

October 3, 2016

Executive Committee

Subject: 2016 APWA PWA Experience in Minneapolis

Dear Executive Committee Members,

I want to thank you for selecting me for the Emerging Leaders Program and providing me the opportunity to travel to Minneapolis to experience PWX. This was a wonderful experience where I gained not only new technical knowledge, but I also made great connections at the social events.

I started off my PWX experience attending the First Timers Meeting on Sunday morning. This was a great start to my experience as I sat next to a former APWA president, directors of public works from across the United States and even a few Canadians. This was a great way to mingle with new people and see the broad range of people that attend PWX.

The conference had great general session which gave you nice prospective outside of public works that can be applied into our lives and make us better at work. Aside from the general sessions I attended a handful of educational sessions over the week. I attended sessions about sustainability in roadway design and sessions on storm water management. It was nice to learn in these sessions about new green infrastructure techniques and I look forward to seeing where I can apply green infrastructure in my work down the road.

I attended the National Emerging Leaders presentation on equipping the next generation of public works leaders with the necessary tools. I found this presentation interesting because I heard topics they touched on that I can take back to my firm and help us in our processes. It was nice to see that they put together a website to help others with implementing new processes to help train the next generation.

I enjoyed walking around the exhibition hall at PWX. There were so many exhibitors on anything you could dream of having to do with public works. It was amazing to think how easy it would be for a community to come to an event like this and be able to compare all their options in one exhibit hall because the leaders in the industry had their products all in one place. I walked around the exhibit hall multiple days because there was so much information inside to be absorbed. The exhibit hall was a nice way to learn about different products and network with others at the same time.

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I really enjoyed the social events that were at PWX. On Sunday night I attended the get acquainted party at Target Field where I met multiple people from the Wisconsin Chapter. We were told to wear our favorite sport team's jersey to the event and I can tell you the people of Minneapolis did not enjoy my Randall Cobb jersey as much as I did. It was fun to see where everyone was from based on the jerseys they were sporting. On Monday night I attended the young professionals outing. It was nice to meet with other young adults in the industry and compare conference experiences. On Tuesday night I attended the Wisconsin Chapter dinner. This was a nice event getting to eat with the people I had met earlier in the conference and get to know a little more about them.

I want to thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to participate in this experience. It has opened my eyes to APWA and I am now excited to get involved and make my mark within APWA.

Sincerely,

RUEKERT & MIELKE, INC.



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