
OFFICERS

Chair
Ryan Hurst • 402-443-3222

Chair-Elect
Brian Gongol • 515-223-4144

Vice-Chair
Marc Rosso • 531-207-3244

Secretary
Joe Roberts • 402-548-5123

Treasurer
Angel Lowery • 402-970-2338

Director
Ben Day • 402-570-6843

Past Chair
John Keith • 402-441-1622

Trustees
Jessica Johnson • 402-471-1009
Chuck Seuferer • 402-435-3080
Alan Slater • 402-414-2667
Torey Zuver • 308-432-0522

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STANDING COMMITTEES

Archives & History
Rob Pierce • 402-432-9172

Audit
Angel Lowery • 402-970-2338

Awards
Rob Pierce • 402-432-9172

Budget
Angel Lowery • 402-970-2338

Cross Connection
Greg Brekel • 402-219-1079

Education
John Keith • 402-441-1622

Fall Conference
Ryan Hurst • 402-443-3222

Fuller Award
Teresa Konda • 402-926-7063

Manufacturers/Associates Council
Lee Dunn • 531-200-5983

Membership Engagement
Chuck Seuferer • 402-443-7440

Nominations
Marc Rosso • 531-207-3244

Philanthropy
Joe Roberts • 402-321-8726

Public Information
Mary Poe • 402-471-1003

Publications
Brian Gongol • 515-223-4144

Scholarship
Angel Lowery • 402-970-2338

Small Systems
Alan Slater • 402-414-2667

Top Ops
Mike Wentink • 308-535-8135

Water Utility Council
Chad Roberts • 402-844-2210

YP & Student Activities
Abhijeet Saraf • 402-392-6986
Sarah Nguyen • 402-435-3080

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Board Meeting Minutes (v.0)

Date January 16, 2025

Time 1:30 pm CT

Location City of Wahoo Offices
605 N Broadway, Wahoo, Nebraska

Call to order Ryan called the meeting to order at approximately 1:32 pm.

Roll call	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
HURST, Ryan	Present	
GONGOL, Brian	Virtual	
ROSSO, Marc	Virtual	
ROBERTS, Joe	Present	
LOWERY, Angel	Virtual	
DAY, Ben	Virtual	
KEITH, John	Present	
JOHNSON, Jessica	Present	
SEUFERER, Chuck	Present	
SLATER, Alan	Virtual	
ZUVER, Torey	Virtual	

Approval of agenda Alan Slater made motion to approve the meeting agenda. John Keith seconded. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of minutes Brian Gongol pointed out that the meeting minutes from the Annual Business Meeting were mistakenly attached to the agenda instead of the minutes from the most recent board meeting. Ryan Hurst suggested that the approval of the minutes from the prior board meeting be moved to the next board meeting. Minutes from the board meeting held today will also be approved at that time.

Chair's report Ryan Hurst delivered his report from the Chair (attached). Ryan summarized his goals for the Board (and NSAWWA as an organization) for 2025.

- Ryan will work with the Membership Committee Chair and present strategies at the next meeting for growth. He emphasized that he is not solely targeting growth in numbers, but special emphasis was placed on participation.
- Ryan intends to contact each committee chair and

discuss their goals for the committee. Rayn wants to grow committee involvement.

- Ryan is looking to implement improvements to Fall Conference planning. Potentially change SOP for Fall Conference. Would like committee involvement around Fall Conference. Potentially have committees involved with filling speaker spots for various tracks and provide suggestions on what should be covered.
- Rayn would like to talk to small systems and discuss operator replacement solutions. How can NSAWWA help. Possibly work with State Legislature to find funding sources (acknowledging that state is looking to cut budget).
- Finally, Ryan is looking to update the website. Double check that links work and that everything appears to be updated and accurate.

Director's report

Ben Day delivered his report from the Director.

