

**Draft Business Meeting Minutes November 8, 2012**  
**Nebraska Section American Water Works Association**

Board Chair Rob Pierce called the meeting to order @ 1340 hours. The meeting was held at the NSAWWA Annual Conference in the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

Board Members, Committee Chairs and Visitors present:

Board Chair: Rob Pierce

Chair Elect: Eric Lee

Vice Chair: David Lathrop

Secretary: Doug Woodbeck

Treasurer: Ben Day

Trustee: Milo Rust

Trustee: Chad Roberts

Trustee: Eric "Rick" Melcher (absent)

Trustee: Mary Poe

Past Chair: Teresa Konda

Director: Tony Bilek

Committee Chairs: Kevin Tobin, Craig Reinsch, Jerry Obrist, Christian New, John Keith.

Other attendees: Mike Wentink, Reid Campbell, Bob Montoya, John Olsson, John Miriovsky, Jim Shields, Jack Daniel, Dale Jacobson, Roger Protzman, Dave Plank, Larry Andreasen.

The **November 2, 2011 Business Meeting Minutes** were reviewed. No revisions were made. Tony Bilek motioned to approve the minutes, second by Chad Roberts. Unanimous approval.

**Treasurers Report:** See attached report from Ben Day. The IRS penalty for filing late has been abated, thanks to Ben's hard work. The SOP for the Treasurer position needs to be updated to help prevent this situation from happening again. Eric Lee motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, second by Kevin Tobin. Unanimous approval.

**Director's Report:** See attached. This will be Tony's last year as Director for the Section. John Olsson has agreed to serve as Director, beginning at the ACE conference in 2013. In the mean time, Tony will show John what he does as director. Personal comments on the new conference venue have been mostly good. The Fall Conference Committee has added two more years of contracts for this venue (2013 through 2019). We thank Reid Campbell and Bob Montoya for attending our conference. Events like hurricane Sandy support the need for the development and implementation of programs like NeWARN. The AWWA/NWEA Joint Resolution continues in place. There will be only one candidate for AWWA President at the Winter Board Meeting. NSAWWA supports the presidential candidate. Both Tony and John will be attending the Winter Board meeting. Funds need to be approved for John's attendance. All NSAWWA members are encouraged to attend ACE, if at all possible. ACE will be in Denver this year. Tony thanked Rob and Doug for their services to the Section. Milo Rust motioned to approve the Director's report, second by John Miriovsky. Unanimous approval.

**Committee Reports:**

**Archive & History:** Kevin indicated he is struggling a bit and is seeking help and input from past Section officers for direction. The Archive and History SOP needs to be revised.

**Audit:** Rob Pierce reports that all is in order with our financial situation.

**Awards:** Chad Roberts reports there have been several new awards developed this past year. No other changes have taken place. The Awards Committee is seeking better input from members to find deserving award nominees. We will likely have several Utility Longevity Membership awards to be presented at next year's conference.

**Budget:** See attached. For the current year, Ben projects we will be about -\$1,028.00 for an ending balance. This budget projection does include Advertising income for Wise Water Words. We are currently working on developing the 2013 budget using budget requests from the various committees. The proposed budget needs to be finished for proposal at the January 2013 Board of Directors meeting.

**Cross-Connection Control:** Four workshops were held in September 2012. There are two new awards for Cross-Connection Control activities; one for a utility and one for a licensed operator.

**Education:** Sixteen workshops were held in 2012, with 294 persons participating. There are three more workshops scheduled for December, which will bring the participation total up a bit. There were 96 participants at the Asset Management workshop held in April at Mahoney State Park. There was \$593.00 spent from our annual bookstore allotment. A number of items were purchased for giving and providing educational information to school children. \$1,000.00 is being requested to hold a Construction Inspection workshop. This would be very useful to all licensed operators who have or will have projects going on with their systems, in addition to being useful to Engineers and contractors. We purchased a 24" TV/DVD that we will use to display videos and give presentations at workshops and conferences (currently playing on our display table at the conference).

**Fall Conference:** The Fall Conference is underway. The new venue is very nice and the contracts have been extended another two years (until 2019). Paul Younes contacted us about extending the contracts and we agreed it would be a good idea. There are many other groups that would like to have our spot, so it was a good move to reserve the space now. It is suggested that an announcement be made at the beginning of each session for all in attendance to at least turn off the ringers on cell phones. All have a silent notification mode and should be used when in a meeting/training session. A penalty (\$25.00 fee) was proposed for anyone whose phone rings aloud during a training session/meeting. The suggestion didn't go far. Attendance numbers for this year have yet to be determined. A suggestion was made to offer training/technical sessions adjacent to the business/board meetings so more continuing education hours would be available for license holders. We also need to make sure for the following years that better signs are available to direct

people to the Ruby rooms upstairs at the conference center. Many people could not find their way to the rooms. Effort needs to be made to better funnel foot traffic through the vendor area. The vendor area will accommodate up to 70 vendors, depending upon what they have to display. Loper hall would hold about 50. The current charge for the vendor area is \$2,500.00 plus \$0.25/sq. ft. of floor area. The vendor fee increased this year from \$450.00 to \$550.00. About \$36,000.00 of income is realized from vendor fees; a substantial amount of our total budget. Generic award plaques, provided by National AWWA, may be displayed at traveling shows.

**Fuller Award:** The Fuller Award pin has been ordered and received. A recipient has been selected. John S. Olsson was presented with the Fuller Award at the banquet this evening. Last years awardee was Dennis Watts.

