

After the Conference – Report from Danny Bissonnette

• ***What educational sessions did you attend? What did you learn? What were your takeaways?***

- Annual Utilities Roundtable
- A New Technique for Evaluating the Impact of a Permanent Easement Acquisition
- Agents, Appraisers and Waivers, Oh My!
- Farming 101: Understanding the Impacts of ROW on Agriculture
- Consumers Energy Presentation
- Leadership That's Out of This World
- Unbelievable Encroachments: How Do I Get That Off My Right of Way?

The sessions that I got the most out of were the Utilities Roundtable, Farming 101, A New Technique for Evaluating the Impact of a Permanent Easement Acquisition and the Consumers Energy Presentation. In the utilities round table there was good points made about having a tablet in the field to use for maps and other documents and you can also use them for digital signatures for easements. At the Consumers Energy Presentation I learned about visual messages being very important to landowners. Mailings that will catch their eyes and not have them ignore the project that the mailing is about. They also had an interesting take on project time management that would be interesting to look further into.

The presentation on New Technique for Evaluating the Impact of a Permanent Easement Acquisition was helpful when referring to ways to update the client on up to the minute notifications on the project, then the client does not have to wait until the next weekly meeting.

The Farming 101 presentation was very helpful because I deal with farmers parcels quit often. There was a talk about seed core and seed beans, and I had no idea how important those fields are to farmers.

There was a presentation on hiring for ROW and I liked their take on what type of younger professional or recent grads to target. They said to not just give the job description, but to show what the next two years will look like, and how to reach goals.

• ***What did you volunteer for? What did you learn? Who did you meet as a volunteer?***

I volunteered at the Chapter 20, MN booth and I learned more about Minneapolis hosting next year's conference. I was able to chat with chapter members that I had not spoken with before. I also volunteered at the HDR booth and was able to meet west coast HDR people that I would have not met if I was not at the conference.

• ***What was your overall impression of the conference? Have you attended before?***

I liked the conference a lot. I have never been to one before and thought it was very helpful. Some sessions were great and have helped me think about how to improve the process of projects I work on. I would also like to help with YP events at the Minneapolis conference.