

Draft - NS-AWWA Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 13, 2017

Location: Conference Call, 9:30 AM

Chad Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:31

ROLL CALL:

Board members present on the call:

Board Chairman: Chad Roberts

Chair Elect: Rick Melcher

Vice Chair: Milo Rust

Treasurer: Brittany Travers

Secretary: Mary Poe

Director: Bruce Dvorak

Past Chair:

Trustee: John Keith

Trustee: Marc Rosso

Trustee: Jack Satur

Trustee: Gary Thurlow

Board members absent: Ben Day

Committee Chairs present:

Adam Darbro, Rich Koenig, Jim Shields

Others present: Howard Isaacs, Andy Kahle (for the first part of the call)

Approval of May Board meeting minutes:

Bruce suggested to move the mention of the Fall Conference date change from the Director's report to the Chair's report in the May meeting minutes. It was discussed in both reports. Bruce made a motion to approve the May board meeting minutes with the change, Milo seconded and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

NDEQ/DHHS Agreement:

Howard Isaacs and Andy Kahle of the DHHS Drinking Water Program joined the first part of the call. Howard discussed the recent announcement that the drinking water program staff will be moving their offices into the Dept. of Environmental Quality office building in downtown Lincoln on July 31. Although continuing to work under DHHS at this time, the program will operate under a Memorandum of Agreement to collaborate with DEQ and to cross-train staff in both departments regarding drinking water and wastewater compliance. This move includes employees in DHHS Engineering Services, Field Services, and Monitoring & Compliance. The field services staff in outlying offices will remain in their offices for now

and will begin working and training with DEQ field services staff. The DHHS Environmental Health sanitarians and Water Well Standards staff will not move offices. Howard, as administrator of the Drinking Water Program will report to management in DHHS as well as DEQ.

This decision was made by the governor in order to create a more efficient state government while upholding high customer service standards. The program will continue their commitment to protecting public health through enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Mary will continue to check the AWWA post office box in the State Office Building although her new office will be in a different building a few blocks away.

There are many details still to be worked out with the move, and the Drinking Water Program will communicate any new developments with the Nebraska Section.

Chairman's report:

Chad wants to thank all the Section volunteers for their time and commitment; this is why we are such a strong Section. His report mentions the following activities of the Section.

- a successful golf tournament held in May
- the sporting clay event in September has a goal of raising \$1,500
- CEC has a community in mind to assess their water needs
- Nomination committee has put out a slate of candidates
- Awards committee has awardees in mind
- NDEQ/DHHS agreement
- Fall conference November 7-8 (pre-conference November 6)
- Section Retreat Friday August 18 from 9-4 at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE. Topics will include Top Ops rules, Section CD investments, membership communication, and more.

Report is attached.

Director's Report:

Bruce met with the AWWA Board in Philadelphia before ACE last month. They discussed the process for nominating candidates for national leadership positions and whether to choose one candidate or recruit multiple candidates and hold elections, which is the current process.

They also discussed at length the current regulatory and fiscal environment at the national level, where major cuts to regulatory and environmental programs have been proposed and will greatly impact the drinking water community. Everybody should continue to provide education to our congressional delegation when we have the opportunity, especially in the need for: increases in SRF and WIFA funding; inclusion of water projects in any infrastructure funding program; continued funding for state implementation of safe drinking water programs; and continuation of funding of research and development that is supportive of the drinking water industry.

Our donation of steaks was sold at the Water Equation silent auction and our Section will receive part of the proceeds.

AWWA2020 is continuing to move forward to have a common branding, membership approach, and common communications among the Association and Sections.

Report is attached.

Treasurer's Report:

As of June 30 the total of all accounts is \$143,799.99, which includes \$69,475.23 in checking; \$6,479.02 in savings; \$2,715.77 in the pipe workshop account; and \$65,129.97 in CDs. A donation was made to Water for People in the amount of \$4,774.80 which was raised from the golf event and wine event.

Mary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Bruce and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

Report is attached.

Committee Reports:

Archives & History: No report

Audit: The report is finished but just waiting on the fall taxes.

Awards: The committee will have two WISA and one longevity award to give out at the Fall Conference. Please contact the committee if you know of any deserving water personnel for more awards. A suggestion was made to highlight different awards and their criteria as an ongoing piece or filler in the newsletter.

Budget: Copies of the May and June transactions were distributed. See attached.

