

**NEBRASKA SECTION AWWA  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 14, 2005**

Meeting was held March 14, 2005 at the Columbus, NE City Council Chambers. Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Present were: Larry Andreasen, Bruce Dvorak, Tony Bilek, Michael Wentink, Rich Koenig, Kevin Tobin, Kristine Ranslem, Chris Koenig, Dennis Watts, Chad Roberts, Brian Bruce, Rich Robinson, Rob Pierce and Chuck Thomerson.

Motion made by Tony Bilek to approve minutes, as amended, of the January 20, 2005 meeting; seconded by Kristine Ranslem. Motion approved by all.

**Treasurer's Report**

Kevin Tobin shared the 2005 budget and current balance. Still are waiting for the funds from the 2004 Annual Conference.

A motion to approve treasurer's report was made by Tony Bilek; seconded by Chuck Thomerson. Motion approved by all.

**Director's Report**

National AWWA will pay for the registration for one of our section members (e.g., officer or staff member). That person must be available to “help out” and sit in on the section related sessions. Contact Larry Andreasen or Joel Christensen about this opportunity.

**Committee Reports**

**Audit**

Motion approved by all.

**Awards**

Steve Kelly reported he will produce a mailing to solicit candidates for the many AWWA awards. Plaques and pins for three life memberships in the section have been received.

**Budget**

Chris Koenig reported he has been pushing NWEA to get their payment for the fall conference.

**Cross-Connections**

No report.

**Education**

Mike Wentink reported nine Section/League of Nebraska Municipality Seminars were held in the first quarter of 2005 with a total attendance of 86. Chuck Thomerson assisted in organizing the AWWA Video Teleconference on March 10.

**Fall Conference**

Tony Bilek will call a joint committee meeting with NWEA and APWA at the Great Plains Waste Management conference in mid-April. Tony is looking for ideas for topics and papers for the conference. Will have a separate planning committee meeting in late April or May in Fremont, other than after the May board meeting.

**Fuller Award**

Terry O'Brien is working on it.

**MAC**

Tony Bilek mailings to vendors for exhibitors will go out in June and vendor fees will increase to \$450.

**Membership**

Rich Robinson reported membership is staying steady. Rich will attend the ACE Conference in San Francisco. The section will receive the highest retention award at ACE. Annual membership summit will be held at Breckenridge, CO, July 22.

A motion was made to pay for appropriate travel, meals and room for Rich Robinson to the Annual Membership in Breckenridge by Kevin Tobin and seconded by Dennis Watts. Motion passed.

**Nominations**

Kristine reported the following people have been nominated for election. These positions are not open for nominations and will be filled automatically by the following officers:

Chair: Tony Bilek, Mc2 Inc.

Trustee & Past Chair: Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont

Director: Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 8, 2005 in Kearney.

Chair Elect: Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services

Vice Chair: Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District

Treasurer: John Olsson, Olsson Associates

Secretary: Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering

Trustee Chuck: Thomerson, City of Columbus

Trustee: Brian Bruce, City of Papillion

Motion made to present the nominations to the Fall Conference by Chuck Thomerson and seconded by Tony Bilek. Motion passed.

**Public Information**

No report.

**Publications**

No report.

**Research**

No report

**Safety**

Rob reported the committee is preparing for the Nebraska Section AWWA Safety awards. The committee is preparing an application form, deciding on the award criteria, award categories (by activity and utility size), and trying to decide what the award will be (e.g., certificate).

**Scholarships**

No report.

**Small Systems**

SRF contract comes up for renewal soon and it was suggested that the committee should try to get more scholarships for operators from small systems to the NS-AWWA Fall Conference. Dennis Watts suggested Kristine send out the SRF contract to all the NS-AWWA board so everyone knows what we can spend the funds on to help with NS-AWWA's mission. Rich Koenig stated the mentoring program has not been used very much by small systems; funds from the SRF can be used for refunding mentors' travel and per diem as well as the costs of educational materials.

