

## NSAWWA Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 13, 2017

Location: Miller & Associates, Kearney, NE

Chad Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:35

### **ROLL CALL:**

#### Board members present:

Board Chairman: Chad Roberts

Chair Elect:

Vice Chair: Milo Rust (on phone)

Treasurer: Brittany Travers

Secretary: Mary Poe

Director: Dr. Dvorak

Past Chair: Ben Day

Trustee: Gary Thurlow

Marc Rosso

Jack Satur (on phone)

#### Board members absent:

Rick Melcher, John Keith

#### Committee Chairs present:

Rich Koenig, Rob Pierce

#### Others present:

Mike Wentink

### **Approval of January Board meeting minutes**

Bruce made a motion to approve the January board meeting minutes, Brittany seconded and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

### **Chairman's report:**

Washington Fly-In is March 21-23. Meetings with congressional delegates will occur on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chad Roberts (representing District 1), Jim Shields, (District 2), and Milo Rust (District 3) will be attending. Bruce suggested to think of communities in Nebraska who may need infrastructure updates/improvements and bring those as examples to the delegates.

Chad reported that the Region III RMSO is April 21-22 in Columbus, OH and if anyone is interested in attending it would be a good opportunity to meet people in our new section. The summer workshop is July 25-27 in Denver and registration is now open. Golf outing fundraiser is Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> at Woodland Hills in Eagle.

### **Director's Report:**

Bruce mentioned several updates and activities occurring at the national level:

Communication Tools – toolbox available online that AWWA has developed for giving presentations to schoolchildren

Small Systems Grants – will be continuing through 2018

Journal AWWA – is now part of “ScienceOpen” a research network to discover and evaluate scientific information

Federal and Regulatory Concerns – Including infrastructure, lead, engaging EPA, litigation, and rule development

Report is attached.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Brittany presented the treasurer's and budget reports in a new Excel format. January and February reports are included. The January report includes the checks distributed to the Top Ops winners from the Fall Conference. Steve Kelley donated his winnings back to the Section. At end of February the total in all accounts including CDs is \$126,338.42.

Budget highlights – Received some updates to the committee budget requests. The cross connection workshop amount was corrected to \$2,650. Marc's membership summit expenses are included in the membership budget.

A discussion was started about the risk if the fall conference were to be cancelled or lightly attended due to a weather (or some other) factor. It is ideal to have enough in the section accounts to cover the lost income and pay the hotel. The discussion will continue and also needs to include Nebraska APWA and NWEA.

Report is attached.

Bruce made a motion to approve the Treasurers report, the motion was seconded by Ben and the motion carried with all present voting aye, no nays.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Archives & History:** No report

**Audit:** The association audit has been completed with no issues (done every two years).

**Awards:** The Committee is wanting to give more WISA awards to recognize those who have untiringly served the waterworks industry.

**Budget:** Bruce made a motion to approve the 2017 budget. Motion seconded by Ben and the motion carried with all present voting aye, no nays.

**Community Engineering Corp:** Committee objective is assisting small communities with technical assessment of their water system and to identify needs, which may help the system secure funding. Committee also hopes to educate the community and town board about the water system's needs that are identified. Committee met in January.

Report is attached.

**Cross Connection:** The committee is discussing topics for the backflow track at the upcoming fall conference. Rich mentioned bringing in a speaker, Paul Schwartz from USC's Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research, for the fall conference and paying \$500-600 towards his expenses and also picking up his room. Motion was made by Gary to approve this expense by increasing the Cross Connection Committee budget by \$600

to \$3250 (this amount is included in the committee's budget request). Motion seconded by Marc and the motion carried with all present voting aye, no nays. It was also suggested that maybe he can give two different presentations at the fall conference.

Report is attached.

**Education:** Small system training will be May 11<sup>th</sup>, and is being conducted using the AWWA/EPA Small System Grant. Chad needs to sign the contract for the facility and send a \$140 deposit check. Pre-conference will be Small System Training conducted by Environmental Finance Center – Wichita State University.

Report is attached.

**Fall Conference:** Will be meeting with NPWA and NWEA in April at the Great Plains Conference to discuss conference plans. Need to get out the Call for Papers for the conference.

**Fuller Award:** No report

**Manufacturers/Associates Council:** No report

**Membership:** Section membership is at 355. Marc attended the Membership Summit in Denver and learned a lot about the millennial generation and how that applies to membership recruiting and retaining. At the summit Marc was presented with a check for our section for \$860.60 for meeting our retention goal and 2% growth goal. Our section's 2017 membership plan was presented to AWWA, and is attached.

