



Title: Report on Influential Communications Course

Prepared by: Name: Samantha Hoppe
Phone: 952-641-4518
shoppe@minnehahacreek.org

Summary:

On April 13-14, 2026, a small delegation of MCWD staff participated in the University of St. Thomas's Opus College of Business' [Influential Communications Course](#). This short program focuses on helping participants communicate clearly, confidently, and persuasively across many channels, particularly in real-time workplace settings.

This training is directly relevant to MCWD's work, where staff need to routinely explain complex technical issues, adapt messages to different audiences, respond effectively in meetings and public settings, and navigate challenging conversations with clarity and professionalism to build support and alignment across a diverse range of stakeholders. By enhancing the staff team's influential communications skills, this training supports the organization's ability to deliver quality service to its communities and build lasting, effective relationships that help MCWD achieve its mission.

At the May 28, 2026, Board meeting, staff will provide a brief report on the content and key insights shared through the program.