**Student Activities**

The student chapter has a new group of student officers, which are listed in the committee's report by Dr. Morley. The student group participated in the Young Professional events at Adams and at Ashland (Pump 101). In February the group held a meeting in Lincoln with Teresa Kub of HDR Engineering Inc., as speaker.

**Water for People**

Kevin reported preparations are being made for the silent auction by the committee.

**Water Utility Council**

Jerry Obrist is planning to participate in the Washington Fly In and submitted his budget.

**Young Professionals**

Twenty people participated in the Ion Exchange tour at Adams in December and two sessions of Pump 101 were scheduled for late January/early February at Ashland.

**Old Business:**  
Strategic Plan

Larry Andreasen lead a discussion of the following points concerning the Section Strategic Plan.

1. AWWA send out membership letters March 11, 2005.
2. Young Professionals have had a good program during the past year and are continuing to be active.
3. Mari has put job openings on the website and is working on resumes with the students.
4. Scholarships to operators will be pushed more this year. We need the state representatives to get up a list of potential operators earlier in the year. Discussed putting information about the scholarships into the Nebraska League of Municipalities magazine; Rich will take care of adding an article.
5. Need to get more systems into AWWA. Large systems should ask for reimbursement (from SRF Funds) for helping/mentoring small systems. Rich will prepare a reimbursement form (can request reimbursement for mileage, per diem, and materials, but not labor). Discussed the need for developing a recruiting effort aimed at high school age students. Idea of going to Nebraska Workforce learning about local job fairs; maybe get several volunteers (utility, regulatory, and consulting) at a display and use AWWA national video tape. Might focus on the groundwater festival. Larry proposed putting an ad hoc committee to put a program together. Brian Bruce agreed to look into what the national organization has along this line.
6. Teleconference attendance? Chuck reported the program for November will be the work force issues. More promotion is needed for the next teleconference, especially through the League of Nebraska Municipalities. May want to consider more sites (at least Ashland, Gering and Norfolk) for the teleconference for November 3 teleconference. Will get publicity information concerning the teleconference to the League by the early fall. For the teleconference will write an article for the league publication. Write article in “Wise Water Words,” which may be the same as the league. Article will be prepared by Mike Wentick.
7. More use of library. Library is getting combined with Rural Water’s library. Discussed in new business.
8. On-site visitations for mentoring program: Goal of five per year.
9. Make Fall Conference technical sessions available on videotape. Maybe consider this for the future – not sure if it is worthwhile. Rich Koenig suggested that if we tape these, it should be made available digitally and put highlights on web and/or entire session on a CD. Proposal was made to tape Jack’s presentation again this year. Rich volunteered to bring the video equipment to tape the session.
10. Investigate and implement new training opportunities (one per year). Noted that some of the Young Professional’s events are training events.
11. Hold joint meetings with League. Larry proposed having a meeting with the League of Nebraska Municipalities to identify possible joint training opportunities.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

Todd Bohling shared information concerning the award ceremony for the last winner.

**New Business:**

Children's Groundwater Festival: March 22 in Grand Island. Trying to arrange for an exhibit, but may do this in the future.

Golf Outing — Water for People.

John Olsson reported the ad hoc Committee met February 28, 2005, and finalized the schedule, budget and has started mailing potential participants. Lunch will be on own.

AWWA Library Materials to NeRWA agreement

Discussed a possible agreement with the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA) to take control over much of the NS-AWWA library. Mike Wentick will meet with NeRWA concerning the draft memorandum.

Yellow Pages Inc.

Chris Koenig brought up the point that a check for \$3.46 from the Yellow Pages and we deposited the check. On the fine print of the check it stated that NS-AWWA would agree to advertise in the yellow pages. The board agreed to send the \$3.46 back and turn the issue over to the State Attorney General.

Regional meeting in Bismark, N.D. – April 1 and 2

Joel Christensen is planning to attend. Brian and Chuck are considering attending.

Larry Andreasen made motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:30; Tony Bilek seconded, and all approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Friday, May 6, at Quail Run Golf Course, 327 S. Fifth St., Columbus.

Submitted for approval March. 14, 2005 by Bruce Dvorak, NSAWWA Secretary.