

Meeting Minutes March 18, 2013
Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

As Board Chair Eric Lee was not present, Chair-elect David Lathrop called the meeting to order @ 0902 hours. The meeting was held at Olsson and Associates Offices in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Board Members, Committee Chairs and Visitors present:

Board Chair: Eric Lee - Not present

Director: Tony Bilek

Chair Elect: David Lathrop

Vice Chair: Doug Woodbeck

Secretary: Chad Roberts

Treasurer: Ben Day

Trustee: Milo Rust - Not present

Trustee: Mary Poe

Trustee: Eric "Rick" Melcher

Trustee: Jim Shields

Past Chair: Rob Pierce

Committee Chairs: Rich Koenig, Brian Gongol, John Keith, Mike Wentink, Marc Rosso

Call-in participants: John Keith, Brian Gongol

Other attendees: John Olsson

The **January 10, 2013 Draft Meeting Minutes** were reviewed. No changes were recommended. Jim Shields motioned to approve the minutes, second by Rob Pierce. Unanimous approval.

Treasurers Report: See attached report from Ben Day. Ben updated the Board that he was waiting on the Funds from the Fall Conference in which he was expecting to receive this week. After receiving the funds, Ben will schedule to begin work on the 3 year Audit. Tony Bilek motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Doug Woodbeck seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Director's Report: See attached report from Tony Bilek. John Olsson and Tony Bilek did attend the Winter Board meeting held in Nashville on January 18-20. We have some interest in attending ACE in Denver this year. Boards members David Lathrop, Eric Melcher, Jim Shields, Rob Pierce, and Mary Poe have expressed interest in attending. Chad Roberts motioned to approve the Director's Report. Jim Shields seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Committee Reports:

Archive & History: No report.

Audit: No report. This is the year for the audit. Audit to be schedule 4 to 6 weeks.

Awards: No report

Budget: See attached report from Ben Day.

Cross-Connection Control: See attached report from Rich Koenig. Rich stated that he would like direction from the Board on the Ultimate Backflow Challenge. There has been some concern on the payout. Doug Woodbeck would like to see NEAWWA to contribute the same as Nebraska Rural Water and ABPA. Rich did present to the Board the contract that was request by Eric Lee. Doug made a motion to change the contribution the NEAWWA pays from \$600 to \$350 to match the contributions of others. There was no second. Motion failed. Chad Roberts made a motion to leave the current contributions the same as what in written in the current contract. Tony Bilek seconded the motion. Those in favor, 7 and not in favor, 2 and 2 didn't vote. Motion passed.

Education: See attached report from John Keith.

Fall Conference: No report. David will have a call for paper released this week.

Fuller Award: No report.

MAC: No report.

Membership: See attached Membership Plan from Marc Rosso. Marc stated he has heard comments that the Nebraska Waste Water Assication is more "blue collar" when NEAWWA is "white collar". Marc address that we need to change this sterotype of NEAWWA. Marc is also looking into discounts for new memberships.

Nominations: Rob Pierce will have 2 or 3 nominations that will be posted for the Summer Addition of the Wise Water Words.

Public Information: No report

Publications: See attached report from Brain Gongol.

Safety: See report from Milo Rust.

Scholarship: No report.

Small Systems: No report.

Student Activities: See attached report from Dr. Xu Li.

Water For People: See report from Christian New.

Water Utility Council: Jerry Obrist, Jim Shields, and Milo Rust will be attending the Fly In in Washington DC.

Young Professionals: See attached report from Craig Reinsch.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Top Ops: No report.

Old Business: Insurance coverage for Water for People Activities was discussed. Christian New and Ben Day have been working to get a clarification on the topic. The Golf tournament is covered with no additional cost. The Sporting clays tournament is much tougher. The insurance company is willing to provide liability coverage for the event but not for the participants who are shooting. Rich Koenig stated he had called an insurance provider in Norfolk. He was told that liability cover is the same for either event. Rich suggested that we contact Nationals to get more information on the coverage's. Ben will pass this suggestion to Christian.

David Lathrop is planning on attending the RMSO this year.

Mary Poe questioned the Board on the ACE staff registration. She wanted a clarification that anyone that attend and volunteer to receive the discount on the conference registration. Anyone that voluntaries can receive a discount. Mary also asked if there was a scholarship to help cover other expenses. Scholarships have been used before. Tony suggested that the Board should contact the Scholarship Committee to set up a guideline or policy to use funds for future conference travels. This would include the max limit and limits on alcohol. Doug made a motion to use a maximum of \$1500 from the RMSO travel account to cover Mary's travel and lodging to attend ACE. Tony second the motion. Unanimous approval.