Community Engineering Corp: Bruce reported that the committee identified and contacted six communities, one of which has responded. They are having on-going discussions with that community.

Report is attached.

Cross Connection: The committee is developing the backflow track and the Ultimate Backflow Challenge at the Fall Conference, as well as helping select a "Cross Connection Control Program of the Year" and a "Cross Connection Specialist of the Year".

Report is attached.

Education: The Area 1 Small systems training had 60 attendees (48 from small systems and 12 from large systems). The training was held using a \$3,000 grant, and the training cost was \$1,280, for a net amount of \$1,720. The committee will explore ways to use and distribute the income.

The committee is working on the pre-conference.

Fall Conference: Agenda is nearing completion and Rick will send out an updated conference agenda very soon.

Fuller Award: No report

Manufacturers/Associates Council: No report

Membership Engagement & Development: Marc met with national committee at ACE, where a new committee chair (Kevin Bergschneider) was elected.

Committee continues to actively recruit members....membership at 354, up 14 from last year.

AWWA's IT team is still working on a program to give credit hours for online training. They may have something to roll out to the Sections around the first of the year.

Marc is chairing the WFP sporting clays event being held September 29 at 1:30 at Oak Creek Sporting Club in Brainard, NE. Informational post cards being sent out, as well as emails to possible donors and participants.

Report is attached.

Nominations: The list of candidates has been developed and announced in Brian's weekly email, and will be published in the newsletter.

Public Information: Planning the children's poster contest and water-tasting contest at Fall Conference. Will meet with committee soon. Cortland's water sample was submitted in the Best of the Best Taste Test at ACE, but did not make it to the finals of the top ten. Thirty five total samples were in the contest.

Publications: Finally have enough content for the Wise Water Words and draft will be ready soon. Another issue will be published before the conference. Continue to send content at any time.

Report is attached.

Research and Student Activities: No report

Safety: No report

Scholarship: No report

Small Systems: Trying to put together a workshop for August. Report is attached.

Water for People: Marc Rosso is busy planning the sporting clays event. The WFP raffle at the Fall Conference is being planned, and hope to have raffle tickets ready to distribute at the September board meeting.

The Section received a nice Thank-You letter from the WFP organization for our Section's contribution of \$4,774.80 this spring.

Report is attached.

Water Utility Council: No report

Young Professionals: The committee is still working on sending out a questionnaire to gauge interest in various events but it hasn't been easy to get a list of just young professionals.

Finance Ad Hoc Committee: The committee emailed information, to the Board and committee chairs, from Mutual of Omaha regarding the investment plan. We will discuss the plan at the retreat and Scott Fuhrman of Mutual of Omaha may be there. Try to review the investment plan information prior to the retreat.

Total Water Solutions Ad Hoc Committee: No report

Unfinished Business:

Fall Conference: Rick discussed earlier and most or all of the open slots have been filled.

Section Retreat: The Section Retreat will be Friday August 18 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the St. Benedict Center, 1126 Road I Anx, Schuyler, NE. There is Wi-Fi at the center.

Topics will include: Top Ops rules, Section CD investments, membership communication, and more.

It was also suggested to make sure the SOPs and Bylaws are up to date, to review our mission statement, to monitor the DHHS happenings, and to discuss initiatives we might take to recruit more water operators or at least increase the pool of operators. Marc also mentioned using tools like Microsoft OneDrive or Google Drive for our committees to store and share information, and this can be discussed at the retreat. Let Milo or Chad know if you have more suggestions for topics to discuss.

Attendance by all board members and committee chairs is strongly encouraged. More information will follow. Please RSVP to Milo if you will be attending the retreat.

Map to St. Benedict Center: <https://binged.it/2veHuZG>

Finance Ad Hoc: See above in committee reports.

Top Ops: Ongoing discussions and will discuss at the retreat.

Online training for AWWA members: This item was discussed in the Membership Engagement & Development committee report. Mike Wentink will have to evaluate earning CEUs for these trainings.

New Business: None

Adjournment: At 10:52 Marc made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Milo, with all in attendance voting aye, motion carried.

Next Meeting:

Date: September 29, 2017 9:30 AM – prior to the sporting clay event

Location: Oak Creek Sporting Club, 2890 W Rd, Brainard, NE

Map to Oak Creek Sporting Club: <https://goo.gl/maps/WYNEKRiBboq>

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Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Poe, Nebraska Section AWWA Secretary