

NS-AWWA Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: **March 13, 2020**

Location: Conference call

Brittany Travers called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM

ROLL CALL:

Board members present on the call:

Board Chair: Brittany Travers

Chair Elect: Mary Poe

Vice Chair: Craig Reinsch

Treasurer: John Keith

Secretary: ~~Marc Rosso~~ (absent)

Director: Teresa Konda

Past Chair: Milo Rust

Trustee: Brian Gongol

Trustee: Mike Koenig

Trustee: Adam Darbro

Trustee: ~~Ryan Hurst~~ (absent)

Committee Chairs present: Rob Pierce, Larry Schmidt

Others present: None

11 total attendees via phone

Approval of January 10, 2020 Board meeting minutes:

The January 2020 minutes were reviewed. Marc had already sent out a corrected version with John Keith added to the nominations committee. John made a motion to approve the January 10, 2020 Board meeting minutes, Teresa seconded it, and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

Chairman's Report:

Brittany thanked everyone for their flexibility in changing from an in-person meeting to a conference call in light of the Coronavirus developments. The Great Plains Conference that was to be held in April has been postponed, if not cancelled.

Director's Report:

Teresa recently attended the winter board meeting in Puerto Rico, where a new president-elect was elected. The meeting included a regulatory update, affiliation agreement review, and updates to the strategic plan. The GM of the Puerto Rico's largest water and sewer utility spoke about the country's recent earthquake and two hurricanes. Also a CDC rep spoke about disease occurrences following hurricanes. The resiliency of Puerto Rico following these disasters was evident.

A new AWWA Information Security and Acceptable Use Policy was discussed. This requires that Sections obtain members' permission in writing to share their personal information. This may affect the distribution of our Section membership directory.

The Association has set up a Coronavirus Resource Page.

Mary made a motion to approve the Director's Report, Milo seconded it, and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

Report is attached.

Treasurer's Report:

See attached account balance and activity.

Craig made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Brian and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

Committee Reports:

Archives & History: No report

Audit: Audit is done for the next two years.

Awards: No report.

Budget: No additional information.

Cross Connection: No report.

Education: Nine workshops, serving 121 people have occurred in conjunction with the League of Nebraska Municipalities, which is down from 2019. Several upcoming events have been postponed or cancelled due to Coronavirus concerns. It is anticipated that 8 more workshop sessions will be added. The Small Systems Training Grant workshop is scheduled for May 13 at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland.

John was notified that for the past three years, Nebraska has been in the top three per capita for participation in the training grant workshops. This is on par with large states like Ohio and Michigan, and even more participation than Texas gets.

There has been enough funds through the grants to put on these workshops. John is interested in using some of these grant funds for a raffle at the workshops, with gift cards to be used for AWWA training products (books, videos, etc.). Milo made a motion to approve the use of \$1,000 of these grant funds for a raffle, the motion was seconded by Mary and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

Some operators are concerned that with many past and future class cancellations due to Coronavirus, they won't be able to earn enough CEUs to renew their license. At this point webinars don't qualify because they are not true training events, although the issue is being discussed.

Report is attached.

Fall Conference: The 3-association planning meeting is always held at the Great Plains Conference, but Mary noted that since the April conference has been postponed or cancelled, we'll have to reschedule the planning meeting. NWEA is the lead this year. Be on the lookout for potential presentations or topics and send Mary's way.

Fuller Award: No report.

Manufacturers/Associates Council: No report, but Brittany noted that Lee Dunn has agreed to be the chair, and will need to get together with Tony Bilek for guidance.

Membership Engagement & Development: Larry noted that there are 366 members, with 11 past due, and one recent from MUD.

John added that a letter was received from national congratulating the Section for meeting our membership goal. Also included was a \$500 check and a \$100 American Express gift card – to be used to support 2020 membership efforts. Larry and Marc will discuss how to use these funds.

Nominations: The committee is soliciting nominations and some possibilities have been identified. We want to make sure that board trustee positions be filled with those individuals who have been interested or involved in the past. Board positions also require AWWA membership. As soon as the committee gathers an officer slate for the open positions, then it will be sent out to the membership.

As stated in our 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."

