

**NEBRASKA SECTION AWWA  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
July 23, 2009**

The July board meeting was held at the Olsson & Associates, Lincoln. Bruce Dvorak called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Those present included: Dave Lathrop, Eric Obert, Doug Woodbeck, Eric Lee, Bruce Dvorak, Rob Pierce, Teresa Konda, Rich Robinson, John S. Olsson, Mari Matulka. Attending via conference call were Tony Bilek and Kevin Tobin.

Rob Pierce was asked to give the Treasurer's report first.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Pierce provided a budget sheet with details on the Section 2009 budget. Board members reviewed the budget sheet and a question was asked if the \$1,500 marked for WARN was still an accurate number in-lieu-of the grant money coming for WARN. Bruce Dvorak. Doug Woodbeck was asked to give a quick update on the status of the grant that was applied for towards the WARN project.

Doug informed the Board that through the application and efforts of Rich Koenig, Dennis Watts and Rick Melcher a \$5,000 grant was awarded for the Nebraska WARN project. The \$1,500 stays in this budget for WARN, however it was recommended the WARN grant money be given a separate column under the special project funds to keep the survey and WARN monies separate and identifiable. Rob also provided a detailed accounting summary with an ending balance date of June 22, 2009.

Tony Bilek motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Dave Lathrop seconded the motion; approved by unanimous vote.

The May 1, 2009 board meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed by the members present. Bruce Dvorak motioned to accept the meeting minutes as final. Teresa Konda seconded the motion; approved by unanimous voice vote.

Director's Report

Tony Bilek provided discussion on his attendance at the AWWA-ACE in San Diego last month. Overall the conference was excellent with the highlights being the varied technical sessions offered. Tony noted the overall registration numbers for the conference was down only a percentage or two; however it was apparent the actual attendee numbers seemed down quite a bit as noted in the lack of numbers in the exhibit hall and other areas.

Tony provided a detailed set of minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting and these minutes are available as well as the Section Director's report from this meeting. Tony attended the Fuller Award breakfast and noted it was an honor and pleasure to have our Nebraska Section winner, Mike Wentink in attendance.

One item to note is that the six-city AWWA-ACE rotation starting in 2019 was approved. The host cities are: Las Vegas and San Diego (west), Chicago and Denver (central), Orlando and Washington D.C. (east). Charlie Anderson will be the host dignitary at the fall conference. Eric Lee motioned to accept the Director's report. Motion was seconded by Doug Woodbeck; approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Reports

Archive and History – No written report, however the committee has begun to contact individuals about any historical information they would want to share with the committee. Individuals can respond on the Section website. John Olsson Sr. was contacted for any materials and memories concerning historical NSAWWA items such as meeting minutes or pictures from back as far as 1968. A list of past-chairs and officers also would be a good source.

Audit – No report

Awards – Doug Woodbeck reported the committee has six WISA award winners. In addition, one Outstanding Volunteer and one Meritorious Service Award winner have been selected with a Vendor Best in Show under consideration. Plaques are ordered for the Meritorious Service award and the Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Budget – As stated in the Treasurer's report, Rob Pierce provided the current budget and accounting summary – \$1,500 is the Section budgeted amount for WARN and \$5,000 in grant money from National is to be used for WARN. The monies for WARN and the survey are to be entered as two separate line items on the budget. Rob will make these changes to the budget sheets.

The survey received \$4,500 from the State Water Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant and \$1,000 from NWEA. Apparently there was some confusion on some of the survey items, as voiced by NWEA, after the final version was completed. No one is quite sure how this miscommunication happened, however the final version is in process now. A Treasurer's report was provided.

Cross Connections – No written report provided. The draft agenda for the workshops are ready.

Education – Doug Woodbeck gave a verbal report in Mike Wentink's absence. The Training Coalition has the pre-conference, November 3 agenda nearly finished. John Keith, Lincoln Water System, is a new member of the Education Committee. The committee will meet July 31 to work on a draft training calendar agenda.

Joel Christensen will not be able to participate in the World Water Expo held September 13. Teresa Konda volunteered to fill in and will contact Mike Wentink for details.

Fall Conference – John Olsson distributed a draft program for the fall conference. Lori Geres, Water for People, will be a luncheon speaker. We need for 3-5 laptops and projectors for the conference. Rich Robinson, Teresa Konda, Dave Lathrop and Bruce Dvorak will bring these items. It would be very helpful if the laptops had the 2007 version of PowerPoint installed.

The Water Tasting Contest at the conference is moving forward.

After a discussion on funds disbursement, it was decided to go with Option 2, which splits the conference revenue equally between the three host entities even though AWWA has the largest number of attendees at the conference. Most Board members felt this was an acceptable way to continue and a motion to approve Option 2 for funds disbursement was made by Doug Woodbeck. Rob Pierce seconded the motion; approved by unanimous voice vote.

