### <u>Draft Business Meeting Minutes November 6,2013</u> Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

Board Chair Eric Lee called the meeting to order @ 1334 hours. The meeting was held at the NSAWWA Annual Conference in the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

Board Members, Committee Chairs and Visitors present:

Board Chair: Eric Lee Chair Elect: David Lathrop Vice Chair: Doug Woodbeck Secretary: Chad Roberts Treasurer: Ben Day Trustee: Milo Rust

Trustee: Eric "Rick" Melcher

Trustee: Mary Poe Past Chair: Rob Pierce Director: John Olsson

Trustee: Jim Sheilds

Committee Chairs: Marc Rosso, Dennis Watts, Jerry Obrist, Christian New, John Keith, Teresa

Konda, Kevin Tobin, Craig Reinsch, Brain Gongol, Justin Steine, Mike Wentink.

Other attendees: Al Schoemaker, Bruce Dvorak, Rob Behrens, Dave Rager, Jim Wells, Daryl

Kottwitzs.

The **November 8, 2012 Business Meeting Minutes** were reviewed. In the Young Professional committee report, the poker proceeds will support Water for People. Doug Woodbeck motioned to approve the minutes, second by Rob Pierce. Unanimous approval.

**Treasurers Report:** See attached report from Ben Day. Eric Melcher motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, second by Jim Sheilds. Unanimous approval.

**Director's Report:** See attached report from John Olsson. We thank Dave Rager for attending our conference. There will be nine candidates for AWWA Vice President at the Winter Board Meeting. NSAWWA supports the presidential candidate. John will be attending the Winter Board meeting, January 16 - 20 in Austin Texas. Funds need to be approved for John's attendance. David Lathrop motioned to approve the Director's report, second by Doug Woodbeck. Unanimous approval.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Archive & History:** See attached report from Kevin Tobin.

**Audit:** See attached report from Eric Lee. David Lathrop will become the committee chair for 2014

Awards: See attached report from Dennis Watts.

**Budget:** See attached report from Ben Day. Eric Melcher will become the committee chair for 2014- 2015.

Cross-Connection Control: See attached report from Rich Koenig.

**Education:** See Attached report from John Keith.

**Fall Conference:** The Fall Conference is underway. Attendance numbers are in the range for 300 conference and 60 vendors. New for this year in the QR code located on the program brochure. This code is a survey about the Fall Conference. Doug Woodbeck will be the committee chair for 2014.

Fuller Award: See attached report for Mike Wentink.

MAC: No report.

Membership: See attached report from Marc Rosso.

**Nominations:** The Nominations Committee submitted the required report earlier this year at the July Board meeting. Nominations from the floor were called for. No nominations from the floor were proposed. Doug Woodbeck made a motion to approve the list of nominees, second by Jim Sheild. Eric Lee called for a vote to confirm the nominations. All were in favor and the seats are filled by the proposed nominees. The persons filling the various positions for calendar year 2014 are:

Chair - David Lathrop

Chair Elect - Doug Woodbeck

Vice Chair - Ben Day

Treasurer - Eric Melcher

Secretary - Chad Roberts

Trustee - Eric Lehman

Trustee - Mary Poe

Trustee - Milo Rust

Trustee - Jim Shields

Director - John Olsson

Past Chair - Eric Lee

Eric Lee will be the committee chair for 2014.

**Public Information:** See attached report from Mary Poe.

**Publications:** See attached report from Brain Gongol.

**Safety:** See attached report from Milo Rust.

**Scholarship:** See attached report from Jon Zellars.

**Small Systems:** See attached report from Eric Melcher.

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

Water For People: See attached report from Christian New.

Water Utility Council: See attached report from Jim Shields.

Young Professionals: See attached report from Craig Reinsch.

**Old Business:** The Ad Hoc committees for Nitrate and Survey Membership have been disbanded.

**New Business:** Marc Rossco updated the Board on our current membership status. Presently our section has 361 members, an increase of 16 new members. We all have a 95% retentation rate of our members with a 5% grow rate. The 5% increase in grow is outstanding, presently there are 40 sections with a negative grow rate. Some areas that are successful for us are, retentation of members and reaching out to students. Most 1<sup>st</sup> class cities in Nebraska are members of AWWA with some 2<sup>nd</sup> class cities. During our membership drive is summer we were only able to add 1 more cities. Marc is going to review the attendence of this year Fall Conference as to see how many attendees are not members of AWWA. The focus on those indiviuals to see why they are not a member.

The 3 year Audit was completed this year. The only recommendation is a check and balance, presently Ben is sending a copy of invoices to David.

Nominations see report.

**Next Meeting:** The next board meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2014 at 1330 hours to be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Younes Conference Center during the NSAWWA Annual Fall Conference.

**Adjournment:** Doug Woodbeck motioned to adjourn, Milo Rust second. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 1444 hours.

