Draft Business Meeting Minutes November 6, 2013
Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

Board Chair Eric Lee called the meeting to order @ 1334 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: Eric Lee
Chair Elect: David Lathrop
Vice Chair: Doug Woodbeck
Secretary: Chad Roberts
Treasurer: Ben Day
Trustee: Milo Rust
Trustee: Jim Sheilds
Trustee: Eric "Rick" Melcher
Trustee: Mary Poe
Past Chair: Rob Pierce
Director: John Olsson
Committee Chairs: Marc Rosso, Dennis Watts, Jerry Obrist, Christian New, John Keith, Teresa Konda, Kevin Tobin, Craig Reinsch, Brain Gongol, Justin Steine, Mike Wentink.
Other attendees: Al Schoemaker, Bruce Dvorak, Rob Behrens, Dave Rager, Jim Wells, Daryl Kottwitz.

The November 8, 2012 Business Meeting Minutes were reviewed. In the Young Professional committee report, the poker proceeds will support Water for People. Doug Woodbeck motioned to approve the minutes, second by Rob Pierce. Unanimous approval.


Director’s Report: See attached report from John Olsson. We thank Dave Rager for attending our conference. There will be nine candidates for AWWA Vice President at the Winter Board Meeting. NSAWWA supports the presidential candidate. John will be attending the Winter Board meeting, January 16 - 20 in Austin Texas. Funds need to be approved for John's attendance.  David Lathrop motioned to approve the Director's report, second by Doug Woodbeck. Unanimous approval.

Committee Reports:

Archive & History: See attached report from Kevin Tobin.

Audit: See attached report from Eric Lee. David Lathrop will become the committee chair for 2014
**Awards:** See attached report from Dennis Watts.

**Budget:** See attached report from Ben Day. Eric Melcher will become the committee chair for 2014-2015.

**Cross-Connection Control:** See attached report from Rich Koenig.

**Education:** See Attached report from John Keith.

**Fall Conference:** The Fall Conference is underway. Attendance numbers are in the range for 300 conference and 60 vendors. New for this year in the QR code located on the program brochure. This code is a survey about the Fall Conference. Doug Woodbeck will be the committee chair for 2014.

**Fuller Award:** See attached report for Mike Wentink.

**MAC:** No report.

**Membership:** See attached report from Marc Rosso.

**Nominations:** The Nominations Committee submitted the required report earlier this year at the July Board meeting. Nominations from the floor were called for. No nominations from the floor were proposed. Doug Woodbeck made a motion to approve the list of nominees, second by Jim Sheild. Eric Lee 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 2014 are:

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

Eric Lee will be the committee chair for 2014.
Public Information: See attached report from Mary Poe.

Publications: See attached report from Brain Gongol.

Safety: See attached report from Milo Rust.

Scholarship: See attached report from Jon Zellars.

Small Systems: See attached report from Eric Melcher.

Student Activities: See attached report from Dr. Xu Li.

Water For People: See attached report from Christian New.

Water Utility Council: See attached report from Jim Shields.

Young Professionals: See attached report from Craig Reinsch.

Old Business: The Ad Hoc committees for Nitrate and Survey Membership have been disbanded.

New Business: Marc Rossco updated the Board on our current membership status. Presently our section has 361 members, an increase of 16 new members. We all have a 95% retention rate of our members with a 5% grow rate. The 5% increase in grow is outstanding, presently there are 40 sections with a negative grow rate. Some areas that are successful for us are, retentation of members and reaching out to students. Most 1st class cities in Nebraska are members of AWWA with some 2nd class cities. During our membership drive is summer we were only able to add 1 more cities. Marc is going to review the attendance of this year Fall Conference as to see how many attendees are not members of AWWA. The focus on those individuals to see why they are not a member.
The 3 year Audit was completed this year. The only recommendation is a check and balance, presently Ben is sending a copy of invoices to David.

Nominations see report.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2014 at 1330 hours to be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Younes Conference Center during the NSAWWA Annual Fall Conference.

Adjournment: Doug Woodbeck motioned to adjourn, Milo Rust second. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 1444 hours.
Committee: Archives & History Committee  Date: October 30, 2013
Chair: Kevin Tobin  Vice Chair: None Assigned
Total Members: 4  Active Members: 4
Executive Board Liaison: Rob Pierce

List of Active Members:
John Miriovsky
Rob Pierce
Kevin Tobin
W. James Wells

When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?
E-mail Communication

Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:
None

Deliverables/Activities:
None this year

How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in Accomplishing its Work?
Provide ideas on the direction of this Committee.

Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:
Discuss how best to compile data/information for storage and how to retrieve it.
Engage System Operators to research and share history of their Systems.

Budget Expenditures for 2013:
$0

Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):
$0

Other Items:
Committee: Audit
Date: 10-22-2013
Chair: Eric Lee
Vice Chair: Rob Pierce
Total Members: 4
Executive Board Liaison: Ben Day
List of Active Members: Eric Lee, Rob Pierce, John Olsson, Ben Day

When and where has the committee met in the past year (include conference calls):
Committee has been involved in numerous phone calls and two meetings with the accounting firm retained to perform the three year external audit.

