

**Nebraska Section AWWA  
September 8, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes**

The September Board Meeting was held at the Civic Center in Seward at 9:30 a.m., September 8, 2010. Those present at the meeting included: Marc Rosso, Teresa Konda, John Olsson, David Lathrop, Doug Woodbeck, Chad Roberts, Mary Poe, Ben Day, Eric Lee, Rich Koenig, Rob Pierce. Participating via conference call were: Mike Wentink, Tony Bilek, Mari Matulka and Brian Gongol.

A review of the draft July Board Meeting minutes was conducted with Doug Woodbeck making a motion to accept these minutes and Tony Bilek seconded this motion. All members voiced approval of the minutes, and Mari Matulka will post these on the Section website.

**Treasurer's Report**

David Lathrop handed out copies of the Section 2010 budget spreadsheet.

A new, separate account for the pipe workshop has been set up.

The raffle is the only outstanding revenue item as the trap shoot was not held this year.

David will send budget forms soon.

David asked the status of the Washington fly-in and it was reported that Jim Shields and Jerry Obrist attended. Since Jerry is on the National AWWA Water Utility Council, National AWWA paid for his expenses. National AWWA pays for one person from the Nebraska Section to attend every year and they covered Jim's expenses for 2010.

Larry Andreason needs to turn in his Top-Op expense report.

The firm of Micek and Crouch has been hired to perform our three-year audit. The files and pertinent information for the audit have been sent for review.

The Section entered into a contract with National to publish the Wise Water Words. No advertising income will be coming in for approximately two years with this arrangement, however there will be no publishing associated costs. Overall this arrangement is expected to save the Section approximately \$9,000 per year.

It was suggested that a Section be created in the Treasurer's SOP for the date and event that the Water For People and Research checks be readied. Tony Bilek offered that he would present the checks at the Winter Board meeting this time if they were ready to go.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Tony Bilek and seconded by Doug Woodbeck. All members voiced approval.

**Director's Report**

Probably the most significant activity on the national level over the last several months is the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). As you may know, the EPA and the TCR Distribution System Advisory Committee completed the Draft RTCR in June and will accept comments until September 13. I have attached the "Regulatory Update (August 2010)" by J Alan Roberson, P.E. AWWA Director of Security and Regulatory Affairs for your reference. This is a nice synopsis of the proposed changes.

I strongly encourage utilities to review the Revised Total Coliform Rule and comment accordingly as this will impact all water utilities. The key items in the proposal are:

1. Remove the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) and Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of zero for total coliforms and the associated public notice for total coliforms;
2. Set triggers for assessment and corrective measure that parallel the previous MCL for total coliforms;
3. Maintaining a zero MCLG and MCL for E-Coli;
4. Introduce a tiered approach for assessment and corrections

AWWA will formulate a formal response to the proposal. The final RTCR is expected to be published in 2012.

I will attend the South Dakota AWWA Annual Conference next week in Sioux Falls and the Iowa Annual Conference October 12-14 in Sioux City. AWWA VP Debra Kaye, of the Cal-Nevada Section, will be the visiting dignitary at the South Dakota conference and AWWA VP Robert Walters, of the North Carolina Section will visit Iowa. It is interesting to see how neighboring sections conduct business. I've always been very proud of our section's annual conference and proceedings. This year should be no different.

Teresa Konda made a motion to accept the Director's report. Rob Pierce seconded the motion with all members voicing approval.

Teresa Konda provided an update on the SOPs. Teresa still needs the treasurer's draft SOP. The other SOPs received a good amount of editing and effort during the retreat and the drafts are taking shape nicely. The individuals working on their particular SOPs will continue to make additions and or corrections as this is an ongoing project.

### **Committee Reports**

Archive & History – No report.

Audit – John Olsson mentioned the information that was in the treasurer's report about the audit materials have been turned over to Micek and Crouch and this firm is proceeding with the three-year section audit.

Awards – No report.

