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Vice-Chair

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Secretary

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Director

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Ben Day, 402.458.5693

Eric Melcher, 402.694.6992

Chad Roberts, 402.844.2210

Milo Rust, 308.432.0506

Past Chair

John S. Olsson, 402.458.5661

2011 Committee Chairs

John Miriovsky, *Archives & History*
402.441.5932

Teresa Konda, *Audit*
402.926.7063

Dennis Watts, *Awards*
402.844.2210

David Lathrop, *Budget*
402.643.3433

Rich Koenig, *Cross Connections*
402.370.3114

John Keith, *Education*
402.994.3306

Rob Pierce, *Fall Conference*
402.476.2829

Mari Matulka, *Fuller Award*
402.504.7150

Tony Bilek
Manufacturers/Associates Council
402.333.9660

Rich Robinson, *Membership*
402.255.3840

Mike Wentink, *Membership Survey*
308.535.8135

Ben Day, *Nitrates/Source Protection*
402.458.5693

John S. Olsson, *Nominations*
402.458.5661

Brian Gongol, *Publications*
515.223.4144

Mary Poe, *Public Information*
402.471.1003

Dr. Xu Li, *Research and Student Activities*
402.472.6042

Rob Pierce, *Safety*
402.476.2829

Jon Zellars, *Scholarship*
402.504.7913

Eric Melcher, *Small Systems*
402.694.6992

Craig Reinsch, *Water for People*
402.458.5671

Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*
402.441.7571

Justin Stine, *Young Professionals*
402.435.3080



Nebraska Section
American Water Works Association
PO Box 94791, Lincoln, NE 68509-4791; phone: 402.957.2482

Nebraska Section AWWA

May 6, 2011 – Board Meeting Agenda

9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., Legacy Room – Miracle Hills Golf Course, Omaha

Join by conference call by dialing 1-800-704-9804. When prompted, enter Participant Code (83795334) followed by #.

- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes – Doug Woodbeck
- Treasurer's Report – David Lathrop
- Director's Report – Tony Bilek

Old Business

- Ultimate Backflow Challenge
- Top Ops
- SOPs
- RMSO in Custer

New Business

- Summer Workshop
- Section Retreat
- AWWA On-line Water Treatment Operator Program
- Committee Reports
- Next Meeting – Conference Call on July 14th at 9:30 a.m.
- Board Retreat – August 5, 12, or 19. Location TBD.
- Adjourn

2011 NS AWWA Committee Assignments

Committee	Chair	Liaison
Archive and History	John Miriovsky	Rob Pierce
Audit	Teresa Konda	N/A
Awards	Dennis Watts	Doug Woodbeck
Budget	David Lathrop	N/A
Cross Connections	Rich Koenig	Chad Roberts
Education	John Keith	Doug Woodbeck
Fall Conference	Rob Pierce	N/A
Fuller Award	Mari Matulka	Tony Bilek
MAC	Tony Bilek	N/A
Membership	Rich Robinson	Eric Lee
Nominations	John S. Olsson	John S. Olsson
Public Information	Mary Poe	David Lathrop
Publications	Brian Gongol	Tony Bilek
Safety	Rob Pierce	N/A
Scholarship	Jon Zellars	Rob Pierce
Small Systems	Rick Melcher	David Lathrop
Student Activities and Research	Dr. Xu Li	Ben Day
Water For People	Craig Reinsch	Teresa Konda
Water Utility Council	Jerry Obrist	Eric Lee
Young Professionals	Justin Stine	Teresa Konda

Ad Hoc Committees

Committee	Chair	Liaison
SRF (July 2011)	Dennis Watts	Chad Roberts
Member Survey	Mike Wentink	
Nitrates Initiatives Committee	Ben Day	

Upcoming Meeting Dates	Location
May 6 at 9:00 a.m. w/ WFP Golf	Miracle Hills Golf Course, Omaha
July 14 at 9:00 a.m.	Conference Call, No Meeting
September 8 at 9:30	TBD
November 2 at 1:30	Kearney

Other Important Dates	
RMSO in Custer, SD	May 13-14
ACE in Washington, D.C.	June 12-16
Summer Workshop in Denver, CO	July 27-28
Retreat	August 5, 12, or 19?

Nebraska AWWA – Board Goals for 2011

1. Sustain member education and training
 - a. Additional one-day workshops – SCADA, others
 - b. Re-energize mentoring program - newsletter features, area roundtables, hands-on training
2. Promote confidence and understanding to the public about public water systems
3. Promote activities to retain current members and recruit new members
4. Increase water industry advocacy in Nebraska
 - a. Nitrate Ad Hoc Committee
 - b. Washington Fly-In
5. Strengthen Section Committees –
 - a. Matrix for committee evaluation
 - b. Finalize committee SOPs
6. Continue to practice sound financial management of revenues and expenditures to sustain the Section's activities, and maintain a minimum of 50 percent of the annual operating budget (including potential joint conference liabilities) in reserves.

