



Board Meeting Notes (v.0)

Date	May 19, 2026		
Time	10:30 am CT (to follow Drinking Water Week proclamation signing)		
Location	In person: NDWEE offices - 245 Fallbrook Boulevard, Lincoln Virtual option: via Microsoft Teams		
Call to order	Brian Gongol called the meeting to order at approximately 10:56 AM.		
Roll call		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	GONGOL, Brian	X	
	LOWERY, Angel	X	
	ROBERTS, Joe	X	
	JOHNSON, Jessica	X	
	ZUVER, Torey		X
	HOVDA WALTON, Emily	X	
	MULLER, Mike		X
	SEUFERER, Chuck		X
	SLATER, Alan		X
	HURST, Ryan	X	
	POE, Mary	X	
Other Attendees	John Keith and Monte Daiken, Committee Chairs, were also in attendance.		
Approval of agenda	Agenda approved by unanimous consent.		
Assign designated dissenter	Designated dissenter – Ryan Hurst was nominated to serve as the designated dissenter.		
Approval of minutes	Board Meeting held on 03/10/2026. It was suggested that the notes should be updated to clarify that they are “meeting notes”. No other comments received. Meeting notes were approved by unanimous consent.		
Chair's report	Written report furnished by Brian Gongol. Brian Gongol presented the report from the Chair (attached). Brian has received many calls on the AWWA phone number. Several specific questions related to training. It		



was suggested that training related requests be referred to Greg Brekel. It was also suggested that training detailed be located in a central location. This will be reviewed by the Board.

Brian updated the Board on responses to the talent survey that was distributed. A few responses have been received. Two responses indicated a desire to be on the leadership track.

NSAWWA LinkedIn page is live. Brian encouraged the Board to follow the page to increase visibility.

Brian briefly reviewed the AWWA events calendar.

Brian is still working through problems with ListServe.

It was pointed out that the AWWA webpage contains outdated NSAWWA Board information. Brian to follow up.

Update on goals:

1. News Coverage: Brian has process set up to pretty easily put out press releases. About 20 stories out so far. There is a story currently available with Alan Slater through Nebraska Public Media.
2. Awards: Sarah Sawin is working on awards.
3. New Members: Membership is stable. Looking to keep pushing.

Director's report

Written report furnished by Mary Poe.

Mary Poe delivered the Director's report (attached).

Joe Roberts attended the Region 3 RMSO in Indianapolis. Joe to send email summarizing event.

Mary will attend ACE next month in DC. Several others planning to attend and represent NE. Brian has a presentation and will also be presenting a poster. All were encouraged to attend the opening session.

AWWA highlighted its commitment to global sustainability. See report.

AWWA's Wildly Important Goal (WIG) for 2026 is related to increasing membership (50,600 members) and revenue. AWWA is currently ahead of projections.



AWWA remains committed to advancing DEI. NSAWWA used to have a DEI committee. YP committee still very active in this area. Initiative, but not separate committee.

Joe Roberts motioned and Ryan Hurst seconded that the Chair's Report and Director's report be accepted. The Chair's Report and Director's Report were accepted by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's report

Jessica Johnson presented the March and April Budget Reports.

It was noted that the checking balance would be held this period with ACE coming up.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report made by Ryan Hurst, seconded by Mary Poe. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Other officer reports

Committee reports

Archives & History:

Written report furnished by Craig Reinsch.

Craig Reinsch submitted year and review draft summary. Please send Craig feedback. Brian sent link in board packer.

Audit:

No report submitted.

Awards:

Written report furnished by Sarah Sawin.

Sarah and Brian meeting on awards. Looking for nominations for YP Member of Year award.

Budget:

Written report furnished by Jessica Johnson.

See discussion under Treasurer's Report above.

Cross Connections:

No report submitted.

Education:

Written report furnished by John Keith.



SWANA has indicated that they are not interested in leading the preconference event. It was agreed that NSAWWA was able and willing to lead this event and that under the current schedule (AWWA ahead of NWEA moving forward), NSAWWA would have an opportunity to hold this event in the future as well. It was reported that John and Jessica have identified potential topics for the preconference event (lead service replacement workshop or Wichita Environmental Finance).

Fall Conference:

Written report furnished by Angel Lowery.

Angel reported that the conference organizers are looking to finalize the Fall Conference Program by August 1st. The Call for Papers has been distributed and abstracts are due by June 15th. 6 abstracts have been submitted so far. Joe reported that HDR will be submitting several abstracts. Emily reported that she is talking to a few people about presenting. It was also noted that Wahoo might submit an abstract related to GIS.

Fuller Award:

An honoree has been selected.

