

Draft - NS-AWWA Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: **November 8, 2018**

Location: Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

Eric Melcher called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM

ROLL CALL:

Board members present:

Board Chairman: Eric Melcher

Chair Elect: Milo Rust

Vice Chair: Brittany Travers

Treasurer: John Keith

Secretary: Mary Poe

Director: Bruce Dvorak

Past Chair: Chad Roberts

Trustee: Marc Rosso

Trustee: Craig Reinsch

Trustee: absent

Trustee: absent

Board members absent: Gary Thurlow, Jack Satur

Committee Chairs present: Tony Bilek, Adam Darbro, Brian Gongol, Dale Jacobsen, Teresa Konda,

Others present: Roger Coffey, Ben Day, Ryan Hurst, Mike Koenig, Debra Leigh, Kimberly Neiman, Kevin Tobin, Mike Wentink, Doug Woodbeck, David Rager (AWWA), Maggie Vaulman (AWWA)

Approval of November 2017 Annual Business meeting minutes:

Doug made a motion to approve the November 2017 Annual Business meeting minutes, Bruce seconded and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

Chairman's Report:

Eric thanked everyone for their support this year and for stepping up to help when needed. The year went well and he was honored to serve as the Chair.

Director's Report:

Bruce gave the following highlights of the Association:

- Membership continues to grow and is over 52,000
- The Veteran's Workforce Initiative has begun training volunteers, which includes four from Nebraska. Flyers are available, detailing how veterans can obtain networking assistance for finding jobs in the water industry.
- AWWAIndia will focus on using AWWA materials and expertise for training, rather than trying to build an organization like AWWA.
- Over 11,500 attendees at ACE18 and 130 professional sessions
- Peer-reviewed articles will be published through a new journal called "AWWA Water Science"
- Change in the selection and election of officers at the Association level, with nominating committee recruiting qualified candidates and the Board voting.
- Water Operator Certification Exam prep Handbook and App released April 2018
- A new RMSO rotation schedule was presented

Report is attached.

Treasurer's Report:

John has been in communication with Scott Fuhrman regarding our investment. Scott stated that "October was a really weird month. You had rising rates and a sharp sell-off in equities. The dollar spiked too even though international markets outperformed domestic equities, which is weird. There wasn't an asset class during the month that was positive (except for cash). Our small equity position held up much better than the broad market though, which is by design. I'm still confident in this portfolio doing better than the banks over the longer run (3 years or more). Hard to evaluate in such a short time period. If we feel that we do need to make any changes, we will definitely apprise the board, but the last thing we should do is be reactionary to a short term phenomenon. Remember, the interest and dividends paid is not reflected in the returns of the individual positions."

The total of the checking, savings, and pipe workshop is \$65,307.29. The Stifel investment sits at \$77,618.52.

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

See attached checkbook ledger activity and approved 2018 budget for reference.

Committee Reports:

Archives & History: Tony plans to get together with Rob Pierce to discuss the committee's plans.

Audit: Next audit will be January 2019.

Awards: Several awards will be announced at the banquet, including two WISA, two Backflow awards, one Volunteer of the year, and one Gold Water Drop award.

Report is attached.

Budget: No additional discussion.

Cross Connection: The committee conducted four one-day workshops this year in conjunction with LoNM. Also developed topics for the Fall Conference backflow track. This conference will hold the last Ultimate Backflow Challenge.

Report is attached.

Education: Twenty-two workshops this year with 341 participants, which is down a little from previous years - the move to email only notifications could be the reason. Conducted Small Systems Workshop in May and had 73 participants. At workshop had hands-on training

with chlorine analyzer and handed out 50 small systems field guides, 30 of which the Section purchased. The next two-year grant is geared toward operations/maintenance and we may conduct two events in 2019/2020.

John would like a new Education Chair to replace him.

Report is attached.

Fall Conference: No big issues encountered so far at conference, other than a non-working projector, but there was an extra one available.

Fuller Award: There will be an award tonight at the banquet.

Manufacturers/Associates Council: There are 55 single vendor spaces and seven double spaces filled, and one break sponsor. Tony has been the Chair of the committee since 1994 and will be stepping down.

Membership Engagement & Development: The committee had an active year and engaged several potential new members throughout the year, and sent welcome packets to new members and late notices to those who were past due. Membership is at 353, down just one from last year at this time. An AWWA non-member contact is planned in the spring, as well as a student membership drive in the fall.

Report is attached.

