

NEBRASKA SECTION AWWA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES (draft)
March 16, 2009

The Board met March 16 at the Columbus City Hall offices. Chairperson Bruce Dvorak called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present were: Rob Pierce, David Lathrop, Eric Melcher, Mike Wentink, Doug Woodbeck, Bruce Dvorak, Tony Martinez, Rich Koenig, Eric Obert, Eric Lee, Rich Robinson, Ben Day and Tony Bilek.

Participating via conference call were: John Olsson, Teresa Konda, Justin Stine, Craig Reinsch and Kevin Tobin.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Pierce brought up whether there is a need for the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to be bonded? He estimated it would cost \$90-\$100 for each individual and was not sure whether this was an annual or one time cost.

Rob also brought up a previous item about having an outside firm do the Nebraska Sections taxes. The board discussed that if it could be done for up to \$500 we could approve it, however if it cost any more, further discussions would be needed.

A motion for approval of the bonding and tax issues was brought by David Lathrop and seconded by Doug Woodbeck. All Board members approved. Rob noted there would be some changes to the budget he distributed at the meeting and those changes would be sent to Board members. See the Treasurer's Report or subsequent e-mails from Rob for additional information or updates concerning the Treasurer's comments.

Director's Report

Tony Bilek reported on two items in the Strategic Plan that need review and/or comments. These were the exact wordings for the Vision Statement and Mission Statement. Tony asked for meeting members to offer suggested wording and get them to him via e-mail. He also mentioned membership retention numbers and said Rich Robinson would follow-up with this item in his committee report. See the Director's Report for any further details.

Committee Reports

Archive and History – No report

Audit – No report

Awards – Doug Woodbeck presented information for Steve Kelley. Doug informed the group that 379 people were sent letters for award recognition and nomination. The committee would really like to see the Operators Meritorious Service Award presented this coming year. If you have any individuals in mind, please send the information to Steve Kelley or the Awards Committee by June 1.

Budget – Rob Pierce stated we may have to spend some of our cash reserves so we don't lose our tax exempt status. Not-for-profit organizations generally maintain 50 percent of reserves. The Nebraska Section has a 100 percent status.

- Tony Bilek asked the WARN Committee the estimated cost for the website. Eric Melcher stated that \$5,000 would be a starting point. Rich Koenig thought a number more like \$15,000 would be needed. Meeting members asked if any money for this could be raised through donations or advertising?

- Stockholm is a WEF cost we do in good faith. Do we want to continue this?

- The question was brought up if we want to send a Top Ops team to National? The winning team from M.U.D. cannot participate and the second place team from Lincoln has not expressed interest in going. Participant eligibility status is the major unresolved issue. Tony Bilek proposed the funds be left in the budget and he will inquire about the participant eligibility issues.

- Milo Rust was selected as the third person for the D.C. fly-in.

- Do we cut back on WFP monies this budget year? Options include: Removing the sustained membership. If so, a written letter will need to be sent to WFP. Rob mentioned taking \$1,000 from the monies raised at the golf/trap events and giving to WFP as a general donation instead of the sustained membership. There was some disagreement among meeting members as to how this could be accomplished. Craig will check on these fine semantics of money transfers or switches and get back to the board.

- Rob made a motion to accept the budget with the final changes he will distribute to the Board. Motion seconded by all.

Cross Connections – Rich Koenig will conduct two back flow sessions. He would like to see that the Back Flow Ultimate Challenge receive 1.5 to 2.5 CEUs at the Fall Conference. Rich would also like to have a back flow knowledge qualifier.

Education – Mike Wentink informed the group that the Drinking Water Program would purchase the M4 Water Fluoridation Principals and Practices rather than the Nebraska Section making the purchase at member rate and then receiving reimbursement. The application for the AWWA Section Education Award was submitted to the Association January 28, 2009. See the Education Committee report for more detail.

Fall Conference – John Olsson reported their committee had a meeting a couple of weeks ago. The deadline for the call for papers for the Fall Conference is April 10. Bruce Dvorak mentioned that there is a need for a written agreement between the participating entities at the Fall Conference on procedures if there is a loss of revenue concerning the Conference (weather related etc.).

Fuller Award – Chris Koenig is the 2009 Fuller Award Committee chair. The Section's nomination of the 2008 Fuller Award name and citation was given to National.

Manufacturers/Associates Council (MAC) – Tony Bilek said invitations and contracts for exhibitors at the Fall Conference will be mailed and posted on the website by the last week in July. Tony will attend the “Joint Conference Planning Committee” meeting at the Great Plains Industrial Conference April 2 in LaVista.