**MAC:** No report. See Fall Conference Committee report.

**Membership:** Rich Robinson is stepping down as Membership Committee Chair. An announcement will be made at the banquet about this open seat. This past year we have seen a drop of 10% in membership (365 last year - 331 this year). The Life Member fee issue may be impacting that number as former Life Members who didn't have to pay anything now have to pay an \$85.00 annual fee. The aging population may also be an impact point. More people retiring and dropping memberships. Subsequently, our mailing lists need to be updated and cleaned up. We shouldn't be mailing material to non-members, especially deceased persons.

**Nominations:** The Nominations Committee submitted the required report earlier this year at the July Board meeting. The list of seat nominees was read by Teresa Konda. Nominations from the floor were called for. No nominations from the floor were proposed. Tony Bilek made a motion to approve the list of nominees, second by Jerry Obrist. Rob Pierce called for a vote to confirm the nominations. All were in favor and the seats are filled by the proposed nominees. The persons filling the various positions for calendar year 2013 are:

Chair - Eric Lee  
Chair Elect - David Lathrop  
Vice Chair - Doug Woodbeck  
Treasurer - Ben Day  
Secretary - Chad Roberts  
Trustee - Eric "Rick" Melcher  
Trustee - Mary Poe  
Trustee - Milo Rust  
Trustee - Jim Shields  
Director - John Olsson  
Past Chair - Rob Pierce

**Public Information:** See attached. In 2012, invitations to proclaim Drinking Water Week were sent to the Mayors of communities and news releases for the same were sent to multiple media outlets across the state. The Drinking Water Taste Contest will be

conducted today (11/8/2012). There is a display board to honor Fremont for winning the best tasting water contest at ACE this year; a National honor. Currently, we have about 130 Facebook fans. The committee is anticipating more of the same types of activities next year. if anyone needs section envelopes for mailing, see Mary Poe. A list of persons receiving awards will be sent to the local newspapers where the recipients live.

**Publications:** See attached. Wise Water Words should be in everyones mailbox at home.

**Safety:** See attached. E-mails were sent to PWS soliciting nominations for Safety awards. The response was pretty poor; six were received via USPS. Six Safety awards will be presented at the banquet this evening.

**Scholarship:** See attached. There were three scholarship awards presented at the luncheon today. A suggestion was made to re-evaluate the type of student(s) to whom scholarships are given.

**Small Systems:** No report.

**Student Activities:** See attached.

**Water For People:** See attached. Chris wants to send at least one person to ACE this year.

**Water Utility Council:** See report. Jerry Obrist said with the results of the Presidential election this year, we face a battle of common sense. Jim Shields agreed to co-chair the WUC with Jerry until 2014, when Jim will take over as chair. Jerry will stay on as a committee member until we have a new President of the US.

**Young Professionals:** See attached. The YP Poker Tournament was held last evening (11/7/2012). The proceeds will go to support "Engineers Without Borders". More tours are planned for next year.

#### **Ad Hoc Committees:**

**Member Survey:** No report.

**Nitrate:** No report.

**Top Ops:** For those who win the competition today, we need to get their information before June 2013 to plan to send them to ACE to compete on the National level. We really need to have at least three persons to go to form a team. We should consider some type of uniform (t-shirts, etc.) for the team to wear during the competition (purchased by the Section).

**SOP's:** No report.

**ACE:** No report.

**Summer Workshop:** No one attended the Summer Workshop.

**Section/Committee Mailings:** NA

**New Domain Registration:** NA

**Section Retreat:** No report.

**Old Business:** No report.

**New Business:** There are concurrent sessions running in competition with the Business and Board meetings. The competitions (Top Ops, Backflow Challenge, Water Tasting) should be run in the vendor display area (they are). Possibly in different areas of the vendor area, each to provide attendee access to all vendor areas. Maybe a Vendor Break should be scheduled between the Business and Board meetings to allow attendees to visit the vendor area. We might also consider scheduling presentations in the vendor area; vendors giving the presentations. Any other suggestions to provide more/better vendor access/attendance by conference attendees would be appreciated by the vendors. Forward any suggestions to David Lathrop.

**Next Meeting:** The next board meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2013 at 1330 hours to be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Younes Conference Center during the NSAWWA Annual Fall Conference.

**Adjournment:** John Olsson motioned to adjourn, Jim Shields second. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 1504 hours.

<b>NSAWWA Board of Directors - 2013</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	
Chair	Eric Lee	402-944-3306	
Chair-Elect	David Lathrop	402-643-3433	
Vice-Chair	Doug Woodbeck	402-471-0521	
Treasurer	Ben Day	402-458-5693	
Secretary	Chad Roberts	402-844-2210	
Director	John Olsson	402-458-5661	
Past-Chair	Rob Pierce	402-476-2829	
Trustee (11-2011 to 11-2013)	Mary Poe	402-471-1003	
Trustee (11-2011 to 11-2013)	Milo Rust	308-432-0506	
Trustee (11-2012 to 11-2014)	Eric "Rick" Melcher	402-694-6992	
Trustee (11-2012 to 11-2014)	Jim Shields	402-504-7457	
<b>NSAWWA Committees</b>			
<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Committee Chair</b>	<b>Chair Phone</b>	<b>Committee Liaison</b>
Archive & History	Kevin Tobin	402-504-7560	Doug Woodbeck
Audit	Eric Lee	402-944-3306	Ben Day
Awards	Dennis Watts	402-844-2210	Doug Woodbeck
Budget	Ben Day	402-458-5693	David Lathrop
Cross-Connections	Rich Koenig	402-370-3114	Chad Roberts
Education	John Keith	402-944-3306	Doug Woodbeck
Fall Conference	David Lathrop	402-643-3433	Eric Lee
Fuller Award	Mike Wentink	308-535-8135	Glen Dostal
Manufacturers/Associates Council (MAC)	Tony Bilek	402-333-9660	Rob Pierce
Membership	Vacant		Eric Lee
Nominations	Rob Pierce	402-476-2829	NA
Publications	Brian Gongol	515-223-4144	Mary Poe
Public Information	Mary Poe	402-471-1003	Mary Poe
Research & Student Activities	Dr. Xu Li	402-472-6042	Ben Day
Safety	Milo Rust	308-432-0505	Rob Pierce
Scholarship	Jon Zellars	402-504-7925	Rob Pierce
Small Systems	Eric "Rick" Melcher	402-694-6992	David Lathrop
Water For People	Christian New	402-203-6006	Mary Poe
Water Utility Council	Jerry Obrist/Jim Shields	402-441-7571 402-504-7457	Eric Lee
Young Professionals	Justin Stine/ Craig Reinsch	402-435-3080 402-474-6311	Ben Day
<b>Ad-hoc Committees</b>			
Membership Survey	Mike Wentink	308-535-8135	Marc Rosso
Nitrate/Source Water Protection	Ben Day	402-458-5693	NA
State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF)	Dennis Watts	402-844-2210	Chad Roberts
Top Ops	David Lathrop	402-643-3433	NA

