



Summer 2001

Martenson & Eisele, Inc.

M&E VISION

Economic Slowdown?

We have all heard, and to some degree felt the impact of the “R” word—recession this year. As it turns out however, it may not be as bad as some have predicted. With the new tax relief package in effect and easing interest rates, the federal government has responded to the challenge of a slowing economy. If the building and construction industry has anything to do with the economy (and I think it does) 2001 should provide another 3% to 4% economic growth year. According to three separate authorities in the January 4th, 2001 “Western Builder” there will continue to be a labor shortage for skilled tradesmen and heavy equipment operators. Also forecasted are delays in steel and masonry product deliveries. Even though production is up for cement and gypsum products, these commodities are also predicted to rise in price because of increased demand. What about lumber? You guessed it. A price rise is also anticipated there.

In a slowing economy all these indicators do not happen simultaneously. Price increases occur because of continuing demand. These indicators forecast continued strength in the industry. Also, the recent drop in interest lending rates will continue to fuel the home building industry.

These are not just local or statewide trends. Sources close to our architects tell us that the construction in the greater Chicago area is as hot as ever. Design firms in Northern Illinois can’t keep up with the construction industry’s thirst for the new buildings. In fact M & E has twice this year assisted a Chicago area design firm with plans when their resources were stretched past the limit.

One observation I’ve made is that this construction work seems to cover a broad spectrum of project types. Public sector work of course is continuing with a strong showing in the Fox Valley with schools, libraries, The PAC, County Health Center, jail projects, town halls and more. But even more significant is the steady pace of private investment. We’ve seen projects in housing, food service, restaurants, mini mall projects and redevelopment of existing properties. This indicates that private investor and businessmen have confidence in our economy. If they are willing to bet on continued growth, so should we.

by Jeffery Schulz, AIA

Landscape Ponds

“Dug by man, governed by nature and law”

Many new developments that were once corn or soybean fields now contain a new home with a backyard pond. Pond sizes range from about half an acre to more than ten acres. They are being built in former cornfields, wetlands and woods. Ponds are built for a number of reasons such as; swimming, fishing, wildlife habitat and ornamental or for storm water detention. Why have they become so popular? There may be a couple of reasons for this. One is our strong economy, that provides the developer the income to include the pond in the landscape design. Since there is very little lake frontage available or affordable, designing a pond as part of the landscape can substitute the aesthetic view many homeowners desire for a natural waterway.

(continued on next page)

Inside this issue:

Economic Slowdown	1
Landscape Ponds	1,2
Good Drafting!	2
New Team Members at M&E	3
Local Road Database	4
Reminder	

Landscape Ponds (cont.)

An abandoned pond can become a nuisance and safety hazard to the neighborhood and an eye sore for all. It may become a problem for the municipality in which it lies if there are no laws governing the use and maintenance of the pond.

In the Fox Valley Region there is little regulation on these ponds by local units of government. Some ponds fall under the permitting procedures of the DNR or the Crop of Engineers but not all. In fact most do not.

Should private ponds be required to meet local governmental ordinances that supercede those established by state and federal agencies? A local Zoning Administrator recently talked about a pond having been constructed and the excavation from the hole left in high rough piles that are unseeded and a very unsightly mess for the neighbors. The lack of an ordinance leaves this County Zoning Department with out enforcement power. Perhaps our towns and counties should consider a review and permitting process that requires approved plans and inspection during construction.

A properly designed and built pond can become a valuable natural asset to the local landscape.

When is a permit needed?

A DNR permit is necessary if the prospective pond is:

- ◆ in a wetland and an Army Corps of Engineers permit is needed
- ◆ Connected by a channel, pipe or by any feature that confines or directs flow to or from a navigable waterway
- ◆ Within 500 feet of a navigable water
- ◆ an existing pond that you want to drain to compact sediments and in some cases control aquatic plants by drying out the bed
- ◆ created by dredging, grading or constructing a dam in a navigable waterway

If you are planning to build a pond to enhance your lifestyle for your home site or including a pond as part of your development landscaping, Martenson & Eisele, Inc. can provide assurance your pond is being designed and built properly. Give Paul Groell in our Conservation Department or Stan Martenson or Dave Eisele a call to discuss your pond.



Good Drafting!

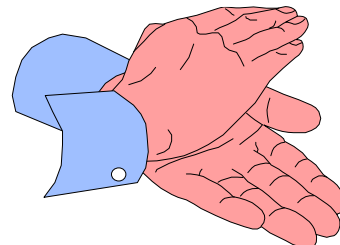
Who says pride is a thing of the past. At Martenson & Eisele, Inc. staff members of the surveying department attended the 52nd Annual Surveyor's institute in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The institute provides continuing education for Registered Land Surveyors and Technicians each year.

One of the high lights of the Institute is the mapping competition. This year it attracted 85 entries in seven different categories. Our surveyors had entries in five categories. They gamed three ribbons. Gary Zahringer placed third in the Certified Survey Maps division; Jerome Kaiser placed third in the ALTA/CSM Division.

