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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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Awards Rob Pierce • 402-432-9172

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Education John Keith • 402-441-1622

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Board Meeting Minutes

Date	May 18, 2023	3	
Time	10:00 am CT		
Location	Woodland Hills Golf Course 6000 Woodland Hills Drive, Eagle		
Call to order	Marc Rosso called the meeting to order at 10:13 am.		
Roll call	Rosso Keith Hurst Gongol Koenig Day Reinsch Miller Lowery Darbro Menke Others prese • Magg	Present Present Present Present ¹ Virtual Present Virtual Present Virtual ² ent: ie Vaulman, AWW	<u>Absent</u> Absent Absent
Approval of agenda	Craig Reinsch moved to add, John Keith seconded, to add reports from the RMSO and the Arizona AWWA conference to the agenda. Motion approved by unanimous consent.		
Approval of minutes	Mike Koenig moved to approve the March minutes, seconded by Ben Day. Motion approved by voice vote.		
Chair's report	Marc Rosso summarized his written chair's report. Ryan Hurst arrived at 10:24 am.		
Director's report	Ben Day summarized his written director's report. Day		

1 Arrived at 10:24 am

2 Arrived at 10:36 am

	reported that the PO Box contained approval for an extension on our tax filings. Day also noted that AWWA conducted a recent virtual meeting on PFAS regulations. Ben Day left the meeting at 10:29 am.
Treasurer's report	Mike Koenig advised that he didn't have written reports to submit, but that those would follow later. A large deposit arrived in March, but there was little activity in April. Koenig confirmed Ben Day's report that the
	John Keith moved to approve the report, seconded by Ryan Hurst. Motion approved by voice vote.
	Tom Menke joined the meeting at 10:36 am.
Committee reports	Reports from committee chairs:
	Archives committee has more history books to get to members (books are at MUD office and League office three books) <i>Rob Pierce (in writing)</i>
	Audit : John Keith advised that further documentation was due.
	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 <i>Rob Pierce (in writing)</i>
	Budget: No report.
	Cross connection: No report.
	Education: No report.
	Fall Conference : John Keith reported that the call for papers has been issued. He met with Brittany Travers at the Great Plains Conference to conduct some early planning. AWWA vice-president Christine Spitzley will be our visiting dignitary.
	Fuller Award: No report.
	MAC: No report.
	Membership: Full written report submitted.

	Nominations : Full written report submitted. Ryan Hurst moved to approve the report, seconded by John Keith. Motion approved by voice vote.
	Public information : The Governor's Proclamation signing ceremony for DWW happened on May 4. See the website for the proclamation and photo <i>Mary Poe (in writing)</i>
	Publications: Full written report submitted.
	Scholarship : Angel Lowery reported that she has received notice of interest from a new prospective member of the committee.
	Small systems: There is no report for small systems but Angel and Marc might have some information to discuss regarding the small systems committee <i>Adam Darbro (in writing)</i>
	Top Ops: No report.
	Water Utility Council: No report.
	Young Professionals: No report.
Membership report	Young Professionals: No report. Review late and dropped members
Membership report Old business	•
	Review late and dropped members 1. SOP update: Angel Lowery reported that she has been in contact with committee chairs regarding SOP updates. She

had submitted survey results.

4. Retreat:

Ryan Hurst asked his predecessors about the timing of previous retreats. The meeting will take place in the morning, and he will have lunch catered in. Hurst solicited ideas for subject matter to include in the retreat agenda.

5. Committee liaison updates:

Marc Rosso asked Brian Gongol to update the liaison listing via either spreadsheet or website and to share with the committee chairs and board members.

6. Fall Conference planning update:

Update occurred during committee reports.

7. Strategic Plan elements:

Marc Rosso advised that the strategic plan should be an aspect of our retreat.

8. University of Wisconsin InterPro partnership:

Marc Rosso recommended no further action be taken on this item.

9. Board liaison contact with committee chairs:

Craig Reinsch noted that the number of missing committee reports indicates that board members may need to increase their attention to liaising with committee chairs. Angel Lowery noted that in her contact with some committee chairs, some noted that spring is a particularly busy season of year and consequently does not suit updates well.

New business

1. Safety awards:

Marc Rosso introduced the question: Should we substitute a framed picture for the plaques traditionally given as safety awards and give the balance to one of our philanthropic goals? Ryan Hurst and Craig Reinsch offered objections based upon the possibilities of leaving people out of the photographs and of breaking long-running traditions of displaying plaques. Tom Menke noted that his system typically displays its award plaques at City Hall first before posting them at the plant. Rosso withdrew the suggestion.