The Fuller Award nomination has been submitted.

Manufacturers and Associates Council:

Written report furnished by Monte Dakan.

Monte is working with vendors.

Membership Engagement:

Written report furnished by Chuck Seuferer.

Membership has increased slightly so far this year. 298 current members.

Nominations:

Written report furnished by Ryan Hurst.

Brian, John, and Ryan to meet to discuss nominations.

Philanthropy:

Written report furnished by Steve Hanna.

Golf event was successfully held. The Committee



discovered that many are not reading the regular emails from the Publications Committee. The Philanthropy Committee will do a better job advertising for the event next year.

Public Information:

No report, per Mary Poe.

The Governor's Proclamation event was successfully held prior to the Board Meeting today.

Publications:

Written report furnished by Brian Gongol.

Report submitted. Statistics indicated that about 1/3 of email list is opening emails from the Publications Committee.

Scholarship:

Written report furnished by Melissa Polito.

Small Systems:

Written report furnished by Alan Slater.

Top Ops:

No report, per John Keith.

It was reported that NE will not be sending a team to the National Top Ops competition. It was also reported that Auburn will not be submitting a water sample to the tasting competition.

Water Utility Council:

Written report furnished by Chad Roberts.

Update from EPA on PFAs. Potential reduction of funds from SRF. Suggest AWWA work on this.

YP and Student Activities:

Written report furnished by Ethan Hall.

All Members Meeting coming up, including tour of Lincoln treatment facility. The YP Committee is reaching out to the IA section about holding joint YP events.



- Brian Gongol
- [Written report submitted by Brian. Brian has suggested improvements for future years.](#)

RMSO (April 27-29)

- Joe Roberts
- [Joe will send out an email summary.](#)

Drinking Water Week (May 3-9)

- Brian Gongol
- [Governor's Proclamation was held prior to the Board Meeting. NSAWWA attendance to the event was very good. Jessica is helping to coordinate Operators Week in October.](#)

Drinking Water Week proclamation (May 19)

- Mary Poe

[Review upcoming events](#)

Board meetings

- July 14 (virtual)
- September 8 (virtual) – [Emily reported that MUD would be willing to host the September Board Meeting.](#)
- November 3 (annual business meeting)

ACE (June 21-24)

- AWWA expectation: Secretary or other board member registers free on a co-op basis (must work registration desk)
- Attending: Gongol, Johnson, Poe
- Maybe: Roberts
- No: Lowery, Zuver, Hurst, Slater, Muller

Summer Workshop (July 30-31)

- AWWA expectation: Chair, chair-elect, and section staff expected to attend. Recommended for trustees.
- Attending: Gongol
- Maybe: Roberts
- No: Hurst, Johnson, Lowery, Muller, Poe, Zuver

Fall sporting clays shoot (September 11)



Fall Conference (November 3-4)

Membership summit (January 2027)

- AWWA expectation: Membership chair and section staff expected to attend
- Attending: None thus far
- Maybe: Lowery, Muller
- No: Poe, Zuver, Hurst

YP summit (March 2027)

- AWWA expectation: YP chair expected to attend
- Attending: None thus far
- Maybe: None thus far
- No: Gongol, Hurst, Johnson, Lowery, Muller, Poe, Roberts, Slater, Zuver

Washington Fly-In (April 2027)

- AWWA expectation: At least one state delegate
- Attending: None thus far
- Maybe: Gongol
- No: Hurst, Lowery, Muller, Poe, Roberts, Zuver

RMSO (Spring 2027)

- AWWA expectation: Section chair expected to attend. Chair-elect and secretary/treasurer recommended.
- Attending: None thus far
- Maybe: Gongol, Lowery, Poe, Roberts
- No: Hurst, Slater, Zuver

Review AWWA "expected attendance" matrix

Old business

AWWA Membership Challenge

- Progress report
- [NSAWWA is actively working on the membership challenge.](#)

Member interests survey form

- Progress report
 - [The Member Interest Survey has been submitted. Brian has received a few responses.](#)
-

LinkedIn group champion/custodian

- [Brian is looking for a LinkedIn "champion".](#)

Strategic plan

Discuss Goal #3: "Promote education, professional development, training, and information/technology exchange"

New business

Budget changes:

- Motion: Increase ACE travel budget for Director by \$500
- [Moted by Jessica Johnson and seconded by Joe Roberts. Motion carried by unanimous consent. Budget will be increased for this year and reconsidered for next year.](#)
- Motion: Purchase magnetic name badges for section officers
- [Moted by Joe Roberts and seconded by Jessica Johnson. Motion carried by unanimous consent.](#)
- Motion: Budget for membership lapel pins
- [Tabled for now. To be discussed at later date.](#)

