

### **“Collaboration Key to Success”**

Last week’s story regarding the delays in completing the water pipeline project from Manitowoc to our new customers in Brown County was no new news. We’ve consistently talked publicly about the lengthened timeline for completion since Michael’s Construction discovered that they had the wrong equipment for doing the type of tunneling necessary to bore beneath the Fox and Manitowoc Rivers.

The good news is that the equipment Michael’s is now using works, and the Fox tunnel is complete and they are well underway with the Manitowoc River crossing.

It’s important to note again that the entire cost of this project is being borne by the Central Brown County Water Authority (CBCWA) through the rates they will be charging their customers, and not by the water ratepayers of Manitowoc Public Utilities.

Once the pipeline is complete, MPU will be responsible for all operations and maintenance, and we will recover those costs through our billing process with the Authority.

In addition, payments above the cost of the actual sale of water will be made to both the City and MPU, which will be used to keep property taxes and water rates lower for our citizens than those rates found in other Wisconsin communities.

Citizens living in 2007 can thank Mayor Henry Stolz for his wisdom and foresight in purchasing the power plant in the early 1900’s that has evolved into the huge operation that MPU is today. The same citizens can also be thankful that we have such a brilliant and accomplished General Manager for this amazingly complex operation. Nilaksh Kothari is an accomplished businessman and engineer who has helped our Public Utility grow into a financial force that serves our customers so well.

With the assistance of Nilaksh’s skills, MPU provides state of the art water filtration and distribution, power and steam generation and distribution, and broadband services to our major employers allowing them to compete globally from the location here in Manitowoc, WI USA.

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Congratulations to all the benefactors and volunteers in our partner Port City, Two Rivers, who combined their efforts to bring the Hamilton Community House fundraiser to a successful conclusion. It went to the “eleventh hour”, but this chapter in the updating of TR’s historic downtown is now closed, and the Community House is ready to provide all sorts of outstanding programming to local residents.

As is usual when public funds are involved, this project had its share of controversy, but we’ve been in similar situations here in Manty, and there is no doubt that Two Rivers’ leaders made the right decision when it came to the choice of renovation or abandoning of this historic building. Razing the Community House would have left a hole in the downtown that would have been very difficult to fill. Renovated, this building provides an excellent performance venue that was lacking in Two Rivers.

So, anyway, “Congrats” again to all those who worked so hard to finish the project.

We had the opportunity to be part of the audience at the Community House when the Viennese Symphony performed there just before Christmas, and the acoustics in hall were impressive.

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Visiting the Courthouse Pub on Saturday, we ran into a couple that drove to Manitowoc from Appleton just to taste the once brewed in Two Rivers White Cap beer on tap there.

Collaborations of all sizes, such as this one, make our common market much larger and more exciting for visitors and businesses alike. The promotion of our Port Cities as one economic unit and destination will be the source of much of our future success.

*Manitowoc Mayor Kevin Crawford may be reached at 920-686-6980.*