Report is attached.

**Nominations:** Slate of candidates needs to be out by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Public Information:** No report

**Publications:** Content is greatly needed for the spring issue. It was suggested to publish the approved budget as well as the slate of candidates in the next issue.

Report is attached.

**Research and Student Activities:** The student chapter volunteered at the Global Day of the Engineer as part of e-week at UNL. This involved about 200 middle school students learning about engineering with hands-on demonstrations.

Some in attendance wondered where the ground water model was being stored when not in use.

Report is attached, including event pictures.

**Safety:** No report

**Scholarship:** No report

**Small Systems:** No report

**Water for People:** The Wine 4 Water event was a success, drawing 37 people and raising \$900 for Water For People. The annual WFP golf outing will be on a Monday this year, May 8<sup>th</sup> at Woodland Hills Golf Course near Eagle, NE. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Report is attached.

**Water Utility Council:** No report, other than the Washington Fly-in is coming up this month.

**Young Professionals:** No report

**Total Water Solutions Ad Hoc:** John Olsson was not in attendance but wanted to thank the board for their quick email responses and approval of the article for *The Nebraska Farmer* magazine, which will be published in April 2017, and it is also attached here.

Report is attached.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Water Equation Silent Auction:** Bruce brought up whether the section wanted to donate something to the silent auction being held prior to and during ACE. Mary made a motion to donate a \$100 Omaha Steaks gift certificate. Motion seconded by Marc and the motion carried with all present voting aye, no nays.

**2017 Budget:** Was finalized and approved earlier in the meeting.

**Finance Ad Hoc Committee:** Committee is still being formed. Brittany previously agreed to be on the committee. Other suggested members include Rick Melcher and Milo Rust. Bruce agreed to be on the committee. The committee's goal is to evaluate the CDs that the Section holds and to make investment decisions.

**Membership Committee Name Change:** It was agreed to update the Membership Committee's name to Membership Engagement and Development Committee, to be in alignment with the national committee's name.

**Top Ops:** The ad hoc committee that was formed a couple years ago has not had any action since then and has been dissolved. A new committee is needed to set rules, eligibility, and qualifications for the national competition, and an SOP needs developed. Ben made a motion to form a new Top Ops Ad Hoc committee. Motion seconded by Brittany and the motion carried with all present voting aye, no nays. Chad will chair the committee. Mary has also volunteered for the committee. It was suggested that Brian Gongol, Mike Wentink, and John Keith also join the committee. **Update:** Mary checked with Brian, Mike, and John after the meeting and they all agreed to be on the committee.

### **New Business:**

**Online training:** Marc suggested that the section offer free online training for members. This could drive membership and add value. National is looking into how we could make this work.

**Section Insurance and Risk Management:** Mary viewed the AWWA webinar Section Insurance and Risk Management. A question arose at the meeting about whether having participants in the trap shoot signing a waiver is acceptable, or if insurance would need to be purchased by the section. Mary will check into it; as well as finding out if our wine event needs a policy to be purchased.

**2% Travel Reimbursement:** Historically, section volunteer mentors were reimbursed (from the 2% set-aside funds) for travel expenses if called upon to help out a community, but this practice ended in 2006 when the funds were moved to help with technical assistance instead. There is a desire to reinstate this practice and it is something to keep in mind with the 2018 contract for the 2% set-aside funds.

**Future Meeting Dates:** There was discussion over whether a July board meeting should be held. A decision will be made before then, and July 14 is a possibility.

### **Other:**

**Follow up action via emails:** National offers each section's secretary or chair a complimentary registration to attend ACE. Mary is interested in attending this year. Chad asked for a motion that \$1000 from the Washington Fly-In budget be used for Mary's travel expenses to attend ACE in Philadelphia. Neither Milo nor Chad were able to attend the Fly-

In this year so there are some extra funds available. Marc made the motion and Brittany seconded. At least six aye votes were tabulated by email, no nays, motion passed.

**Adjournment:** At 11:32 Marc made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce, with all in attendance voting aye with no nays, motion carried.

**Next Meeting:**

Date: Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 9:30 AM (prior to the golf tournament)

Location: Woodland Hills Golf Course, Eagle, NE

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Poe, Nebraska Section AWWA Secretary