Budget – No report as this information covered in treasurer's report.

Cross Connection – All workshops have been scheduled for the month of September and should be completed in the next two weeks. Rich Koenig will be doing a presentation at the South Dakota Section meeting covering topics such as regulations update, key elements in a cross connection control program, survey and record keeping.

Education – Mike Wentink provided the following report.

Training Coalition Calendar – Representatives of the six members of the Nebraska Operator Training Coalition (NSAWWA is one of these members) met in mid-August to discuss work on the 2011 Training Calendar. The calendar is produced annually by this coalition and distributed to Nebraska licensed water operators. The photo theme (for those that might be interested) will be Nebraska Lakes.

AWWA Bookstore Allotment – As in past years, NSAWWA has been issued a bookstore allotment from AWWA. Currently, the allotment is \$600 per calendar year for bookstore items. I received one request for materials (water operator training series of books) and will place an order for that material soon.

AWWA TEC Conference Call – Nick McElvain (NSAWWA Education Committee) had difficulty connecting up to the two-part conference call (August 31 and September 1).

Ad Hoc Committee (Member Survey) – Marc Rosso and I met and looked at possible draft white paper formats – to be discussed.

Fall Conference – The brochure has been finalized and will be mailed next week. The bio information forms need to be sent to the presenters yet. All presentations are to be in PowerPoint version 2007 and both the bios and presentations need to be sent to the **moderators** of the particular sessions.

Teresa will contact the Alley Rose for the pre-conference dinner, which will include the dignitary from National (Debra Kaye), Board members and Committee chairs.

The past presidents' breakfast will be held the same time as the operator's breakfast. Mike Wentink was volunteered to organize this and if he is unable, John Olsson will.

One item that was brought up is the need for one person from the participating conference organizations needs to function as liaison with the hotel on site requests and logistics, rather than numerous individuals trying to take care of these items. This will be more efficient and lead to far less duplication of effort.

Jon Zellars will do the scholarship presentation at the joint luncheon on Thursday.

Fuller Award – The committee has selected a Fuller Award recipient and the Fuller pin and Section Chair pin have been ordered.

MAC – Tony Bilek reported that all contracts and invites were mailed. So far, more than 30 were returned, which is good and he expects Loper Hall to filled again.

Membership – No report.

Nominations – The only two items added were that the listing of Board nominations is in the current issue of Wise Water Words and Rick Melcher is a new addition for trustee.

Public Information – No report.

Publications – Mari stated that no report was available but she will post any updates on the website before the Fall Conference

Safety – Rob Pierce reported that the committees in Lincoln (Eastern) and Chadron (Western) have met and there will be 11 safety awards presented at the conference.

Scholarship – No report.

Small Systems – No report.

Student Activities & Research – No report.

Water For People – Report provided by Craig Reinsch

Activities Reports:

- The golf event in May was a great success, thanks for your support!
- Our next committee meeting will be at the fall conference (bi-monthly).

- A trapshooting event was not held due to scheduling conflicts. It is intended that this event will occur in 2011.
- The raffle tickets have been procured and will be distributed to the Board members and committee chairs.

Current Committee Members

- Ben Day, Glenn Dostal, Jimmy Harding, Teresa Konda, Christian New, Arnie Radloff, Craig Reinsch

Other Items:

- Fall Conference: I would like to request permission to have a full table available in the entry way for a WFP booth as in years past.

Water Utility Council – Marc Rosso reported that he and Jerry Obrist met with in Al Abbott in representative Ben Nelson’s office and Phil Erdman in representative Mike Johanns office, for discussions on the SRF program and chemical security bill. Both seem to be in support of the Section’s stance on these issues.

Young Professionals – No report.

Ad hoc committees:

Nitrate- Report provided by Ben Day.