Committee: Archives & His	story Committee Date: October 30, 2013
Chair: Kevin Tobin	Vice Chair: None Assigned
Total Members: 4	Active Members: 4
Executive Board Liaison:	Rob Pierce
List of Active Members:	
John Miriovsky Rob Pierce Kevin Tobin W. James Wells	
When and Where has the C	Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?
E-mail Communication	
Proposed Changes in Com	mittee Membership:
None	
Deliverables/Activities:	
None this year	
How might the Executive B	Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?
Provide ideas on the direction	n of this Committee.
Plans/Projects for Upcoming	ng Year:
	data/information for storage and how to retrieve it. o research and share history of their Systems.
Budget Expenditures for 20	013:
\$0	
Budget Request for 2013 (i	nclude a short justification):
\$0	
Other Items:	

Committee:	Audit	Date:	10-22-2013
Chair:	Eric Lee	Vice Cha <u>ir</u>	: Rob Pierce
Total Member	rs: 4		
Executive Bo	ard Liaison: Ben Day		
List of Active	Members: Eric Lee, Rob Pierce, John Olsson, l	Ben Day	
Committee ha	here has the committee met in the past year (includes been involved in numerous phone calls and two three year external audit.		
Proposed char	nges in committee membership: None at this tin	ne. However	; see other items listed below
	Activities: Audit committee report at Board and final version of the three year external audit, wh		
_	ne Executive Board assist your Committee in accound the required Audit(s) as stated in the By-Lav	1 0	
Plans/Projects	s for upcoming year: Yearly Internal Audit by th	e committee	
•	Budget Expenditures for 2013:		
\$2,500-\$3,000	0		
	est for 2013 (include a short justification) audit costs this year, so no planned budget exper	iditures.	

Other Items: Due to rotation of Board members at the Fall Conference, David Lathrop will automatically become chair of committee and Eric Lee will serve on the committee.

Committee: AWARDS	<b>Date</b> : 10/15/2013
Chair: Dennis Watts	Vice Chair: NONE
Total Members: 6 Active Mem	bers: 6
Executive Board Liaison: Chad Roberts	
List of Active Members: Steve Kelly Chad Roberts Rob Pierce	Doug Woodbeck Jack Satur Dennis Watts
When and Where has the Committee me	et in the Past Year (include conference calls)?
August, 2013 – conference call and various	s emails.
Proposed Changes in Committee Memb	ership:
Deliverables/Activities:	
New awards are as follows: Water Treatment Plant Operator Award Cross Connection Control Program of the Cross Connection Specialist of the Year Longevity nomination Outstanding Supervisory Operator Awa In 2013 we are giving out 3 WISA Award 1 Cross Connection Specialist of the Ye 0 Longevity Awards 0 Volunteer Award 1 Fuller Award	r Award
How might the Executive Board assist y	our Committee in Accomplishing its Work?
Continue to assist committee as needed a awards.	nd encourage systems to nominate deserving applicants for
Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:	
Same as 2012.	
Budget Expenditures for 2012:	
\$240.	
Budget Request for 2013 (include a sho	rt justification):

\$400. The money budgeted will be spent on awards such as plaques etc. We will hopefully be able to hand out additional awards this year.

# **Budget Report**

### 2013 Budget

The current 2013 Budget as of 10/29/13 is attached. Bookstore Allotment: \$600 has been used for educational publications, videos, and merchandise to give away at the Fall Conference.

### 2014 Budget

I have started to prepare the 2014 Budget. I have received budget requests from most committees but am still waiting on several.

**Submitted By:** 

Ben Day, Treasurer

Committee: _	<b>Cross Connection Committee</b>	Date:	Nove	mber 7, 2013
Chair: _	Rich Koenig	Vice CI	nair: _	Leroy Kramer
Total Member	s: 6 Active Members: 6			
<b>Executive Boa</b>	rd Liaison: Chad Roberts			
List of Active	Members: Rich Koenig, Leroy K	Kramer, Chad Roberts, Rob	Pierce ,	, Terry Vail and Doug Meyer.
	ere has the committee met in the generate potential topics for the			E-mail was sent April 25, 2013 to the with LNM
Proposed char	nges in committee membership:	None		
Deliverables/A	Assist with selection p "Cross Conn	co-sponsored with LNM and process for the following awa ection Control Program of the cetion specialist of the Year"	ırds: he Yeaı	with the "Ultimate Backflow Challenge" "
How might the	e Executive Board assist your Co	mmittee in accomplishing its	s work:	? Working OK
Plans/Projects				e with the "Backflow Challenge" and
Anticipated B	udget Expenditures for 2013:	\$1500.00 - LofNM cost s \$ 720.00 - Ultimate Back \$ 80.00 - Misc.		
Budget Reque	st for 2013 (include a short justific Help fund the "Ultimate Back		variou	s other expenses as described above

### **Other Items**

Attendance at the 4-1 day workshops co-sponsored with LNM was approximately 129 operators representing 91 water systems. The date and sites were as follows:

September 5, 2013 in Ogallala, NE September 24, 2013 in Grand Island, NE September 25, 2013 in Wayne, NE September 26, 2013 in Beatrice, NE

**Committee:** Education **Date:** November 6, 2013

Chair: John Keith Vice Chair: Nick McElvain

**Total Members:** 6 **Active Members:** 6

**Executive Board Liaison:** Doug Woodbeck

**List of Active Members:** 

John Keith, Chair

Nick McElvain Brian Gongol Rob Pierce

Steve Kelley Mike Wentink

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

All correspondence has been via email. Committee hopes to meet during the Annual Conference in Kearney this year.

### **Proposed Changes in Committee Membership: none**

#### **Deliverables/Activities:**

Sixteen Water Workshops cosponsored with League of Nebraska Municipalities with three more scheduled during December 2013. – 326 participants

(Participation up 10% or an additional 32 participants so far in 2013)

Children's Groundwater Festival in Grand Island - 3 Section Volunteers

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

Continued support and consideration of upcoming education possibilities and recommendations of new educational avenues is always appreciated.

### Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:

Bi-annual Pipe workshop – possible topics include fire hydrants, valves, restraints or construction inspection

### **Budget Expenditures for 2013:**

\$600 AWWA Bookstore

\$5000 LoNM Agreement (Invoice to be submitted at year end)

# Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification):

\$5,000.00 LoNM Agreement for joint workshop coordination

\$600 AWWA Bookstore Section Funds

\$1500 Bi-annual Pipe Workshop

(It is expected that this would be a revenue neutral event but would like funding there if

needed)

### Other Items:

FYI \$600 AWWA Bookstore Section Funds are available from National each year to the Section

Committee:	Fuller		Date: Novem	ber 6, 2013
Chair:	Michael Wentin	k		Vice Chair:
Total Members:	5	Active Members: 5		
<b>Executive Board</b>	l Liaison:			
List of Active M Michael Wentink Glen Dostal Larry Andreasen Dennis Watts John Olsson				
When and where By Email – May,		tee met in the past year (include	conference calls):	
	e <b>s in committee</b> n ve change as per I			
<b>Deliverables/Act</b> Solicitation of car		on, voting, and selection of Fuller	Award recipient	
How might the I Process is working		assist your Committee in accom	plishing its work?	
Plans/Projects fo	or upcoming year	:		
	get Expenditures ent's family memb	s for 2013: ers meals as applicable		
		a short justification) umily member attendance at banqu	uet – meal cost)	
Section Plaque Fuller Pin Recipient's famil	- \$30.00	(cost can be less if using a vendor cost for banquet meals will vary	r with the past devel	oped template)

**Other Items** 

Committee:	Membership			Date: October 1,	2013	
Chair:	Marc Rosso			Vice Chair:		_
Total Memb	pers: 6	Active Member	rs: 6			
Executive B	Board Liaison: Eric	Lee				
List of Activ	ve Members: Marc	Rosso, Rich Rob	oinson, Tony Bilel	ς, Bruce Dvorak, C	hris Miller, Rob Pierc	e
Fall Conference held in early committee standition, par	y Spring. The comments a welcome pacerts of the committee	addition to exchanittee prepared the ket to each new me met with the Bo	nging emails and e 2013-2014 mem nember and sent la pard at regularly so	calls to provide for abership plan updat ate notices to membership	The committee of the membership drive the and submitted to AV bers who were past duta. Kent Prior will be recon.	e that was WWA. The ie. In
Proposed ch	nanges in committe	e membership:	None.			
Deliverables	s/Activities: 2014	Membership Plan				
job helping		activities such as t			The Board is doing an which have helpful since Rich Ro	
addition a st		drive is planned			nned to try to add mem embership plan with a	
Anticipated	Budget Expenditur	res for 2013:	\$300			
			,	*	travel to the members	

from the total minus membership summit travel for Fall Conference recognition. Membership Summit flight, \$500,

Other Items

As of 9/23/13 we have 342 active and 351 total members.

room for two nights \$250, meals, \$90, travel/transfers \$50 = total of \$890.

Committee:	Nominations Com	mittee	Date:
Chair: _	Rob Pierce	<u>Vi</u> ce Chai	ir:
Total Memb	pers: 4 Act	ive Members: 4	
<b>Executive B</b>	oard Liaison:		
	ve Members: ce, tony Bilek, Teresa	a Konda, Doug Woodbeck	
When and w	where has the commi	ittee met in the past year (in	nclude conference calls):
Proposed ch	nanges in committee	membership:	
	nittee chair Rob Piero	The state of the s	WA nominations committee submits the serve on the section board for 2013-2014:
<b>Position Fille</b>	ed Automatically:		
Chair – Davi Past Chair –			
Slate of Cano	lidates:		
Vice-Chair -	Chad Roberts Eric Melcher n Shields lo Rust nry Poe ic Lehman		
Plans/Proje	cts for upcoming yea	ar:	

**Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2013:** 

Nominations of the 2015 Nebraska Section Officers

### **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

October 31, 2013

Brian Gongol, chair - brian@gongol.net

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The membership directory has been distributed by e-mail to the full list of active members. We have printed 300 copies of the directory, to be distributed at the Fall Conference to the attending members. The rest will be mailed out after the conference. We were able to get the total printing cost down to \$288.74. We are hoping to control expenses overall by limiting the mailing expense.

### **WEBSITE**

Occasional updates have been made to the website as requested by the board and committees. Relatively few requests have been submitted this fall. 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 4,389 times since its inception on September 7th, 2011. 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.

We should consider planning for video recording of some presentations and speeches during the Fall Conference in 2014. This will require some advance preparation, but it may be worthwhile.

### E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

The e-mail distribution list remains at 192 members. There were two updates issued in September and two in October. 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.

### **WISE WATER WORDS**

This is our main shortcoming of the year. The transition to producing our own publication has been slower than desired, in part because of the effort to get the directory done, and in part because producing the first edition on our own is the hardest (after the first, we can re-use the template in the future). We may still be able to produce three editions this year (pre-conference, conference wrap-up, and a winter edition), but this will not be a banner year for Wise Water Words. Hopefully, we will get over the learning curve this year (our 50th volume) and on to a smoother operation in our 51st. Content has been very slow to trickle in, so anything that people would like to have published should be submitted any time it is complete, so it can be published immediately online and in the next available print edition.

Committee: Public Information Date: October 30, 2013

Chair: Mary Poe Vice Chair:

**Total Members: 4 Active Members: 4 Executive Board Liaison:** 

**List of Active Members:** 

Mary Poe, Brian Gongol, Eric Obert, Jami Cerone

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

April 2, 2013 – Lincoln September 24, 2013 - Lincoln E-mail correspondence as needed

Proposed Changes in Committee Membership: None, but new members are welcome.

#### **Deliverables/Activities:**

Materials sent to Mayors of about 40 cities inviting them to issue a Mayor's Proclamation for Drinking Water Week. We know for sure that proclamations were issued in

Alliance, Gering, La Vista, Nebraska City.

Water tasting contest, educational presentation, and award at the fall conference

Children's Poster Contest at fall conference.