**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
2012 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee:** AWARDS \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 10/29/2012 \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair:** Dennis Watts \_\_\_\_\_ **Vice Chair:** NONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Members:** 6 \_\_\_\_ **Active Members:** 6 \_\_\_\_

**Executive Board Liaison:** Chad Roberts \_\_\_\_\_

**List of Active Members:**

Steve Kelly, Chad Roberts, Rob Pierce, Doug Woodbeck, Jack Satur, Dennis Watts

**When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?** August 14, 2012

**Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:** NONE

**Deliverables/Activities:**

**New awards are as follows:**

**Water Treatment Plant Operator Award**

**Cross Connection Control Program of the Year Award**

**Cross Connection Specialist of the Year Award**

**Longevity nomination**

**Outstanding Supervisory Operator Award**

**In 2012 we are giving out:**

**4 WISA Award**

**1 Cross Connection Specialist of the Year Award**

**2 Longevity Awards**

**1 Volunteer Award**

**1 Fuller Award**

**How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?**

Continue to assist committee as needed and encourage systems to nominate deserving applicants for awards.

**Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:** Same as 2012.

**Budget Expenditures for 2012:** \$240.

**Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):**

\$400.00. The money budgeted will be spent on awards such as plaques etc. We will hopefully be able to hand out additional awards this year.

**Other Items:**

*Please return to Rob Pierce by October 29, 2012, [rbp@lonm.org](mailto:rbp@lonm.org)*

**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
2012 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee:** Water for People **Date:** 11/12/2012

**Chair:** Christian New **Vice Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Members:** 11 **Active Members:** 10

**Executive Board Liaison:** Mary Poe

**List of Active Members:** Ben Day, Brittany Travers, Craig Reinsch, Dorian Roff-Hammond, Glenn Dostal, Patrick Harlan, Tim Mundorf, Teresa Konda, John Frecker-Meng.

**When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?**

Conference Calls: 1/19/2012; 8/24/2012, Annual Planning Meeting at Fall Conference.

**Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:** None. Three members have been added this year, including a representative from Young Professionals.

**Deliverables/Activities:** Golf Outing (raised \$5,300), Sporting Clay Event (raised \$956 plus matching gift), Raffle Ticket Sales at the Fall Conference (2012); \$1,764.

**How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?**

Continued support, attendance at activities and selling raffle tickets.

**Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:**

Begin utilizing committee members more to manage events/expand fund raising horizon.  
Develop Nebraska Water for People Website  
Explore ways to expand revenue outside of AWWA and NWEA

<b>Golf Outing Goal:</b>	<b>\$5,500.</b>
<b>Sporting Clay Event Goal</b>	<b>\$3,500.</b>
<b>Raffle Goal</b>	<b>\$2,000.</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>11,000.</b>

**Budget Expenditures for 2012:**

Annual Water for People Conference, Denver, CO (July 2012). \$621.22 (Budget was \$800)

**Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):**

\$950 for Annual Water for People Conference, Denver, CO (July 2013). This is approximate cost to travel from Omaha. Prior expenditures were lower due to combining trip with vacation which reduced mileage in 2012.

**Other Items:** None.

*Please return to Rob Pierce by October 29, 2012, [robp@lonm.org](mailto:robp@lonm.org)*



**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
2012 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee:** AWWA Safety Committee **Date:** 11-2-2012

**Chair:** Milo Rust **Vice Chair:** Rob Pierce

**Total Members:** 13 **Active Members:** 13

**Executive Board Liaison:** \_\_\_\_\_

List of Active Members: Rodger Coffey, Pat Heath, Dale Kaliff, Steve Kelly, Anthony Martinez, Gerardo E Martinez, Pete Neddo, Doug Pollak, Eric Melcher, Rob Pierce, Jack Satur, Tom Menke.