Activities: I continue to receive information from committee members regarding nitrates. Information including the following:

- Current reports on groundwater modeling prepared by NDEQ Water Quality Assessment Section Groundwater Unit
- Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program – Informational flyer about Nitrate AO
- AWWA Streamlines Article, June 29, 2010, Volume 2, Number 17 “Nitrate survey launches AWWA cost study” – AWWA is conducting an electronic survey on nitrate as part of its effort to develop a national compliance cost for a potential lower nitrate maximum contaminant level (MCL).
- Prairie Fire – Article from July 2010 – “Nutrient pollution in the U.S. Calls for urgent action”
- NRD Staff Directory – This will assist in contacting NRD’s for compilation of information

Future Actions:

- Coordinate with NDEQ Source Water Program – Contact: Mary Schroer
- Attend a meeting of the Wellhead Protection Network Education Sub-committee- Contact: Jamie Oltman
- Populate a table of organizations, contacts, and their goals/activities

Organization	Contact	Email	Phone Number	Goals/Activities
NDEQ Source Water Program	Mary Schroer	mary.schroer@nebraska.gov	402-471-6988	
NE Groundwater Foundation	Jamie Oltman	Joltman@groundwater.org	402-434-2740	
Wellhead Protection Networking Education Subcommittee				
NRDs				

- Schedule a meeting or conference call for the NE AWWA Nitrate/Source Water Protection Ad Hoc Committee to discuss how our committee can work with and complement other efforts already underway and then further define our mission and goals.

Ben Day will attend the next Well Head Protection Network meeting as part of the Nitrate Ad hoc Committee.

David Lathrop mentioned that the Seward City Council voted not to participate in a nitrate study project because of cost concerns.

Member Survey – Mike Wentink discussed this portion of his report in his Education Committee report.

### **Old Business**

The new mail box and Google phone numbers have been listed on the website.

For all individuals assigned a utility for membership drive, keep after it!

### **New Business**

The poster campaign is all ready to be rolled out for the fall conference. There will be no charge for the fall conference for poster entrants and students. It was brought up that sending the poster winner to ACE next year would be a good idea and this should be an item to be considered for next year's budget as a line item. It was unclear whether a poster winner would have to register at ACE since presenters do not, so that is something that will need to be confirmed. Ben Day agreed to be the third judge for the poster contest, along with Mike Wentink and Dr. Xui Li.

Discussions were held concerning Section document storage and archive. Some material is already stored on the website and at the League of Municipalities offices. Some reorganization will need to be done with the materials currently stored at the League. Marc Rosso brought up the idea of an electronic "share-point" system for the website with a security and password protection. This is an item that will be further investigated. Some documents will still need to be stored as hard copies such as contracts, audits, CDs etc.

Retreat updates include:

It was agreed by members present to have the committee programs analysis process document reviewed by the next Board meeting in January and see how we would want to utilize this document/process for our committee evaluations.

Items from the Summer Workshop were presented by Chad Roberts.

- The workshop participants worked primarily on the committee review matrix
- Chad stressed the value of the complete board attending the Summer Workshop
- Continuing to improve the Section to Section communication to help solve issues that someone has gone through before, to save time and improve efficiencies.
- Chad reported there were approximately 125 people in attendance at the Workshop.
- A "History of AWWA" video was shown that Chad reported as very interesting.

Section Pins – Please turn any and all pins into Eric Lee as soon as possible!

WARN – The question was posed to the Board if it would be permissible for WARN to utilize the Section's conference call capabilities. Doug Woodbeck motioned to accept this request and the motion was seconded by Eric Lee. All members voiced approval.

- Eric Lee asked if it will be necessary to re-activate the SRF committee since the SRF monies (2% category) have been reinstated by the Federal government. The general consensus was yes but no further action was taken. Now that SRF funding is available NHHS would like to get contracts going with AWWA and more on this subject will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Doug Woodbeck noted that the next Board meeting will take place in Kearney at the fall conference and made a motion to adjourn the current meeting at 11:45 a.m. Chad Roberts seconded the motion.