

OFFICERS

Chair
Marc Rosso • 531-207-3244

Chair-Elect
John Keith • 402-441-1622

Vice-Chair
Ryan Hurst • 402-443-3222

Secretary
Brian Gongol • 515-223-4144

Treasurer
Mike Koenig • 402-504-7487

Director
Ben Day • 402-570-6843

Past Chair
Craig Reinsch • 402-458-5671

Trustees
Chris Miller • 308-234-6456
Angel Lowery • 402-970-2338
Adam Darbro • 402-694-6992
Tom Menke • 308-432-0522

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Archives & History
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American Water Works Association
Nebraska Section

PO Box 83743
Lincoln, NE 68501-3743
awwaneb.org

Board Meeting Minutes

Date

March 14, 2023

Time

10:00 am CT

Location

Miller & Associates
1111 Central Avenue
Kearney, Nebraska

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Marc Rosso at 10:05 am.

Roll call

Rosso	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Keith	in person	
Hurst	in person	
Gongol	remote	
Koenig	in person	
Day	remote	
Reinsch	in person	
Miller	in person	
Lowery	in person	
Darbro	remote	
Menke	in person	

Others in attendance:

Rob Pierce (remote)
Maggie Vaulman (remote)

Approval of agenda

Agenda was approved on a motion by Craig Reinsch, seconded by Chris Miller. Approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of minutes

Minutes of the January 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by John Keith, seconded by Tom Menke. Approved by voice vote.

Chair's report

Marc Rosso referred the board to his written report.

Director's report

Ben Day referred the board to his written report.

Treasurer's report

Mike Koenig discussed his treasurer's report. Upon the advice of Stifel, certain funds will be rolled over from a maturing Treasury bill into a new T-bill of like kind.

Adam Darbro left the meeting at 10:15 am.

The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by John Keith, seconded by Ben Day. Approval was received by voice vote.

Committee reports

Reports from committee chairs:

Archives: Rob Pierce asked the board for guidance regarding the distribution of the remaining Section anniversary books. Many of the books belong to members in the Omaha area. Mike Koenig advised that he could help to facilitate the distribution of those books through MUD, if someone can make delivery of those books to Omaha. Angel Lowery agreed that she could also help distribute those books in the area. John Keith asked if a deadline could be placed on that free distribution so that people can either obtain the books in a timely manner or we can write those off the list. Rob Pierce indicated that about five books are still to be distributed out-of-state.

Pierce indicated that the archives committee also is willing to review the historical records of award-winners on the website so that they can be updated.

Tom Menke asked if there were any plans for the remaining books. Brian Gongol indicated that the advertisers should be included in the distribution as a means of rewarding them for their support. Mike Koenig said he would send a copy of the advertisers list to Rob Pierce so that those could be distributed to those who want it. Craig Reinsch asked how many were still left over; Pierce said there were still 5 or 6 boxes remaining to distribute (at probably ten books per box). Reinsch said they were most valuable in the hands of people, not sitting in boxes. Pierce indicated that he thought a month for pickup should be adequate.

Audit: John Keith advised that he is wrapping up the audit agreement with the accountants, "slowly but surely".

Awards: Rob Pierce asked whether the safety committee had been merged into awards; Marc Rosso advised that it had. Pierce advised that the SOP is in need of updates. Angel Lowery asked whether the committee lists on the website had been updated. Pierce advised that he would submit some awards information to the publications committee for posting.

Budget: Mike Koenig said he would share the draft budget with the board for review and preliminary approval via email before final approval in May. Chris Miller asked if there were any significant items worthy of note. Mike Koenig indicated that several items are highlighted from John Keith's advice, but that he had not flagged many specific items. Maggie Vulman asked if anyone was intending to attend the YP summit; Mike Koenig indicated that he believed an operator was planning to attend. Craig Reinsch moved for approval of the travel budget items that apply prior to the anticipated approval of the full budget in May. John Keith seconded the motion, which was approved via voice vote.

Cross Connections: No report.

Education: John Keith advised that weather had postponed some events, but more than 100 attendees have been reached so far this year. Keith asked Maggie Vulman if the education awards application deadline had closed; Vulman indicated that she would still accept an application through the end of this week.

Fall Conference: John Keith advised that there would be a large meeting at the Great Plains Conference to act as a kickoff. He will work closely with Brittany Travers (in her capacity on behalf of NWEA) to prepare the meeting. We will also be responsible for the pre-conference.

