

## 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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## STANDING COMMITTEES

**Archives & History**  
Rob Pierce • 402-432-9172

**Audit**  
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Mike Koenig • 402-504-7487

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Lee Dunn • 531-200-5983

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Chuck Seufferer • 402-443-7440

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Dale Jacobson • 402-203-4921

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Chad Roberts • 402-844-2210

**YP & Student Activities**  
Hayden Delay • 402-926-7075  
Abhijeet Saraf • 402-392-6986

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## AD-HOC COMMITTEES

**Community Engineering Corps**  
Dr. Bruce Dvorak • 402-326-8391



American Water Works Association  
**Nebraska** Section

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

## Board Meeting Agenda (v.6)

### Date

May 18, 2023

### Time

10:00 am CT

### Location

Woodland Hills Golf Course  
6000 Woodland Hills Drive, Eagle

### Streaming link

### Roll call

#### Present

#### Absent

Rosso  
Keith  
Hurst  
Gongol  
Koenig  
Day  
Reinsch  
Miller  
Lowery  
Darbro  
Menke

absent

### Approval of agenda

### Approval of minutes

Approval of the March 2023 meeting minutes

### Chair's report

Attached

### Director's report

Attached

### Treasurer's report

None submitted

### Committee reports

Reports from committee chairs:

Archives	Attached
Audit	
Awards	Attached
Budget	
Cross connection	
Education	
Fall Conference	

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Fuller	
MAC	
Membership	Attached
Nominations	
One Water	
Philanthropy	
Public info	Attached
Publications	
Scholarship	
Small systems	Attached
Top Ops	
WUC	
YP	
CEC	

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### Membership report

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Review late and dropped members

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### Old business

#### 1. SOP update:

SOP documents should be updated by committee chairs and officers for review and approval at the board meeting at the Fall Conference

#### 2. Bylaws:

Bylaw updates should be completed for review and approval at the board meeting at the Fall Conference

#### 3. Water 2050 Nebraska

Survey status

#### 4. Retreat:

The Vice Chair is to organize the retreat date and location

#### 5. Committee liaison updates

#### 6. Fall Conference planning update

#### 7. Strategic Plan elements

#### 8. University of Wisconsin InterPro partnership

#### 9. Board liaison contact with committee chairs

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### New business

**1. Safety awards:** (Marc Rosso) Should we substitute a framed picture for the plaques traditionally given as safety awards and give the balance to one of our philanthropic goals?

**2. Small systems committee chair:** (Marc Rosso)  
Adam Darbro plans to step down as committee chair

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and we need to find a replacement

**3. Community Engineering Corps:** (Marc Rosso) The Community Engineering Corps committee is to be sunsetted

**4. Memorial tribute for Rich Koenig:** (Marc Rosso)

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## Announcements

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### Upcoming meetings

July 18 (10:00 am CT)  
via videoconference

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## Adjournment

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## Committee briefs:

**Archives** committee has more history books to get to members (books are at MUD office and League office -- three books). - *Rob Pierce*

**Awards** committee hasn't met yet and I need to get a request for award applications out to all members. I am also adding to our newsletter. - *Rob Pierce*

**Public information:** The Governor's Proclamation signing ceremony for DWW happened on May 4. See the website for the proclamation and photo. - *Mary Poe*

**Small systems:** There is no report for small systems but Angel and Marc might have some information to discuss regarding the small systems committee. - *Adam Darbro*

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**Nebraska Section**

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May 18, 2023

Chairs Report

Members of the Board, Committee Chairs and Section Members:

Good morning! It is hard to believe we are just a bit more than five months to Fall Conference. Time flies...

I hope everyone is in the process of learning more about why we do what we do. I attended the recent WEFMAX in Denver, CO and presented in a panel discussion what the NSAWWA and AWWA have done for membership and recruiting materials. We discussed how best to engage existing members and recruit/retain members. For those not aware, WEFMAX is held several times a year and offers member activities and educational opportunities for WEF members. It is much like our RMSO meetings. Speaking of RMSO, thanks to Tom Menke for his attendance at the recent RMSO meeting in Custer, SD.

We are in search of a Small Systems Committee Chair as Adam Darbro is departing that Chair position. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let the Board know and we can contact and encourage someone to take that position. We are also pursuing more operators to engage with the committees. This in an effort to put more operators in Chair and Board positions in the future.

Director Ben Day submitted our 2050-time capsule information to AWWA. We used five of Daryl Kottwitz's Nebraska related water industry photos. They are fantastic! Along with information about the NSAWWA we answered five questions related to what we think will be the most important industry accomplishments and concerns in 2050. Our logo is "No Water, No Beef".

I attended the spring game joint YP event at Rosie's which had ten people there. The Huskers won! It was good to meet new YP's and visit about their start in their careers with NSAWWA and NWEA. The recent Lincoln Wastewater Theresa Street joint YP tour and happy hour had several YP's attend and four went to happy hour so we can declare victory in YP events so far for the year. It is good to see the YP's engage in Association activities and start to understand our mission. Why I do what I do.

Drinking water week was last week. Thanks to the group led by Chair Elect, John Keith who represented the Section at the Governor's Proclamation.

