



Marcie McLaughlin

Letter from the CEO

These past months the water has been rising, the winds have been blowing and rural communities have had to respond and respond quickly. We highlight Emergency Response Planning (ERP) in this Fall issue of the SOURCE and strongly encourage all communities, households and individuals to pause a moment to think about

your ERP. MAP has had our federal funds significantly reduced. As an organization, we are developing our response which includes a requested action from you. Please go to our webpage and add your name to a nation-wide community support letter addressed to the US Congress and sign up to receive the SOURCE electronically. Our next issue will be delivered via e-mail. Thanks to the many of you who have already done so.



Connie Mace

Even with budget cuts, MAP is committed to providing technical assistance to small rural communities in our nine states. We work in communities with infrastructure needs and a willingness to invest in themselves. That means there is a 'spark-plug' in every town or tribe we serve. You know who they are; the person who not only organizes the community meeting, but also provides the coffee and the cake. The MAP staff community has many that fit that description.

Connie Mace has been our 'spark-plug'. Connie Mace has retired this month after 11 years with MAP. We thank Connie and our other retirees, HB Calvert and Dennis Siders, for their years of service.

I attended a White House Business Council roundtable, just down the road in Faribault, Minnesota this week. This roundtable focused on rural businesses and job creation. I agreed with the private sectors folks about the lack of a technically- trained rural workforce to fill jobs now made available through retirements. Rural communities have an ever-growing need for water and wastewater operators. MAP is working with community colleges to promote the industry and train operators. Check the training schedule in this issue and online for more detailed information. We are also regularly posting job listings on our Facebook page. MAP is working daily for a healthy environment and a healthy community!

Marcie McLaughlin
CEO