Fuller Award: No report. Rob Pierce reported as a committee member that the membership and chair-holding are both in some confusion.

MAC: No report.

Membership: Marc Rosso briefly reviewed the written report.

Nominations: Craig Reinsch reviewed his submitted report, indicating that corrections needed to be made to the duration of the trustees' terms as shown in his report. Reinsch referred to past conversations about trying to recruit more activity from employees at HDR and JEO, and noted that it has been hard to identify active committee members from JEO, aside from Chuck Seuferer. Efforts are being made to look for people to represent the regulatory sector.

One Water: Ben Day advised that he had reached out to Dale Jacobson with interest from a YP who had expressed interest in helping with the committee.

Philanthropy: No report.

Public Information: Marc Rosso briefly reviewed the written report.

Publications: Brian Gongol briefly reviewed the written report and indicated that there are changes taking place at some of our counterpart organizations like NWEA and the Iowa Section AWWA, to increase their digital presence and distribution of information.

Scholarship: Angel Lowery advised that the committee has no updates to report.

Small Systems: No report.

Top Ops: No report.

Water Utility Council: No report.

Young Professionals: Marc Rosso briefly reviewed the written report.

Membership report

Marc Rosso briefly reviewed the status of membership renewals and recruitment.

Old business

1. SOP update:

Angel Lowery said that she intended to reach out to all of the committee chairs to ask for updates to their SOPs. Craig Reinsch asked whether the intent was to have draft revisions submitted by May, reviewed by the board from May through August, and then tentatively approved in August for final approval at the Fall Conference. Marc Rosso confirmed that

schedule.

2. Bylaws:

Maggie Vaulman reported that two incomplete ballots were received, two abstentions were received, and the remaining 39 ballots received were unanimously in favor. The secretary now needs to notify the AWWA board that the changes have been approved by the section and the executive board needs to review the changes at their meeting at ACE.

3. Water 2050 Nebraska:

Ben Day reiterated that only five responses had been submitted thus far. He will send further reminders to try to obtain more responses prior to ACE.

4. Retreat:

Ryan Hurst reported that he is trying to get an event scheduled for a site in Wahoo. July 18th is the date currently shown on the calendar. Hurst will check with the site for availability during that meeting window. Marc Rosso indicated that topics should be generated at the May meeting. Craig Reinsch advised that the committee chairs should be specifically invited to the retreat in order to generate more activity from them. Hurst noted that his preferred site would not be particularly accessible for a virtual option.

5. Training certificates:

No further discussion is required.

6. Committee liaison updates:

Marc Rosso asked the secretary to generate a new list of committee/board liaisons.

7. Committee engagement suggestions:

John Keith advised that committee chairs should be specifically invited by the chair to participate in the May meeting to generate ideas for the retreat in particular.

8. RMSO:

Craig Reinsch asked if a discussion on the RMSO could be inserted under "old business". The change was approved without objection. Reinsch indicated that he was not personally going to be able to attend the RMSO, but that those attending should consider bringing some "leave-behind" items to the event, perhaps to include the anniversary shot glasses and the section history book. John Keith noted that there

were some other assorted items in scattered locations that could also be shared. Ryan Hurst reported that he believed everything he previously had were no longer around. Discussion followed regarding those who might be attending on behalf of the section. Tom Menke noted that he lives only about an hour away, but that he wasn't aware of the value in attending. Craig Reinsch and John Keith reviewed some of their prior experiences with the event, noting that Nebraska is particularly well-known for our expertise in SOPs. Angel Lowery noted that she would be interested in attending.

New business

1. Nominations committee approvals:

Craig Reinsch indicated that he will have the information ready in May.

2. Fall Conference planning update:

The item was previously discussed.

3. Membership growth:

The item was previously discussed.

4. Strategic Plan elements:

Marc Rosso noted that he was hoping to get each committee to focus on really good execution of one area of the strategic plan. Craig Reinsch commented that the section is missing the "middle" membership (meaning members from the central portion of the state, particularly from among operators).

Marc Rosso noted that of the three operators engaged in leadership (either at the committee or board level), all five (John Keith, Tom Menke, Chad Roberts, Ryan Hurst, and Adam Darbro) are in upper management. Chris Miller commented that he thought it was often difficult for operators to get employer support to participate in the organization, even at the committee level. Ryan Hurst noted that the board needs to sell the proposition of value in operator development to the upper managers at their utilities.