Nebraska Section Facebook page: 140 fans

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

Share ideas and feedback with the PI Committee.

### Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:

Manage Facebook page and explore other networking options News releases for awards, fall conference, and other events as needed Activities prior to or during Drinking Water Week Work with the education committee on student outreach efforts Water tasting contest

### **Budget Expenditures for 2013:**

Approximately \$400

### Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification):

May spend more money on DWW activities. Budget request = \$600

### Other Items:

Committee: _	Student Activities and Research	<b>Date</b> :10/15/2013
Chair:	Xu Li	Vice Chair:
Total Members	s: <u>~15</u> Active Members: _	7
Executive Boa	ard Liaison: <u>Ben Day</u>	
List of Active	Members:	
Darshan Baral Allison Speiche Yuping Zhang ( Stefan Schaep	•	student chapter)

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

The committee chair and the officers of the student chapter met in November 2012, January, April, August, and October 2013.

### **Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:**

The student chapter will hold its annual election in April 2014. Some of the current officers will graduate next year. It is expected that some new officers will be elected.

### Deliverables/Activities:

- In November 2012, about 15 AWWA/NWEA student members attended the Fall Conference in Kearney, NE. Three made oral presentations.
- In the Spring 2013 semester, the student chapter invited Dr. Wayne Woldt of UNL Department of Biological Systems Engineering to give a seminar on water budget. The seminar was open to public.
- In early April 2013, several UNL/UNO students attended and presented at the Great Plain Waste Management Conferences in La Vista, NE.
- On April 12th 2013, the UNL AWWA/NWEA student chapter presented a poster at UNL E-Week to showcase the student chapter to high school students.
- In August 2013, four students (Zhe Du, Yuping Zhang, Allison Speicher, and Stefan Schaepe) volunteered to help with the NWEA Scholarship Golf Outing event.
- On October 1st, the student chapter organized a career panel to introduce career options for students who are interested in environmental engineering. The four panelists are Marc Russo, Daryl Kottwitz, Steven Groan, and Xu Li. About 20 students attended the event.
- On October 24th 2013, several student chapter members will participate in the field trip organized by the Young Professional committee to visit the Florence Potable Water Treatment Plant.

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

The current support is sufficient.

### Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:

- Student meetings in Spring semester.
- Involvement in the UNL E-Week to advertise the drinking water industry.
- Annual election in April 2014.
- Participation in local conferences.

### **Budget Expenditures for 2013:**

- About \$100 to cover the cost of reserving a university van to provide transportation to student attendees to the Kearney Fall Conference in November 2012.
- About \$200 to cover the costs for student chapter events.

### Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification):

- ~\$100 to reserve a van to bring students to the Kearney conference in November 2013.
- ~\$200 for holding student meetings at UNL
- ~\$250 for subsiding AWWA student membership applications in 2014 (AWWA offered a discount student membership rate of \$10 in 2013. So, no subsides were requested this year. However, the discount rate may not be available in 2014).

### Other Items:

Committee: _Safety Committee	_ <b>Date</b> : _October 30, 2013
Chair: _Milo Rust	Vice Chair: Rob Pierce
Total Members: 12 Active Members: _	12
Executive Board Liaison: _Milo Rust	
List of Active Members: Rodger Coffee, Pat Hea Pete Neddo, Doug Pollak, Eric Melcher, Rob Piero	th, Dale Kelly, Anthony Martinez, Gerardo E Martinez e, Jack Satur, Tom Menke.
When and Where has the Committee met in the Communicate by Email August 2013	Past Year (include conference calls)?
Proposed Changes in Committee Membership: Talk to members on the committee to see if they w	
Deliverables/Activities:	
Safety award participation.	
How might the Executive Board assist your Co	mmittee in Accomplishing its Work?
Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year: Continue the Municipalities or Health and human services to specific projects.	e Safety awards , work with the League of Nebraska oncer two safety classes.
<b>Budget Expenditures for 2013: &lt;</b> \$100.00, Mailing \$61.18 Frames \$25.68	
Budget Request for 2012 (include a short justif Safety Awards Two Safety Class	ication): \$1600.00
Other Items:	

Committee: Scholarship Date: October 28, 2013

Chair: Jon Zellars Vice Chair: None

**Total Members:** 6 **Active Members:** 5

**Executive Board Liaison:** Unknown

### **List of Active Members:**

Larry Andreasen Chip Haas Chris Koenig John Miriovsky Jon Zellars

When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)? October 2013 via e-mail

### **Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:**

None

### Deliverables/Activities:

Committee members reviewed fourteen applications for the Colonel Theodore A. Liesen Scholarship. Two students attend UNO, eleven attend UNL and one attends Florida Gateway College. Two students are pursuing undergraduate degrees and twelve are seeking graduate degrees in Civil, Environmental or Water Resources Engineering. Three students were selected to receive a \$1,000/each scholarship from NSAWWA. The recipients of the 2013 Theodore A. Liesen Scholarships are as follows:

**Garrett Johnson (\$1,000):** Garrett is an undergraduate student at UNL pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering. Garrett is a member of ASCE, WEF, Engineers without Borders and AWWA. He is the Activities Chair for the student chapter of AWWA and is active in the Lincoln Lutheran Youth Group. Garrett is an Environmental Engineer Intern at JEO Consulting. After graduation, Garrett plans to work in the water/wastewater industry where he wishes to assist in bringing clean water to underserved areas of the world. Garrett aspires to be a professional engineer.