**When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?**

Two Email sessions  
Fall conference

**Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:**

Add Tom Menke

**Deliverables/Activities:**

Safety award participation

**How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?**

**Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year: Promote safety award participation**

Hold a safety Seminar

**Budget Expenditures for 2011:**

\$60.53 Mailings for AWWA community's  
\$80.00 Awards

**Budget Request for 2012 (include a short justification):**

Safety Awards 150.00  
Safety Training 150.00

**Other Items:**

*Please return to NSAWWA Secretary by October 31, 2012, [doug.woodbeck@nebraska.gov](mailto:doug.woodbeck@nebraska.gov)*

**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
2012 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee:** Public Information   **Date:** November 5, 2012

**Chair:** Mary Poe       **Vice Chair:** Marc Rosso

**Total Members:** 5   **Active Members:** 5   **Executive Board Liaison:** David Lathrop

**List of Active Members:**

Mary Poe, Marc Rosso, Brian Gongol, Eric Obert, Jami Cerone

**When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?**

April 5, 2012 – Lincoln  
September 21, 2012 - Lincoln  
E-mail correspondence as needed

**Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:** None, but new members are welcome.

**Deliverables/Activities:**

Materials sent to Mayors of the 30 class I cities and 15 Class II cities inviting them to issue a Mayor's "Proclamation for Drinking Water Week". We know for sure that proclamations were issued in Columbus, Gering, Scottsbluff, and York. All Conference news release sent to all newspaper and radio media outlets in the state  
Water tasting contest and award at the fall conference  
Display board congratulating Fremont as national taste test winner  
Fall Conference presentation "Kids Today, Customers Tomorrow: How to Give Classroom Talks & Host Field Trips for Schools"  
Nebraska Section Facebook page: 129 fans

**How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?**

Share ideas and feedback with the PI Committee.

**Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:**

Gather and add materials to website on Public Resources page  
Manage Facebook page and explore other networking options  
News releases for awards, fall conference, and other events as needed  
Activities prior to or during Drinking Water Week  
Work with the education committee on student outreach efforts  
Water tasting contest

**Budget Expenditures for 2012:**

Approximately \$300 (\$215 news release; door prizes \$25; printing costs??)

**Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):**

May spend more money on DWW activities.  
Budget request = \$500

**Other Items:**

*Please return to NSAWWA Secretary by October 31, 2012, [doug.woodbeck@nebraska.gov](mailto:doug.woodbeck@nebraska.gov)*

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**Chairperson**

Rob Pierce • 402-476-2829

**Chair-Elect**

Eric Lee • 402-944-3306

**Vice-Chair**

David Lathrop • 402-641-4760

**Secretary**

Doug Woodbeck • 402-471-0521

**Treasurer**

Ben Day • 402-458-5693

**Director**

Tony Bilek • 402-333-9660

**Past Chair**

Teresa Konda • 402-926-7063

**Trustees**

Eric Melcher • 402-694-6992

Mary Poe • 402-471-1003

Chad Roberts • 402-844-2210

Milo Rust • 308-432-0506

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**Archives & History**

Kevin Tobin • 402-504-7560

**Audit**

Rob Pierce • 402-476-2829

**Awards**

Dennis Watts • 402-844-2210

**Budget**

Ben Day • 402-458-5693

**Cross Connections**

Rich Koenig • 402-370-3114

**Education**

John Keith • 402-944-3306

**Fall Conference**

Eric Lee • 402-944-3306

**Fuller Award**

Tony Bilek • 402-333-9660

**Manufacturers/Associates Council**

Tony Bilek • 402-333-9660

**Membership**

Rich Robinson • 402-255-3840

**Membership Survey**

Mike Wentink • 308-535-8135

**Nitrates/Source Protection**

Ben Day • 402-458-5693

**Nominations**

Teresa Konda • 402-926-7063

**Publications**

Brian Gongol • 515-223-4144

**Public Information**

Mary Poe • 402-471-1003

**Research and Student Activities**

Dr. Xu Li • 402-472-6042

**Safety**

Milo Rust • 308-432-0506

**Scholarship**

Jon Zellars • 402-504-7913

**Small Systems**

Eric Melcher • 402-694-6992

**Water for People**

Christian New • 402-330-2202

**Water Utility Council**

Jerry Obrist • 402-441-7571

**Young Professionals**

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# Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

PO Box 94791 • Lincoln, NE 68509-4791

402-957-2482 • awwaneb.org

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To NSAWWA Members and Board of Directors:

On June 18, 2012, a conference call was held by the Nebraska Section AWWA Nominating Committee (Teresa Konda, Tony Bilek and Doug Woodbeck) to determine nominees for the various seats that need to be filled for the upcoming year, 2013. The Chairperson seat will automatically be filled by the 2012 Chair-Elect, Eric Lee. The Past-Chair seat will be automatically filled by the 2012 Chair, Rob Pierce. The Nominating Committees recommended nominees for the remaining seats are as follows:

Chair-Elect: David Lathrop (11-2012 to 11-2013)

Vice Chair: Doug Woodbeck (11-2012 to 11-2013)

Treasurer: Ben Day (11-2012 to 11-2013)

Secretary: Chad Roberts (11-2012 to 11-2014)

Trustee: Eric "Rick" Melcher (11-2012 to 11-2014)

Trustee: Jim Shields (11-2012 to 11-2014)

Director: John S. Olsson (the new Director will assume this seat at ACE 2013 until ACE 2016)

Those with time remaining in their current positions are:

Trustee: Milo Rust (11-2013)

Trustee: Mary Poe (11-2013)

Election of Officers will take place at the Annual Meeting in Kearney, Nebraska at the Younes Conference Center on November 8, 2012 at 1:30 PM. During the election, nominations may be made by the members from the floor for any elected seat, excluding the Chairperson and the Past-Chair.

As per the requirements of the NSAWWA By-laws, this report is respectfully submitted for your review and consideration.

Submitted this 12th day of July, 2012.

Sincerely,

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Justin Stine • 402-435-3080  
Craig Reinsch • 402-458-5671

Doug Woodbeck  
Secretary  
Nebraska Section AWWA Board of Directors

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**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
2011 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee:** Student Activities and Research    **Date:** 11/04/2012

**Chair:** Xu Li    **Vice Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Members:** ~15    **Active Members:** 4

**Executive Board Liaison:** Ben Day

**List of Active Members:**

Xu Li  
Dorian Roffe-Hammond (president of the UNL AWWA/NWEA student chapter)  
Brandon Gardels (vice president)  
Kristen Cope (Treasurer)

**When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?**

The committee chair and the president of the student chapter met in November 2011, January, April, and August 2012.

**Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:**

The student chapter will hold its annual election in April 2013. As the current officers graduate next year, it is expected that a class of new officers will be elected.

**Deliverables/Activities:**

- On November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011, about 15 AWWA/NWEA student members attended the Fall Conference in Kearney, NE. Three made oral presentations.
- In April 2012, about 10 UNL/UNO students attended and presented at the Great Plain Waste Management Conferences in La Vista, NE.
- In summer 2012, the UNL AWWA/NWEA student chapter held its annual election. Dorian Roffe-Hammond was elected president, and Kristen Cope treasurer. Later, Brandon Gardels was appointed vice president.
- In April 2012, a few of AWWA/NWEA student members and CIVE 425 students attended the tour to the wastewater treatment plant on the 70<sup>th</sup> St. in Lincoln.
- On April 13<sup>th</sup> 2012, the UNL AWWA/NWEA student chapter organized a water-tasting contest at UNL E-Week Fair.
- In May 2011, a few members of the UNL student chapter volunteered to help with the fundraiser at the Water for People golf scramble in Omaha, NE.
- In August 2012, five students (Stacey Joy, Kristen Cope, Daran Rudnick, Vivik Sharma, and Zhe Du) volunteered to help with the NWEA Scholarship Golf Outing event.
- On October 19<sup>th</sup> 2012, several UNL students attended the field trip to Theresa Street Wastewater Treatment Plant in Lincoln.

**How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?**

The current support is sufficient.

**Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:**

- Student meetings in Spring semester.
- Involvement in the UNL E-Week to advertise the drinking water industry.
- Annual election in April 2013.
- Participation in local conferences.

**Budget Expenditures for 2011:**

- About \$100 to cover the cost of reserving a university van to provide transportation to student attendees to the Kearney Fall Conference in November 2011.
- About \$100 to cover the cost for presenting at the UNL E-week.
- \$216 to subsidize 12 AWWA student membership applications ( $\$18 \times 12 = \$216$ ) in October 2012.

**Budget Request for 2012 (include a short justification):**

- ~\$120 to reserve a van to bring students to the Kearney conference in November 2011.
- ~\$100 for holding student meetings at UNL
- ~\$250 for subsidizing AWWA student membership applications.

**Other Items:**

**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
2012 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee:** Education

**Date:** November 8, 2012

**Chair:** John Keith

**Vice Chair:** Nick McElvain

**Total Members:** 6    **Active Members:** 6

**Executive Board Liaison:** Doug Woodbeck

**List of Active Members:**

John Keith, Chair  
Nick McElvain            Brian Gongol            Rob Pierce  
Steve Kelley            Mike Wentink

**When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?**

All correspondence has been via email. Committee hopes to meet during the Annual Conference in Kearney this year.

**Proposed Changes in Committee Membership: none**

**Deliverables/Activities:**

Sixteen Water Workshops cosponsored with League of Nebraska Municipalities with three more scheduled during December 2012. – 294 participants

Asset Management Workshop held April 2012 - 96 participants.

World O! Water at Wehrspann Lake in Omaha - 3 Section Volunteers

Children's Groundwater Festival in Grand Island - 3 Section Volunteers

**How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?**

Continued support and consideration of upcoming education possibilities and recommendations of new educational avenues is always appreciated.

**Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:**

Joint NSAWWA NPWA Construction Inspection Workshop??

**Budget Expenditures for 2012:**

\$593	AWWA Bookstore
\$5000	LoNM Agreement (Invoice to be submitted at year end)
+\$1132	Net gain from Asset Management Course
\$261	24" DVD/TV Combo for Educational use by Section



**Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):**

\$5,000.00	LoNM Agreement for joint workshop coordination
\$600	AWWA Bookstore Section Funds
\$1000	Joint NSAWWA NPWA Construction Inspection (It is expected that this would be a revenue neutral event but would like funding there if needed)

**Other Items:**

FYI	\$600	AWWA Bookstore Section Funds are available from National each year to the Section
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**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
2012 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee:** Water for People **Date:** 10/31/2012

**Chair:** Christian New **Vice Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Members:** 10 **Active Members:** 10

**Executive Board Liaison:** Teresa Konda

**List of Active Members:** Arnold Radloff, Ben Day, Brittany Travers, Craig Reinsch, Dorian Roff-Hammond, Glenn Dostal, Patrick Harlan, Tim Mundorf, Teresa Konda

**When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?**

Conference Calls: 1/19/2012; 8/24/2012

**Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:** None. Three members have been added this year, including a representative from Young Professionals (Brittany Travers).

**Deliverables/Activities:** Golf Outing, Sporting Clay Event, Raffle Ticket Sales at the Fall Conference

**How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?**

Continued support, attendance at activities and selling raffle tickets.

**Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:**

Begin utilizing committee members more to manage events/expand fund raising horizon.  
Develop Nebraska Water for People Website  
Explore ways to expand revenue outside of AWWA and NWEA

**Budget Expenditures for 2012:**

Expenditures covered by activity income.

**Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):**

Raffle (Fall Conference): (2011) \$1,629 (donation, to WFP)  
Golf (May 2012): \$5,300 (donation, to WFP)  
Trap (September 2012): \$956 (donation to WFP plus match. Total donation \$1,912)

**Other Items:** None.

*Please return to Rob Pierce by October 29, 2012, [robp@lonm.org](mailto:robp@lonm.org)*

~~~~ Meter Madness ~~~~

Is \$1,000 enough to motivate you?

The Fall Conference next month will feature our first-ever "Meter Madness" competition, open to any operator or utility member willing to give it a try.

You'll be asked to re-assemble a Badger flowmeter from a complete set of parts (along with some miscellaneous "extras"), and you'll have two timed attempts to complete the assembly. If the meter leaks, time will be added to your score -- the more it leaks, the more time will be added.

The prize is \$1,000 for the Section winner, to be used towards attending the national competition at ACE-13 in Denver. Register on-site at the conference!

**AWWA/WEF Fly-In—NE--#1  
Congressional Visit Evaluations**

Office visited: \_\_Congressman Lee Terry

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With whom did you meet (name & title): \_\_A T Johnston \_\_\_\_\_

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What was his/her reception of our issue?

- Will cosponsor the WIFIA bill
- Will support the WIFIA bill
- Wants to study it more before committing
- Declined to support WIFIA bill
  
- Has additional questions for AWWA/WEF staff

Your overall impression of the meeting: \_\_Very receptive to loan concept and rate payers paying back the loan \_\_\_\_\_

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Fly-In delegate(s): \_\_Jim Shields \_\_\_\_\_

Office visited: \_\_Congressman Jeff Fortenberry

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With whom did you meet (name & title): \_\_Alan Feyerherm, Deputy Chief of Staff

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What was his/her reception of our issue?

- Will cosponsor the WIFIA bill
- Will support the WIFIA bill
- Wants to study it more before committing
- Declined to support WIFIA bill
  
- Has additional questions for AWWA/WEF staff

Your overall impression of the meeting: \_\_Supportive of concept --- Question: Asked if this will be a stand alone Bill or attached to another Bill?

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Fly-In delegate(s): \_\_Jerry Obrist

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Office visited: \_\_\_Congressman Adrian Smith

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With whom did you meet (name & title): \_\_\_Ansley Mick, Legislative Assistant

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What was his/her reception of our issue?

- Will cosponsor the WIFIA bill
- X Will support the WIFIA bill
- Wants to study it more before committing
- Declined to support WIFIA bill
- X Has additional questions for AWWA/WEF staff

Your overall impression of the meeting: \_\_\_Very supportive of loan concept ---Questions: Is there a loan size or limit? Is there an amount for 'seed' money? \_\_\_\_\_

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Fly-In delegate(s): \_\_\_Milo Rust \_\_\_\_\_

Office visited: \_\_\_Senator E. Ben Nelson \_\_\_\_\_

With whom did you meet (name & title): \_\_\_Erick Lutt, Legislative Assistant \_\_\_

What was his/her reception of our issue?

- Will cosponsor the WIFIA bill
- X Will support the WIFIA bill
- Wants to study it more before committing
- Declined to support WIFIA bill
  
- Has additional questions for AWWA/WEF staff

Your overall impression of the meeting: \_\_\_Concerned whether Bill can go forward since it needs front end Federal money---Bill has good concept \_\_\_\_\_

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Fly-In delegate(s): \_\_\_Jerry Obrist, Jim Shields, and Milo Rust

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Office visited: \_\_\_Senator Mike Johanns

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With whom did you meet (name & title): \_\_\_Patrick Lehman, Legislative Assistant

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What was his/her reception of our issue?

- Will cosponsor the WIFIA bill
- Will support the WIFIA bill
- Wants to study it more before committing
- Declined to support WIFIA bill

X Has additional questions for AWWA/WEF staff

Your overall impression of the meeting: \_\_\_ Supportive of concept--- Questions: What will be the funding start amount? Is there an upper limit that can be lent? \_\_\_\_\_

\_ Asked to be plugged into supporting any comments that we or AWWA have on the Cyber Bill(s) that may come forward. \_\_\_\_\_

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Fly-In delegate(s): \_ Jerry Obrist, Jim Shields, and Milo Rust

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**Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System**  
**Jim Shields, Omaha Metropolitan Utilities District**  
**Milo Rust, City of Chadron**

## **2012 AWWA Washington “Fly-In” Meetings**

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### **Wednesday, March 7th**

- 1:30pm            AT Johnston  
Office of Rep. Lee Terry  
2331 Rayburn House Office Building  
(202) 225-4155  
[at.johnston@mail.house.gov](mailto:at.johnston@mail.house.gov)
- 2:00pm            Alan Feyerherm, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Office of Rep. Jeff Fortenberry  
1514 Longworth House Office Building  
(202) 225-4806  
[alan.feyerherm@mail.house.gov](mailto:alan.feyerherm@mail.house.gov)
- 3:30pm            Ansley Mick, Legislative Assistant  
Office of Rep. Adrian Smith  
503 Cannon House Office Building  
(202) 225-6435  
[ansley.mick@mail.house.gov](mailto:ansley.mick@mail.house.gov)
- 4:00pm            Erick Lutt, Legislative Assistant  
Office of Senator Ben Nelson  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
(202) 224-6551  
[erick\\_lutt@bennelson.senate.gov](mailto:erick_lutt@bennelson.senate.gov)
- 4:30pm            Patrick Lehman, Legislative Assistant  
