

**NEBRASKA SECTION AWWA
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2009**

The annual business meeting was called to order by Bruce Dvorak at 1:33 p.m. during the annual Fall Conference in Kearney Nebraska. Those present were: Rob Pierce, Kevin Tobin, John Miriofsky, Ben Day, Craig Reinsch, Mary Poe, Eric Obert, Mari Matulka, Eric Lee, Tony Bilek, Charles Anderson, John Keith, Chad Roberts, Christian New, Doug Woodbeck, Dennis Watts, Eric Melcher, David Lathrop, John S. Olsson, Jerry Obrist, Teresa Konda, Mike Wentink, Bruce, Dvorak and Justin Stine.

The meetings minutes from the November 6, 2008 Business Meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Tony Bilek and seconded by Eric Lee with all members approving by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rob Pierce provided summary budget sheets for 2009 and 2010. It appears that instead of being approximately \$6,000 in the negative, the budget may be closer to \$10,000 in the positive. The checking account balance as of October 29, 2009 was \$12,347.15 and the savings account balance was \$5,796.40. Information on the CDs for amounts and renewal dates are listed on the budget summary sheets.

It was noted that a portion of advertising income for next year will be reduced because it was used for this year. More details are included in Mari Matulka's committee report.

Receipts for Top-Ops, Backflow Challenge and Non-Ops will be issued to winners this year. If any winnings are donated back (Scholarship, Water For People etc.) you still will be issued a receipt for those winnings.

Doug Woodbeck made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and John Miriofsky seconded the motion. All members approved by voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tony Bilek reported the Winter Board Meeting will be held in St. Petersburg, FL in 2010. Tony will attend. Topics will include the treasurer's report, budget, the proposed bylaws changes and election of the new AWWA President. The three candidates are Jerry Stevens, Iowa Section, Dean Fritzke, Pacific Northwest Section, and Jeff Zdrojewski, New York Section. Tony will support Jerry Stevens.

Five Vice-Presidential and three Director-At-Large Candidates will run for their respective seats on the Executive Board.

The search for the National Executive Director continues with the initial large pool of applicants to be further screened down so hopefully an Executive Director will be selected by ACE in June.

Tony made a special note for all the hard work and efforts that Bruce Dvorak has made as our Chairperson in 2009. A motion to accept the Director's Report was made by Jerry Obrist and seconded by Justin Stine. All approved the Director's Report by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Wentink gave a summary on the survey for the meeting. The contract is done and the contractor has been paid in full. Mike asked the board what to do with the data from the survey in terms of a final report and how to disseminate this report to the membership. Website posting and a direct mailing were a couple of ideas brought up. It was decided the board would take this under advisement and an ad-hoc committee would be formed. After a consensus has been reached, the board would provide guidance.

Doug Woodbeck provided an update on the progress of the WARN project. Dennis Watts is working on the website development and should have a draft product in a few weeks. It was noted again the WARN grant money must be used by December 31, 2009. Dennis Watts will make a presentation on the website development at the Operator's Breakfast November 5, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Tobin presented the Nominations Committee report with respect to the slate of candidates for nomination. Positions that are filled automatically:

Chair – John S. Olsson

Past Chair – Bruce Dvorak

Elected positions:

Chair-elect – Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.

Vice Chair – Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities

Secretary – Eric Lee, Lincoln Water System

Treasurer – David Lathrop, City of Seward

Trustee – Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk

Trustee – Doug Woodbeck, Nebraska Health and Human Services

Director – Tony Bilek, Mc2 Inc.

The election of officers was held and all members voted for the individuals listed. There were no exceptions noted.

The question was asked how the bylaws would affect the candidate procedures. Although two new trustees are created with the bylaw changes, only after National votes to accept the changes in June would any new positions take effect. A handout with the latest changes was provided and these hand-written notations will be corrected and re-printed in the bylaws which will be available on the website.

Tony Bilek motioned to accept the bylaw changes. Jerry Obrist seconded this motion. All approved by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archive/History -- John Miriovsky gave a brief background on the purpose of the committee and asked for any information or items from people that would help in establishing good records, information and notable accomplishments on past AWWA members and water professionals. John also offered that the committee would be highly interested and appreciative in having new people join and assist in this committee.

Mari Matulka noted that a time capsule was buried at the Florence Water Treatment Plant, Omaha, December 14, 1981 with the intent to open it 100 years from when it was buried (December 14, 2081).

Audit -- Rob Pierce and Bruce Dvorak reported that everything in the budget and audit committees was in great shape at this time.

Awards -- Doug Woodbeck reported that all safety, WISA, Golden Drop and Meritorious Operator awards had been received and would be distributed at the banquet.