Proposed changes in committee membership: None at this time. However, see other items listed below

Deliverables/Activities: Audit committee report at Board and Business meeting(s). The committee has delivered the final version of the three year external audit, which was distributed at the Summer Retreat.

How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in accomplishing its work?
Continue to fund the required Audit(s) as stated in the By-Laws and SOP’s for the committee

Plans/Projects for upcoming year: Yearly Internal Audit by the committee

Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2013:
$2,500-$3,000

Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification)
No external Audit costs this year, so no planned budget expenditures.

Other Items: Due to rotation of Board members at the Fall Conference, David Lathrop will automatically become chair of committee and Eric Lee will serve on the committee.
Committee: AWARDS____________________ Date: 10/15/2013___________________
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, 2013 – conference call and various emails.

Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:

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 2013 we are giving out
3 WISA Award
1 Cross Connection Specialist of the Year Award
0 Longevity Awards
0 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. The money budgeted will be spent on awards such as plaques etc. We will hopefully be able to hand out additional awards this year.
Budget Report

2013 Budget
The current 2013 Budget as of 10/29/13 is attached. Bookstore Allotment: $600 has been used for educational publications, videos, and merchandise to give away at the Fall Conference.

2014 Budget
I have started to prepare the 2014 Budget. I have received budget requests from most committees but am still waiting on several.

Submitted By: Ben Day, Treasurer
Committee: Cross Connection Committee               Date: November 7, 2013

Chair: Rich Koenig                    Vice Chair: Leroy Kramer

Total Members: 6    Active Members: 6

Executive Board Liaison: Chad Roberts

List of Active Members: Rich Koenig, Leroy Kramer, Chad Roberts, Rob Pierce, Terry Vail and Doug Meyer.

When and where has the committee met in the past year (include conference calls): E-mail was sent April 25, 2013 to the Committee to generate potential topics for the 4 - 1 day workshops co-sponsored with LNM

Proposed changes in committee membership: None

Deliverables/Activities: 4 – 1 day workshops co-sponsored with LNM and assist with the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge”
Assist with selection process for the following awards:
   “Cross Connection Control Program of the Year”
   “Cross Connection specialist of the Year”

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

Plans/Projects for upcoming year: 4 – 1 day workshops co-sponsored with LNM
   Provide CCC Training at the Annual Conference with the “Backflow Challenge” and “Ultimate Backflow Challenge”

Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2013: $1500.00 - LofNM cost share (?)
   $ 720.00 – Ultimate Backflow Challenge
   $  80.00 – Misc.

Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification) $2300.00
   Help fund the “Ultimate Backflow Challenge” session and various other expenses as described above

Other Items
   Attendance at the 4 – 1 day workshops co-sponsored with LNM was approximately 129 operators representing 91 water systems. The date and sites were as follows:
   September 5, 2013 in Ogallala, NE
   September 24, 2013 in Grand Island, NE
   September 25, 2013 in Wayne, NE
   September 26, 2013 in Beatrice, NE
Committee: Education  Date: November 6, 2013

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 2013. – 326 participants
(Participation up 10% or an additional 32 participants so far in 2013)

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:

Bi-annual Pipe workshop – possible topics include fire hydrants, valves, restraints or construction inspection
Budget Expenditures for 2013:

$600  AWWA Bookstore
$5000  LoNM Agreement (Invoice to be submitted at year end)

Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification):

$5,000.00  LoNM Agreement for joint workshop coordination
$600  AWWA Bookstore Section Funds
$1500  Bi-annual Pipe Workshop
(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
Committee: Fuller
Date: November 6, 2013

Chair: Michael Wentink

Total Members: 5 Active Members: 5

Executive Board Liaison:

List of Active Members:
Michael Wentink
Glen Dostal
Larry Andreasen
Dennis Watts
John Olsson

When and where has the committee met in the past year (include conference calls):
By Email – May, 2013

Proposed changes in committee membership:
Annual progressive change as per Bylaws

Deliverables/Activities:
Solicitation of candidates, discussion, voting, and selection of Fuller Award recipient

How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in accomplishing its work?
Process is working OK

Plans/Projects for upcoming year:

Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2013:
$130.00 + recipient’s family members meals as applicable

Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification)
$130.00 (varies with inclusion of family member attendance at banquet – meal cost)

Section Plaque - $100.00 (cost can be less if using a vendor with the past developed template)
Fuller Pin - $30.00
Recipient’s family - cost for banquet meals will vary

Other Items
Committee: Membership
Date: October 1, 2013

Chair: Marc Rosso
Vice Chair: 

Total Members: 6
Active Members: 6

Executive Board Liaison: Eric Lee

List of Active Members: Marc Rosso, Rich Robinson, Tony Bilek, Bruce Dvorak, Chris Miller, Rob Pierce

When and where has the committee met in the past year (include conference calls): The committee met at the Fall Conference in Kearney in addition to exchanging emails and calls to provide for the membership drive that was held in early Spring. The committee prepared the 2013-2014 membership plan update and submitted to AWWA. The committee sent a welcome packet to each new member and sent late notices to members who were past due. In addition, parts of the committee met with the Board at regularly scheduled meetings. Kent Prior will be recognized at the Fall Conference for his life membership status along with new member recognition.