Craig Reinsch suggested making the discussion part of the board retreat. Tom Menke recommended asking Mike Wentink to identify those operators who might be applying for higher grades.

Marc Rosso suggested reaching out to utility members to obtain names of up-and-coming

operators who might be valuable to cultivate as future leaders. Tom Menke suggested reaching out to LONM and MAP as well for suggestions.

5. Process to create YP on BOD:

Craig Reinsch noted that he's added a line to the SOP for the nominations committee to ensure that YP representation is developed.

6. Fuller text:

No discussion.

Maggie Vaulman left the meeting at 11:54.

7. University of Wisconsin InterPro partnership:

Marc Rosso advised that he's looked into their offerings, and that the cost is about double what the Nebraska Section AWWA currently charges for training events, and that there doesn't appear to be much marginal value for the additional cost.

Ryan Hurst left the meeting at 11:58.

Discussion followed without a defined conclusion of interest.

8. Board liaison contact with committee chairs:

Marc Rosso asked if we could expect the board members to reach out to their assigned committee chairs by the next board meeting.

Angel Lowery left the meeting at 12:03.

Announcements

No announcements were made.

Next meetings

A brief discussion of the meeting details for the May meeting was conducted.

May 18 (10:00 am CT)
at Woodland Hills Golf Course in Eagle

July 18 (10:00 am CT)
via videoconference

Adjournment

John Keith moved to adjourn, seconded by Chris Miller. The meeting was adjourned pursuant to a voice vote at 12:06.

Attest

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gongol
Nebraska Section AWWA Secretary

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Nebraska Section

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awwaneb.org

March 14, 2023

Chairs Report

Members of the Board, Committee Chairs and Section Members:

Good morning! I hope everyone is in the process of learning more about why we do what we do. I was excited to learn that a student that the city interviewed, but did not hire, had taken a position with a local construction company after I sent his resume around the industry. Passing along knowledge and growing young professionals are two of my key goals as I near the end of my working career. Why I do what I do.

Spring is almost upon us, and the team is working on a variety of things. Angel Lowery is leading the effort with the Trustees to prepare the SOP updates for initial review. These will be ready for approval at Fall Conference. Nominations will be ready to approve at the May meeting. The Bylaws updates are ready to approve. The Board is discussing how best to have a Young Professional Board member. Whew!

This year is racing by and in April our John Keith will lead the NSAWWA effort to plan Fall Conference. The 2022 Fall Conference netted our Association \$17,369.61 in revenue. The total income for the conference was \$122,364.11 with expenses of \$66,182.81 and profit of \$56,181.30. Four hundred and fifteen people attended the event, which I believe is a record. This was the first year SWANA participated in the event. Their participation was well received and they intend to continue with the event.

Mark your calendar for the 2023 golf event at Woodland Hills on May 18, 2023. The Board meeting will be that morning so plan to stay and golf if you can. Also mark your calendar for September 15, 2023 to attend the Water for People Sporting Clays Shoot at Oak Creek Sporting Club.

Drinking water week is May 7-13, 2023. More information can be found by searching for 'drinking water week' on AWWA's web site (<https://www.awwa.org/>). There are templates for social media, press releases, proclamations, radio spots and children's activities. The Board would encourage the members to utilize this information to promote DWW in your community. Mary Poe is coordinating the Governors Proclamation and will have a date soon. We encourage as many members as possible to attend this event.

That is it for now. See you in May at Woodland Hills!

Respectfully submitted,

Marc E. Rosso, PE

Chair of the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association.



American Water Works Association Nebraska Section

March 14, 2023

RE: Directors Report

Dear NE Section Board Members,

I will report that the Section Water 2050 input form has been sent out to the Board as well as the Section membership. As of March 2, 2023 we only have five responses. If you have not responded, please do so, I plan on submitting the results to AWWA within the next 30 days.

<https://forms.gle/5Hf5Pxt5AbQjV93z6>

Also, I have been collecting mail from the Section's P.O. Box and have been scanning in all received ballots related to the by laws changes. These have been sent to Maggie Vulman at the Association.