2. Small systems committee chair:

Marc Rosso reported that Adam Darbro plans to step down as committee chair due to time commitments.

Ryan Hurst politely declined to accept the chair. Craig Reinsch recommended soliciting one of the new NDEE field representatives as a chairperson, particularly since that could introduce someone actively engaged in small systems who doesn't have the same kinds of resource limitations experienced by many small-system operators. Rosso agreed to reach out to Andy Kahle at NDEE for recommendations.

3. Community Engineering Corps:

Marc Rosso advised that he spoke with Bruce Dvorak, who confirmed that the committee has been dormant and that he would not object to closing it down. Ryan Hurst moved to sunset the committee, seconded by Craig Reinsch. Motion approved by voice vote.

4. Memorial tribute for Rich Koenig:

Marc Rosso discussed matching previous memorial contributions with one either to a charitable cause designated by Rich Koenig's family or to Water for People. Craig Reinsch moved that such a donation be made, seconded by Mike Koenig. Motion approved by voice vote. Ryan Hurst noted that we ought to recognize Rich's extensive contributions to the Section at the Fall Conference. Reinsch noted that Rich Koenig's absence from the Fall Conference will leave us with a gap in the program typically filled by 5 hours of backflow content delivered by Rich.

5. RMSO reports:

Tom Menke asked Angel Lowery to speak about the RMSO. Lowery said the location was beautiful, with great weather. They discussed ideas regarding recruitment and onboarding with other sections. South Dakota's section publicly recognized Nebraska for the strength of our SOPs. Menke noted that the networking was refreshing, and that the problems recognized by our section are consistent with those experienced by other sections. Lowery noted that the topic of "off-boarding" was raised at the meeting, and that it's not really practiced by any sections and may be a good idea. Craig Reinsch noted that we ought to commit to sending board members to RMSOs as often as possible.

6. Arizona water conference:

Craig Reinsch reported that he attended the AZ Water Conference³ as an extension of his work at Olsson.

	He noted that Arizona has a combined conference, but that they also operated both AWWA and WEF under a combined board ⁴ . Their Fuller Award presentation was conducted during the opening session, rather than the closing banquet. Their business meeting was very brief and included only a vote on the board. He noted the presence of a lot of construction contractors in the exhibit hall.
Announcements	Mike Koenig noted that he had just left his position at MUD after a 26-year stint. He intends to remain in the industry and to continue on the board.
Upcoming meetings	July 18 (10:00 am CT)
Adjournment	John Keith moved, seconded by Mike Koenig, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:44 am.
Attest	Respectfully submitted, Brian Gongol
	Secretary

⁴ https://www.azwater.org/page/e_au_aboutus

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Craig Reinsch • 402-458-5671 **Trustees** Chris Miller • 308-234-6456 Angel Lowery • 402-970-2338 Adam Darbro • 402-604-6992 Tom Menke • 308-432-0522

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American Water Works Association

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

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 RSMO, 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 Kottwittz'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,



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.

















WCAG 2.0 - Section 508

I sat in on an update on AWWA's efforts to modify it's 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	WCAG 2.0 level AA requires a contrast ratio of	For reference, on a white background:
between the 2 colors.	at least 4.5:1 for normal	Pure RGB Red (#FF0000) has a ratio
	text and 3:1 for large text.	of 4:1.
Contrast values are		I am red text.
represented by ratios, with	Large text is defined as 14	
White = 1 and Black = 21.	point (typically 18.66px) and bold or larger, or 18	Pure RGB Green (#00FF00) has a very low ratio of 1.4:1.
This means that black text on a	point (typically 24px) or	I am green text.
white background returns a	larger.	
contrast value of 21:1.	5	Pure RGB Blue (#000FF) has a
	Contrast is measured	contrast ratio of 8.6:1.
If text and background colors	against the immediate	I am blue text.
are swapped, the contrast ratio	background.	

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

remains the same.

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.



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 reluctancy 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 <u>current</u> 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 31st deadline as stated in the <u>current</u> 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



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

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 <u>extremely</u> 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	7
July 2022	6	9	7
August 2022	10	7	7
September 2022	15	12	7
October 2022	13	11	7
November 2022	0	6	7
December 2022	4	1	7
January 2023	6	5	7
February 2023	5	7	7
March 2023	3	5	7
April 2023	4	2	7
May 2023 (to date)	8	9	

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

Recent editions	Open rate ¹	Click rate ²
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%

WWW Weekly emails are going out regularly.

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