Dawn Sullivan was awarded first place in the Platting category with Gateway Meadows, a 144 lot residential subdivision in the Town of Menasha.

The maps were entered in the competition in the same form as they were provided to the client without alteration for the contest. Dawn's plat will be entered in the national competition by the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors.

We are proud of our employees and their accomplishments both in the work place and out. They are dedicated and proud in doing the best job possible for M&E clients.



New Team Members at M&E

Lorie Claybaugh joined the M&E engineering team as a Civil Engineer.

Mrs. Claybaugh has responsibilities in the areas of Environmental Site Assessments, Drainage Plans, Utility Designs and Traffic Analysis projects.

Mrs. Claybaugh received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Minnesota. She has been employed as A Civil Engineer Assistant in Yuma County, Arizona as well as an Assistant Project Engineer at STS Consultants out of Minneapolis. Lorie who is a resident of Greenville has 5 years of experience.

Richard Baranczyk also joined the M&E engineering team as a Civil Engineering Technician.

Richard will have responsibilities in the civil engineering department in preparing CAD plans for residential development, commercial and industrial site plans and public utilities for municipalities.

Mr. Baranczyk has a wide and varied background as an Engineering Technician. He has municipal experience with the City of Appleton, Public Works department and spent ten years with STS Consultants in Green Bay.

Curt Solberg joined M&E/Community Development Systems team as a Principal Planner.

Mr. Solberg will have responsibilities in the planning and landscape design areas of comprehensive plans, land use and recreational planning, studies and reports, grants writing and assisting the Architectural and Engineering departments with landscape planning and trail design.

Curt graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Landscape Architecture, Business and Industry Option. He was previously employed by the City of Appleton, Wisconsin in the Parks and Recreation Department, where he was responsible for site and system master planning, trail planning and design and project management. Prior to that he was employed in the City of Appleton Planning Department where he was responsible for site master planning and design and urban and recreational design.

David Nelson joined the M&E team as an Architectural Technician.

Mr. Nelson's responsibilities include production of construction documents utilizing Auto CAD 2000: application package, facilitating contractor and consultant coordination, and handling site verification and inspection.

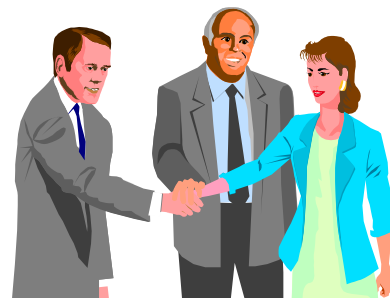
David graduated from North Dakota State School of Science, with an Associates Degree in Architectural Drafting and estimating. He was previously employed at OMNNI Associates in Appleton, Wisconsin. He was lead CAD technician for the Housing and Urban Development team, and handled production of working drawings on municipal and commercial projects.

Scott Tyler has also joined the M&E team as an Architectural Technician.

Scott's responsibilities include design development, construction documents and specifications for Commercial, Residential, Multi-family, Religious, Industrial and Municipal projects.

Mr. Tyler graduated From North Central Technical College, with an Associates Degree in Residential Design. He has attended various seminars and continuing education courses over the last ten years. Gries Architectural Group previously employed him as a project manager and CADD Technician in Neenah, Wisconsin.

With the addition of Lorie Claybaugh in our engineering department, David Nelson and Scott Tyler in our architectural department and Curt Solberg in our planning department, our capabilities and productivity have been greatly expanded. Please feel free to contact us and discuss your engineering, planning, surveying and building needs and ideas. Our Professionalism and dedication to your project will be reflected in our hard work and no-nonsense approach to problem solving.

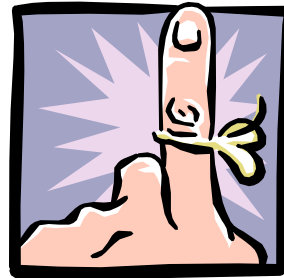


Local road database reminder

On March 16, 2001 Mary Forlenza of the WisDOT Sent a letter to all Town Chairs, Village Presidents, City Mayors, County Board Chairs and County Highway Commissioners stating that the newly enacted State Statute 86.302(2) requires that the assessment of the local roads must be submitted to the Department of Transportation no later than **December 15, 2001**.

Martenson & Eisele, Inc. has prepared and maintained these databases for numerous communities and used them for preparing budgets and bid documents.

Contact Mike Siewert or Stan Martenson if your Community needs assistance in preparing your road assessment submittal.



Published by Martenson & Eisele, Inc.
1919 American Court
Neenah, WI 54956
1-800-236-0381
FAX 920-733-8578

Questions? Please contact
David D. Eisele, P.L.S.
Stan Martenson, P.E.

Newsletter Editor
Heidi Lewis

Martenson & Eisele, Inc. "Mission Statement"
Professionals dedicated to serving people committed to improving their communities.