Doug submitted a written proposal on a possible discount for the Department of Health Staff for registration at the Fall Conference. Doug would like to see the registration fee waived for department staff that helps with the conference. This would include presenters, moderators, scanning the attendees license cards, etc. He suggested that the Department would pay for their meals, but not the registration. Doug stated that the Department staff receives a discount like this at the Nebraska Rural Water Conference. There are some concerns on this as how to preventing other organizations from wanting the same benefit. How does this work with the other organizations at the Fall Conference with the registrations. A suggestion was to create a policy to address this topic and issues. Tony feels that a policy would not be the wise way to go. Policies are difficult to change in the future, and that an SOP would work better. When the SOP is developed the key language should be "active help" and this SOP could be adjusted year to year. David suggested we work on this some more and suggested to table this topic till our next Board Meeting.

Cross Connection funding levels was addressed in the cross connection committee report.

David stated the present drought condition is affecting every system in Nebraska. The climatology reports doesn't show any future changes in this condition. He suggested that we contact Brain Gongol to add information in the Wise Water Words.

New Business: Chad Roberts asked the Board for a clarification on purchasing awards. It was decided the Awards Committee will fund all awards for the Section. Awards Committee will contact committees that present awards, that all awards are ordered. It was suggested to use a checklist.

Marc Rosso discussed some possible idea to help increase the Section Membership. He asked about a coupon for new membership. He also stressed to continue promoting the value of AWWA to everyone.

Summer Treat is schedule for August 16th at UNL Hall East Campus. SOP updates and Membership Updates are currently the only Topics. Please email Doug other ideas to include during the retreat. Mary Poe will host the Social Hour after the treat.

Doug asked the Board to purchase 25 flashlights that will have the NEAWWA engraved on them. These flashlights could be used for membership prizes and door prizes at the fall conference. Mary made a motion to purchase 25 flashlights. Jim Shields seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2013 at 9:30 hours to be held in Eagle, Nebraska at Woodland Golf Course.

Adjournment: Eric Melcher motioned to adjourn, Rob Pierce second. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 1201 hours.

NE AWWA

Treasurers Report & Budget Report – March 18, 2013

Treasurers Report

Account Summary as of 3/13/13:

- Checking Account	\$15,589.79
- Savings Account	\$5,198.89
- Pipe Workshop	\$2,711.40
Subtotal	\$23,500.08
- CD's Total	\$65,129.97
- Total of all Accounts	\$88,630.05

2012 Fall Conference:

We have not yet been paid by APWA for the 2012 Fall Conference income disbursement. I have a message into APWA to discuss the split and when we may see a payment.

Taxes:

We have requested and received an extension to file taxes.

Audit:

We need to schedule the audit for the year 2012. Waiting on 2012 Fall Conference disbursement and then we will schedule the audit.

CD's:

We have a CD that is maturing and I'll meet with the bank at the end of March to renew the CD.

Budget Report

2012 Budget Report

I have not been able to finalize the 2012 final budget report as we are missing the following item.

INCOME:

- Annual Fall Conference – Have not received income yet.

2013 Budget

I've taken comments from the last Board meeting and responses from Committee Chairs and updated the 2013 budget, see attached. I still don't have a good handle on the directory and publications advertising income and expenses. We are showing a deficit at the end of the year but I hope that adjustments to the publications line items will help reduce that deficit. I would suggest we approve the budget as presented and then adjust the budget if the publications numbers change from what we have listed.

Submitted By:

Ben Day, Treasurer

BACKFLOW COMPETITIONS

As part of various Cross Connection Training Seminars a backflow competition is being utilized. These competitions have been extremely successful and competitive. As it has expanded, the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge” has been created.

Currently, a qualifying session for the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge” is being held at the Region 12 ABPA Annual Workshop, the Columbus NeRWA Annual Conference, the Gering NeRWA Annual Conference, and the Nebraska Section AWWA (NeSAWWA) Joint Conference in Kearney. The “Ultimate Backflow Challenge” is held immediately following the qualifying round at the NeSAWWA Joint Conference in Kearney.

Prizes are currently awarded to the top three teams at each of the qualifying sessions. A team consists of four (4) members. These prizes are at the discretion of the Training Provider for these sessions. To date, Region 12 ABPA and the NeSAWWA have provided all the funding for the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge” prizes. The current prize format for the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge” is as below”

1st Place = \$600.00
2nd Place = \$400.00
3rd Place = \$200.00
4th Place = \$100.00
Total Prize Amount = \$1300.00

In order to continue this successful competition I would like to propose a change to the funding for the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge”. Hopefully this proposed change will not unduly burden any one organization. The proposed change will be as follows:

Each Training Provider will continue to be responsible for the prizes given at the qualifying session held at their respective conference/workshop. This has been typically \$60.00 for 1st place team, \$40.00 for second place team and \$20.00 for the third place team or equivalent. However, these prizes would be at the discretion of the Training Provider.

