

**Nebraska Section AWWA  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2008**

<b>Attendees:</b>	
1. Teresa Konda	
2. Mary Poe	
3. David Lathrop	
4. Eric Lee	
5. Tony Bilek	
6. Rich Koenig	
7. Mike Wentink	
8. Kevin Tobin	
9. Chris Koenig	
10. Steve Kelley	
11. John Olsson	
12. Rob Pierce	
13. Bruce Dvorak	
14. Lash Chaffin	

The meeting was held May 9, 2008 in the Columbus City Hall First Floor Conference Room. Kevin Tobin called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m.

**ROLL CALL – INTRODUCE CONFERENCE CALL ATTENDEES**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- There were no comments on the minutes from the March 17, 2008 meeting.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

- Rob Pierce provided a summary of the checking account activity since the first of the year.
- The account holder name is being changed from Chris Koenig to Rob Pierce. Due to the transition in account holder names, Rob did not have the savings account and CD balances. Rob reported that one of the CDs renewed and the savings account balance is about \$5,000.
- Rob reminded the committee chairs to tell him from which budget category expenses or income should be entered.
- Eric Lee motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. Chris Koenig seconded the motion.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Chris Koenig submitted the following Director’s report:

- The Nebraska Section has begun planning for the next annual meeting to be held in Kearney November 6-7. The first item of the conference will be a Town Hall Meeting with the visiting officer from the Association. The purpose of the meeting is to give members a chance to talk directly to a member of the Executive Committee and present their thoughts and concerns. AWWA President Nilaksh Kothari understands the importance of customer input. All of us are the customers of AWWA and the purpose of the Association is to serve us. There will not be an agenda; all topics are

open for discussion including programs, products, customer service and assistance. The information from this meeting will be provided to Executive Committee to improve the Association. Chris encouraged everyone who attends the conference to make this meeting a top priority and participate.

- The Association has begun providing webcasts on a variety of topics from membranes to maintaining ductile iron pipe. These webcasts have replaced the teleconferences and are a great source of information. Go to <http://www.awwa.org/education/webcasts> for more information.
- The Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) will be held in Atlanta, GA June 8-12. The Atlanta area is recovering from damaging tornadoes that hit the area in March. The good news is that the conference center is on track to be ready for ACE without any problems. The bad news is the windows still are missing from my hotel room. The conference registrations are strong. The area is receiving much needed rain, and we are looking forward to a great conference.
- Chris just received the first quarter financial statements and things are looking good for the Association. Revenues are running well ahead of projections and expenses are below projections. Memberships continue to increase.
- The Association continues to work on meeting concerns raised by the media about the water industry. The stories vary from pharmaceuticals in the drinking water to inadequate infrastructure. The good news is that AWWA is being contacted on a regular basis to provide comment on the subject. For example, NBC will be coming out with a story on infrastructure. AWWA was interviewed for the story and will provide a national perspective to the story. AWWA was quick to respond to the pharmaceutical story and continues to act as a resource as questions come up.
- In other news, the Saudi Arabia Standards Organization announced the adoption of the AWWA Standards referenced in the Saudi Building Code. AWWA also is meeting with the World Bank to evaluate the possibility of AWWA assisting the Indonesians in building their Association's capability. Beyond the exposure for AWWA and doing good in the world, these alliances continue to build the stature of AWWA in the world community and provide a new source of revenue for the Association.
- Kevin Tobin noted that Susan Franchesci was promoted to the position of National Director of Section Service.
- It also was noted that EPA is considering not allowing states to use bond money to match SRF money. Nebraska is among 17 states using this ability. NHHSS wrote a letter to Washington EPA informing them how this change would impact Nebraska.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### World Water Monitoring Day

- Chris Koenig provided information about World Water Monitoring Day and a request from NWEA.
- World Water Monitoring Day was started to create awareness of the importance of water throughout the world. In September and October, junior high and high school students are encouraged to collect water samples of surface water, analyze them using the World Water Monitoring Day test kits, and send the results into a website. The results from around the world are available for people to see.
- NWEA is raising money to donate test kits to schools, and has asked AWWA to donate \$300 for the test kits.
- Sharon with the City of Omaha is the contact person for more information and if you know of schools who might like to participate in this activity.
- Chris made a motion to donate \$300 to NEWA to support World Water Monitoring Day. Mike Wentink seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Fall Conference Attendance List to Vendors:

- Bruce Dvorak reported that AWWA, NWEA, APWA are going to develop a joint policy regarding the distribution of the Fall Conference attendance list to conference vendors. Bruce wanted to find out how much information the AWWA Board members thought should be distributed.
- The AWWA Board members were agreeable to share all the member information: phone numbers, mailing addresses, and e-mail addresses.