Membership – Rich Robinson reported that between the 26 new members and the 31 dropped members, the Section had a net loss of five members. This indicates that the Nebraska Section retention rate slipped from 9th in the nation to 14th. Despite this small drop the Nebraska Section continues to enjoy one of the best retention rates nationally. Rich e-mailed a list of the dropped members to Eric Lee and Bruce Dvorak.

Nominations – No report

Public Information – The Facebook page for the NSAWWA is up and running! Plans for Drinking Water Week in May include: Sending PSAs to 69 radio station groups in the state and provide mayors' proclamations.

Eric Obert presented information on the Water Tasting Contest to be held at the Fall Conference. The PI committee held its first talk session concerning the contest at their last meeting. Questions on rules, number of participants, who the tasters or judges could be, does your utility have to have a representative at the conference, prizes etc. A committee report was provided.

Publications – No report

Safety – The Safety Committee mailed the safety applications including a 10-Point Safety Program Flyer and the safety surveys. No applications have been submitted. The committee is still working on the safety award criteria and reporting forms along with safety material for distribution to membership. The committee continues to work with NS-AWWA and LNM to include safety topics at water operator workshops.

Scholarship – Bruce Dvorak held discussions on travel money for Craig Reinsch (WFP) and Mike Wentink (Fuller Award). Since our section has no paid staff to send for complimentary registration to ACE, could we send Mike? Doug Woodbeck made a motion for \$1,300 to send Craig to WFP conference event and Teresa seconded the motion.

Small Systems – Eric Melcher reported that three seminars were held in Beatrice, Burwell and Seward. More than 120 operators were contacted last year. Aurora has an upcoming trenching, shoring and confined space seminar. If seminars are held close to state borders, it would be nice if all operators could get CEUs. The best way is to send the respective state an agenda and see if they will grant CEU approval.

Water For People – Craig Reinsch announced the golf tournament will be held May 1 at the Pines Golf Course near Valley. The trap shoot will be held July 17 in Kearney with more details to follow. Craig has been invited to the In-Country WFP Conference for upcoming work in the Dominican Republic and budgetary discussions have been noted in the scholarship portion of the meeting minutes. A WFP committee report was submitted.

Water Utility Council – No report.

Young Professionals – Justin Stine reported another good tour of the Griffin Pipe Plant and noted three individuals from Iowa also attended. The committee tentatively plans a summer event on coating materials with Rory Sudbeck of SGA.

New Business

- By-Law changes. It was decided that action for approval was needed at this meeting if any changes are to be submitted to National. Bruce provided a report that the group suggested a minor change concerning the definition of a quorum based on the number of Board Members. Tony Bilek then made a motion to accept the By-Law changes for submission to National. David Lathrop seconded the motion.

- An update on the RSMO was provided concerning the discussions on Affiliation Agreements and Strategic Plan. The issue of sharing of intellectual property was a hot topic.

- Mike Wentink and the ad hoc committee for the operators' survey indicated they have an RFP almost ready to be distributed.

- The next board meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m., Friday, May 1, at the M.U.D. Platte West Plant, 212th & Q Sts., Omaha. Please let Kevin Tobin (e-mail: kevin_tobin@mudnebr.com) know if you plan to attend the meeting, so he can get your name on the visitor's security list.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. was made by Bruce Dvorak and seconded by Rob Pierce.

March 16, 2009

Director's Report

Nebraska Section AWWA

Tony Bilek

My report from the Board of Directors Winter meeting is detailed in the spring issue of Wise Water Words. The outstanding action item from the meeting includes providing feedback on the proposed changes to the vision and mission statements. An e-mail was sent last week to Board Members to review and comment.

Comments on the Section Affiliation Agreement is also requested. The draft agreement was also mentioned in the BOD Winter meeting report and is posted on the section website. Charlie Anderson, of the Texas Section, is the chair of the Ad Hoc committee that was tasked with the revamp of Section Affiliation Agreements. The revamp was felt necessary to maintain the availability of indemnification of Directors and Officers liability insurance, preserve the benefits of tax exempt status and protects the intellectual property of the Association. The draft agreement was "approved in concept" with details regarding intellectual property to be refined.

The monthly membership newsletter came in last week and indicates the Nebraska Section retention rate slipped from 9th in the nation to 14th. There were 26 new members between March 08 and March 09 and 31 dropped memberships bringing a net loss of 5 members. Twice a year AWWA Membership Marketing creates a mailing on behalf of the sections. I encourage the membership committee and Board to support this endeavor.