

## NS-AWWA Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: **February 2, 2018**

Location: JEO, 2700 Fletcher Ave., Lincoln, NE

Eric Melcher called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM

### **ROLL CALL:**

#### **Board members present:**

Board Chairman: Eric Melcher

Chair Elect: Milo Rust

Vice Chair: Brittany Travers

Treasurer: John Keith

Secretary: Mary Poe

Director: Bruce Dvorak

Past Chair: absent

Trustee: Marc Rosso

Trustee: Craig Reinsch

Trustee: Gary Thurlow – on phone

Trustee: absent

**Board members absent:** Chad Roberts, Jack Satur

**Committee Chairs present:** Rich Koenig, Rob Pierce, Jim Shields

**Others present:** none

### **Approval of November Board Business meeting minutes:**

Marc made a motion to approve the November Board meeting minutes, Bruce seconded and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Eric shared the official Representative Report written by Mark Coleman on his review of our Annual Conference. Mark had some good things to say and it was nice to hear a different perspective from somebody outside our Section. Mark's report is attached.

A new nominating committee was formed and Chad, as the past Section Chair, is the automatic chair of the committee. Other members are Brittany, Craig, Bruce, and Mary.

Our Section allotment of \$15,000 has been received.

### **Director's Report:**

Bruce attended the winter board meeting in Georgia where the next president-elect, two vice-presidents, and a director-at-large were elected. The board also approved a nomination and voting process for getting qualified candidates for open positions at the association level.

The Association budget is looking good, with increased revenue and decreased expenses. There has also been an uptick in membership (utility as well as individual), and growth in advertising income and publications revenue.

The Puerto Rico Section is very appreciative of the support from AWWA as they continue to recover from Hurricane Maria. One example is the Nebraska Section's donation of \$1,000 worth of utility lights and emergency water treatment.

The AWWA Governmental Affairs Executive Director, Tracy Mehan, provided updates on the regularity environmental as well as the Farm Bill, which is currently undergoing reauthorization. AWWA produced an informational animation to show congress how nutrient runoff issues can be addressed in the Farm Bill reauthorization.

Water affordability is an issue in some parts of the country and AWWA plans to develop guidance for utilities.

The AWWA Journals will be produced in digital format and will now be published by an outside publisher.

The Veterans Workforce Initiative is seeking a network of volunteers who will be trained to help with the following: communicating training/education/certification requirements to veterans; making personal connections to utilities and employers to help veterans get their foot in the door in the water sector. See attached report for more information on volunteering.

Report is attached.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

John presented the Treasurer's Report and 2018 budget. Account totals equal \$167,342.75. Budget items highlighted in yellow have been confirmed by the committee chair. A line item for Leadership Development has been added. Changes were suggested in the Cross Connection Workshop budget.

There will be a separate line item for Fall Conference competitions. A discussion was held about conference competitions (Meter Madness – hold every other year; continue the Ultimate Backflow Challenge? - Yes).

It was requested by a conference vendor that we try to cash their checks sooner.

John presented the conference income breakdown, which includes over \$15,000 in revenue to Nebraska AWWA.

Milo made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Brittany and the motion carried with all present voting aye.

See attached checkbook ledger activity and budgets for 2017 and 2018 (proposed).

### **Committee Reports:**

**Archives & History:** No report

**Audit:** No report

**Awards:** Please see attached Awards Report for a list of all the available awards and their due dates. The committee is also accepting candidates for the following annual awards:

- Cross connection control program of the year
- Cross connection specialist of the year
- WISA award
- Longevity award

Report is attached.

**Budget:** Committees should get their budget requests to John (if haven't done so already) so that we can finalize the 2018 budget.

**Cross Connection:** Committee will meet in March to plan topics for the four 1-day workshops scheduled in 2018.

Report is attached.

**Education:** John reports that one training session was held in January with 12 attendees. Twenty more trainings are scheduled. The pre-conference had 44 attendees. Two Small Systems training events with USEPA/AWWA grant had 104 attendees in two sessions. There will be one event co-hosted with RCAP with a \$4,800 Area 1 training grant.