In addition, related to my action items from the last meeting, I submitted a report to AWWA regarding the status of DEI within the Nebraska Section. I posted it on the one drive. The Nominations and Membership committees will utilize certain matrix in recruiting and determining how to create a more diverse membership and Board.

Other updates are as follows:

Awards

Submit your Section Education Award Nomination Form

AWWA annually recognize Sections for the best education efforts conducted in 2022! The Section Education Award recognizes Section education programs exemplary of initiatives that educate water industry personnel, the public, students or other groups about water. All Sections are encouraged to submit.

[Click here to access and download the submission form.](#)

Upcoming Events

Effective Utility Management Seminar – May 2-3, 2023 in Denver, Colorado

"Don't miss this opportunity to take a deep dive into the Effective Utility Management (EUM) framework. This seminar is vitally important for utility managers who want to make meaningful changes in everyday utility operations, to promote long-term sustainability and success."

DC Fly in - March 22 & 23rd



American Water Works Association **Nebraska** Section

DEI

I submitted a report to AWWA regarding the status of DEI within the Nebraska Section. I posted it on the one drive. The Nominations and Membership committees.

Water Utility Insider

If you haven't seen the February 17th issue yet, there are some very important items to catch up on:

February 17, 2023

In This Issue:

- [EPA announces PFAS, other funding news](#)
- [Comments sought on U.S. BABA revisions](#)
- [SAB kicks off Cr\(VI\) health assessment review](#)
- [Health Canada opens PFAS discussions](#)
- [EPA to host webinar on financial guidance](#)
- [IAPMO and AWWA jointly publish new manual](#)

I look forward seeing everyone at the May Board meeting.

Respectively submitted:

Ben Day

AWWA Director – Nebraska Section

To: NSAWWA Board
From: John Keith, Chair
Education Committee
Date: March 14, 2023

Education Committee Report

Committee Members

John Keith, Chair
Brian Gongol Mike Wentink
Rob Pierce

Happenings

1. Rob indicates there were **111** attendees at **7** events so far in 2023. Due to weather training events were postponed in Blair (March 27) and Columbus (March 30).
2. An AWWA/EPA Small System Grant (Round 8) workshop is tentatively planned in November 2023 as part of the pre-conference at Joint Fall Conference in Kearney. The in-person event will be completed with assistance from Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) staff. The Grant/Training Agreement was approved by Board members via email January 16, 2023. **This is a \$4,200 Grant.**

To: NSAWWA Board
From: John Keith, Chair
Fall Conference Committee
Date: March 14, 2023

Fall Conference Committee Report

Committee Members

John Keith, Chair
Brian Gongol Mike Wentink
Rob Pierce

Happenings

1. Fall Conference Kickoff Meeting will be Thursday April 13, 1:30 pm at the Great Plains Conference.

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March 9, 2023

Board of Directors Memorandum

March 14, 2023 Board Meeting

We currently have 305 active members, with 10 late members. Since the last Board meeting in November we are up three member from 302. For comparison, in January 2022 we had 309 active members with 29 late. In a large part, we anticipate a significant number of late members rejoining as they include several member renewals that are sent to municipal finance departments to process and it takes 30 days to process. This year we have seen a decrease in memberships and reluctance from people to renew. This is partly due to former members taking other positions in different fields of work and other individuals retiring. Hopefully with a little reminder they will remember to renew. We have been reaching out with current members who have connections with late/dropped members.

I came on as Membership Committee Chair in November of 2022, and my goal this year is to increase membership along with learning more about AWWA. We can report “more of the same” for 2023. I have a focus on water systems maintaining their memberships. Recently it seems there has been a trend of those entities being late or dropping memberships. We continue to monitor late members and notify them of lapsed memberships, on a monthly basis.

As of this committee report being sent out, I have not heard of the date for the AWWA Membership Summit. Last year I attended it virtually. In that summit, there was a lot of useful information. Depending on when it is, I hope to attend it again.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Seuferer

Nebraska Section AWWA Membership Committee Chair



Nebraska AWWA Nominations Report

March 14, 2023

Nominations committee members: Ben Day, Tom Menke, Craig Reinsch, and others as desired.