- He mentioned the upcoming Winter Board Meeting for election of officers for National AWWA. Ben will participate and send out a summary.
- He acknowledged that not much has changed since the Annual Fall Conference.
- AWWA is challenging EPA on some of the current proposed L&C rule proposed changes. He suggested that AWWA has concerns with percentage of replacement that is placed on utilities and concerns with access on private property. Would like to see clarifications on line of demarcation.

Ryan Hurst asked what Ben thinks could be done regarding ACE attendance this year in Denver.

- Ben does not think Association level will have the resources to reimburse attendance.
 - Ben suggested a Section event at ACE this year. Last year several NE members went out to dinner. Ben to look into sponsor. Last year HDR hosted event. Ryan to work with Publications to get something sent out.
 - Ben suggested reaching out to members to see who might be interested, and perhaps coordinating travel.
 - Alan Slater asked whether a list could be prepared summarizing events in Denver that coincided with ACE that might further draw NE attendance. Ben to reach out and see if there is a listing of activities
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going on concurrently with the conference that might interest people.

- Jessica Johnson noted that registration for ACE has opened (early bird). John Keith added that early registration ends in March or April (\$250 savings).
- Anticipated attendance at ACE was discussed.
 - Brian Gongol pointed out that the Association will pay registration for Treasurer / Secretary.
 - The Section currently has funds budgeted for ACE for Treasurer/Secretary, one Board Member, and will cover attendance for Fuller Award.
 - Mary Poe will start as Director in June. The Board previously agreed to cover her attendance to ACE. Angel Lowery pointed out that the budget may need to be increased by \$3,500 to cover Mary's attendance.
 - Ryan plans to attend (expenses covered by employer).
 - Ryan encouraged members to seek funding from employers, where possible, but noted that he is open to increasing the budget line item this year slightly since ACE is so close.

Treasurer's report

Angel Lowery delivered the treasurer's report for November and December.

- Angel pointed out that the ending balance in the checking account was lower than desired. She noted that based on history, disbursement of funds from Fall Conference may not be until April.
- Ryan Hurst suggested transferring funds from the investment account. John Keith motioned and Jessica Johnson seconded. Motion approved by unanimous consent.
- Board to discuss establishing minimum account balance at Annual Business Meeting.

Other officer reports

Past Chair: No formal report from Past Chair.

Committee reports

Archives & History:
No report submitted.

Audit:
No report submitted.

Awards:

No report submitted.

Budget:

No report submitted.

Cross Connections:

No report submitted.

Education:

John Keith provided a committee update.

- The Education Committee is working on organizing events at the Water Utility Conference. The conference will be held in April/May at Camp Joy Holling in Ashland. Final date to be announced once the NDEE training calendar has been published.

Fall Conference:

Ryan Hurst provided a committee update.

- Ryan is working with Blake Birkel to finalize conference financials.
- Ryan would like to discuss potential revisions to conference planning.

Fuller Award:

No report submitted.

Manufacturers and Associates Council:

No report submitted.

Membership Engagement:

Written report submitted by Chuck Seuferer.

- Chuck summarized that membership has declined slightly from the Fall Conference primarily due to retirements.
- Board members were encouraged to reach out to non-members within their organizations and emphasize the benefits of AWWA membership.
- It was suggested that calls could be made to water operators to highlight the benefits of AWWA membership.
- Ryan Hurst to follow up with the new Section Relationships Manager to discuss whether YP membership incentives of some form would be possible.

Nominations:

No report submitted.

Philanthropy:

Written report submitted by Joe Roberts.

- Joe summarized Philanthropy Committee planned events for the year and noted that Steve Hanna is coming on as committee chair.

Public Information:

Written report submitted by Mary Poe.

Publications:

Written report submitted by Brian Gongol.

- Brian indicated that the distribution lists have been updated.
- He has updated the website and has noted committees that are looking for new leadership and committees particularly in need of new members / looking for help.
- The events page has been updated to reflect planned events for the year. Several dates pending finalization.
- The Region 3 RMSO will be held in Detroit this year. A date has not yet been set.