#### Washington Fly-In

- Kevin Tobin reported that three people participated in the Washington Fly-In on April 16, 2008. They were: Dale Kaliff, City of Stromsburg; Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System, and Jim Shields, Metropolitan Utilities District.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Honorary Member Award Nomination

- Kevin Tobin suggested potential a nominee, whose name will be announced at a later date.
- The Board agreed that the nomination is appropriate.
- Chris Koenig suggested sending the potential nominee to the 2009 ACE and discussing with the potential nominee's employer how costs may be shared.
- Kevin Tobin and Steve Kelley will write up the nomination and submit it.
- Chris Koenig suggested inviting the potential nominee to the Kearney Fall Conference.

#### Top Ops Team

- Dave Lathrop reported the Nebraska Top Ops Team registered as a team to go to ACE. The team members are Rollie Cederburg, Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk, and Rick Melcher, City of Aurora.
- Dave noted that AWWA's increased funding level greatly helped the team members and made it possible for them to attend ACE.
- Dave noted the team members come from two different utilities. Dave recommended the Section encourage people from different utilities to participate so the expense to any one utility isn't so high.

#### Nominations

- Mike Wentink reported the slate of candidates for 2009 Board positions
  - Chairman – Bruce Dvorak
  - Chair Elect – John Olsson
  - Vice Chair – Teresa Konda
  - Treasurer – Rob Pierce
  - Secretary – Eric Lee
  - Trustee – Dave Lathrop
  - Trustee – Doug Woodbeck
  - Director – Chris Koenig
- Rich Koenig notified the Board that the nominations list that was printed in the Wise Water Words on the section website was incorrect. Mike Wentink will work with Mari Matulka to get the list corrected.
- Rich Koenig suggested making an effort to get more operators involved in the Board nomination process, especially from small systems and from utilities in the western part of the State. Rich also expressed his opinion that there should be a ballot at the elections in November, preferably with more than one choice for some of the positions like incoming Trustee.
- Mike Wentink suggested that, when the Board nominations are republished in Wise Water Words, a notification to the Section also should be included that write-in candidates are encouraged and that there will be ballots issued at the elections. Rich Koenig will work on contacting other potential nominees for the Trustee position.

- Bruce Dvorak noted the implementation of what Rich suggested should be discussed at the Board Retreat. The Board could use the conference-call system more to allow the Board representatives from more geographically spread out areas to more easily participate in the Board meetings and discussions.

#### Association Allocation Fund Application

- Mike Wentink provided draft versions of two options for the AWWA Special Project Allotment applications. Up to \$5,000 is available from National AWWA to fund a project. The competition for the funding might be quite competitive.
  - Option 1 – Section Survey: The purpose of the project is to obtain information from both membership and non-members to identify the needed improvements or offerings in Nebraska Section AWWA activities. The requested funds will be used to fund the development, implementation and report on the findings of a survey.
  - Option 2 – Membership Drive: The purpose of the project is to increase membership and new member involvement in Nebraska Section AWWA committee activities. The requested funds will be used to purchase membership in the Association with the caveat that those new members also participate as an active member of at least one of the various committees within the Nebraska Section.
- Discussion about the Section Survey Option took place. The Board may be able to handle much of the development of the survey questions. Possible questions to include may be: age, access to Internet, frequency of Internet use.
- Kevin Tobin suggested opening the survey information up to wastewater operators and requesting additional support from NWEA.
- Lash Chaffin offered support from the League of Nebraska Municipalities and access to the League's contact list.
- Chris Koenig suggested the Section use some of the money invested in CDs to supplement funds that may be received from the League (estimate \$1,000), National AWWA (estimate \$5,000), NWEWA (estimate \$1,000), and from an AWWA CD (estimate \$10,000 to \$15,000). The Board considers this to be a critical issue to the survival of the industry in the State and to AWWA for membership.
- Mike Wentink will proceed with completing the application for the survey option by May 22.

