving the needs of the community.

This photo is a reminder that today’s advanced equipment and coordinated operations are built on generations of dedication, innovation and service.



Image obtained from Public Works Historical Society

HONORING OUR PAST...

ON THE CALENDAR

July 4	Independence Day—Freedom 250		
July 22	Summer Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser	9:00am	Wash. Co. Golf Course
August 20	36th Annual Snow Plow Rodeo		Fox Valley Technical College
August 20	Backhoe Skills Competition		Fox Valley Technical College
August 30—Sept 2	APWA PWX 2026		Houston, Texas
September 2	Mechanics Heavy Dute Training Series (must register limited seats)		Fox Valley Technical College
September 9	Brewers / Cubs Game	3:40 Tailgating	American Family Field
October 28—30	2026 Fall Conference		Onalaska
April 18—21	APWA North American Snow Conference 2027		Des Moines, Iowa
April 28—30	2027 Spring Conference		Green Bay
August 24— 25	APWA PWX 2027		Phoenix, Arizona
April 23-26	APWA North American Snow Conference 2028		Spokane, Washington
August 27-30	APWA PWX 2028		Minneapolis, Minnesota

JULY 2026—JUNE 2027

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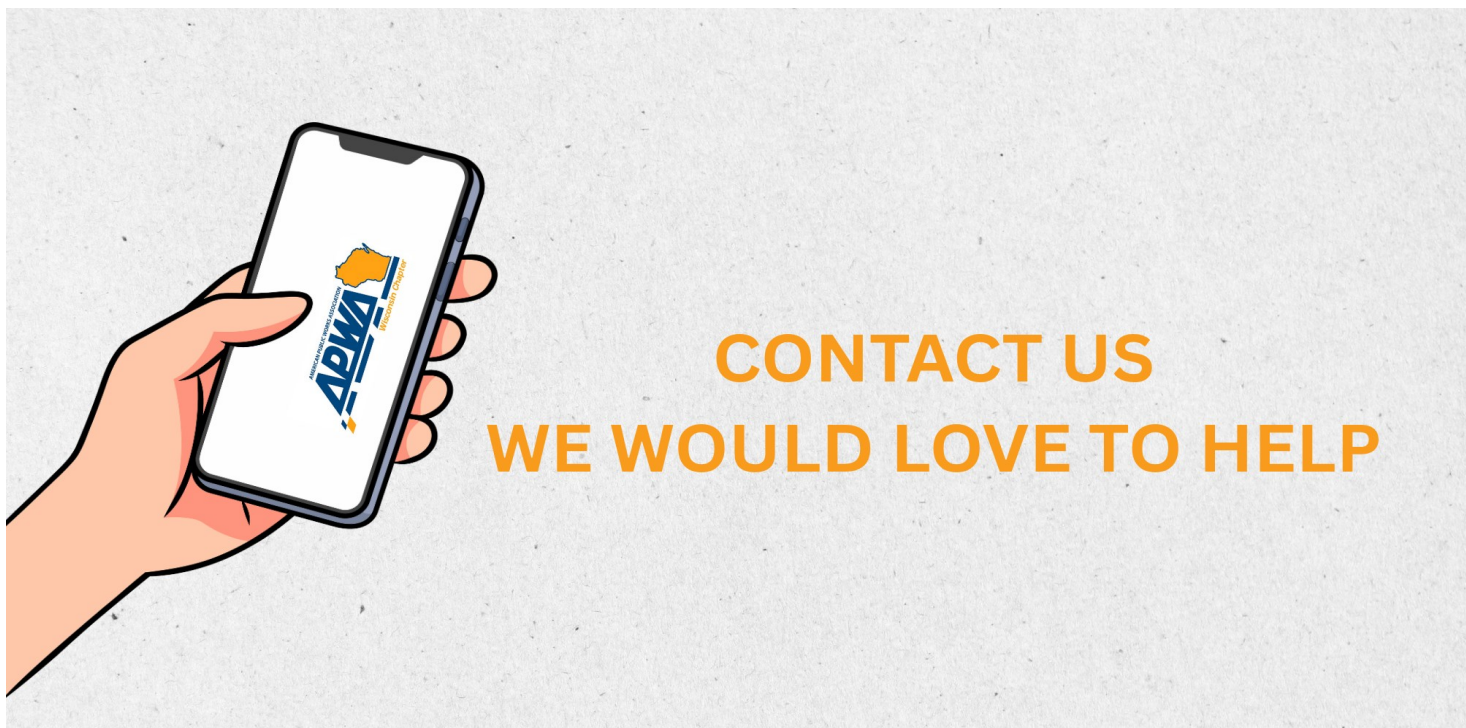
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WE WOULD LOVE TO HELP**



ORANGE & WHITE FOR PUBLIC WORKS PRIDE!



LIGHTING THE WAY FOR PUBLIC WORKS!

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