Scholarship:

No report submitted.

Small Systems:

Alan Slater provided a committee updated.

- Alan noted that he believes small systems are having a hard time with employee retention and hiring.
- Alan noted that he would like to see action implemented to promote the water industry in high schools. He mentioned that he thought career day promotions or incentives like operator exam test prep could be effective. Jessica Johnson referenced the Capacity Development Program that she is working on currently and noted that she may follow up with Alan to discuss further.

Top Ops:

Written report submitted by Mike Wentink.

- The Top Ops committee is looking for a new chair.

Water Utility Council:

No report submitted.

YP and Student Activities:

No report submitted.

Membership challenge report

No report.

Old business

1. SOP update (Lowery)

No appreciable further discussion.

2. Update committee one-sheet (Keith)

No appreciable further discussion.

3. Rob Pierce retirement/successor chair search (Keith)

No appreciable further discussion.

4. Policy for acknowledging retirements and other major life events (Keith)

No appreciable further discussion.

5. Custom feature for updated Section logo (Day)

Ben Day reported that he has not seen any updates regarding the updated Section logo. Ben will reach out and ask for an update.

Strategic plan

No appreciable discussion.

New business

1. Budget discussion / approval (Lowery)

Angel Lowery presented the draft budget.

- The budget was modified to include Mary Poe's registration and expenses to attend ACE.
- It was determined that the budget for ACE attendance should be increased to \$4K for each attendee. Since the conference is in Denver this year it is anticipated that no all of the budgeted amount would be used.
- John Keith pointed out that although the budget shows expenditures exceeding projected revenue, historically, actual expenditures are often consistently less than what was budgeted (many items go unused). A few past examples were presented.
- Angel adjusted a few line items based on group discussion.
- Ryan Hurst suggested that the budget be tabled and approved via email. John to send out updated budget spreadsheet reflecting Board Meeting discussion.

2. Discuss committee chair appointments (Hurst)

- Meeting attendees reviewed the current listing of committee chairs. The following actions were
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discussed:

- Ryan to follow up with Craig Reinsch about taking over chair role for the Archives and History Committee.
- Ryan to take over chair role for Audit Committee.
- Ryan to follow up with Jackson Sash about taking over chair role for the Awards Committee.
- Ryan to follow up with Chad Roberts about taking over chair role for the Cross Connection Committee
- Brian Gongol to take over chair role for the Fall Conference Committee
- Mary Poe to take over chair role for the Fuller Award Committee
- It was noted that Lee Dunn is looking for a replacement chair for the Manufacturers/Associates Council Committee.
- John Keith to take over chair role for the Nominations Committee.
- Steve Hanna to take over chair role for the Philanthropy Committee.
- Alan Slater asked that his phone number be updated for the Small Systems Committee listing.
- John Keith to take over chair role for the Top Ops Committee.
- Joe Roberts to follow up with Abhijeet Saraf regarding current chair of the YP and Student Activities Committee.

3. Assign Board Liaison to committee chairs (Hurst)

- Meeting attendees reviewed Board Liaison assignments for each committee. The following assignments were discussed:
 - Archives: Ryan Hurst
 - Audit: N/A
 - Awards: John Keith
 - Budget: N/A
 - Cross Connection: Ryan Hurst
 - Education: N/A
 - Fall Conference: N/A
 - Fuller Award: N/A
 - MAC: Marc Rosso
 - Membership: N/A
 - Nominations: N/A
 - Philanthropy: Joe Roberts
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- Public Involvement: N/A
 - Publications: N/A
 - Scholarship: Angel Lowery
 - Small Systems: N/A
 - Top Ops: N/A
 - Water Utility Council: Torey Zuver
 - YP: Angel Lowery

4. Set Date for Retreat (Hurst)

- Marc Rosso to lead retreat planning. The group set a date for the retreat of July 23rd. Attendance by all Board members was encouraged. Marc to send out invitation once location is confirmed.