**Stefan Schaepe (\$1,000):** Stefan is pursuing a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from UNL. He is the recipient of the Don Wiles Scholarship, Sorkin Scholarship and the James Canfield Scholarship. Stefan is active in the student section of AWWA where he serves as the Publicity Chair. He is also a Group Leader of the Foundations for Faith Bible Study and is a member of the Xtreme Bible Study. Stefan has volunteered his time at the NWEA golf charity event and is a camp counselor at the Manna Resort Christian Camp. Stefan is currently researching modified graphene oxide as a membrane in order to efficiently and effectively filter contaminants such as salts, nitrates and oils from drinking water. He plans to utilize his knowledge and experiences to advance water treatment technologies locally and abroad.

**Ryan Hurst (\$1,000):** Ryan is a Water/Wastewater Plant Operator for the City of Seward where he holds a Class IV wastewater license and a Grade III water license. He is pursuing a degree in Environmental Science and Water Resources Management through Florida Gateway College's online program. Ryan is a member of AWWA where he has been involved with charity events. He Co-chairs the NWEA Young

Professionals Committee and will soon be joining the NWOD Operator Certification Committee. Ryan is active in the Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church and is a volunteer coach for many recreational youth sports in Seward. Upon graduation, Ryan plans to utilize his degrees to pursue a leadership role in the water industry. In addition, he aspires to bring a higher level of certification training to the State of Nebraska.

Once again the Scholarship Committee thanks Dr. Xu Li for his assistance in publicizing the availability of the scholarships, encouraging applications and collecting them for the committee.

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

### Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:

As a carryover from 2013, the Scholarship Committee plans to review the current application for the Colonel Theodore A. Liesen Scholarship and make revisions as deemed necessary by the committee. The committee would like to reevaluate what type of student the scholarship will target.

Award the 2014 Colonel Theodore A. Liesen Scholarship(s).

### **Budget Expenditures for 2013:**

Abel Wolmen - \$1,000 (assumed)
Poster Board Competition - \$1,000 (assumed)
Stockholm Water Prize - \$500 (assumed)
Students - \$3,000
Top Ops - \$3,300 (assumed)

### Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification):

Abel Wolmen - \$1,000 Poster Board Competition - \$1,000 Stockholm Water Prize - \$500 Students - \$3,000 Top Ops - \$3,000

### Other Items:

Committee: Si	mall Water Systems Comm	ittee	Date: 11-01-2013
Chair:	Eric Melcher	Vice Chair:	David Jundt
Total Members:	9 Active Memb	pers: 9	
<b>Executive Board</b>	d Liaison:		
List of Active M Eric Melcher Green and De	, David Jundt, Milo Rust, S	teve Kelley, Marty Norton, I	David Lathrop, Ken Ekeler, Jim
We haven't b			nference calls): nough, we plan to hold a meeting in
We would lik		•	Tember that would be interested in as other activities.
	tee would like to be able to		estern Nebraska. Tentative Topics velopment, asset management, etc.
•	for upcoming year: ald be to provide a minimum	m of 2 workshops during the	2014 calendar year.
Anticipated Budge	t Expenditures for 2013: none t	o date	
	r <b>2014</b> (include a short justification of the Small Water System Co	on) I'll recommended budgeting th mmittee.	e same for the upcoming year for

**Other Items** 

Committee: Water for People	Date: _10/31/2013
Chair: Christian New	Vice Chair:
Total Members:8_ Active Members: _	8
Executive Board Liaison: _Ben Day	
<b>List of Active Members:</b> Ben Day, Brittany Trave Mundorf, Teresa Konda, John Frecker-Meng.	ers, Craig Reinsch, Glenn Dostal, Patrick Harlan, Tim
When and Where has the Committee met in the	e Past Year (include conference calls)?
1 Conference Call in January; Event Coordinator of Octobers: Annual Planning Meeting at Fall Confe	meetings prior to Golf Outing in May and Shotgun Event rence.
Proposed Changes in Committee Membership	: None.
<b>Deliverables/Activities:</b> Golf Outing (raised \$6,1 Sales at the Fall Conference (estimated); \$1,500 f	67), Sporting Clay Event (raised \$918), Raffle Ticket for an estimated total of \$8,585.
How might the Executive Board assist your Co	ommittee in Accomplishing its Work?
Continued support, attendance at activities and se	elling more raffle tickets.
Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:	
Begin utilizing committee members more to mana Develop Nebraska Water for People Website Explore ways to expand revenue outside of AWW.  Golf Outing Goal: \$6,500.  Sporting Clay Event Goal \$2,000.  Raffle Goal \$1,500.  Total: 10,000.	

in

### **Budget Expenditures for 2013:**

Annual Water for People Conference, Denver, CO (July 2013). Not attended due to scheduling conflicts.

# Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):

\$1,000 for Annual Water for People Conference, Denver, CO (July 2014); \$100 operating budget. Keep abreast of Water for People activities across the nation and progress with water systems across the globe.

Other Items: None.

Committee: Water Utility Council Date: 11/8/2013
Chair: Jerry Obrist-Jim Shields Vice Chair:TBA_
Total Members:8 Active Members:8
Executive Board Liaison: _Eric Lee
<b>List of Active Members:</b> Jerry Obrist, Chad Roberts, David Lathrop, John Olsson Glenn Dostal, Jim Shields, Marc Rosso, Milo Rust
When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?
Three members attended the AWWA Fly-In in D.C. on March 7 & 8, 2012.
Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:
None at this time.
<ul> <li>Deliverables/Activities:</li> <li>Annual AWWA Fly-In on Water Issues—(see attachments)</li> <li>E-mail update on Washington Report regarding Water Issue status</li> </ul>
SUMMARY REPORT  The Nebraska Section, Water Utility Council actively monitors a number of pertinent bills in the Nebraska Legislature.
On a national scale, several items were accomplished:  • In April 2013, AWWA/WEF sponsored a "Water Issued Fly-In" to Washington D.C. to review water/wastewater issues currently before Congress. Visits were made to the Nebraska delegation to ask for their support on:  The Water Infrastructure Finance Innovations Act (WIFIA)
We visited all five of Nebraska's congressional offices. All 3 committee members also attended the Nebraska Delegation breakfast on Wednesday morning, 4/17, and visited with members of the Delegation.