Office of Senator Mike Johanns  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
(202) 224-4224  
[patrick\\_lehman@johanns.senate.gov](mailto:patrick_lehman@johanns.senate.gov)



American Water Works  
Association



## A Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA) and Other Infrastructure Financing Tools

### Action Requested:

- From House members, contact Congressman Bob Gibbs, chair of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, and tell him you want to be an original cosponsor of his Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act.
- From senators, contact your respective leadership and leadership of the Committee on Environment and Public Works and let them know you would like to see WIFIA legislation introduced and passed in the Senate.
- From both House and Senate, support funding of the drinking water and clean water state revolving loan fund (SRF) program, at least at the previous year's appropriated levels. The SRF is a vital tool in the toolbox of water infrastructure finance, particularly for small to medium-sized systems.

**Background:** High-quality drinking water and wastewater systems are essential to public health, business, and quality of life in the United States. The American Water Works Association (AWWA), Water Environment Federation (WEF) and others have documented that our water and wastewater infrastructure is aging and that many communities must begin to increase their levels of investment in the repair and rehabilitation of water infrastructure in order to protect public health and safety and to maintain environmental standards.

In addition, having a reliable water supply and a means of treating wastewater before returning it to the environment are necessary to economic development. Rehabilitating and replacing that infrastructure produces jobs. The U.S. Department of Commerce has estimated that every dollar spent on water infrastructure generates \$2.62 in the private economy. For every job added to the water workforce, about 3.68 jobs are added nationally.

In February 2012, AWWA released its latest report on drinking water infrastructure needs, "Buried No Longer: Confronting America's Water Infrastructure Challenge." This report reveals that the country will need to spend \$1 trillion over the next 25 years to maintain our current level of water service. This figure does not count above-ground infrastructure, such as tanks or improvements to water treatment necessary to meet new standards. Nor does it include wastewater infrastructure needs, which have been shown to be as large as drinking water needs.

**Financing Water Infrastructure:** AWWA and WEF have long believed that Americans are best served by water and wastewater systems that are self-sustaining through rates and other local charges. However, we recognize that at present, some communities need assistance due to hardship or special economic circumstances. In addition, the need to replace or upgrade existing infrastructure may require access to a large amount of capital in a relatively short time frame, placing great stress on local rates and charges.



Although 95 percent of spending on water and wastewater has been from local sources, the federal government can play an important role by lowering the cost of capital for water and wastewater investments. Almost 70 percent of American communities use bonds to finance local infrastructure. They pay billions of dollars in interest costs each year. Lowering the cost of borrowing for water and wastewater infrastructure is an important way to leverage local funding and help America rebuild and rehabilitate our aging water infrastructure.

### **A Novel Approach: The Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act**

Congressman Bob Gibbs, chair of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, is actively addressing water infrastructure finance issues. He held a hearing on February 28 to look at innovative finance tools, and is now preparing to introduce a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. The act would create a finance mechanism modeled after the successful Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovations Authority (commonly called TIFIA) and provide access to lower-cost capital for investments in water infrastructure. This mechanism would have no or little long-term effect on the federal budget deficit. As in TIFIA, WIFIA would, under the Federal Credit Reform Act, only require appropriated funding sufficient to cover the subsidy cost, or risk, of loans. Fitch Ratings, a top credit rating agency, calculates that the historical default rate on water bonds is 0.04 percent. Indeed, water service providers are among the most fiscally responsible borrowers in the United States. Moreover, those states that leverage their SRF programs all have AAA or AA bond ratings and no history of defaults, placing them among the strongest credits in the country.

WIFIA would access funds from the U.S. Treasury at Treasury rates and use those funds to support loans and other credit mechanisms for water projects at or near Treasury rates. Although interest fluctuates, such rates are currently significantly better than municipal bond rates. The benefit to local communities of lower interest rates is significant. Lowering the cost of borrowing by 2.5 percent on a 30-year loan reduces the lifetime project cost by almost 26 percent, the same result as a 26-percent grant. WIFIA loans would be repaid to the Authority – and thence to the Treasury – with interest. Consequently, WIFIA – because it would involve loans that are repaid – would involve minimal risks and minimal long-term costs to the federal government.

The Water Infrastructure Finance Innovations Act would create a mechanism to:

- Offer loans, loan guarantees, and other credit support for large water infrastructure projects and those with national or regional importance. These projects often find it difficult or impossible to access loans from the existing SRF program, due in part to inadequate capitalization of the SRFs.