The positions up for nomination for the upcoming November 2023 to November 2024 term include:

- Chair-Elect
- Vice-Chair
- Treasurer
- Trustee
- Trustee

2023/2024 Officers not requiring a nomination include:

- Chair - John Keith (Large Utility) - through November 2024
- Secretary - Brian Gongol (Manufacturer's Rep.) - through November 2024
- Director - Ben Day (Engineer) - term continues through June 2025
- Past-Chair - Marc Rosso (Large Utility) - automatic term through November 2024
- Trustee - Chris Miller (Engineer) - second term - through November 2025
- Trustee - Tom Menke (Small Utility) - through November 2025

As stated in the current bylaws: "The Committee's nominations shall be in the hands of the Secretary not later than July 31. Upon receipt of the nominations, the Secretary shall, within 20 days, mail to each member, a notice setting forth the nominations of the nominating committee and stating the date, time, and place of the next business meeting, at which the elections will be held."

The nominations committee will meet and have a recommended slate of candidates for the May 2023 board meeting for consideration.

The elections will occur on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at the regularly scheduled board meeting to be held at the Fall Conference.

Submitted by: Craig Reinsch
Past Chair and Nominations Committee Chair

Public Information Committee Report

March 10, 2023

Committee Members: Mary Poe, Brian Gongol, Chuck Seuferer

Activities:

- Facebook page has 479 followers

Upcoming Events & Activities:

- Drinking Water Week - May 7-13
 - Governor's Proclamation – Requested for Monday May 1 @ 9:00 AM. Haven't heard back, but they usually don't confirm until the month before.
 - Will let the Board know and will send invites once it is confirmed
 - The Section Chair gives a 2-minute speech

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

March 14, 2023

Brian Gongol, chair - brian@gongol.net

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Current members:

- Brian Gongol, Laura Hardesty, Darren Jack, Teresa Konda, Mary Poe, Mike Wentink

Changes since last report:

- None

KEY UPDATES

- **Task delegation:** The chair is delinquent in delegating tasks to the other committee members

WEBSITE

Updates have been made to the website as requested by the board and committees.

Month	Updates	Year ago	Trend
April 2022	2	12	↘
May 2022	9	7	↗
June 2022	2	10	↘
July 2022	6	9	↘
August 2022	10	7	↗
September 2022 (to date)	15	12	↗
October 2022	13	11	↗
November 2022	0	6	↘
December 2022	4	1	↗
January 2023	6	5	↗
February 2023	5	7	↘
March 2023 (to date)	2	5	

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

WWW Weekly emails are going out regularly.

Recent editions	Open rate ¹	Click rate ²
December 2	33.1%	2.2%
January 6	32.9%	1.4%
January 27	34.0%	4.3%
February 10	33.0%	3.6%
March 3	25.1%	1.2%

WISE WATER WORDS

Please don't hesitate to send content at any time, since we always publish to the website first.

Edition	Articles due	Target publication
Spring edition	March 15	April 1
Summer edition	June 15	July 1
Fall edition	September 15	October 1
Winter edition	December 15	January 1

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow the Facebook page and Twitter account, and don't hesitate to "like" and share content as much as you feel comfortable.

MULTIMEDIA

Nothing new to report.

DATA DASHBOARD

Medium	Members/Fans	January report	Change
Facebook likes	440	430	+10
Facebook follows	480	476	+4
E-mail distro list	415	417	-2
LinkedIn	14	14	n/c
Twitter	143	140	+3
YouTube subscribers	131	130	+1
YouTube views	173,137	172,219	+918

1 Of the emails sent, how many were opened by subscribers

2 Of the emails sent, how many registered at least one click



Nebraska
Water
Environment
Association



American Water Works Association
Nebraska Section

2023 NWEA/NSAWWA YP Committee Report and Schedule

Co-Chairs: Abhijeet Saraf

March

- AWWA YP Summit - Sarah Nguyen (Committee Chair), Abhijeet Saraf (Committee Co-Chair), Abigail Kigin (Mentorship Chair) and Cody Weddon (MUD Plant Operator) to attend the AWWA YP Summit hosted at Sacramento, CA from March 26th – 27th.

April

- Great Plains Waste Management Conference – Committee to organize the YP bags tournament in the conference.
- Committee to organize a tailgate event for YPs at an outdoor UNO Volleyball game. Date TBD.

May/June/July

- Committee to organize a YP webinar event with virtual speaker in near future. Details TBD.
- Committee to organize plant tours for the YP mentors and UNL/UNO student mentees in summer/fall semester. Date TBD.