The “Ultimate Backflow Challenge” would be funded jointly by NeRWA, NeSAWWA, and Region 12 ABPA. The funding would be as follows:

NeSAWWA = \$600.00
NeRWA = \$350.00
Region 12 ABPA = \$350.00

This would more uniformly distribute the costs associated with the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge” and not unduly burden any one Organization.

Thank you for considering this request for funds to continue this successful competition.

Richard A. Koenig

To: NSAWWA Board
From: John Keith, Chair
Education Committee
Date: March 19, 2013

Education Committee Report

Committee Members

John Keith, Chair

Nick McElvain

Brian Gongol

Rob Pierce

Steve Kelley

Mike Wentink

Happenings

1. Rob indicates there have been 9 training events including 140 operators from 94 water systems and companies so far this year. Nine (9) more training sessions are scheduled in 2013.
2. An AWWA member utility has requested that the video "Safety First: Pipe and Street Saws" be purchased for membership use. It was indicated that there have been a couple of bad accidents this past couple years.

The Education Committee decided that this would be a good purchase. Once the DVD is received, I will ask Brian Gongol to send out an email that the DVD is available. The member requesting the DVD will be given the first opportunity to view. Mike Wentink to order.

[Safety First: Pipe and Street Saws](#)



In Stock

List Price: \$295.00

Member Price: **\$195.00**

Qty:

[ADD TO CART](#)

Operators using specialized power saws to cut pipe and asphalt or concrete pavement must be trained in the safe use of these saws. This DVD demonstrates proper use of pipe and street saws. The video also covers saw types, specialized blades, personal protective equipment, equipment inspection, and the importance of following saw-manufacturers' instructions. 15 min.

Published By: AWWA

Edition: 2012

DVD

ISBN: 9781583219102

Catalog No. 64381

NE Section AWWA Public Information Committee Report
May 3, 2013

The committee met on April 2 in Lincoln.

Invitations sent to about 40 mayors to issue a proclamation declaring May 5-11 as Drinking Water Week in their community. Have already heard from a couple that they will issue the proclamation (Gering, Nebraska City).

Facebook page has 135 "likes" (fans).

Have posted the DWW PSA on our website and are in the process of notifying radio stations to download it from there.

National put together one press release for each day of DWW. Next week we will send out these press releases to several newspapers around the state.

The committee discussed the possibility of hosting a poster contest for schoolchildren and displaying the finalists at the fall conference to have attendees vote on.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

April 30, 2013

Brian Gongol, chair - brian@gongol.net

WISE WATER WORDS - PUBLICATION DETAILS

Publication has been on "pause" while we complete the membership directory. Preliminary layout

has begun. The good news is that once we finish the layout for the first edition, we can re-use that

template for future editions. We are operating under the assumption that we will still be publishing three printed issues per year.

WISE WATER WORDS - EDITORIAL CALENDAR

The editorial calendar for the year looks like this:

- Winter/Spring 2013 Wise Water Words: Editing content and laying out the publication now.
- Summer 2013 Wise Water Words: Articles due by June 1. Publication July 2013.
- Fall 2013 Wise Water Words: Articles due by October 1. Publication November 2013.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Here is the progress report on the membership directory:

- ✓ awards page
- ✓ board directory
- ✓ committee roster
- ✓ Fuller Award listing
- ✓ Health Department roster
- ✓ past chairs
- ✓ bylaws
- ✓ copy names from National list
- ✓ remove duplicates
- ✓ add e-mail addresses
- ✓ add telephone numbers
- ✓ add advertising pages
- ✓ send draft directory to membership chair for review
- ✓ send draft directory to members for corrections
- ✓ finish making corrections

insert advertising, issue digital version, print hard copies and distribute

Thanks to Marc Rosso and Mary Poe for helping with obtaining corrections from the members.

More than 50 entries had to be corrected in one way or another, which was an unexpectedly time consuming process.

WEBSITE

We have made about half a dozen updates to the website in April.

Please remember that you can e-mail the entire board at once with a message to board@awwaneb.org and all of the committee chairs with a message to committees@awwaneb.org.