Nominations: The list of nominations for the 2019 Board was presented. Nominations from the floor were asked for, the required three times, but none were made. The following recommendations for open offices were made by the committee:

Chair-Elect: Brittany Travers

Vice-Chair: Mary Poe

Secretary: Craig Reinsch (2-year term)

Director: Teresa Konda (term begins June 2019)

Trustee: Brian Gongol

Trustee: Ryan Hurst

Trustee: Mike Koenig

Trustee: open - until appointment made at Board meeting

John made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates as presented, the motion was seconded by Doug and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

Public Information: Twelve samples submitted for today's tasting contest. About 70 posters entered in children's poster contest, which are currently on display. Door prizes will be given at water-tasting contest this evening.

Report is attached.

Publications: Membership directory planned to be sent out in 2019 as well as newsletter. Looking at different options for a different format for weekly emails.

Report is attached.

Research and Student Activities: Committee had a busy year where members volunteered at the golf scramble on May 11; NWEA scholarship golf outing on August 20; and World O! Water festival on September 8. The committee has collaborated with NWEA to develop a mentoring program for students – 24 mentors and 20 mentees have been recruited. Hosted a mentoring program kick-off meeting in September where working professionals shared their experience. Xu Li thanked the Board for its continued support of the student section.

Report is attached.

Safety: Eight safety awards will be awarded tonight. Committee continues to provide safety topics for water operator workshops.

Report is attached.

Scholarship: Committee will be adding 2-3 new members. Four Leisen scholarships will be awarded, as well as two OAOS awardees during tonight's banquet. T-shirts will be given to scholarship recipients.

Report is attached.

Small Systems: No report.

Top Ops: There is a sign-up sheet for this afternoon's competition, and will be giving participant door prizes. Next year hope to implement on-line registration.

Total Water Solutions: The first year for the new committee was spent recruiting committee members, four of which are now in place. Could use one or two utility members and would like assistance from the Board with this.

Report is attached.

Water for People: Conducted many successful events this year including Wine 4 Water Wine Tasting, WFP golf outing, Paddle With Purpose Meet and Greet, WFP Clay Shoot, Fall Conference raffle. Approximately \$3,000 was raised at the poker tournament last night. Teresa will be stepping down as co-chair and Ann Williams will be committee chair. The goal is to incorporate an educational and outreach component to the committee in the future.

Report is attached.

Water Utility Council: Jim Shields will be stepping down and Chad Roberts will be the committee chair.

Young Professionals: Joe attended the YP Summit and AWWA Leadership training this year, where many valuable ideas were gained. The spring game tailgate function was a great success, where the excess funds from sponsorship were donated to WFP. Held a YP track at the Great Plains Conference. Other activities for the year included hosting the 8th annual poker tournament at the Fall Conference and co-hosting the Paddle With Purpose event. Also hosted YP session on PE Exam Prep at conference which was well-attended. Plan much of the same next year.

Report is attached.

Community Engineering Corps: The application for a project in Liberty, NE has been approved and a draft report has been prepared, but edits are required. Bruce is recruiting a student team to complete the editing project. The plan is to complete the Liberty project, then make decisions about future projects.

Report is attached.

Finance Ad Hoc Committee: The committee was formed to look at options for investing money previously held in CDs and to use the additional money earned for future Board and member activities. Seven CD accounts containing approximately \$65,000 were closed and a total of \$80,000 was moved into an investment account with STIFEL (the extra funds came from the general Section account). Treasurer John Keith will track the investment accounts and report on gains/losses. Brittany and John are signers on the account and all decisions regarding changes will need board approval. The Ad hoc committee is no longer needed and was voted to be dissolved at the last board meeting. Thanks to Brittany for spearheading this effort.

Report is attached.

New Business:

NE WARN Update: They met earlier today. Ken Swanson is leaving the committee and Ryan Hurst and Alan Slater are joining, but could still use a few more members.

Miscellaneous Items: Roger Coffey is a member of the AWWA Standards Committee and encouraged YPs and others to get involved in this committee. It is a great way to get involved and is not too much of a time commitment.

David Rager, AWWA President, said it was great to visit our section again and praised all that we do, especially since Nebraska is the only all-volunteer Section.

Thanks to David and Maggie Vaulman for visiting our conference.

Adjournment: At approximately 2:45 Bruce made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John, with all in attendance voting aye, motion carried.

Next Meeting:

Date: November 2019 - Fall Conference

Location: Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

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Respectfully submitted by: Mary Poe, Nebraska Section AWWA Secretary