Fall Conference:

- Discuss option to host preconference
- Discuss financial results from 2025
- [It was reported that the 2025 Fall Conference was very well attended. Event income was a little lower than prior years, but net profits were expected to go down with movement to the new facility \(higher costs\).](#)

Paid staff position

- [Most sections have paid staff and it appears that AWWA is set up with this model in mind. Brian would like to look into recruiting past chairs that may be interested in taking on a minimal role with NSAWWA.](#)

Announcements

Upcoming meetings

July 14

September 8



November 3

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Joe Roberts, second by Jessica Johnson. The motion was approved and the meeting concluded at approximately 12:40 PM.

Attest

Respectfully submitted by Joe Roberts



Chair's Report

May 18, 2026

What's new

- Our new **telephone line** remains in heavier use than expected. One thing I'm finding is that we receive a fair number of calls about the training events, and I'm ill-prepared to answer questions like "How many hours? Will these hours count towards my specific license grade? When is the next session near me?". I would like to put some thought into how we could consolidate the details in an easy-to-find, easy-to-update, easy-to-read calendar.
- We have only received three responses to the **time and talent survey** we issued, but two of the respondents indicated interest in getting on a leadership track -- so I'll count it as a win. I'd like to try again to encourage responses. This would also be a good item to ask new members to visit.
- I've added a line item under our agenda: "**Assign designated dissenter**". By the time we reach my report, we should already have discussed this, and you will have concluded that it is either a great idea or a bonkers one.
- Thank you to those who have followed our new **LinkedIn "company" page**. It's off to a good start! Don't forget to add your officer roles to your own profiles and link to the page -- it's good for AWWA visibility!

What's underway

- I've added a review of **upcoming AWWA events** to our agenda, which hopefully will serve as a clear reminder to plan ahead to make sure we're represented.
- I have not yet found a solution to our **need for a new listserv** program. I'm all ears if you've got a recommendation.

Friendly reminders

- I remain interested in trying to help **energize the quiet committees** and make the committee chair role smoother for the active ones. Please let me know about any obstacles you think we could help break down.
- Please send me suggestions when you'd like to **get the word out** about things that don't fit neatly into categories like event announcements. Looking for new members? Have a certain type of volunteer you need? Working on a secret project in your underground lab? I'd like to



feature these in our weekly newsletter, and I haven't heard much from our section leadership yet. Please help!

Progress toward goals

News coverage (3 times)

We issued press releases to just shy of 20 news outlets for Drinking Water Week. I received indications of interest from Nebraska Public Media, but I didn't see any resulting news stories.

Upcoming potential news pegs include World Environment Day (June 5), Source Water Protection Week (September 28th), and World Toilet Day (November 19th).

I'm always interested in anything you think might be newsworthy that we could use as a reason to reach out once again. Now that I have a press release template and a database of contacts, it's really easy to put the word out.

I am planning to generate a template for us to use to announce career milestones and membership anniversaries. If you happen to know of any good candidates to treat as test subjects, please let me know.

Awards (10 recipients)

The awards committee still needs volunteers. I'm going to work with Sarah Sawin on some ideas soon.

New members (30)

Our membership looks stable, but I haven't gotten any invitation letters out yet. Please keep me accountable to this by our next meeting!

Thank you for your support of our community!

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gongol

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mary Poe
Nebraska Section AWWA Director
mary.poe@nebraska.gov
Submitted May 18, 2026

RMSO Regional Meeting of Section Officers – are being held and getting good attendance. Our Region III was in Indianapolis, April 27-29. Joe Roberts attended from our Section.

I will be attending **ACE26 in Washington DC June 21-24**, including the board meetings on June 20-21.

AWWA highlights its dedication to sustainability by reaffirming their support for the **United Nations Global Compact** and its Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. The goal of the compact is to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies. Since joining the global compact two years ago AWWA has been supporting the advancement of their sustainable development goals.

The association is ahead of projections for their **2026 WIG (Wildly Important Goal)**.

2026 WIG: Increase membership from 48,904 to 50,600 and to increase membership revenue from 15.4 M to 16.1M. As of April 17, member count is 641 above projections and revenue is \$400,000 ahead.

Despite the recent attacks on DEI programs, AWWA remains committed to advancing **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging** - it's one of their Core Principles and is supported by an active committee. The Nebraska Section doesn't have a current committee but is good about advancing DEIB goals.

Inclusion: value individual differences

Belonging: creating a collaborative and welcoming culture

End of Director's Report - Mary Poe, May 18, 2026