I have also attached the detailed issue papers to this report

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

Work with our committee to sign up Utility Operators/Managers to our committee.

### Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:

- Annual AWWA Fly-In in April 2014.
- Finance, along with AWWA, the Section's Water Utility Council members to the AWWA Annual Fly-In meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Continued e-mails and discussion on current Water Issues and Legislation/Regulations

# **Budget Expenditures for 2013:**

• \$2200 for Fly-in

# Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):

• \$2,250 – Cover cost of AWWA Fly-In

### Other Items:

# **Evaluating the Affordability of Federal Water-Related Mandates**

### **Action Requested:**

Raise awareness of the challenges many American communities face in affording federal water-related mandates, and of EPA's well-meaning, but deficient steps toward evaluating affordability challenges.

### **Background**

Federal water-related mandates can impose significant financial hardships on American communities. Unfortunately, it is generally the least fortunate Americans – those living near or below the poverty level – who are most heavily and adversely affected by these mandates. Because American communities have limited resources, EPA needs to be careful that the investments it requires of American communities address the most important risks to public health and the environment in ways that deliver maximum benefits at the most affordable cost.

To help identify when its mandates might cause undue economic stress, EPA employs affordability criteria to determine when its actions may cause undue economic hardship. For drinking water, EPA assesses the national-level cost of meeting new standards in small communities, while under the Clean Water Act, EPA reviews the cost of agency enforcement actions in particular communities.

If EPA considered more robust affordability criteria, and if the agency could moderate its mandates in response, the economic hardship imposed on lower-income households could be alleviated in many communities. But while EPA should be commended for its openness in attempting to address this important issue, there are several critical limitations to how it defines affordability and applies its criteria. Then too, EPA often lacks flexibility under the law to make adjustments to schedules and mandates that are equal to the affordability challenge facing our communities.

It should be noted that EPA is currently attempting to deal with some affordability concerns through its June 2012 Integrated Municipal Wastewater and Stormwater Planning Approach Framework, which offers the possibility of a longer compliance period. While promising and commendable, this Framework primarily relies upon an inadequate measure – median household income (MHI) – as its main affordability metric, and is limited to Clean Water Act permit and enforcement actions. Under the Integrated Planning Framework, EPA has not committed to considering drinking water investments or investments needed to replace aging water and wastewater infrastructure, which add significantly to the overall cost of water service in many communities.

### EPA's Assessment of Affordability for Drinking Water Regulations

EPA's consideration of affordability in the context of potable water supply is limited to assessing the national-level affordability of regulatory options for small communities. EPA does not consider the affordability of drinking water requirements in any manner that pertains to specific utilities, their regulatory targets, or the timing of compliance. EPA has stated that it would consider a national drinking water regulation to be unaffordable nationwide if it would result in a household drinking water bill in excess of 2.5% of the nationwide average MHI for communities with populations less

than 10,000 people. To date, EPA has never made this finding. If it did, the agency would be required to identify feasible technologies that are affordable for small communities. If EPA made an un-affordability finding and identified an alternative technology or control technique, states could grant approval for small systems to use that alternative (called a variance) on a case-by-case basis. Variances are subject to review and approval by EPA. States can also grant a temporary extension of compliance deadlines (called an exemption) on a case-by-case basis. States consider the process for issuing exemptions and variances to be extremely burdensome and they are seldom granted.

### EPA's Affordability Analysis for Clean Water Actions

For Clean Water Act-related enforcement actions, EPA undertakes a two-part analysis to assess whether mandates to a particular community would cause significant and widespread economic hardship. The analysis is divided into two parts:

- 1. A "preliminary screen" examines affordability in terms of impacts to local households, using a factor called the Residential Indicator (RI). The RI weighs the average per household cost of wastewater bills relative to median household income in the service area. EPA deems that a Residential Indicator of 2% or greater means that the community is likely to experience economic hardship in complying with the Agency mandate.
- 2. A "secondary screen" examines metrics related to the financial capability of the impacted utility. This screen applies a Financial Capability Indicator (FCI), involving a score that reflects the average of six economic factors. These factors include the community's bond rating, its net debt, its median household income, the local unemployment rate, the service area's property tax

burden, and its property tax collection rate. A lower FCI score implies weaker economic conditions and thus an increased likelihood that an enforcement action will cause substantial and widespread economic impact on the community. The Residential Index and the Financial Capability Indicator are ultimately combined into an overall rating. This overall rating is intended to demonstrate the overall level of financial burden imposed on a community by compliance with water quality mandates.

### The Limitations of EPA's Approach

Some of the limitations of EPA's approach to assessing the affordability of drinking water regulations are obvious: first, larger communities are assumed to be able to afford anything. And second, the national average cost to small communities is held low if many small communities aren't affected by the standard in question. This is often the case, because most contaminants don't occur in all small communities. But such a standard can carry a huge cost for those communities that are affected.

With respect to both drinking water and wastewater, a key limitation to EPA's assessment of affordability concerns the use of median household income. MHI can be a highly misleading indicator of a community's ability to pay higher water bills, for many reasons. Among others:

MHI is a poor indicator of economic distress and bears little relationship to poverty or other measures of economic need within a community. For example, analysis of MHI and poverty data for the 100 largest cities in the United States shows that for 21 cities identified as having an MHI within \$3,000 of the 2010 national MHI (\$50,046), there is no discernible relationship between MHI and the incidence of poverty.