**NEBRASKA SECTION AWWA
BOARD MEETING (DRAFT) MINUTES
May 6, 2011**

The May 6, 2011 NSAWWA Board Meeting was held in the Legacy Room, Miracle Hill Golf Course Clubhouse, 1401 N. 120 St., Omaha. Teresa Konda, NSAWWA Board chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 09:00. Those present at the meeting were, Teresa Konda (Chair), David Lathrop (Treasurer), Eric Lee (Vice Chair), Ben Day (Trustee), Chad Roberts (Trustee), Rick Melcher (Trustee), Rob Pierce (Chair-Elect), Mari Matulka, Dr. Xu Li, Rich Robinson, Rich Koenig, Kevin Tobin, Patrick Harlan and Doug Woodbeck (Secretary). Those using the conference call-in were Milo Rust (Trustee) and Mike Wentink. John Olsson (Past Chair, Trustee) and Tony Bilek (Director) were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 21, 2011 Board Meeting were reviewed. Rob Pierce made motion to approve, second by John Keith. Unanimous approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (see attached)

David Lathrop reported that an extension has been filed (by Micek & Crouch) for our 2010 tax filing.

The Section's portion of the 2010 Fall Conference proceeds was \$11,671.17; less than had been budgeted (\$13,000). Total Fall Conference attendance was 332 (306 in 2009), with 109 registering specifically for the AWWA part of the conference (118 in 2009).

The RMSO meeting in Custer, SD will be attended by David Lathrop. Everyone else who wanted to go has other obligations that will not allow them to attend.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Rob Pierce motioned to accept, Eric Lee second, unanimous approval.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (see attached)

AWWA has a new Chief Financial Office (CFO), Kevin Mann.

AWWA has been working with Japan Water Work Association on disaster relief efforts.

170 water professionals representing 49 states and Puerto Rico attended more than 400 meetings with federal representatives to discuss pertinent water issues during the DC Fly-in. AWWA and WEF have developed a joint resolution outlining a mission statement to work together toward common goals in the water industry (attached).

AWWA presidential candidates will be speaking at ACE (Don Broussard – Southwest Section, Jim Chaffee – Wisconsin Section and John Donahue – Illinois Section). Elections for president will be held at the Winter Board Meeting.

The Director's report was reviewed. Rob Pierce motioned to approve, second by John Keith, unanimous approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ARCHIVE & HISTORY: No report.

AUDIT: No report.

AWARDS: No report. The Section has received one nomination for a WISA award.

BUDGET: See Treasurer's report, attached budget and attached budget report.

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL: See attached. Four one-day workshops are planned for this year, with assistance from the League of Nebraska Municipalities. The Ultimate Backflow Challenge will be held at the Fall Conference.

Rich Koenig requested a response from the Board regarding whether the Section intends to continue to support the Ultimate Backflow Challenge. It is the consensus of the Board that there was never the thought of not supporting the challenge. There has been concern about participants coming to the Fall Conference only for the challenge and not paying any conference attendance fees.

There also is a concern about providing money/cash prizes with no accountability for the expenditure for the Section. It was pointed out that the Section must follow all IRS reporting requirements and must provide prize recipients a form 1099 if the prize is more than \$600.

At this year's Fall Conference, David Lathrop plans to have all prize recipients sign a "receipt/waiver/release" for their prizes before they receive them. The thought was again put on the table that prizes could be signed for at the end of the competition then presented at the banquet during the award presentations.

The board decided that since the rules/criteria for the Ultimate Backflow Challenge have been presented for this year, there would be no change in how the competition is run this year.

The Cross-Connection Committee will review how this competition is implemented and propose any changes, if any, to the program that the board may wish to incorporate for following years. These changes could be calculating a fee based on the number of continuing education hours offered during the conference and charging the participants accordingly, or any other proposed changes the committee may deem appropriate. Any proposed changes will be provided at the annual meeting during the conference.

It also was suggested the Ultimate Backflow Challenge be handled by the Nebraska Chapter of the American Backflow Prevention Association and held at their annual conference. This has not been deemed doable in the past because the ABPA conference is only one day and time constraints are such that it is not practical. The Section declined to act on Rich's request because there had never been discussion about stopping support for the competition.

EDUCATION: See attached report.

FALL CONFERENCE: The Fall Conference planning committee met at the Embassy Suites Conference, Center in LaVista, April 13. Topics and speakers are being solicited. A call for papers was sent and some speakers contacted. The conference theme has been decided and the format and rough schedule is in progress. It was suggested to have an OSHA presentation regarding how OSHA regulations can impact governmental entities. Worksite safety and boring safety also were topics suggested for the conference in addition to Energy Efficiency. The AWWA dignitary has been named.

The fees for the Fall Conference are going to increase. A person wanting to attend only one organizations events will be charged \$80. (up from \$70). Pre-registration fees will be:

- Full conference registration up from \$140 to \$150
- Operator's breakfast up from \$10 to \$15
- Extra banquet tickets up from \$20 to \$30
- Lunch only will be \$15
- On-site registration for all conference events will be \$10 more.