Budget -- Rob Pierce asked that everyone review the budget sheet for 2010 and if you have any questions to get in touch with him. Rob also asked that if committees have any upcoming budget requests that you get them to Rob with clear notations and identifications on what the requests are for.

Cross-Connections -- Rich Koenig provided a written report that the committee met last in July, they haven't proposed any membership changes and are gearing up for the Ultimate Backflow Challenge scheduled for the Fall Conference. The committee is planning four, one-day workshops for the upcoming year and are in the process of finalizing their budget requests for 2010.

Education -- Mike Wentink noted the committee has communicated via e-mail, phone and at training events. They added one new committee member as previously noted. Nineteen out of 17 operator workshops have been conducted in 2009 with two more left to go.

In January the committee submitted an application to National for the education award based on Top-Ops, Backflow events and our working relationships with NeRWA and Nebraska ABPA. We were not selected as the award recipient.

Planned projects for the next year include more operator training workshops, another pipe workshop and a focus on e-learning through AWWA. Budget request are \$5,000 for LoNM agreement for joint workshop coordination and \$750 for bookstore purchases and any money needed up-front for the pipe workshop.

Mike's pre-conference workshops had 50+ for attendance, they made a little money and those funds will be turned into the treasurer.

Fall Conference -- John Olsson reported that attendance numbers seem to be good as evidenced by the luncheon and vendor participation was great. John Miriovsky asked if the Board has looked into alternate locations for the conference. Not that the Kearney location has anything wrong with it, however he wondered if we need to be checking to see if there is a better deal out there. Rob Pierce responded that we have had some numbers quoted to us by LaVista, but the savings weren't big enough and the central location of Kearney is a big selling point.

Fuller Award -- A selection has been made and the award will be given at the banquet.

MAC Report -- Tony Bilek outlined the efforts of the committee concerning getting ready for the Fall Conference. Loper Hall was sold out again for the 10th straight time. Total receipts from exhibitors, sponsors and the break sponsor are \$27,250. Booth rentals were \$1,690, for a total of \$25,560. A vendor best in show plaque/award has been purchased and will be presented.

Membership -- Rich Robinson submitted a written report, noting the member sponsor for cash and the discount coupon strategies would be continued. The Section did partial sponsorship of nine student memberships at UNL. The committee recognized new members at the annual banquet and member appreciation by a nice thank-you letter, construction of a membership map board and door prizes. In the future the committee will focus on revising the membership program through activities and strategies in the approved Strategic Plan program.

Nominations -- see notes under new business.

Public Information -- Mary Poe noted the committee met in March and September of 2009. A Facebook page was set up for the Section. PSAs were distributed to 69 radio groups in April for drinking water week. A Fall Conference news release was sent to media outlets in the State with the Water Tasting contest in the upcoming Fall Conference mentioned, and the award winners were sent to local newspapers.

The committee will continue to work on Facebook, news releases, activities for drinking water week, student outreach, PSAs and next year's water tasting contest.

Publications -- Three issues of Wise Water Words published. Photos to be taken at the Fall Conference, publish the 2010-2011 directory and provide continuous updates to the website. A detailed list of website activity can be found in the written report.

Make sure that any columns provided for wise water words reach Mari by the set deadline. For the upcoming year the committee will publish three Wise Water Words issues, take photos at the Fall Conference and update the directory and website.

Budget items include a savings of \$1,661 in Wise Water Words costs by reducing the number of pages printed. Wise Water Words advertising income was \$6,800 for 2009. Net costs for Wise Water Words for 2009 = \$2,867.65

Net costs for the 2010-2011 directory = \$6,175

Estimated costs for Wise Water Words in 2010 = \$4,442.65

The website was moved to Network Solutions in October 2007 with a pre-paid, five-year contract so there should be no website expenses in 2010.

Student Activities and Research -- Bruce Dvorak said their committee has met regularly in the hallways of Nebraska Hall. Bruce suggested that Dr. Xu Li take over as committee chair since he is now the advisor for the AWWA/WEF student group at UNL, and has an interest in drinking water research.

Deliverables/Activities for 2009 include, Assisted at the NWEA golf outing at Iron Horse in Ashland. A panel discussion was held with four engineers (Jason Vogel, Xu Li, Craig Reinsch and Chris Johnson). Attended the Great Plains Waste Management Conference in Council Bluffs. Assisted with the Water For People benefit in Waterloo. The group held a panel discussion on the impact of the "stimulus" on Environmental Engineering and the impact on near term job prospects for students. Additional deliverables for 2008 also were listed in the report. Bruce would like to see the Executive Board suggest additional student activities. The committee's budget request for 2010 is \$200.