#### NSAWWA Retreat Status

- Bruce Dvorak listed a sampling of topics that may be discussed at the retreat: Strategic planning, succession planning and new initiatives. Bruce proposed a one-day retreat at this time, so no overnight stay. Bruce does not envision involving anyone from National AWWA at this retreat.
- Bruce asked for input about when to hold the retreat and possible locations.
  - It was determined that a Friday would be a good day for the retreat. It was suggested that a date in late August be considered, but avoid Labor Day weekend. Bruce and his committee will e-mail a few prospective dates to people so the one that works the best for most people can be selected.
  - Rich Koenig suggested the Benedict Center north of Schuyler, as one option for the retreat location. Other retreat location possibilities include Mahoney State Park or Quarry Oaks Golf Course, near Ashland.
- It is anticipated that the retreat will be open to anyone who wants to be involved, including Board members, committee chairs and general membership.

#### 2008 Summer Workshop

- Kevin Tobin reminded the Board that the 2008 Summer Workshop dates are July 24-25 in Denver, CO.
- The Section pays for the cost of the workshop.

- New Board members are encouraged to attend.

### LoNM/NSAWWA Training Agreement

- Lash Chaffin discussed the history of the LoNM and AWWA relationship and involvement
  - Originally, AWWA subsidized seminars that the League facilitated
  - Through the years, AWWA became more active in program planning and conducting training
  - The AWWA \$2,500 allocation to the League was established back in 1988. With that money, AWWA is basically funding operator training with the administrative costs covered by the League.
- Lash asked to formalize the agreement between AWWA and the League and increase the AWWA allocation to \$5,000. Lash wrote two separate Memorandums of Understanding. Lash's proposal would cover the time period from January to January. Lash suggested forgetting the allocation for end of last year.
- The League requests \$1,500 for the Backflow Seminar to pay for administrative costs for the seminar production.
  - Rich Koenig asked for a breakdown of costs to justify the \$1,500 costs requested for the backflow seminars.
  - The League will address the breakdown and provide by the July meeting.
- It was decided to discuss the MOUs further and submit them for approval at the July Board meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Audit

- No report.

### Awards

- Steve Kelley sent information to the membership about awards in March.
- Steve reported the committee received three nominations for the WISA Award and three nominations for Lifetime Membership nominations.

### Budget

- No report.

### Cross Connection

- Rich Koenig provided a report.
- The Cross Connection Committee is planning four joint training workshops with the LoNM and the Extreme Backflow Knowledge at the Fall Conference this year.

### Education

- Mike Wentink provided a report on the Education Committee's activities.
- The pipe workshop conducted March 26, 2008 was a success. This workshop provided information on the installation of water mains and included a short session on asset management.
- AWWA/LoNM Seminar manuals were ordered (AWWA Operator Field Guide) for use in joint seminars. The costs for these have been submitted for reimbursement through the SRF.
- The Training Coalition will purchase one or two batch readers using the proceeds from the pre-conference. The batch readers will be used for scanning operator certification cards at training events. These are self-contained units that do not require a computer on-site. These will be ordered through the NSAWWA Education Committee.

### Fall Conference

- Bruce Dvorak provided a report on the progress in planning the Fall Conference. The Fall Conference Planning Committee met April 25 and prepared a draft program. Bruce has asked each potential presenter to confirm interest in presenting by May 16. The program is due mid-June.
- Reservations have been made at the Alley Rose in Kearny at 7 p.m., Wednesday, November 5, for dinner with the visiting AWWA dignitary. Board members and committee chairs will be invited.
- A few items of note resulted from the Joint Conference Planning committee that met at the Great Plains Conference in early April
  - Policy related to sharing conference attendee lists with vendors. Allow sharing of names, mailing addresses, and phone numbers, e-mail addresses.
  - Consider IF we want to obtain information on having the conference elsewhere other than Kearny in 2010 (e.g. LaVista)? Need to be prepared to discuss on November 6. Perhaps we could consider including a survey in the Fall Conference packet to get feedback from the attendees. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.
  - Compare registration list with our membership list. We could consider two rates: One for members and one for non-members. It may be appropriate to get the Membership Committee involved.
  - Need to update committee and award winner lists.
  - The next three-association meeting: 9 a.m., Thursday, November 6.
- Bruce compared the 2007 Annual Conference registration list to the 2008-2009 Membership Directory. One notable statistic, 39 percent of the people registered for the AWWA portion of the conference are not AWWA members.
- Bruce provided a copy of the draft presentation schedule for the Fall Conference.
- Bruce noted there is an effort underway to incorporate a water-tasting event into the Fall Conference. It could possibly be a part of the Young Professionals Mixer. Perhaps have Lash Chaffin and a media member for judges. The winner could be announced at the AWWA Banquet.

#### Fuller Award

- Chris Koenig reported that a Fuller Award will be presented at the Fall Conference.