FULLER AWARD: An award will be given. The award plaque has been ordered.

MAC: No report.

MEMBERSHIP: No report.

NOMINATIONS: John Olsson reports the committee continues to deliberate on and assemble a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors' positions that will need to be filled this year at the Fall Conference. Their next conference call is scheduled for May 13 and they plan to deliver the candidate list to the Secretary no later than July 31.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Invitations were sent to city Mayors to proclaim May 1 through 7 as Drinking Water Week in their communities. Word was received from Grand Island, Scottsbluff, Seward and York that the proclamation had been signed and issued. Committee members are taking turns issuing daily posts on the Facebook page during Drinking Water Week.

PUBLICATIONS: See attached report.

SAFETY: One mailing has been sent for safety surveys. Only two have been returned. There are two safety workshops planned and the committee will continue to work with the Small Systems Committee to produce a workshop in western Nebraska.

SCHOLARSHIP: No report.

SMALL SYSTEMS: Working with Safety Committee to set a date for a workshop in western Nebraska. The dates for the workshops in Aurora and NE Nebraska are not set. These workshops will revolve around SCADA and efficiencies (power, etc.). Lincoln Williams with TMS has been contacted to be a provider at these workshops.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: There are some new student members. The group held a water taste test during Drinking Water Week.

WATER FOR PEOPLE: See attached report.

WATER UTILITY COUNCIL: No report provided during the meeting. Jerry Obrist is to get a report to Eric Lee for inclusion in the minutes.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS: See attached report.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

SRF: No report.

SURVEY COMMITTEE: Mike and Marc are still working on the white paper.

NITRATE: There will be a Groundwater Guardians workshop in Seward June 23. The City of Seward was asked to make a presentation regarding their efforts at wellhead protection. The National Groundwater Conference will be held in Omaha, October 4-6. The Section should consider setting up a booth at the conference. Ben is working on setting up a conference call for the committee.

Top Ops: The Section may use questions that are published in OpFlow for the Top Ops competition. It was again discussed that Chris Koenig no longer wanted to be the Top Ops coordinator. Both Brian Gongol and Rich Koenig have expressed a desire to step in and take over the show for Chris. The Section decided to continue with the Top Ops competition on an annual basis. A list of conference attendees (past 2 or 3 years) will be obtained from Kathleen and distributed to Section board members and to DHHS DPH Field staff with the idea of contacting those persons who regularly attend the conference to solicit their participation in the competition, thereby making getting teams much easier (hopefully). Maybe we'll be able to have one team from each of the DHHS Field Areas.

OLD BUSINESS: See discussions of Ultimate Backflow Challenge (Cross Connection Control Committee report), Top Ops Ad Hoc Committees – Top Ops report), SOPs (SOP Updates report) and RMSO meeting in Custer, SD (Treasurer's report).

SOP UPDATES: August 5, 12 and 19 were proposed for the summer retreat dates. Most board members indicated the 12 would be preferable. Dr. Xu Li will arrange for a meeting room at UNL as we had last year. Teresa will send a copy of the appropriate SOP to each Committee Chair/Board Member for their review to be ready to discuss them at the retreat. The SOP updates will be discussed at the retreat so that we will hopefully be able to decide on any necessary revisions and have them ready for adoption and distribution at the November board meeting. Rob volunteered the League to provide pop and the Section will cover the cost of lunch during the retreat. Anyone wishing to bring donuts/rolls/cookies would be appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS:

The AWWA Summer Workshop will be held July 27-28 in Denver. Chad Roberts, Rich Koenig, Teresa Konda and Doug Woodbeck expressed an interest in attending the workshop.

AWWA offers Water Treatment Plant on-line training for water operators. The Section is thinking of promoting this training for operators, as long as DHHS DPH would approve continuing education hours for it. The Section will have to submit the training information to Mike Wentink, DHHS DPH Training Coordinator, to see how many hours would be approved.

The discussion came up about providing envelopes and related items for committee chairs to use for mailing material for Section business. Apparently the City of Norfolk was questioned about using city resources for purposes other than city business. Although the city has been fully reimbursed for any Section work done with city resources, the decision was made to provide committee chairs and board members with the necessary envelopes, etc. to accomplish section business without using any non-section resources.

Eric Melcher requested that NeWARN be included as a sponsor on the fliers that are sent by NSAWWA. The board agreed this would be a good idea. Eric thanked the board for making the Section's conference line available for NeWARN to use. All committees may use the conference call line for meetings. Contact Section Chair Teresa Konda to make arrangements.

SECTION GOALS: This item was not discussed other than the items brought forth in the committee reports.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- Region III RMSO meeting, May 13-14, 2011 in Custer, SD at the Sylvan Lake Lodge.
- The July 14, 2011 (9 a.m.) Board Meeting will be a conference call unless it is decided to meet in person. The call-in number will be provided at a later date. It may be decided that no meeting is necessary.
- Section retreat tentatively scheduled for August 5, 12 or 19.