Teresa Konda will not be able to moderate Session B in the a.m., November 5. Kevin Tobin will fill the time slot.

John Olsson will contact the Alley Rose to inquire about the visiting dignitary dinner, Tuesday, November 4. The Board must decide on the attendance list for this dinner.

The topic of on-line registration for the fall conference next year was brought up again. In general, all members are in favor of the concept; however details will need to be worked out. One example would be how to do the payment? All were in agreement that pre-pay would be the way to go. Maybe PayPal or some other type of service could be used.

Fuller Award – Chris Koenig is handling the write-up for this year's Fuller Award.

MAC – The MAC report from Tony Bilek noted that invitations and contracts will be mailed the first week in August. The exhibitor fee remains at \$450. Tony stated he will send the updated contracts to Mari Matulka soon.

Membership – Rich Robinson and Mike Wentink staffed the membership booth at AWWA-ACE. Rich was in concurrence with Tony Bilek on the overall decline in through-the-door participants at this year's conference. The Nebraska Section membership ranges from about 340-345 most of the time.

Nominations – The slate of candidates for open officer positions, including the director position, will be published in the next issue of Wise Water Words.

Public Information – Eric Obert discussed details of the water tasting contest to be held at the fall conference. Members thought it would be a good idea to include a local media anchor as a judge on the taste panel and have a press release tailored to the contest.

Rob Pierce suggested the committee work with the Kearney Visitors Convention Services Bureau to coordinate some more PR. Mari Matulka will do a NSAWWA website blast about the contest and it will be published in the next Wise Water Words.

Bruce Dvorak brought up that the Section criteria for sample submission is different than the National AWWA criteria, in that you must be an AWWA member to submit a sample for the National contest. One item to be resolved prior to the conference -- how will the samples be received and stored before the contest begins?

Publications – Mari Matulka stated that the next Wise Water Words would definitely be a full issue. August 1 is the deadline for stories and reports.

The banquet at the fall conference will be held November 4, not November 5.

Safety – The western branch of the committee met and the Eastern group will meet July 24. So far 10 safety awards have been developed.

Small Systems – The April 22 seminar in Aurora went very well with 47 participants. The committee is trying to schedule a seminar in Paxton to cover trenching/shoring and confined space topics.

Student Activities – No report.

Water For People – Teresa Konda submitted the report for Water for People. Activities update for the golf benefit showed the May 1 raised more than \$4,000 and the trap shoot held July 17 raised more than \$1,400. Articles are posted on the Section's website and will be included in the next Wise Water Words.

The Water for People Leadership seminar was held in Denver; however the Section did not have a representative, so the money budgeted for this event will not be used.

Young Professionals – A flier for the upcoming YP seminar on water system coatings was distributed by Teresa Konda. The seminar consists of a presentation on coatings by SGA at Lazlo's downtown, followed by a brewery tour and social after the technical sessions. You don't have to be a member of YP to attend, please attend to share your knowledge and experiences with the young professionals and have some fun!

#### Old Business

The proposed bylaw changes were submitted to National and have been approved by their policy review committee. A final vote by National will be the last requirement before our sections proposed change in bylaws are final.

Board members discussed the process to fill the two new trustee positions. It was suggested that after the business meeting at the fall conference, potential trustees contact a board member about being included on a candidate list. Once a slate of candidates list is put together, the board would then vote on the new trustees.

A survey project contract has been signed and a draft of the survey given to the contractor.

The Board will hold its summer retreat Friday, August 14, at Nebraska Hall on the UNL campus. Tony Bilek suggested someone on the Board contact National and see if they would have any interest in attending our section's summer retreat. Parking permits can be obtained from Bruce Dvorak if you let him know in advance that you plan to attend. The Board probably will do a brown bag type of lunch for the retreat.

Bruce Dvorak would like to save any discussions about cash awards at the conference until the next meeting.

#### New Business

An update on the WARN grant and project status was given by Doug Woodbeck earlier in the meeting.

Rob Pierce said the Section has been given an extension on the taxes until August 15. The tax accountant noted there would be some tax form changes coming next year that would affect the way the taxes are processed. Rob also suggested that the taxes and procedures for this be an agenda item for the fall retreat under the upcoming work to be done on SOPs.

Doug Woodbeck stated that DHSS will contact the Section for possible educational services using new SRF money. This would be an item that Doug would bring up at the January board meeting. One concept discussed on this item would be to bring in an outside speaker or teacher to assist as a mentor for some of the systems.

Bruce Dvorak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.; seconded by Dave Lathrop.

There will be board meeting after the business meeting at the fall conference, Wednesday, November 4, at the Kearney Holiday Inn. The next meeting will be September 17, 9:30 a.m., at Olsson Associates, Lincoln.