Have a fun afternoon today at the Water for People Golf Outing. Also mark your calendar for September 15, 2023, to attend the Water for People Sporting Clays Shoot at Oak Creek Sporting Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc E. Rosso, PE  
Chair of the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association



## American Water Works Association Nebraska Section

May 18, 2023

RE: Directors Report

Dear NE Section Board Members,

I will report that the Section Water 2050 comments have been submitted to AWWA so they can utilize Section comments and summarize them for ACE 23.

Marc Rosso and I prepared text and photos from the Nebraska Section for the 2050 time capsule ahead of ACE 23. AWWA will be creating a logo for the Section which will include “No Water No Beef”. Darrel Kottwitz was kind enough to offer some of his photos to represent the Nebraska Section, refer to the five selected photos included in this report.







American Water Works Association  
**Nebraska** Section





American Water Works Association  
**Nebraska** Section







## American Water Works Association Nebraska Section

### WCAG 2.0 – Section 508

I sat in on an update on AWWA's efforts to modify its brand color palette to conform with Section 508 for accessibility related to the website. They will be modifying colors and their website as required.

#### The Situation

The ADA prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including employment, transportation, and public accommodations. This includes websites, which are considered public accommodations under the ADA.

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines are part of a series of web accessibility guidelines published by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium, the main international standards organization for the Internet.

The AWWA color palette in 2022 was mostly comprised of colors that were chosen prior to accessibility being a factor. As a result, the colors did not meet minimum accessibility requirements.

#### Color Accessibility Requirements

Color ratios are based on the perceived darkness differences between the 2 colors.

Contrast values are represented by ratios, with White = 1 and Black = 21.

This means that black text on a white background returns a contrast value of 21:1.

If text and background colors are swapped, the contrast ratio remains the same.

WCAG 2.0 level AA requires a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1 for normal text and 3:1 for large text.

Large text is defined as 14 point (typically 18.66px) and bold or larger, or 18 point (typically 24px) or larger.

Contrast is measured against the immediate background.

For reference, on a white background:

Pure RGB Red (#FF0000) has a ratio of 4:1.

**I am red text.**

Pure RGB Green (#00FF00) has a very low ratio of 1.4:1.

**I am green text.**

Pure RGB Blue (#0000FF) has a contrast ratio of 8.6:1.

**I am blue text.**

I asked if the Section would be required to do the same and they don't know yet but there is a possibility that they recommend Sections follow Section 508. I'll keep in front of this and if we do have to make modifications, the thought is that we'll have plenty of time to do so.

### Proposed PFAS Rule Pop Up

There was a meeting last week regarding the EPA's PFAS rule. AWWA is submitting concerns with the rule and requested an extension for the public comment period. The extension was denied. AWWA will continue to lobby the rule towards more common sense regulations.



American Water Works Association  
**Nebraska** Section

**ACE 23**

ACE 23 is right around the corner, I hope to see some folks from Nebraska in Toronto in June.

Respectively submitted:

Ben Day

AWWA Director – Nebraska Section

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May 16, 2023

Board of Directors Memorandum

May 18, 2023 Board Meeting

We currently have 307 active members, with 10 late members. Since the last Board meeting in March we are up two member from 305. 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

May 12, 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 (or 2025) terms include:

- Chair-Elect - Ryan Hurst (Small Utility) – through November 2024
- Vice-Chair - Mike Koenig (Large Utility) – through November 2024
- Treasurer – Angel Lowery (Engineer) – 2-year term continues through November 2025
- Trustee – Jessica Johnson (Regulator) – 2-year term continues through November 2025
- Trustee – Joe Roberts (Engineer) – 2-year term continues through November 2025

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 2024
- Trustee - Tom Menke (Small Utility) - through November 2024

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.”

Pending board comments, this slate will be published for consideration before the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline as stated in the current bylaws.

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



## **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

May 18, 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**

- **Color palette:** The chair viewed the AWWA webconference regarding an updated color scheme for AWWA materials. Good news! Other than having to wait for them to send us a revised Nebraska Section logo, the entire process of updating our website will require changing only a single file (called the CSS stylesheet). That single file controls the "look" of every page added to the website since January 2011. Our website may not be flashy, but it is extremely functional in that way (your humble Chair is borderline obsessive about the W3C standards that underlie the move to a new color scheme).
- Updates to other files (e.g., the Nebraska Section letterhead) and collateral will take very little additional time.
- **Task delegation:** The chair remains 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
June 2022	2	10	↘
July 2022	6	9	↘
August 2022	10	7	↗
September 2022	15	12	↗
October 2022	13	11	↗
November 2022	0	6	↘
December 2022	4	1	↗
January 2023	6	5	↗
February 2023	5	7	↘
March 2023	3	5	↘
April 2023	4	2	↗
May 2023 (to date)	8	9	

## E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

WWW Weekly emails are going out regularly.

Recent editions	Open rate <sup>1</sup>	Click rate <sup>2</sup>
March 13	29.4%	4.4%
April 10	27.1%	2.9%
April 24	26.5%	2.7%
May 5	32.4%	2.4%
May 15	25.8%	3.2%

## 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	March report	Change
Facebook likes	445	440	+5
Facebook follows	486	480	+6
E-mail distro list	411	415	-4
LinkedIn	14	14	no change
Twitter	145	143	+2
YouTube subscribers	129	131	-2
YouTube views	174,307	173,137	+1,170

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

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