- Backflow workshop, Ogallala, September 6.
- The September 8, 2011 (9:30 a.m.) Board meeting location has yet to be determined.
- Backflow workshop, Grand Island, September 20.
- Backflow workshop, Wayne, September 21.
- Backflow workshop, Beatrice, September 22.
- The November 2, 2011 (1:30 p.m.) Board meeting will take place November 2 at the Annual Fall Conference.
- ACE is June 12 - 16, 2011 in Washington D. C.
- Summer Workshop, Denver, July 27-28.

ADJOURNMENT:

Eric Melcher motioned to adjourn, Chad Roberts second, unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

NEBRASKA SECTION AWWA BUDGET 2011			
	2011 Actual	2011 Budget	
INCOME			
Section Allotment	12153.00	11,050.00	
Association Allotment	2847.00	3,950.00	
Multi-section Allotment	402.80	650	
Annual Fall Conference	11,671.17	43,000	Fall Conference; Assumes \$13,000 above expenses
Interest on Accounts	313.52	900	
Advertising Income	0.00	0	No advertizing income 2011
Water for People			
Raffle - Fall Conference	0.00	1,500	Revenue Neutral
Golf Event	1,000.00	8000	Revenue Neutral
Trap Event	0.00	2,000	Revenue Neutral
Safety Committee	0.00	1300	2 wrkshops
Special Project Funding	0.00	0	
WARN	0.00	0	
Small Systems	0.00	250	
Education Committee	0.00	0	
Pipe Workshop (Biannual '10, '12, '14)	0.00	0	
Preconference (Biannual '11, '13, '15)	0.00	1800	Revenue Neutral
			May be funded in 2011 how much???
SRF	0.00	15000	Revenue neutral
Miscellaneous	0.00	0	
TOTAL INCOME	28,387.49	89,400.00	
EXPENSES			
Safety Committee	0.00	1525	2 workshops & handouts; \$100 Safety Awards, application mailing & congrats \$200
Cross Connection Workshop	0.00	2470	(Ultimate backflow challenge \$770 plus \$200 for qualifying round, \$1500 for LoNM contract)
Education			Hi Tech operator series of 3; \$600 per 2 day class or \$1500 for all three 2 day classes; plus presenter expenes including per diem
Education Committee	0.00	750	
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	0.00	5,000	
Pipe Workshop (Biannual '10, '12, '14)	0.00	0	
Preconference (Biannual '11, '13, '15)	0.00	1,800	Revenue neutral
Public Info Comm.	30.00	750	
Small Systems Committee	0.00	1,000	
Director's Spouse (Meeting Expense)	274.30	300	
Publications			
Wise Water Words	0.00	0	No expenses 2011
Membership Directory	0.00	0	\$4200 needed 2012
Advertising	0.00	0	
Student Activity	0.00	350	
Membership	0.00	300	
Awards	0.00	600	
Research Foundation	0.00	1,000	
Regional Officer's Meeting/Officer Training			
Summer Leadership Workshop	0.00	1,500	
Membership Summit	0.00	0	
WFP Workshop	0.00	750	
Regional Officer Meetings	0.00	1,500	
Annual Meeting at Fall Conference	0.00	1,500	
Annual Fall conference ('11, '14, '17,...)	0.00	30,000	\$13,000 more revenue than expenses
Water for People - Event Expenses			
Raffle - Fall Conference	0.00	700	Revenue neutral
Golf Event	100.00	4,000	Revenue neutral
Trap Event	0.00	200	Revenue neutral
Water for People - Payment to WFP			
Raffle - Fall Conference	0.00	800	Revenue neutral
Golf Event	1,010.00	4,000	Revenue neutral
Trap Event	0.00	1,800	Revenue neutral
MAC Council	0.00	0	
Scholarships			
Abel Wolman	0.00	1,000	Tony Bilek for Winter Mtg or ACE
Stockholm Water Prize	0.00	500	
			2 to 3 people; \$3000/# of people up to expenses
Top Ops	0.00	3,000	
Poster Board Competition	0.00	1,000	1 person (registration is free)
Conference	0.00	0	