Proposed changes in committee membership: None.

Deliverables/Activities: 2014 Membership Plan

How might the Executive Board assist your Committee in accomplishing its work? The Board is doing an excellent job helping membership with activities such as the annual retreat. This is particularly helpful since Rich Robinson has transitioned from the Chair position.

Plans/Projects for upcoming year: An early spring 2014 non-member contact is planned to try to add members. In addition a student membership drive is planned in the Spring. We will update the membership plan with activities that worked and provide comments in the SOP.

Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2013: $300

Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification) Budget request is $1100 to travel to the membership summit anticipated in Denver, CO and provide for ongoing membership activities. The committee will be using the balance from the total minus membership summit travel for Fall Conference recognition. Membership Summit flight, $500, room for two nights $250, meals, $90, travel/transfers $50 = total of $890.

Other Items

As of 9/23/13 we have 342 active and 351 total members.
Committee: Nominations Committee               Date: 
Chair: Rob Pierce                     Vice Chair: 
Total Members: 4          Active Members: 4 
Executive Board Liaison: 
List of Active Members:  
   Rob Pierce, Tony Bilek, Teresa Konda, Doug Woodbeck  
When and where has the committee met in the past year (include conference calls): 
Proposed changes in committee membership: 
Deliverables/Activities: 
   Per committee chair Rob Pierce, the Nebraska Section AWWA nominations committee submits the following names as its recommended slate of members to serve on the section board for 2013-2014:  
Position Filled Automatically:  
   Chair – David Lathrop  
   Past Chair – Eric Lee  
Slate of Candidates:  
   Chair Elect – Doug Woodbeck  
   Vice-Chair – Ben Day  
   Secretary – Chad Roberts  
   Treasurer – Eric Melcher  
   Trustee – Jim Shields  
   Trustee – Milo Rust  
   Trustee – Mary Poe  
   Trustee – Eric Lehman  
   Director – John Olsson  
Plans/Projects for upcoming year:  
   Nominations of the 2015 Nebraska Section Officers  
Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2013:
Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification)

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
October 31, 2013
Brian Gongol, chair - brian@gongol.net

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
The membership directory has been distributed by e-mail to the full list of active members. We have printed 300 copies of the directory, to be distributed at the Fall Conference to the attending members. The rest will be mailed out after the conference. We were able to get the total printing cost down to $288.74. We are hoping to control expenses overall by limiting the mailing expense.

WEBSITE
Occasional updates have been made to the website as requested by the board and committees. Relatively few requests have been submitted this fall. Please remember that you can e-mail the entire board at once with a message to board@awwaneb.org and all of the committee chairs with a message to committees@awwaneb.org.

MULTIMEDIA
Our YouTube channel has been viewed 4,389 times since its inception on September 7th, 2011. If you have ideas for videos or need assistance with anything that might help with our educational or public-informational outreach, please let me know. We should consider planning for video recording of some presentations and speeches during the Fall Conference in 2014. This will require some advance preparation, but it may be worthwhile.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST
The e-mail distribution list remains at 192 members. There were two updates issued in September and two in October. If you have announcements worth sharing, please send them directly to awwaneb@gongol.net. That places it in the "waiting room", where I can approve it to go out to the entire list.

WISE WATER WORDS
This is our main shortcoming of the year. The transition to producing our own publication has been slower than desired, in part because of the effort to get the directory done, and in part because producing the first edition on our own is the hardest (after the first, we can re-use the template in the future). We may still be able to produce three editions this year (pre-conference, conference wrap-up, and a winter edition), but this will not be a banner year for Wise Water Words. Hopefully, we will get over the learning curve this year (our 50th volume) and on to a smoother operation in our 51st. Content has been very slow to trickle in, so anything that people would like to have published should be submitted any time it is complete, so it can be published immediately online and in the next available print edition.
Committee: Public Information  Date: October 30, 2013

Chair: Mary Poe  Vice Chair: 

Total Members: 4  Active Members: 4  Executive Board Liaison: 

List of Active Members: 
Mary Poe, Brian Gongol, Eric Obert, Jami Cerone

When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?
April 2, 2013 – Lincoln
September 24, 2013 - Lincoln
E-mail correspondence as needed

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

Deliverables/Activities:
Materials sent to Mayors of about 40 cities inviting them to issue a Mayor’s Proclamation for Drinking Water Week. We know for sure that proclamations were issued in Alliance, Gering, La Vista, Nebraska City.
Water tasting contest, educational presentation, and award at the fall conference Children’s Poster Contest at fall conference.
Nebraska Section Facebook page: 140 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:
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 2013:
Approximately $400

Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification):
May spend more money on DWW activities.
Budget request = $600

Other Items:
Committee: Student Activities and Research  Date: 10/15/2013

Chair: Xu Li  Vice Chair: ______________________

Total Members: ~15  Active Members: 7

Executive Board Liaison: Ben Day

List of Active Members:

Xu Li
Vince Kuppig (president of the UNL AWWA/NWEA student chapter)
Darshan Baral (vice president)
Allison Speicher (secretary)
Yuping Zhang (treasurer)
Stefan Schaepe (activities chair)
Garrett Johnson (publicity chair)

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

The committee chair and the officers of the student chapter met in November 2012, January, April, August, and October 2013.

Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:

The student chapter will hold its annual election in April 2014. Some of the current officers will graduate next year. It is expected that some new officers will be elected.

Deliverables/Activities:

- In November 2012, about 15 AWWA/NWEA student members attended the Fall Conference in Kearney, NE. Three made oral presentations.
- In the Spring 2013 semester, the student chapter invited Dr. Wayne Woldt of UNL Department of Biological Systems Engineering to give a seminar on water budget. The seminar was open to public.
- In early April 2013, several UNL/UNO students attended and presented at the Great Plain Waste Management Conferences in La Vista, NE.
- On April 12th 2013, the UNL AWWA/NWEA student chapter presented a poster at UNL E-Week to showcase the student chapter to high school students.
- In August 2013, four students (Zhe Du, Yuping Zhang, Allison Speicher, and Stefan Schaepe) volunteered to help with the NWEA Scholarship Golf Outing event.
- On October 1st, the student chapter organized a career panel to introduce career options for students who are interested in environmental engineering. The four panelists are Marc Russo, Daryl Kottwitz, Steven Groan, and Xu Li. About 20 students attended the event.
- On October 24th 2013, several student chapter members will participate in the field trip organized by the Young Professional committee to visit the Florence Potable Water Treatment Plant.
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 2014.
- Participation in local conferences.

Budget Expenditures for 2013:

- About $100 to cover the cost of reserving a university van to provide transportation to student attendees to the Kearney Fall Conference in November 2012.
- About $200 to cover the costs for student chapter events.

Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification):

- ~$100 to reserve a van to bring students to the Kearney conference in November 2013.
- ~$200 for holding student meetings at UNL
- ~$250 for subsiding AWWA student membership applications in 2014 (AWWA offered a discount student membership rate of $10 in 2013. So, no subsides were requested this year. However, the discount rate may not be available in 2014).

Other Items:
Committee:  Safety Committee  Date:  October 30, 2013

Chair:  Milo Rust  Vice Chair:  Rob Pierce

Total Members:  12  Active Members:  12

Executive Board Liaison:  Milo Rust


When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?
Communicate by Email August 2013

Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:
Talk to members on the committee to see if they want to continue to serve on the safety committee.

Deliverables/Activities:
Safety award participation.

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

Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:  Continue the Safety awards, work with the League of Nebraska Municipalities or Health and human services to sponsor two safety classes.

Budget Expenditures for 2013:  <$100.00,
Mailing  $61.18
Frames  $25.68

Budget Request for 2012 (include a short justification):  $1600.00
Safety Awards
Two Safety Class

Other Items:
Committee: Scholarship       Date: October 28, 2013

Chair: Jon Zellars           Vice Chair: None

Total Members: 6           Active Members: 5

Executive Board Liaison: Unknown

List of Active Members:
Larry Andreasen
Chip Haas
Chris Koenig
John Miriovsky
Jon Zellars

When and Where has the Committee met in the Past Year (include conference calls)?
October 2013 via e-mail

Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:
None

Deliverables/Activities:
Committee members reviewed fourteen applications for the Colonel Theodore A. Liesen Scholarship. Two students attend UNO, eleven attend UNL and one attends Florida Gateway College. Two students are pursuing undergraduate degrees and twelve are seeking graduate degrees in Civil, Environmental or Water Resources Engineering. Three students were selected to receive a $1,000/each scholarship from NSAWWA. The recipients of the 2013 Theodore A. Liesen Scholarships are as follows:

Garrett Johnson ($1,000): Garrett is an undergraduate student at UNL pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering. Garrett is a member of ASCE, WEF, Engineers without Borders and AWWA. He is the Activities Chair for the student chapter of AWWA and is active in the Lincoln Lutheran Youth Group. Garrett is an Environmental Engineer Intern at JEO Consulting. After graduation, Garrett plans to work in the water/wastewater industry where he wishes to assist in bringing clean water to underserved areas of the world. Garrett aspires to be a professional engineer.

Stefan Schaepe ($1,000): Stefan is pursuing a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from UNL. He is the recipient of the Don Wiles Scholarship, Sorkin Scholarship and the James Canfield Scholarship. Stefan is active in the student section of AWWA where he serves as the Publicity Chair. He is also a Group Leader of the Foundations for Faith Bible Study and is a member of the Xtreme Bible Study. Stefan has volunteered his time at the NWEA golf charity event and is a camp counselor at the Manna Resort Christian Camp. Stefan is currently researching modified graphene oxide as a membrane in order to efficiently and effectively filter contaminants such as salts, nitrates and oils from drinking water. He plans to utilize his knowledge and experiences to advance water treatment technologies locally and abroad.