MHI does not capture impacts across the entire income distribution. In many cities, income levels are not clustered around the median, but are spread over a wide income range. Many people may be clustered far below the median income – say, in the bottom quintile – so that large numbers of people living nearer the bottom of the income range must struggle with higher water bills that look affordable at the median.

Income distribution can vary widely across different districts and neighborhoods. The economic hardship associated with increasing water and wastewater bills is often concentrated in a few lower-income neighborhoods, a factor missed completely by looking only at community-level MHI.

These limitations are illustrated by a real example: in one city studied, the federal storm water mandate would be judged a mandate to be affordable based on city-wide MHI. But the lowest quintile of the households in that city – people living at or below the poverty level – would be required to pay over 9% of their income for water service. It is virtually certain that many households in that city would face painful and damaging tradeoffs – such as not going to the doctor or not buying medicine – in order to afford a water bill that would be judged to be affordable based on MHI.

EPA's Financial Capability Indicator (FCI) is also flawed:

EPA looks only at property tax revenues as a percentage of full market property value (FMPV) as its measure of local tax effort. This ignores income taxes, sales taxes, business taxes, and user fees typically charged for city services, and leads to a significant understatement of local tax effort in cities that rely on multiple forms of taxation.

The secondary screening analysis includes measures of local MHI and unemployment compared to the national average. By focusing on how these measures compare with the current national levels, EPA fails to acknowledge the absolute value of the indicators. For example, if the national unemployment rate is 9%, a community with an unemployment rate of 10% is considered by EPA as having only a "mid-range" unemployment problem. In fact an unemployment rate of 10% is likely to be a severe stress to any community.

EPA does not consider the longer-term needs facing many municipalities for reinvestment and renewal of water and wastewater infrastructure due to the current system's age and condition. As documented by the American Water Works Association's Buried No Longer report (covering drinking water infrastructure only), these needs are real, pressing, and substantial.

#### Conclusion

It is important that EPA consider the affordability of implementing Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, and the agency should be commended for developing a system to do so. However, current EPA practices unreasonably narrow the scope of its affordability analysis. The result is often an inadvertent "environmental justice" issue as real and significant hardship is created for Americans with the lowest incomes.

The American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation offer this paper to raise awareness about this important issue. We hope to spark a national conversation that leads to specific changes in current policy.

### Water Infrastructure Bonds Need Protection

### **Actions Requested:**

- Protect tax-exempt municipal bonds
- Restore and protect Build America Bond payments to water utilities.
- Remove water infrastructure projects from the annual state volume caps for private activity bonds.

#### **Background:**

In 2012, AWWA released a report titled, "Buried No Longer: Confronting America's Water Infrastructure Challenge," which revealed that restoring existing water systems as they reach the end of their useful lives and expanding them to serve a transient population will cost at least \$1 trillion over the next 25 years. Please note that this \$1 trillion is only for buried drinking water assets. Need for above-ground facilities, waste water, storm water, and other water-related investments are at least as large, and must be added to reflect the true magnitude of the water investment needs we face.

A challenge this large calls for a variety of tools in the infrastructure finance toolbox. Local rates and charges will always be the backbone of water utility finance. However, when large amounts of capital are needed many communities must seek other financing tools. In some cases, this involves the state revolving loan fund program, and hopefully in the future, a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority. Another extremely valuable finance tool is provided by tax exempt municipal bonds.

#### **Municipal Bonds**

Tax-exempt municipal bonds have been one of the key finance tools available to water utilities, and at least 70% of U.S. utilities rely on them to some degree. Because the interest on these bonds is exempt from federal taxation, the bonds carry lower interest rates than commercial bonds – thus lowering costs for the utility and for all who pay a water bill in that community. Moreover, municipal bonds provide relatively quick access to capital and are generally unencumbered by red tape. They often provide the core funding for water infrastructure projects.

We know that in the current fiscal climate, many tax issues are on the table in Washington. One of those may be the degree to which higher-income earners can utilize the tax-exempt features of municipal bonds. In the experience of utility managers, a large share of the purchases of tax-exempt municipal bonds are made by those very higher-income earners. If they are denied tax-exempt interest from municipal bonds, the result for utility finance would be devastating. No other financing vehicle is as flexible for utilities as these bonds. We join several groups of state and local elected officials in urging you to protect the current exemption of municipal bond interest from federal taxation.

#### **Build America Bonds**

As you know, many utilities issued Build America Bonds (BABs) on the promise of federal payments to the utility designed to make those bonds at least as attractive to the issuer and buyers as traditional tax-exempt debt instruments. Now utilities have been notified by the Treasury that BAB payments must be reduced in order to comply with the sequester. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that no reduction in Build America Bond payments to utilities occurs. Reducing such payments to utilities now after bonds have been issued represents a grossly unfair breach of the promise made by the United States when Build America Bonds were first issued. Promised payments should be restored and protected against future cuts.

#### **Private Activity Bonds**

Another tool that could help meet our water infrastructure investment needs is greater use of private activity bonds (PABs). Currently, tax-exempt private activity bonds for public water and wastewater infrastructure projects are subject to state-by-state volume caps and must compete against projects in other critical sectors such as housing and education. This severely limits the amount of PABs that can be issued for water and wastewater infrastructure projects, which are usually less visible than other types of infrastructure. To encourage public-private partnerships and reduce financing costs, PABs for community water systems should be taken out from under the state PAB volume cap, in the same way that PABs for solid waste projects were removed in the 1986 Tax Reform Act.