MULTIMEDIA

Our YouTube channel has been viewed 3,258 times since its inception on September 7th, 2011.

Our website is being used to host the Public Service Announcements for the public information committee to distribute to radio stations statewide.

- If you have ideas for videos or need assistance with anything that might help with our educational or public-informational outreach, please let me know.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

The e-mail distribution list currently has 196 members. There has been no change since last

report. The list was used seven times in April and once in March.

- If you have announcements worth sharing, please send them directly to awwaneb@gongol.net.

That places it in the "waiting room", where I can approve it to go out to the entire list.

**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION
March 12, 2013 COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee: __AWWA Safety Committee_____ **Date:** 03-12-2013_____

Chair: _Milo Rust_____ **Vice Chair:** Rob Pierce_____

Total Members: 13_____ **Active Members:** 13_____

Executive Board Liaison: _____

List of Active Members: Rodger Coffey, Pat Heath, Dale Kaliff, Steve Kelly, Anthony Martinez, Gerardo E Martinez, Pete Neddo, Doug Pollak, Eric Melcher, Rob Pierce, Jack Satur, Tom Menke.

When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?

None

Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:

Add Tom Menke

Deliverables/Activities:

Safety award participation

How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?

Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year: Promote safety award participation

Hold a safety Seminar

Budget Expenditures for 2013:

None

Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):

Safety Awards 150.00
Safety Training 150.00
Total Proposed 1525.00

Other Items:

Please return to NSAWWA Secretary, Chad Roberts (Croberts@ci.norfolk.ne.us)

Student Activities and Research Committee Report (2013-03-13)

Since the last committee report (submitted on January 1st 2013), the Student Activities and Research Committee has conducted the following activities:

- The student chapter invited Dr. Wayne Woldt, Associate Professor at the UNL Biological Systems Engineering department, to give a seminar to the student members on January 29th 2013. Dr. Woldt's presentation was titled "Adaptive Management of Community Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: A Conceptual Approach". Seven student members attended the seminar.



Water for People Committee Report

Water for People Committee held a conference call in early February to plan for the annual Spring Golf Outing which is scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2013 at the Woodland Hills Golf Course in Eagle, Nebraska. The committee is beginning solicitation for flag prizes, hole sponsorships and golfers in mid March.

The issue of insurance has been partially resolved. According to Brandon Cole of Arthur J. Gallagher & CO. (a contact provided to Chris New by Bob Montoya of AWWA), insurance for the golf outing is included, but not for the trap shoot.

We are working with Oak Creek (hosting the Trap Event) to determine if AWWA can be added as additional insured and what the cost would be. Oak Creek currently carries a \$2 million policy.

[Christian W. New](#), P.E.

Account Manager

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Nebraska AWWA Section Young Professionals Committee

Section Board Meeting Committee Report – March 2013

Here is a list of highlights/plans/requests for the Young Professionals Committee – Nebraska Section (submitted by Craig Reinsch):

➤ Upcoming Events/Activities:

April

- Diamond Plastic Pipe Seminar and Tour – April 12, 2013, 10 am to 2:30 pm, GI
- MUD Platte West WTP Tour (w/ UNL CIVE 425) – April 16, 2013, 1 pm
- UNL E-Week support (April 2013)

May and Other Events

- Groundwater Festival, Grand Island (May 2013)
- We are also looking at continuing to support the poker tournament at the Fall Conference, in conjunction with the NWEA YP committee.

➤ Other Items:

- None at this time.

Committee Members: Rory Sudbeck, Brittany Travers, Justin Stine, Craig Reinsch, Andrew Synhorst, Billy Kaufold, Jeff Hubby, Teresa Konda, Xu Li, David Stewart, Jake Miriovsky

**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION
2013 COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee: **Audit** _____

Date: **04-25-13** _____

Chair: **Eric Lee** _____

Vice Chair: **Rob Pierce** _____

Total Members: 4

Executive Board Liaison: **Eric Lee**

List of Active Members: **Eric Lee, Rob Pierce, Ben Day, David Lathrop**

When and where has the committee met in the past year (include conference calls):

Committee has exchanged information via e-mails and direct phone calls concerning the upcoming external three year audit

Proposed changes in committee membership: **None at this time**

Deliverables/Activities: **Contact has been made with audit firm to set up a meeting with audit materials to be delivered at this meeting, no meeting date has been set.**

How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in accomplishing its work? **Nothing at this time**

Plans/Projects for upcoming year: **Complete external three year audit with budgeted funds and maintain the internal annual audit**

Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2013: **\$2,750**

Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification) **Actual cost to be determined when billing has occurred**

Other Items