Ryan Hurst ($1,000): Ryan is a Water/Wastewater Plant Operator for the City of Seward where he holds a Class IV wastewater license and a Grade III water license. He is pursuing a degree in Environmental Science and Water Resources Management through Florida Gateway College’s online program. Ryan is a member of AWWA where he has been involved with charity events. He Co-chairs the NWEA Young
Professionals Committee and will soon be joining the NWOD Operator Certification Committee. Ryan is active in the Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church and is a volunteer coach for many recreational youth sports in Seward. Upon graduation, Ryan plans to utilize his degrees to pursue a leadership role in the water industry. In addition, he aspires to bring a higher level of certification training to the State of Nebraska.

Once again the Scholarship Committee thanks Dr. Xu Li for his assistance in publicizing the availability of the scholarships, encouraging applications and collecting them for the committee.

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

Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:
As a carryover from 2013, the Scholarship Committee plans to review the current application for the Colonel Theodore A. Liesen Scholarship and make revisions as deemed necessary by the committee. The committee would like to reevaluate what type of student the scholarship will target.

Award the 2014 Colonel Theodore A. Liesen Scholarship(s).

Budget Expenditures for 2013:

Abel Wolmen - $1,000 (assumed)
Poster Board Competition - $1,000 (assumed)
Stockholm Water Prize - $500 (assumed)
Students - $3,000
Top Ops - $3,300 (assumed)

Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification):

Abel Wolmen - $1,000
Poster Board Competition - $1,000
Stockholm Water Prize - $500
Students - $3,000
Top Ops - $3,000

Other Items:
Committee: Small Water Systems Committee  Date: 11-01-2013

Chair: Eric Melcher  Vice Chair: David Jundt

Total Members: 9  Active Members: 9

Executive Board Liaison:

List of Active Members:
Eric Melcher, David Jundt, Milo Rust, Steve Kelley, Marty Norton, David Lathrop, Ken Ekeler, Jim Green and Doug Allen

When and where has the committee met in the past year (include conference calls):
We haven’t been able to conduct a Committee Meeting in 2013. Although, we plan to hold a meeting in the first quarter of 2014 to discuss Small Water System activities.

Proposed changes in committee membership:
We would like to add 2 additional Small Water System Committee Member that would be interested in assisting with the coordination of future Operator Workshops as well as other activities.

Deliverables/Activities:
The Committee would like to be able to coordinate a workshop in Western Nebraska. Tentative Topics being trenching and shoring, cross-connection programs, capacity development, asset management, etc.

Plans/Projects for upcoming year:
Our goal would be to provide a minimum of 2 workshops during the 2014 calendar year.

Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2013: none to date

Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification) I’ll recommended budgeting the same for the upcoming year for workshops conducted by the Small Water System Committee.

Other Items
Committee: Water for People Date: 10/31/2013

Chair: Christian New Vice Chair: 

Total Members: 8 Active Members: 8

Executive Board Liaison: Ben Day

List of Active Members: Ben Day, Brittany Travers, Craig Reinsch, 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)?

1 Conference Call in January; Event Coordinator meetings prior to Golf Outing in May and Shotgun Event in October: Annual Planning Meeting at Fall Conference.

Proposed Changes in Committee Membership: None.

Deliverables/Activities: Golf Outing (raised $6,167), Sporting Clay Event (raised $918), Raffle Ticket Sales at the Fall Conference (estimated); $1,500 for an estimated total of $8,585.

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

Continued support, attendance at activities and selling more 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

Golf Outing Goal: $6,500.
Sporting Clay Event Goal $2,000.
Raffle Goal $1,500.
Total: 10,000.

Budget Expenditures for 2013:

Annual Water for People Conference, Denver, CO (July 2013). Not attended due to scheduling conflicts.

Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):
$1,000 for Annual Water for People Conference, Denver, CO (July 2014); $100 operating budget. Keep abreast of Water for People activities across the nation and progress with water systems across the globe.

Other Items: None.
**Committee:** Water Utility Council  **Date:** 11/8/2013

**Chair:** Jerry Obrist-Jim Shields  **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.

**Proposed Changes in Committee Membership:**

None at this time.

**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.

On a national scale, several items were accomplished:

- In April 2013, 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 all five of Nebraska’s congressional offices. All 3 committee members also attended the Nebraska Delegation breakfast on Wednesday morning, 4/17, and visited with members of the Delegation.

  I have also attached the detailed issue papers to this report

**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.
Plans/Projects for Upcoming Year:

- Annual AWWA Fly-In in April 2014.
- 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 2013:

- $2200 for Fly-in

Budget Request for 2013 (include a short justification):

- $2,250 – Cover cost of AWWA Fly-In

Other Items:
Evaluating the Affordability of Federal Water-Related Mandates

Action Requested:
Raise awareness of the challenges many American communities face in affording federal water-related mandates, and of EPA's well-meaning, but deficient steps toward evaluating affordability challenges.

Background
Federal water-related mandates can impose significant financial hardships on American communities. Unfortunately, it is generally the least fortunate Americans – those living near or below the poverty level – who are most heavily and adversely affected by these mandates. Because American communities have limited resources, EPA needs to be careful that the investments it requires of American communities address the most important risks to public health and the environment in ways that deliver maximum benefits at the most affordable cost.

To help identify when its mandates might cause undue economic stress, EPA employs affordability criteria to determine when its actions may cause undue economic hardship. For drinking water, EPA assesses the national-level cost of meeting new standards in small communities, while under the Clean Water Act, EPA reviews the cost of agency enforcement actions in particular communities.