Leisen	0.00	3,000	
SRF	0.00	15,000	May be funded in 2011; Revenue neutral
Young Professionals	0.00	50	
Water Utility Council (Registration at ACE,	0.00	750	
WARN	0.00	750	For liability coverage for WARN committee members
Washington Fly-In	2,594.69	2,250	\$1500 fly in plus \$750 for ACE registration
Business			
Board Conference Calls	53.47	500	
Web Site Hosting	0.00	0	Web site hosting by Network Solutions; \$5.99 per month or \$718.80 with a 10 year contract
Web Site Registration	0.00	100	Renews in 7/30/11; \$10 per year; assumes 10 year contract
PO Box	44.00	50	
Bonds for treasurers (2)	100.00	150	
Retreat (Annual)	0.00	250	In 2010, \$128 was spent for lunches & donuts
Tax Prep (Annual)	0.00	550	
Secretary of State (\$35 Bi-annual non-p	23.00	35	
Audit (Every 3 years 2010,2013, 2016 e	0.00	0	In 2010, \$2500 was spent
Miscellaneous (pens, postage, envelop	79.20	400	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 4,308.66	\$ 91,930.00	
NET INCOME	\$ 24,078.83	\$ (2,530.00)	
			All accounts accurate as of 5/4/11
Preconference Savings Acct	\$ 3,224.90		XXXXXX9140
Pipe Workshop Savings Acct	\$ 1,585.68		XXXXXX6735
Savings Acct Balance	\$ 3,570.02		XXXXXX8714
Checking Acct Balance	\$ 27,962.52		XXXXXX9562
CD Reserves		Interest Rate	
070811 CD	8142.38	0.90%	TIME ACCOUNT XXXXXX5443
082612 CD	11912.84	1.40%	TIME ACCOUNT XXXXXX1283
032613 CD	11932.37	1.90%	TIME ACCOUNT XXXXXX1300
080814 CD	8142.38	1.64%	TIME ACCOUNT XXXXXX5435
Total	40129.97		
Reserve Goal \$40,000			
		Interest Rate	
092911 Leisen Scholarship CD	8333.00	0.90%	TIME ACCOUNT XXXXXX5682
032912 Leisen Scholarship CD	8333.00	1.39%	TIME ACCOUNT XXXXXX5690
112912 Leisen Scholarship CD	8334.00	1.88%	TIME ACCOUNT XXXXXX5674
Total	25000.00		

April 27, 2011

Dear Board Members,

In 2011 a joint resolution was adopted by the Boards of both the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and the Water Environment Federation (WEF), which states in part: *AWWA and WEF resolve to support and lead as necessary an effort to develop a cohesive voice for the water community by encouraging collaboration between our members, coordinating programs and services, and developing consensus on major water policy issues.*

We are pleased to provide an update on our successful joint activities and a roadmap of future joint activities. While maintaining our respected identities in core areas, we believe these proposed partnering initiatives will expand the visibility and strength of each organization.

With a strong history of partnering on activities, events and publications, our two organizations are proud of the rich information provided by these events and materials. Some of our current joint projects include:

- ✓ Utility Management Conference
- ✓ Work For Water Website and Materials
- ✓ Young Professionals Summit
- ✓ Washington DC Fly-In (**NEW**)
- ✓ Effective Utility Management Program
- ✓ Potential Workforce Grant (**NEW**)
- ✓ Publications (current titles: *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, 21st edition, *Using Reclaimed Water to Augment Potable Water Supplies*; *International Standard Units for Water & Wastewater*)

Because of the past success of our joint endeavors, our Associations are embarking on additional plans and strategies in the following areas:

- ✓ **Further expansion of the *Water Matters! Fly-In*.** This year for the first time AWWA and WEF co-hosted this annual event, resulting in the highest number ever of participants and Congressional visits. Our primary message was the need for infrastructure reinvestment and a proposed financing strategy called WIFIA, which is modeled after a successful transportation program of similar name (i.e. TIFIA). Because of the success of the 2011 joint Fly-In, in 2012 we plan to once again co-host this event and further expand to include grassroots efforts before and after the Fly-In to better engage AWWA's sections and the WEF's member associations.
- ✓ **Expand Work for Water (WFW) website and program.** Both associations are dedicated to the goals of the WFW program: to enhance the image of the water careers and to develop green jobs. WEF and AWWA will now provide additional time and resources to provide more depth to the program. Examples of the proposed enhancements include development of a WFW toolkit for career counselors, the launch of a social media campaign including a YouTube video competition, building strategic partnerships, and providing expanded job training information.
- ✓ **Young Professional Engagement and Leadership Development.** To create and strengthen the synergies between the younger members of both Associations, we will embark on a joint program tailored specifically to connect young professionals via the web, with a focus on leadership opportunities and skills building. The program will utilize an application process to select high potential young professionals who, as a group, will engage in a series of networking, leadership and professional skill

building activities and modules that will lead to a “graduation.” These young professionals will connect with water sector leaders through a mentoring activity and through participation in our annual conferences. We also envisage that the program will include membership in both Associations.

Staff of each organization is committed to providing the strongest programs with the most relevant information to members. These programs are breaking down the barriers between the Associations so that the entire water sector benefits. Together, the two largest water Associations will be able to better serve and better support the many water professionals that have dedicated their lives to supporting public health.

The areas of collaboration described in this letter were identified by the senior staff of the two organizations during a recent meeting at WEF Headquarters. During the meeting the staff shared information on each organization’s current priorities in order to determine where working together was most likely to be beneficial. We believe that we have identified areas in which collaboration can provide the greatest benefit for our organizations and members and that with focus we will achieve successes on which we can build. We are already in the process of developing timelines, staffing requirements, budgets and business plans for each of the above proposals. In addition to this written update, we intend to provide separate briefings to the Presidential Officers of both Associations by mid-May. The May briefings will be followed by a gathering at ACE to continue our progress and celebrate our success.