#### MAC

- Tony Bilek reported that he is working with the Kearney Holiday Inn to increase the space available for the vendor booths by setting up vendor space in the pre-registration lobby area.

#### Membership

- No Report

#### Nominations

- Nominations were discussed earlier under New Business.

#### Public Information

- Mary Poe reported that public service announcements were to radio stations for Drinking Water Week. The committee completed the distribution of the PSAs for about \$96.

#### Publications

- No Report.

#### Research

- Bruce Dvorak reported that this committee merged with the Student Activities Committee.

#### Safety

- Rob Pierce reported the Safety Committee has been receiving applications for the Nebraska Safety Award.

### Scholarship

- No report.

### Small Systems

- Steve Kelley noted the Small Systems Committee will hold a Water Meter O&M, Fire Hydrant & Valve Maintenance Seminar June 26 in Beatrice.
  - Registration and lunch are free.
  - Eleven people have signed up so far.
- Dave Lathrop reported the committee is planning training sessions for the Aurora area and the western part of the state.

### SRF

- Rich Koenig reported the SRF Committee has received a request from Eric Obert to be a part of the committee.
- Rich reiterated that the documentation and reporting for SRF funded projects and items are extremely important.
- The SRF allocation is expected to be maintained at \$5,500 for 2008-2009 fiscal year.

### Student Activities/Research

- Bruce Dvorak provided the report for the Student Activities/Research Committee.
- The highlights from the past year 2007-2008 include:
  - September 2007: Assisted at the NWEA Scholarship Golf outing at Iron Horse Golf Course in Ashland (four people).
  - September 2007: A panel discussion with three engineers from government and small and large consulting firms discussed what to expect during the first years on the job as an engineer (18 people).
  - October 2007: Presentation entitled “Operator Involvement in Design and Construction of Water System Improvements,” given by Eric Obert, JEO Consulting (22 people).
  - November 2007: Attended NWEA Conference in Kearney (8 people).
  - March 2008: Joint meeting with ASCE with speaker P. Dingman of Engineering Design Consultants talked about the Plat Process (13 AWWA members, 19 guests).
  - March 2008: Presentation on the Water for People Foundation given by Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates (10 people).
  - April 2008: Attended the Great Plains Waste Management Conference in Council Bluffs, IA (three people).
  - May 2008: Assisted at Water For People Benefit at Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus (four people).
- Bill Alms was elected president for the 2008-2009 academic year. Bill is a graduate student in Environmental Engineering.

### Water For People

- Craig Reinsch provided a report for the Water For People Committee.
- Upcoming Activities:
  - Golf Benefit – May 9, 2008
  - Trap Shoot Benefit – June 3, 2008. Currently lining up sponsors for the event. Venue is reserved and information has been distributed. Have not received much response from participants.

- The next big activity after the trap shoot will be the annual raffle held at the Fall Conference. Plan to submit the raffle ticket information to the printers by July 31. The tickets will be ready for distribution/sale at the September 16 board meeting.
- Craig requests the Board to discuss if additional Water For People support from the NWEA chapter is acceptable.
  - Additional committee member from the NWEA side.
  - Would provide an informational link between the two organizations.
- Craig requests permission to form ad hoc awards committee for Kenneth J. Miller Founders Award.
  - Would need committee of six people (minimum). Possible committee members to include:
    - Craig Reinsch – WFP Committee Chair
    - Kevin Tobin – AWWA Board Chair
    - Chris Koenig – AWWA Section Director
    - Glenn Dostal – Most recent recipient
    - Bruce Dvorak – AWWA Chair-elect (or second most recent recipient).
    - Teresa Konda – AWWA Section Secretary
    - Mary Poe – Last year's committee
  - Goal is to present the award at the Fall Conference.
  - The first meeting of the Awards Committee would be August, 2008.
  - Submission date to Water for People would be October 1, 2008.

#### Water Utility Council

- No report. The Washington Fly-In was discussed under Old Business.

#### Young Professionals

- Justin Stine submitted a report for the Young Professionals Committee.
  - Ben Day is working to get an event scheduled in the Omaha area with Griffin Pipe, but the labor strike has set things back. Justin will push someone to plan a new event.
  - Four Young Professional Members will present the Groundwater Model at the Children's Groundwater Festival in Grand Island, May 13.
  - Justin will look at committee member participation and talk with those who are not active to see if they want to continue service on the committee.

#### **ADJOURN**

Chris Koenig motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Bruce Dvorak seconded the motion.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, July 15 at 9:30 a.m. Location TBD.