Milo announced that he will be retiring as the Public Works Director for the City of Chadron on June 8, 2020. He will continue as the Section's Past-Chair and Nominations committee Chair until both terms are completed in November.

Public Information: The Governor's Proclamation Ceremony declaring May 3-9 as Drinking Water Week is scheduled for Monday April 6th at the State Capitol. Mary will send out a calendar invite. *Update: the ceremony has been canceled due to coronavirus pandemic, but the proclamation will still be signed.

There is an opportunity to purchase standard bottles for the tasting contest at the fall conference. These are nice-looking glass bottles that would be used for every sample submission, and would have the Section logo imprinted. A supply of 96 bottles is \$500-600, but would last us several years. The bottles could also be used as giveaways. Craig is going to find out if they can be made cheaper locally.

Publications: Brian noted that only about 25% on the email distribution list actually open the email. We should keep this in mind, that not everybody sees the information. This is why multiple forms of distribution is important (email, Facebook, website). Newsletter material is being gathered, and submissions should be made by the end of March.

Report is attached.

Research and Student Activities: No report.

Safety: Rob will try to determine if past committee members are still interested in being on the committee.

Scholarship: Angel Lowery has agreed to take over the Chair duties.

Small Systems: Adam is still trying to find potential committee members, and he asked around at the recent NerWA conference. Ryan Hurst has agreed to join the committee.

Top Ops: Mary noted that the committee was considering a new format that may help to increase participation. But given that the recent fall conference had good participation, the committee will continue the current course. Possibly increase notices of the competition during the summer, and increase some door prizes at the competitions.

Total Water Solutions: No report.

Water for People: Golf outing is scheduled for Thursday May 21. *Update: the golf outing has been cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic.

Water Utility Council: The fly-in will be attended by Craig Reinsch and Chad Roberts. Jim Shields is no longer able to attend due to restrictions by his employer. *Update: the Washington Fly-on has been cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic.

Young Professionals: The Missouri River Wastewater plant tour has been postponed indefinitely due to coronavirus concerns. Hayden and ?? recently attended the YP Summit in Anaheim.

Community Engineering Corps: No report.

Unfinished Business:

1. Annual SOP Review/Approval: Marc has received some updated SOPs but there are several committees he hasn't heard from. Please update SOPs (or indicate there are no changes) and submit to Marc. The Board will review and approve the updates once they are all submitted. This subject is tabled until the May meeting. Rob wondered if there was an Archives & History SOP or if he would have to create one. We all agreed that one had not been developed yet.
2. Small Systems Committee - needs committee members: This was previously discussed, and Adam is searching for committee members.
3. Top Ops Ideas: Previously discussed
4. MAC Committee discussion: Lee Dunn is the new Chair.
5. Publications committee – ask board to submit content to Brian: Please submit ideas, pictures, and content to Brian.
6. Rick Kubat LB242 (Travers): Not sure the current status of this bill.
7. DC Fly-in Erika Maes, AWWA (Travers):
8. Lead and copper committee. (Keith): There have been over 77,000 comments on the lead/copper proposed revisions.
9. Contact information on the web. (Travers): Should we continue to have the phone numbers and email addresses of board members on the website? There has been an increase in spam and unwanted solicitations. Brian stated that it is inevitable that info will get into the wrong hands, and to be alert to the fact that this exists. Teresa stated that AWWA has some new policies about member's confidential info published, but this may not apply to board member contact info, but will explore it more.

New Business:

1. Miscellaneous / Announcements. In the future we could try Zoom videoconference meetings. Works best with a good internet connection. Could cost \$300-\$400 for multiple lines. John will look into it.
2. Water Tasting Bottles. (Poe) Previously discussed

Adjournment: At approximately 11:00 AM John made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brian, with all in attendance voting aye, motion carried.

Next Meetings:

May 21 at 9:00 preceding the Golf Outing at Woodland Hills.

Update: Golf Outing has been cancelled. Will meet by Zoom Thursday May 21 @ 9:00

July is usually a conference call

3rd Friday in September

Fall Conference Thursday November 5, 2020

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Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Poe, Nebraska Section AWWA Chair-Elect, filling in for Secretary Marc Rosso