Please feel free to contact either of us should you have questions.

Sincerely,

David B. LaFrance
Executive Director
American Water Works Association

Jeffery A. Eger
Executive Director
Water Environment Federation

Cross Connection Committee

Chair: Rich Koenig; Vice Chair: Leroy Kramer

Members: Rich Koenig, Leroy Kramer, Chad Roberts, Rob Pierce and Terry Vail

When and where has the committee met in the past year (include conference calls): July

Deliverables/Activities: 4 – one-day workshops co-sponsored with LNM and assist with the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge”

How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in accomplishing its work? Working OK

Plans/Projects for upcoming year: 4 one-day workshops co-sponsored with LNM and assist with the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge”

Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2010: \$1,000 - LofNM cost share (?)
\$ 770 – Ultimate Backflow Challenge
\$ 230 – Misc.

Budget Request for 2011 (include a short justification) \$2,000 to help fund the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge” session and various other expenses as described above

Director’s report

Since the March Board meeting several noteworthy items/events that have occurred on the national level are as follows:

NEW CFO — Kevin Mann has joined AWWA as its next CFO. Kevin will take the position from Lynn Laskey who has served admirably for many years.

JWWA — AWWA has been working with the Japan Water Works Association and many disaster relief organizations to assist water agencies in northern Japan after the tragic earthquakes and tsunamis that have crippled the country.

DC FLY-IN — The 10th annual DC Fly-In resulted in more than 400 meetings on the Hill. More than 170 water professionals representing 49 states plus Puerto Rico were in attendance. Members of the Water Environment Federation joined AWWA personnel to the meetings. I have attached the joint resolution that was signed by both organizations. The resolution outlines a mission statement and commitment to work together on common goals in the water industry.

President-Elect Candidates — Three candidates have been nominated and will be giving initial speeches at AWWA-ACE in Washington DC. The candidates are:

Don Broussard – Southwest Section, Jim Chaffee – Wisconsin Section, John Donahue – Illinois Section. Election of the next president will take place at the Winter Board meeting.

AWWA-ACE — I will attend AWWA-ACE in Washington DC June 11-16. I look forward to hearing from anyone who also will attend to discuss potential meetings on the Hill. Perhaps Jerry Obrist can shed some light on any issues our Section needs to discuss “post” DC Fly-In.

Tony Bilek

Education Committee

John Keith, chair; Nick McElvain, Mari Matulka, Rob Pierce, Steve Kelley, Chuck Thomerson, Mike Wentink

Happenings — We have had some communications via email concerning:

1. We passed on information concerning a USEPA webinar “Case Studies on How to Address Taste and Odor Issues” to be presented May 19, from 1-3 p.m. EST.
2. Request for new training ideas — The audio conference April 4 titled “Best Practices in Water Storage and Pipe Disinfection” was not purchased. It seemed to be the general consensus that since it was strictly an audio conference that funds could be better utilized elsewhere.
3. Training opportunity updates
 - a. Advanced Asset Management Workshop (Awaiting EPA budget approval before workshop are scheduled).
 - b. LoNM joint workshop coordination. Attendance update.
4. Still discussing the possibility of systems sharing AWWA or WRF webcasts. Look into possibility of creating a "Shared Training for Small Systems" program that might get 4-6 small systems in the same area to join forces to share training costs.

Nominations Committee

I will not be at the meeting, but I can report that the nominating committee (Mike W., Tony B. and myself) continue to deliberate and assemble a slate of candidates. Our next conference call is May 13 and we are on track to deliver a slate of officers to the Secretary (you J), not later than July 31, 2011.

John S. Olsson

Public Information Committee

Invitations were sent to Mayors to declare May 1-7 as Drinking Water Week in their communities. Have heard from a few communities that the mayor did sign and issue the proclamation (Grand Island, Scottsbluff, Seward, and York).

The committee members are taking turns issuing daily posts on the facebook page during Drinking Water Week.

Mary Poe

Safety Committee Report

We have sent one mailing for safety surveys (applications) and have only received two back.

We have two safety workshops planned and will work with the small systems committee on the western workshop.

Fall Conference Committee

The three groups met in LaVista during the Great Plains Conference and started the planning of the conference. We are still looking for topics and speakers to fill the conference. Call for papers has been sent and some speakers contacted. A theme has been decided; format and rough schedule is in progress.