If EPA considered more robust affordability criteria, and if the agency could moderate its mandates in response, the economic hardship imposed on lower-income households could be alleviated in many communities. But while EPA should be commended for its openness in attempting to address this important issue, there are several critical limitations to how it defines affordability and applies its criteria. Then too, EPA often lacks flexibility under the law to make adjustments to schedules and mandates that are equal to the affordability challenge facing our communities.

It should be noted that EPA is currently attempting to deal with some affordability concerns through its June 2012 Integrated Municipal Wastewater and Stormwater Planning Approach Framework, which offers the possibility of a longer compliance period. While promising and commendable, this Framework primarily relies upon an inadequate measure – median household income (MHI) – as its main affordability metric, and is limited to Clean Water Act permit and enforcement actions. Under the Integrated Planning Framework, EPA has not committed to considering drinking water investments or investments needed to replace aging water and wastewater infrastructure, which add significantly to the overall cost of water service in many communities.

EPA's Assessment of Affordability for Drinking Water Regulations
EPA's consideration of affordability in the context of potable water supply is limited to assessing the national-level affordability of regulatory options for small communities. EPA does not consider the affordability of drinking water requirements in any manner that pertains to specific utilities, their regulatory targets, or the timing of compliance. EPA has stated that it would consider a national drinking water regulation to be unaffordable nationwide if it would result in a household drinking water bill in excess of 2.5% of the nationwide average MHI for communities with populations less than 10,000 people. To date, EPA has never made this finding. If it did, the agency would be required to identify feasible technologies that are affordable for small communities. If EPA made an un-affordability finding and identified an alternative technology or control technique, states could grant approval for small systems to use that alternative (called a variance) on a case-by-case basis. Variances are subject to review and approval by EPA. States can also grant a temporary extension of compliance deadlines (called an exemption) on a case-by-case basis. States consider the process for issuing exemptions and variances to be extremely burdensome and they are seldom granted.

EPA's Affordability Analysis for Clean Water Actions
For Clean Water Act-related enforcement actions, EPA undertakes a two-part analysis to assess whether mandates to a particular community would cause significant and widespread economic hardship. The analysis is divided into two parts:
1. A “preliminary screen” examines affordability in terms of impacts to local households, using a factor called the Residential Indicator (RI). The RI weighs the average per household cost of wastewater bills relative to median household income in the service area. EPA deems that a Residential Indicator of 2% or greater means that the community is likely to experience economic hardship in complying with the Agency mandate.
2. A “secondary screen” examines metrics related to the financial capability of the impacted utility. This screen applies a Financial Capability Indicator (FCI), involving a score that reflects the average of six economic factors. These factors include the community’s bond rating, its net debt, its median household income, the local unemployment rate, the service area’s property tax
burden, and its property tax collection rate. A lower FCI score implies weaker economic conditions and thus an increased likelihood that an enforcement action will cause substantial and widespread economic impact on the community. The Residential Index and the Financial Capability Indicator are ultimately combined into an overall rating. This overall rating is intended to demonstrate the overall level of financial burden imposed on a community by compliance with water quality mandates.

The Limitations of EPA’s Approach

Some of the limitations of EPA’s approach to assessing the affordability of drinking water regulations are obvious: first, larger communities are assumed to be able to afford anything. And second, the national average cost to small communities is held low if many small communities aren’t affected by the standard in question. This is often the case, because most contaminants don’t occur in all small communities. But such a standard can carry a huge cost for those communities that are affected.

With respect to both drinking water and wastewater, a key limitation to EPA’s assessment of affordability concerns the use of median household income. MHI can be a highly misleading indicator of a community’s ability to pay higher water bills, for many reasons. Among others:

- MHI is a poor indicator of economic distress and bears little relationship to poverty or other measures of economic need within a community. For example, analysis of MHI and poverty data for the 100 largest cities in the United States shows that for 21 cities identified as having an MHI within $3,000 of the 2010 national MHI ($50,046), there is no discernible relationship between MHI and the incidence of poverty.

- MHI does not capture impacts across the entire income distribution. In many cities, income levels are not clustered around the median, but are spread over a wide income range. Many people may be clustered far below the median income — say, in the bottom quintile — so that large numbers of people living nearer the bottom of the income range must struggle with higher water bills that look affordable at the median.

- Income distribution can vary widely across different districts and neighborhoods. The economic hardship associated with increasing water and wastewater bills is often concentrated in a few lower-income neighborhoods, a factor missed completely by looking only at community-level MHI. These limitations are illustrated by a real example: in one city studied, the federal storm water mandate would be judged a mandate to be affordable based on city-wide MHI. But the lowest quintile of the households in that city — people living at or below the poverty level — would be required to pay over 9% of their income for water service. It is virtually certain that many households in that city would face painful and damaging tradeoffs — such as not going to the doctor or not buying medicine — in order to afford a water bill that would be judged to be affordable based on MHI.