In summary, we urge you to protect the federal tax exemption of municipal bond interest, restore and protect promised payments to the issuers of Build America Bonds, and remove water projects from the state volume cap on Private Activity Bonds.

# The SRFs and WIFIA -- Valuable, Complementary Finance Tools

### **Actions Requested:**

- House and Senate: Support funding for drinking water and wastewater state revolving loan fund programs of at least the FY 2012 approved levels of \$1.466 billion and \$917.9 million, respectively;
- Senate: Vote for S. 601, the Water Resources Development Act, which contains a pilot program for a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA);
- House: Support introduction of legislation authorizing a WIFIA.

### **Background:**

Water infrastructure is vital to our nation's well-being for a variety of reasons. Water infrastructure protects public health and the environment, supports the local and national economies, protects us from fires, creates jobs, and brings us a better quality of life. Moreover, the US Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimates that for every dollar spent on water infrastructure, about \$2.62 is generated in the private economy. And for every job added in the water workforce, the BEA estimates 3.68 jobs are added to the national economy.

While communities are best served by water utilities that are self-sustaining through local rates and charges, there are times when an investment in infrastructure is required that is too large to be accommodated affordably in a short time frame using only local rates and charges.

#### **State Revolving Loan Funds (SRFs)**

State revolving loan funds (SRFs) have been excellent tools for providing support for water infrastructure. The SRFs provide much-needed support for both drinking water and wastewater utilities, thus assisting in the fundamental protection of public health and the environment, particularly for small to medium-sized communities. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) are the anchors for federal investment in water infrastructure. It is vitally important that these successful programs be maintained and strengthened.

We urge Congress to ensure that funding for the CWSRF and DWSRF is maintained at the FY 2012 levels of \$1.466 billion and \$917.9 million, respectively.

### A New Approach: The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority

The Drinking Water SRF in particular was authorized to support projects necessary for regulatory compliance and must give highest priority to projects where there is the most immediate threat to public health. This often rules out using SRF funds to replace aging infrastructure unless that is necessary to ensure compliance with drinking water standards. Clean Water Clean Water Act requirements, including Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), mandates, can overwhelm the ability of the CWSRFs to offer meaningful support in many cases.

An additional tool is needed that can support large, regional water and wastewater projects at a small long-term cost to the federal government. The new tool must be designed to complement – not replace – the SRFs. That tool is the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA). Lowering the cost of borrowing by 2.5 percent on a 30-year loan reduces the lifetime project cost by over 25 percent, the same result as a 25-percent grant. These savings for local borrowers can significantly accelerate needed water infrastructure investment by making it more affordable for utilities and their customers.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has addressed the challenge of financing large, regional projects and sent to the full Senate S. 601, the Water Resources Development Act of 2013. Title X of this bill would create a pilot program for a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA).

WIFIA would assist communities in meeting the nation's water infrastructure needs in a manner that minimizes the cost to the federal government while complementing the SRFs and other financing mechanisms, maintaining the current federal role, leveraging private capital, and creating vital manufacturing and construction jobs. WIFIA would access funds from the U.S. Treasury at long-term Treasury rates and use those funds to provide loans, loan guarantees, or other credit support for water infrastructure projects. Loan repayments – with interest – would flow back to WIFIA and thence back into the Treasury.

Eligible water infrastructure projects would include drinking water, waste water, storm water, water reuse and desalination, and similar projects, and associated water infrastructure replacement and rehabilitation.

Under S. 601, WIFIA would have the authority to:

- Provide direct loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit for large water infrastructure projects, with a minimum loan size of \$20 million. That ensures that WIFIA complements but does not replace the SRF program by specifically focusing on larger projects that may be unable to access capital through the SRFs.
- Provide state authorities with the ability to apply for a WIFIA loan to fund an aggregation of smaller projects. This allows states to utilize WIFIA to leverage existing SRF resources.

One of WIFIA's key features is the minimal long-term cost to the federal government and the high leverage available against the federal appropriation. Under the Federal Credit Reform Act, a federal entity can provide credit assistance to the extent that Congress annually appropriates budget authority to cover the "subsidy cost" of the loan, i.e. the net long-term cost of the loan to the federal government. In this way, Congress directly controls the amount of lending – but appropriated funds support many times their value in low-interest loans, ensuring that the program is efficient, effective, and highly leveraged.

We urge you to support legislation to fully reauthorize the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF and the enactment of WIFIA legislation similar to that reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Committee:	Young Professionals	Date: September 25, 2013
Chair:	Justin Stine, Craig Reinsch	Vice Chair:
Total Membe	ers: 10 Active Members:	
<b>Executive Bo</b>	oard Liaison:	
		da, Andrew Synhorst, Jeff Hubby, Brittany Travers, Billy Kaufhold,
Primarily	here has the committee met in the past year through email dialogs. Also sub-committee part to outline direction for the year. Discussion	phone calls or emails for specific events. Also had master planning cal
	, ,	rond the next year as Craig and Justin are beginning to hit the age limit
WTF Tou WTF Tou	Activities:  e Lunch and Facility Tour – Diamond Plastics, ar and Social – Platte West WTF, Omaha, NE (our and Social – Florence WTF, Omaha, NE (Ournament at Annual Conference – Kearney, N	(April) ctober)
How might tl	he Executive Board assist your Committee i	n accomplishing its work? Working OK
	ts for upcoming year: n at this time. Continued coordination with N	WEA to grow the total groups with similar interests
Anticipated I	Budget Expenditures for 2013:	
We reque	nest for 2014 (include a short justification) est an allocation of \$500 for purchase of food of the poker event at the Fall Conference.	expense at a social event, probably with the Student Chapter and to put

# **Other Items**