Rob Pierce

Treasurer notes:

1. Micek & Crouch have filed an extension for section tax filing.
2. The annual conference brought in \$11,671.17. Less than budgeted \$13,000. Attendance was 332 in 2010 versus 306 in 2009; however, there were 109 registrants for AWWA in 2010 versus 118 in 2009.
3. Only one person plans to attend the regional officers' meeting in Custer, SD May 13-14

David Lathrop, treasurer

Water For People Committee

- Thank you for approving attendance at the WFP Committee Retreat at March's meeting. Arnold Radloff is planning on attending the retreat in July.
- Golf Event
 - Thank you for your support.
 - Our participant and sponsor numbers are down this year and we will be slightly below the minimum number of golfers required (does anyone want to stay?). We have received enough incoming funds to cover expenses and provide a donation to WFP, but the amount will be reduced (by approximately 3/4, or a around \$3,000).
- Other Items:
 - Still discussing plans for the Trap Shoot, including venues.
 - A \$1,000 donation was made to Water For People's Crowdrise event held March 22 to April 22. Nebraska placed third, behind the New Jersey and Rocky Mountain sections. The donation was made possible thanks to Terracon and an astute committee member. Nebraska won the \$500 in Water For People merchandise prize from the event. Thank you for your support!
 - The Water For People quarterly conference call was held April 27. I was not able to attend, but minutes were distributed. I passed them along to the remainder of the committee.

Craig Reinsch

Young Professions Committee

The YP group met by conference call over the last quarter to begin to establish events for the year. Several ideas and plans were suggested and we are working on putting them into place. We felt that it would be good to get a survey of what types of events more people would be interested in rather than us acting on what we were interested in. Ben had the survey sent earlier this month to get that moving.

In relation to that, we are looking at different ideas for how we could YPs to attend better and get more out of the YP mixer at the fall conference. The last two have not worked well in most opinions, so we are looking for a different avenue.

Justin Stine

Publications Committee

Website: The Publications Committee will be very busy in the coming few months, as our longtime chair, Mari Matulka, retires from M.U.D. June 30, and will hand over management of the website. During that transition, we will probably require a little bit of added patience with anything involving the website, so please give as much lead time as possible for anything you need posted or distributed to the e-mail list. Mari has turned over the log-in details so that I can get accustomed to accessing the site, and I plan to take advantage of the remaining eight weeks that Mari will remain with us to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible.

• Please join me in thanking Mari for all of her exceptional service to the committee and to the Section. Her tremendous service will be missed, and we wish her well.

Publication schedule: The summer edition of Wise Water Words will probably be printed mid-

June. Our summer publication schedule is driven by the results of the Unicameral. Day 90 is scheduled for June 8. I would like to have everything else delivered to the national publishers before then, so that the legislative report can be dropped in at the last moment and everything can be sent at once.

• **Please send committee reports, columns, and other content sometime within the next two weeks (preferably by May 20) to help ensure that we can thoroughly review and edit everything in a timely manner.**

Wise Water Words summer priorities: The summer edition will feature another nitrates article (in keeping with the board's goals for 2011), a report on the Water For People golf outing, and an invitation to the 2011 Fall Conference, in addition to the legislative report and the usual columns.

• **If anyone would like to volunteer for another mentoring Q&A, please let me now.**

Feedback: Since the new publications arrangement with national remains a work in progress, we're going to have to learn as we go along. I have not received any feedback regarding the content of the spring edition, and frankly don't know whether that means it was a great debut, or if it means people were disappointed but didn't say anything for fear of hurt feelings. I was disappointed that at least four major articles that we submitted were cut from the final edition, including a thorough review of the 2010 Fall Conference. Some of those articles may be re-submitted for the summer edition.

Mailing list problems: Teresa Konda reported that some of her colleagues at HDR did not receive their printed copies of the spring publication. I will review our section mailing database and see whether the names were accidentally dropped from our list. If not, I will follow up with national.

• If you or someone you know did not receive their copy, please let me know the names of those who did not receive them. Please e-mail to brian@gongol.net.

Brian Gongol

Water Utility Council Fly-In: *Talking points for your use in meetings*

A Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority

Tell

- Who you are and what you do.
- My utility serves [XX,XXX people in your district/state]
- About AWWA and WEF.
- We appreciate the opportunity to meet.
- AWWA and WEF have long been sounding the concern about the need for greater investment in water infrastructure.
- A reliable drinking water supply and Clean Water system are necessary for a community's economic development, public health, public safety and environmental health.
- A loan-based, innovative credit program could significantly meet these infrastructure finance needs with minimal impact on the federal budget.
- Similar structure to TIFIA, the successful transportation program.
- WIFIA would take a two-pronged approach: direct loans for large projects, which the state SRF programs are unable to do; and help for small to medium-sized systems by helping states leverage their SRF capitalization funds.
- Right now, 27 states leverage their SRF funds; more could if rates were better.
- The SRF program – loans to water systems that revolve to other water systems as they are paid back – is a sound approach, but needs more capital and some administrative improvements.
- WIFIA and SRF would work well together.
- The SRF and a WIFIA can significantly lower the cost of financing water projects at very low cost to the federal government.

- Steps that lower the cost of financing water projects are very important: saving 2 percent on interest rates equals a 25% grant.