EPA’s Financial Capability Indicator (FCI) is also flawed:

- EPA looks only at property tax revenues as a percentage of full market property value (FMPV) as its measure of local tax effort. This ignores income taxes, sales taxes, business taxes, and user fees typically charged for city services, and leads to a significant understatement of local tax effort in cities that rely on multiple forms of taxation.

- The secondary screening analysis includes measures of local MHI and unemployment compared to the national average. By focusing on how these measures compare with the current national levels, EPA fails to acknowledge the absolute value of the indicators. For example, if the national unemployment rate is 9%, a community with an unemployment rate of 10% is considered by EPA as having only a “mid-range” unemployment problem. In fact an unemployment rate of 10% is likely to be a severe stress to any community.

- EPA does not consider the longer-term needs facing many municipalities for reinvestment and renewal of water and wastewater infrastructure due to the current system’s age and condition. As documented by the American Water Works Association’s Buried No Longer report (covering drinking water infrastructure only), these needs are real, pressing, and substantial.

Conclusion

It is important that EPA consider the affordability of implementing Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, and the agency should be commended for developing a system to do so. However, current EPA practices unusually narrow the scope of its affordability analysis. The result is often an inadvertent “environmental justice” issue as real and significant hardship is created for Americans with the lowest incomes.

The American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation offer this paper to raise awareness about this important issue. We hope to spark a national conversation that leads to specific changes in current policy.
Water Infrastructure Bonds Need Protection

Actions Requested:
• Protect tax-exempt municipal bonds
• Restore and protect Build America Bond payments to water utilities.
• Remove water infrastructure projects from the annual state volume caps for private activity bonds.

Background:
In 2012, AWWA released a report titled, “Buried No Longer: Confronting America’s Water Infrastructure Challenge,” which revealed that restoring existing water systems as they reach the end of their useful lives and expanding them to serve a transient population will cost at least $1 trillion over the next 25 years. Please note that this $1 trillion is only for buried drinking water assets. Need for above-ground facilities, waste water, storm water, and other water-related investments are at least as large, and must be added to reflect the true magnitude of the water investment needs we face.

A challenge this large calls for a variety of tools in the infrastructure finance toolbox. Local rates and charges will always be the backbone of water utility finance. However, when large amounts of capital are needed many communities must seek other financing tools. In some cases, this involves the state revolving loan fund program, and hopefully in the future, a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority. Another extremely valuable finance tool is provided by tax exempt municipal bonds.

Municipal Bonds
Tax-exempt municipal bonds have been one of the key finance tools available to water utilities, and at least 70% of U.S. utilities rely on them to some degree. Because the interest on these bonds is exempt from federal taxation, the bonds carry lower interest rates than commercial bonds – thus lowering costs for the utility and for all who pay a water bill in that community. Moreover, municipal bonds provide relatively quick access to capital and are generally unencumbered by red tape. They often provide the core funding for water infrastructure projects.

We know that in the current fiscal climate, many tax issues are on the table in Washington. One of those may be the degree to which higher-income earners can utilize the tax-exempt features of municipal bonds. In the experience of utility managers, a large share of the purchases of tax-exempt municipal bonds are made by those very higher-income earners. If they are denied tax-exempt interest from municipal bonds, the result for utility finance would be devastating. No other financing vehicle is as flexible for utilities as these bonds. We join several groups of state and local elected officials in urging you to protect the current exemption of municipal bond interest from federal taxation.

Build America Bonds
As you know, many utilities issued Build America Bonds (BABs) on the promise of federal payments to the utility designed to make those bonds at least as attractive to the issuer and buyers as traditional tax-exempt debt instruments. Now utilities have been notified by the Treasury that BAB payments must be reduced in order to comply with the sequester. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that no reduction in Build America Bond payments to utilities occurs. Reducing such payments to utilities now after bonds have been issued represents a grossly unfair breach of the promise made by the United States when Build America Bonds were first issued. Promised payments should be restored and protected against future cuts.

Private Activity Bonds
Another tool that could help meet our water infrastructure investment needs is greater use of private activity bonds (PABs). Currently, tax-exempt private activity bonds for public water and wastewater infrastructure projects are subject to state-by-state volume caps and must compete against projects in other critical sectors such as housing and education. This severely limits the amount of PABs that can be issued for water and wastewater infrastructure projects, which are usually less visible than other types of infrastructure. To encourage public-private partnerships and reduce financing costs, PABs for community water systems should be taken out from under the state PAB volume cap, in the same way that PABs for solid waste projects were removed in the 1986 Tax Reform Act.

In summary, we urge you to protect the federal tax exemption of municipal bond interest, restore and protect promised payments to the issuers of Build America Bonds, and remove water projects from the state volume cap on Private Activity Bonds.
The SRFs and WIFIA -- Valuable, Complementary Finance Tools

Actions Requested:
- House and Senate: Support funding for drinking water and wastewater state revolving loan fund programs of at least the FY 2012 approved levels of $1.466 billion and $917.9 million, respectively;
- Senate: Vote for S. 601, the Water Resources Development Act, which contains a pilot program for a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA);
- House: Support introduction of legislation authorizing a WIFIA.