5. Discuss and possibly establish committee and set date for Pipeline Conference (Hurst)

- The Education Committee is leading Water Utility Conference planning. Dates will be finalized soon. Targeting late April if possible.

6. Discuss Fall Conference Committee and SOP updates (Hurst)

- Ryan Hurst suggested that he would like to adjust the way Fall Conference work is currently executed. Rather than place all of the work on the Fall Conference Committee, he would like to have various standing committees responsible for different aspects of conference planning.
- He suggested that he is interested in potentially updating the current SOP. It was noted that SOP updates would have to go through Board review.

Announcements

No announcements were made.

Upcoming meetings

The next Board Meeting was scheduled for March 11th at 10 am, tentatively at Miller and Associates in Kearney, NE. Joe Roberts to follow up with Chris Miller to affirm location and time.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by John Keith and seconded by Jessica Johnson. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:07 pm.

Attest

Respectively submitted,
Joe Roberts

OFFICERS

Chair
Ryan Hurst • 402-443-6487

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Marc Rosso • 531-207-3244

Secretary
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Treasurer
Angel Lowery

Director
Ben Day • 402-458-5963

Past Chair
John Keith

Trustees
Jessica Johnson
Chuck Seufferer
Alan Slater
Torey Zuver

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STANDING COMMITTEES

Archives & History
Rob Pierce • 402-432-9172

Audit
Mary Poe • 402-471-1003
John Keith • 402-441-1622

Awards
Doug Woodbeck • 308-763-8926

Budget
Mike Koenig • 402-441-1622

Cross Connection
Rich Koenig • 402-649-6243

Education
John Keith • 402-441-1622

Fall Conference
Marc Rosso • 531-207-3244

Fuller Award
Eric Lee • 402-441-1629

Manufacturers/Associates Council
Lee Dunn • 531-200-5983

Membership Engagement
Chuck Seufferer • 402.443.7440, ext. 1491

Nominations
Mary Poe • 402-471-8003

Public Information
Mary Poe • 402-471-1003

Publications
Brian Gongol • 515-223-4144

Research and Student Activities
Dr. Bruce Dvorak • 402-326-8391

Safety
Rob Pierce • 402-432-9172

Scholarship
Angel Lowery • 402 970.2338

Small Systems
Adam Darbro • 402-694-6992

Top Ops
Mike Wentink • 308-535-8135

Total Water Solutions
Dale Jacobson • 402-203-4921

Water for People
Joe Roberts • 402-321-8726

Water Utility Council
Chad Roberts • 402-844-2210

Young Professionals
Hayden Delay • 402-926-7075

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AD-HOC COMMITTEES

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



American Water Works Association
Nebraska Section

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Chairs Report

As we welcome a new year, I am honored and excited to step into my role as Chair of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association. It is a privilege to serve such a dedicated community of professionals who share a common mission: ensuring safe, reliable, and sustainable water for all.

The challenges ahead are significant—aging infrastructure, climate resilience, and evolving regulations—but with challenge comes opportunity. Together, we have the ability to drive innovation, advocate for sound policies, and strengthen the essential services that communities depend on. AWWA has long been a leader in advancing best practices, education, and collaboration within the water sector, and I look forward to building upon this strong foundation in the year ahead.

My goals for 2025 are not overarching but I do want to be intentional in the areas I think need focus.

1. Membership Growth- Not just numbers but engaged members.
2. Committee involvement/growth with focus around Fall conference
3. Streamlining/Improving Fall conference planning.
4. Small System Operator Replacement solutions (Big Picture)
5. Website Updates

I am eager to work alongside all of you as we navigate the future of water together. Let's make 2025 a year of progress, collaboration, and meaningful impact. Thank you for your dedication, and I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead.

Thank you
Ryan Hurst