

**NEBRASKA SECTION AWWA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (BUSINESS) MEETING
MINUTES**

The Nebraska Section American Water Works Association (NSAWWA) held the General Membership meeting at 1:35 p.m., November 8, 2006 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Kearney Nebraska.

Jerry Obrist motioned to approve the November 8, 2005 General Membership meeting minutes; second by Chris Koenig and approved by all. (November 8, 2005 minutes attached).

Chuck Thomerson motioned to approve the September 21, 2006 Board Meeting minutes; second by Mike Wentink and approved by all.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Olsson presented an overview of the budget figures and statements of financial position provided through audit. Although the current 2006 balance is in the negative, anticipated revenue from the annual conference should lead the budget to balance. John suggested thinking about how to spend more funds to add value to the organization. Spending more funds on scholarships is one place to consider spending funds.

There was a discussion related to how to make the teleconferences more accessible. Webcasts are popular and should be considered. One concern with webcasts is that they will not be available to small systems. A way to involve small systems with webcasts is to have these operators go to specific locations, like done with teleconferences. Rich Koenig suggested using the scholarships to cover the teleconference fees, to allow small systems operators to attend at no cost. It is likely these fees could be reimbursed from the SRF fund. Rich also shared that he was disappointed with the technical and presentation quality of the last AWWA teleconference. Further discussion focused on how to provide access for the webcasts.

Chuck Thomerson motioned to approve the Treasurer's report; second by Lynn Wegehaupt and approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Joel Christensen related that he was pleased the section has found ways, such as the folios presented at the fall conference, to add value for the membership.

Joel presented the Director's report. Highlights include the Standards Council has expanded the scope of the Water Infrastructure Security Enhancement Project with the American Society of Civil Engineers and WEF. The Water Utility Council Regulatory Committee will review the final Groundwater Rule to consider problems and decide whether to recommend legal action. The Technical and Educational Council is planning 24 seminars, 14 webcasts and a teleconference for 2007.

Teresa Konda motioned to approve the Director's report; second by Mike Wentink and approved by all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT

Tony has reviewed the books and all is in order. NS-AWWA will need to have an outside audit during 2007.

AWARDS

Mike Wentink reported that the committee will be presenting six WISA, one golden drop, and seven safety awards at the banquet.

BUDGET

The budget was provided in Treasurer's report by John Olsson.

CROSS CONNECTIONS

Rich Koenig stated that six workshops had been held with 208 participants in attendance. Lynn Wegehaupt complemented Rich Koenig on the panel format used for the session at the fall conference.

EDUCATION

Mike Wentink reported the NSAWWA/LoNM (League of Nebraska Municipalities) seminars have been well attended (215 participants thus far). An AWWA video teleconference was held on November. 2. A pipe design seminar was held earlier this year and was well attended and well received. The seminar was taught by volunteers from the City of Lincoln, Metropolitan Utilities District and many others. The committee is considering creating and distributing a flyer to high school counselors to encourage high school students to consider water/wastewater operations as a possible career. The NS-AWWA Board will set up an ad hoc committee to work with NWEA and other similar organizations to work on work force issues.

FALL CONFERENCE

Mike Wentink reported that the Fall Conference has gone well. Preliminary attendance figures (443 – for all parts of the conference) are up from last year. A joint Fall Conference planning meeting was held November 8 at 9:30 a.m. NS-AWWA will be the lead organization next year. The NS-AWWA Conference will be Wednesday, November 7 and Thursday, November 8, 2007.

FULLER AWARD

A Fuller Award will be presented at the Banquet.

MAC

Tony Bilek reported that the exhibit hall was sold out for the fifth consecutive year. There are 52 vendors registered; had to turn away five vendors due to lack of space. Receipts from vendor contracts are \$23,400; rental fees are \$1690, and six non-exhibitor sponsor contributions are \$100 each. Total net proceeds from vendor/exhibitors are \$22,310. A "Best of Show" award will be presented to the appropriate vendor; based on judging by the Young Professionals.

MEMBERSHIP

Rich Robinson reported that the Membership Committee will continue to focus on completing activities outlined in the strategic plan. Current membership is 375 compared to 346 last year. Note that part of the increase relates to how utilities are counted toward membership.

NOMINATIONS

The Chair and Past Chair (and Trustee) positions are not up for election, based on the section by-laws. Nominations for the other positions are listed below. These nominations were publicized in the last issue of Wise Water Words.

Director	Chris Koenig, HDR
Chair Elect	Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District
Vice Chair	Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering
Treasurer	John Olsson, Olsson Associates
Secretary	Chuck Thomerson, City of Columbus
Trustee	Teresa Konda, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Trustee	Rob Pierce, Nebraska League of Municipalities

PUBLIC INFORMATION

No report.

PUBLICATIONS

NS-AWWA's publication committee published three issues of Wise Water Works in 2006. The total expenses for these publications was \$8,166, advertising income totaled \$5,800, with net income of \$2,366. The website had 22,016 hits.

RESEARCH

Bruce Dvorak reported that a range of drinking water research projects currently are underway at UNL. One project of potential has been proposed for funding within the University. This project concerns detecting episodic contamination of drinking water by organic compounds. The committee also has a new member, Tim Lindeen.

SAFETY

There will be safety awards to be presented tonight.

SCHOLARSHIP

Lynn Wegehaupt reports the committee reviewed seven applicants for student scholarships. Three students were selected to receive scholarship awards of \$500.00 each.

SMALL SYSTEMS

No Report.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Bruce Dvorak reported the highlights from the past year 2005-2006 include:

- November 2005: Attended Annual Conference in Kearney (6 people)
- December 2005: Attended AWWA Education Session in Fremont on Ur and As in drinking water (5 people)
- May 2006: Assisted at Water for People Golf Benefit in Columbus (4 people)
- September 2006: Officer Elections, Panel Discussion: Finding a job: What state and private firms look for in young engineers and interns (10 people)
- October 2006: Joint meeting with ASCE: Scot Aurit of HDR "Omaha's Combined Sewer Overflows" (12 AWWA/WEF members), (50 people total)

The new Student President is Josh Melliger. Josh is a senior Civil Engineering major from Columbus.