Ask

Your Congressman and Senators to actively reach out to urge action on WIFIA:

- Senate Dem: Boxer and Cardin (EPW and its Water Subcommittee)
- Senate GOP: Inhofe and Sessions (EPW and its Water Subcommittee)
- House GOP: Mica and Gibbs (T&I and its Water Subcommittee)
- House Dem: Rahall and Bishop of NY (T&I and its Water Subcommittee)

Chemical Facility Security

Tell

- Who you are and what you do.
- My utility serves [XX,XXX people in your district/state]
- AWWA is the world's oldest and largest organization of drinking water professionals in the world. Formed in 1928, WEF is a non-profit, scientific and educational association as well, representing thousands of individuals and affiliated Member Associations who protect water quality in our environment.
- We appreciate the opportunity to meet.
- Water utilities have already performed vulnerability assessments, updated emergency response plans, developed security standards, developed decision methodologies for choosing disinfectants, and performed other security measures under existing laws.
- A water utility is a public safety and public health service, and is generally an instrument or agency of local government.
- Congress therefore exempted water utilities from chemical facility law of 2006.
- Legislation is under development that would include water utilities in chemical facility security regulation even though certain provisions would be inappropriate for such facilities.
- A particular concern is efforts to allow state officials to second-guess decisions by local officials on which chemicals to use in treating local waters.
- Choice of disinfectants and other chemicals reflects characteristics of local waters and infrastructure to ensure public safety and health is protected.
- Therefore, the choice of disinfectants has to be made locally.

Ask

Your Congressman's / Senator's active efforts to see that chemical facility security legislation in the 112th Congress would:

- Exclude public water systems from orders to use "inherently safer technology."
- Not provide sensitive information to people who should not have it.

Federal Government Must Remain a Reliable Partner in Meeting the Nation's Clean and Drinking Water Needs

Tell

- Who you are and what you do.
- About your utility (where it is, how many customers you serve, etc) or organization
- That WEF is the oldest and largest organization of clean water professionals in the world, and is dedicated to working to improve water quality. AWWA is the world's oldest and largest organization of drinking water professionals in the world.
- That you appreciate the opportunity to meet.
- Why it is important for Congress to support critical clean water and drinking water programs:

- o Must maintain and improve our infrastructure to ensure the continuing health, economic and social benefits that clean and safe water provide
- o Infrastructure problems associated with aging pipes, outdated treatment systems, and inadequate capacity to meet growing population demands are requiring many communities to make huge investments in upgrades to their water and wastewater infrastructure systems.
- o Estimated gap for wastewater infrastructure of about \$150 billion to \$400 billion and \$335 billion for water over next 20 years..
- o These amounts are beyond the capacity of some municipalities and utilities to shoulder alone.
- o Investing in infrastructure provides much-needed jobs

Ask

Ask your Congressman/Senator to fund these programs at the annualized levels in the President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal:

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) at a \$2.0 billion annualized level
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) at a \$1.3 billion annualized level
- Clean Water Act Section 106 program at a \$274 million annualized level
- Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) grants at the \$106 million level
- Clean Water Act Section 319 program at a \$200 million annualized level.

Legislating Standards

Tell

- Who you are and what you do.
- My utility serves [XX,XXX people in your district/state]
- AWWA is the world's oldest and largest organization of drinking water professionals in the world. Formed in 1928, WEF is a non-profit, scientific and educational association as well, representing thousands of individuals and affiliated Member Associations who protect water quality in our environment.
- We appreciate the opportunity to meet.
- Bills have been introduced in the Senate (S.78 and S.79) to force EPA to issue drinking water regulations for perchlorate and hexavalent chromium.
- The Safe Drinking Water Act was amended in 1996 to provide a scientific, methodical and largely transparent process for choosing which substances to regulate in drinking water.
- Consumer water fees must go to protect them against genuine threats to public health, and to maintain water infrastructure so that there is a steady supply of water for drinking and a reliable system in place to cleanwastewater.
- The 1996 Amendments were designed to prevent a regulation of the "chemical of the month" and should be allowed to take their course.

Ask

Your Congressman / Senator to vote against any legislation that would circumvent the processes provided in the SDWA for choosing individual substances for regulation in water.

Improving Clean Water Requirements

Tell

- Who you are and what you do.
- About your utility (where it is, how many customers you serve, etc) or organization
- That WEF is the oldest and largest organization of clean water professionals in the world, and is dedicated to working to improve water quality. AWWA is the world's oldest and largest organization of drinking water professionals in the world.
- That you appreciate the opportunity to meet.

- Why it is important for Congress to support improving Clean Water Act requirements
 - o Localities are facing increasing environmental requirements while their local economies are suffering.
 - o To assure that environmental progress continues, we must consider smarter and better ways to allow communities to flexibly tackle the highest environmental priorities while factoring in adequate timing, reasonable costs and local affordability

Ask

Ask your Congressman/Senator when considering revising Clean Water requirements to think about the following to provide communities flexibility and affordability.

- Support a priority setting process that provides States and localities enhanced flexibility in timing, standard-setting, and developing compliance schedules within the context of economic, technical, and social capabilities.
- Encourage installation of green infrastructure, water reuse and conservation, energy recovery, and management of storm water as a resource.
- Support the watershed approach of protecting and restoring water quality.
- Support the use of sound scientific information in all programs dedicated to solving complex water quality issues.