Safety -- Rob Pierce noted the committee met in Scottsbluff, July 7, and in Lincoln, July 24, to determine safety award recipients. Lunch was provided by the Utilities Section of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. The committee also communicates frequently by e-mail due to travel distance restrictions.

Deliverables include, 11 safety awards presented at the AWWA Fall Conference, discussions on safety articles for the newsletter and possible creation of safety brochures. Safety was covered for at least one hour of the 2009 water operator workshops. Two safety workshops were held in North Platte and Lincoln with more than 80 participants. The committee is planning next year's safety activities and awards.

Scholarship -- Jon Zellars provided a written report. The committee communicated through e-mail and has no membership changes to report. Committee members reviewed four applications for the Colonel Theodore A. Liesen Scholarship. The committee decided that although all four were worthy to receive a scholarship they narrowed it down to two recipients.

The two individuals are Aaron Beauclair and Shannon Killion. The committee would like to recognize Bruce Dvorak and Xu Li, for all their help with the scholarship efforts this year.

Budget requests for 2010 have been reduced due to budget constraints. Abel Wolman-\$1,000; Stockholm Water Prize-\$500; Top Ops-\$3,000; Student Scholarships (3)-\$3,000. Details on the scholarship winners and the 2010 budget requests can be found in the committee report.

Small Systems -- The committee reported that 60 people attended the last workshop and one more workshop is planned in 2009.

Water Utility Council – Three committee members attended the Washington D.C. Fly-in March 24-25, 2009. E-mails concerning water issues were transmitted throughout the year among committee members. The WUC added two new members in 2009.

Several key legislation and drinking water issues are include in the WUC report, **please read the report for details.** Highlights of these are as follows:

- Nebraska LB135 concerning the assurance of confidentiality of certain municipal records was killed. All stakeholders will need to put forth a coalition of effort to get this Bill re-introduced and moved forward.
- On a National scale, the re-writes of the Chemical Security Bill are very important as it will negatively affect water utilities. The proposed Water Tax via national trust fund is still an issue and one that AWWA opposes. A second economic Stimulus Bill is still possible.
- Major SDWA rules or revisions of rules include The Distribution Rule, MCL revisions for Triazines, EPA has re-opened a review on the Atrazine MCL, implementation of LT2SWTR and the framework of the Total Coliform Rule has been adopted.
- Continue to work with industry, legislative and stakeholders on radio spectrum needs for critical industries such as gas, water, electric etc. to assure room for growth for critical operations of these industries.

Next year's activities include participation in the March Fly-in, partially finance the section WUC member to ACE in Chicago, in June of 2010, and keep current with all legislative action that affect water issues.

Budget details for 2009 are listed in the budget report. Budget requests for 2010 are \$1,500 to cover the cost of the third person for the D.C. Fly-in in March 2010 and \$750 for registration for ACE in June of 2010, in Chicago.

Water For People -- The committee held conference calls and organized the trap shoot and golf outing in 2009.

Deliverables/Activities included the golf and trap shoot outings, the Dominican Republic in-country conference representation, the Greg Mortenson seminar in Lincoln and the raffle conducted at the Fall Conference.

Projects for 2010 include continuation of the golf and trap shoot events, outreach activities at different events as available, and the raffle at the next Fall Conference. The committee would also like to hold a "Thank-You" event for sponsors and supporters however this idea is still under development.

Budget for 2009 is covered by activity income with the exception of the WFP conference which was a cost of \$1,107.88. Budget request for 2010 is an additional \$200 for a committee operating budget and/or relating to the "Thank-You" idea mentioned above. It would be beneficial if the Board would re-instate the Section's donation of "sustaining membership" to WFP if the current budget situation will allow it.

Young Professionals – Justin Stine reported that committee meetings include multiple e-mail correspondence, end of event discussions and conference calls. We want to add one or two new members and have suggestions for three individuals who may want to join.

Deliverables/Activities for the year include the Griffin Pipe tour in Council Bluffs, Coatings and Brewery tour in Lincoln and the Fall Conference Social.

Plans/projects for next year:

- Assist with university ERRE Seminar in the spring
- M.U.D. Platte West tour
- Lincoln Water System ozone construction tour
- Winter poker tournament and social at WFP fund raiser
- Participation in E-week at University
- Auburn water plant construction tour
- Hickman water plant construction tour
- Louisville water plant tour and barbeque at State Lakes
- Children's Ground Water Festival
- Flow-Serve Pump industrial plant tour

Budget request for 2010 is \$50 to handle small equipment or food expenditures.

Bruce Dvorak asked if there were any more items for discussion at the business meeting. None were brought up so Doug Woodbeck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m. Eric Lee seconded the motion. All voiced approval and the annual business meeting was officially adjourned.