- Reduce the cost of leveraging for SRF programs by lending to them directly. A federal water infrastructure finance authority could lend to those SRFs wishing to leverage their capitalization grants at the lowest possible interest rates. This would allow SRFs to make more loans and would increase their ability to offer special assistance to hardship communities if they chose to do so. Currently, 31 states leverage their SRF programs on the bond markets. WIFIA loans to an SRF would offer an additional option to accomplish the same goal and, by lowering the cost of capital, make such a practice more attractive to additional states.

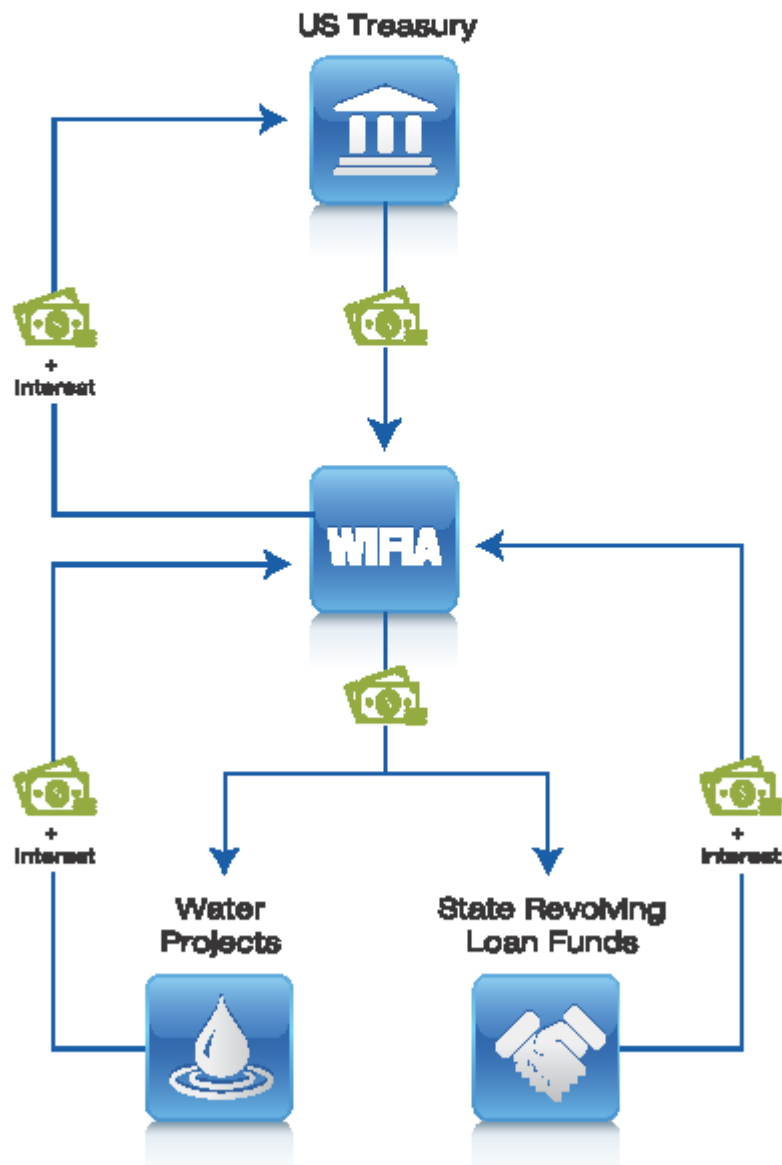
America faces the need to begin a significant and sustained increase in its investment in water and waste water infrastructure, or risk deteriorating water and waste water services. The tenets outlined in this paper provide a path towards truly sustainable water infrastructure for all Americans. A more detailed description of WIFIA and a copy of AWWA's report, "Buried No Longer" are included in this packet.

AWWA  
1300 Eye St. NW  
Suite 701W  
Washington, DC 20005  
202 628-8303

WEF  
601 Wythe St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
800 666-0206

# How WIFIA Works

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority



**NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
2012 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee:** Water Utility Council \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 11/8/2012

**Chair:** Jerry Obrist \_\_\_\_\_ **Vice Chair:** \_\_\_TBA\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Members:** \_\_8\_\_ **Active Members:** \_\_8\_\_

**Executive Board Liaison:** \_Eric Lee\_\_\_\_\_

**List of Active Members:** Jerry Obrist, Chad Roberts, David Lathrop, John Olsson  
Glenn Dostal, Jim Shields, Marc Rosso, Milo Rust

**When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?**

Three members attended the AWWA Fly-In in D.C. on March 7 & 8, 2012.

Numerous e-mails of water issues were transmitted throughout the year. (Detailed summary below).

**Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:**

Added Chad Roberts and David Lathrop

**Deliverables/Activities:**

- Annual AWWA Fly-In on Water Issues—(see attachments)
- E-mail update on Washington Report regarding Water Issue status

SUMMARY REPORT

The Nebraska Section, Water Utility Council actively monitors a number of pertinent bills in the Nebraska Legislature. We are also involved in providing input and monitoring the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act, Water Security, and monitoring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with respect to Wireless Radio Spectrum.

1. A detailed listing of the legislative bills that affected the water industry in Nebraska was published in the summer 2012, *Wise Water Words*.
2. On a national scale, several items were accomplished:
  - In March 2012, AWWA/WEF sponsored a “Water Issued Fly-In” to Washington D.C. to review water/wastewater issues currently before Congress. Visits were made to the Nebraska delegation to ask for their support on:

**The Water Infrastructure Finance Innovations Act (WIFIA)**

We visited with all of the NE Delegation. I also attended the NE breakfast on Wednesday morning 3/7 and visited with all five of the Delegation two Senators and three Congressman

A summary report of the Fly-In was published in the summer 2012, *Wise Water Words*.

**I have also attached the detailed issue papers to this report**

**New issues are as follows:**

- EPA has been ordered by the Administration to regulate new Water MCL’s and to set standards via regulation without going through Congress
3. We are currently working with the AWWA Telecommunications TAW, through the Critical Infrastructures Industry Coalition (CIIC) on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) “Spectrum Study”, to

identify radio spectrum needs of Critical Infrastructure Industries (CII) such as water, gas, electric, etc., for private internal communications – SCADA. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) utilizes 900 MHz and 150 MHz spectrum for operation control and monitoring.

**AWWA and the Utilities Telecom Council have recently commented to the FCC to provide for the inclusion of Utilities in the 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Network, to deal with interoperability issues. However, Utilities are considered on a secondary basis.**

**Smart Grid is an emerging technology that may be available to solve some of Water Utility connectivity issues.**

### **How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?**

Work with our committee to sign up Utility Operators/Managers to our committee. We were successful this year in adding two Utility members.

### **Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:**

- Annual AWWA Fly-In in April 2013.
- Finance, along with AWWA, the Section's Water Utility Council members to the AWWA Annual Fly-In meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Continued e-mails and discussion on current Water Issues and Legislation/Regulations

### **Budget Expenditures for 2012:**

- See Section budget report

### **Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):**

- \$2,000 – Cover cost of AWWA Fly-In

### **Other Items:**

*Please return to Rob Pierce by October 29, 2012, [robp@ionm.org](mailto:robp@ionm.org)*

Young Professionals:

November 2012

As a reminder, the NSAWWA/NWEA Young Professionals are hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Poker Tournament on Wednesday, November 7th at 9:00 pm. More details can be found on the attached flyer. First place will receive a \$200 cash prize, with proceeds of the event benefiting Water For People. Please email Derek Gardels ([derek.gardels@hdrinc.com](mailto:derek.gardels@hdrinc.com)) or Brittany Travers ([brittany@wtgmidwest.com](mailto:brittany@wtgmidwest.com)) to register. Registration will be limited to the first 80 participants. Thanks!