Background:
Water infrastructure is vital to our nation’s well-being for a variety of reasons. Water infrastructure protects public health and the environment, supports the local and national economies, protects us from fires, creates jobs, and brings us a better quality of life. Moreover, the US Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimates that for every dollar spent on water infrastructure, about $2.62 is generated in the private economy. And for every job added in the water workforce, the BEA estimates 3.68 jobs are added to the national economy.

While communities are best served by water utilities that are self-sustaining through local rates and charges, there are times when an investment in infrastructure is required that is too large to be accommodated affordably in a short time frame using only local rates and charges.

State Revolving Loan Funds (SRFs)
State revolving loan funds (SRFs) have been excellent tools for providing support for water infrastructure. The SRFs provide much-needed support for both drinking water and wastewater utilities, thus assisting in the fundamental protection of public health and the environment, particularly for small to medium-sized communities. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) are the anchors for federal investment in water infrastructure. It is vitally important that these successful programs be maintained and strengthened.

We urge Congress to ensure that funding for the CWSRF and DWSRF is maintained at the FY 2012 levels of $1.466 billion and $917.9 million, respectively.

A New Approach: The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority

The Drinking Water SRF in particular was authorized to support projects necessary for regulatory compliance and must give highest priority to projects where there is the most immediate threat to public health. This often rules out using SRF funds to replace aging infrastructure unless that is necessary to ensure compliance with drinking water standards. Clean Water Clean Water Act requirements, including Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), mandates, can overwhelm the ability of the CWSRFs to offer meaningful support in many cases.

An additional tool is needed that can support large, regional water and wastewater projects at a small long-term cost to the federal government. The new tool must be designed to complement – not replace – the SRFs. That tool is the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA). Lowering the cost of borrowing by 2.5 percent on a 30-year loan reduces the lifetime project cost by over 25 percent, the same result as a 25-percent grant. These savings for local borrowers can significantly accelerate needed water infrastructure investment by making it more affordable for utilities and their customers.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has addressed the challenge of financing large, regional projects and sent to the full Senate S. 601, the Water Resources Development Act of 2013. Title X of this bill would create a pilot program for a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA).

WIFIA would assist communities in meeting the nation’s water infrastructure needs in a manner that minimizes the cost to the federal government while complementing the SRFs and other financing mechanisms, maintaining the current federal role, leveraging private capital, and creating vital manufacturing and construction jobs. WIFIA would access funds from the U.S. Treasury at long-term Treasury rates and use those funds to provide loans, loan guarantees, or other credit support for water infrastructure projects. Loan repayments – with interest – would flow back to WIFIA and thence back into the Treasury.
Eligible water infrastructure projects would include drinking water, waste water, storm water, water reuse and desalination, and similar projects, and associated water infrastructure replacement and rehabilitation.

Under S. 601, WIFIA would have the authority to:

- Provide direct loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit for large water infrastructure projects, with a minimum loan size of $20 million. That ensures that WIFIA complements but does not replace the SRF program by specifically focusing on larger projects that may be unable to access capital through the SRFs.

- Provide state authorities with the ability to apply for a WIFIA loan to fund an aggregation of smaller projects. This allows states to utilize WIFIA to leverage existing SRF resources.

One of WIFIA’s key features is the minimal long-term cost to the federal government and the high leverage available against the federal appropriation. Under the Federal Credit Reform Act, a federal entity can provide credit assistance to the extent that Congress annually appropriates budget authority to cover the “subsidy cost” of the loan, i.e. the net long-term cost of the loan to the federal government. In this way, Congress directly controls the amount of lending – but appropriated funds support many times their value in low-interest loans, ensuring that the program is efficient, effective, and highly leveraged.

We urge you to support legislation to fully reauthorize the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF and the enactment of WIFIA legislation similar to that reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.
Committee: Young Professionals  
Date: September 25, 2013  
Chair: Justin Stine, Craig Reinsch  
Vice Chair:  

Total Members: 10  
Active Members:  

Executive Board Liaison:  
Justin Stine, Rory Sudbeck, Craig Reinsch, Teresa Konda, Andrew Synhorst, Jeff Hubby, Brittany Travers, Billy Kaufhold, David Stuart, Jake Miriovsky  

When and where has the committee met in the past year (include conference calls):  
Primarily through email dialogs. Also sub-committee phone calls or emails for specific events. Also had master planning call early spring to outline direction for the year. Discussions at the annual meeting are also beneficial.  

Proposed changes in committee membership:  
We will need to identify a new chair going forward beyond the next year as Craig and Justin are beginning to hit the age limit for the group.  

Deliverables/Activities:  
PVC Pipe Lunch and Facility Tour – Diamond Plastics, Grand Island, NE (April)  
WTF Tour and Social – Platte West WTF, Omaha, NE (April)  
WTF Tour and Social – Florence WTF, Omaha, NE (October)  
Poker Tournament at Annual Conference – Kearney, NE (November)  

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

Plans/Projects for upcoming year:  
None firm at this time. Continued coordination with NWEA to grow the total groups with similar interests  

Anticipated Budget Expenditures for 2013:  

Budget Request for 2014 (include a short justification)  
We request an allocation of $500 for purchase of food expense at a social event, probably with the Student Chapter and to put together the poker event at the Fall Conference.  

Other Items