Report is attached.

**Fall Conference:** Our Section allotment of the Fall Conference revenue was \$15,385. The planning meeting for the 2018 conference will be held April 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 during the Great Plains Conference in La Vista.

**Fuller Award:** No report

**Manufacturers/Associates Council:** No report

**Membership Engagement & Development:** Marc noted that our Section grew by 1.8% and met our retention goal, so we received a bonus of \$292.50 from AWWA. Marc attended the membership summit in January where some of the topics included: member engagement guide review, diversity in boards and membership, engaging retirees, and engaging the young professionals.

We continue to work on getting operator training certified by DHHS so that online training can count toward training hours. Marc is working with AWWA IT and Mike Wentink at DHHS to work out the details.

Report is attached.

**Nominations:** A new committee has been selected with Chad Roberts as the Chair. Members include Brittany, Craig, Bruce, and Mary.

Report is attached.

**Public Information:**

Mark Coleman, the visiting dignitary at the Fall Conference, was impressed with our children's poster contest and wants to share this outreach idea with his Michigan Section.

Drinking Water Week is May 6-12 and the Governor's Proclamation Ceremony will be Monday May 7. Please try to attend if you can.

Report is attached.

**Publications:** No report

**Research and Student Activities:** The committee is planning spring activities.

**Safety:** Rob reports that he gets a good deal on the award plaques when he buys them on sale at Hobby Lobby.

**Scholarship:** The One AWWA Operator scholarship and the student poster winner were submitted to the Association. Will need to work on more outreach this year to get more applications to be able to award two operator scholarships. The poster winner is planning to present her poster at ACE but Craig had to write a letter so that the international student could get a visa extension to be able to attend.

Report is attached.

**Small Systems:** A workshop will be held in Aurora during the week of March 26. A presentation is being planned on the implementation of a Wellhead protection program in cooperation with landowners within the protection area. The committee is working on a presentation to include new products and regulatory updates regarding lead and copper.

The committee chair needs updated on the website; Mary will contact Brian to update.

**Top Ops:** Report is attached.

**Total Water Solutions:** Dale Jacobson is the new chair.

**Water for People:** A Thank You letter from WFP is attached. Because of our contribution of \$1,197.09, the students in Asuncion, Peru (high in the Andes Mountains) now have safe drinking water in their schools.

**Water Utility Council:** Jim submitted a legislative update but there were no bills in the legislature that we needed to address. Jim will not be able to attend the Fly-in so he will try to find a replacement from MUD. Examples of letters sent to Washington are attached.

**Young Professionals:** Joe Roberts is the new chair of the committee and will be attending the YP summit in February. YP event planning is underway. The committee hopes to collaborate with the UNL Student Chapter to aid in the transition from student to YP.

Report is attached.

**Community Engineering Corp:** The committee is in contact with at least two communities to possibly help them with new projects. They are looking for engineers to help review projects.

**Finance Ad Hoc Committee:** There is a new contact at Mutual of Omaha (David Carroll) who we will be working with on the Section's investment. Brittany will get in contact with him.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Section Letterhead:** A few corrections were noted and Mary will send the corrected letterhead out to the board and committee chairs.

**Association-Section Agreement:** There is no Area 2 grant this year so there won't be a pre-conference.

**Mutual of Omaha Transfer of CD funds:** We have a new contact at Mutual of Omaha and the investment has not been completed yet.

**Veterans Workforce Initiative:** AWWA is looking for volunteers to mentor veterans and connect them with job openings in the water sector.

**ACE 2018 Update/student poster winner:** The poster winner, Putri Brikke, is planning to present her poster at the Fresh Ideas poster contest at ACE in Las Vegas, but she is an international student and her visa is set to expire before June. Craig wrote a letter of support for extending her visa so that she can attend.

**New Business:**

**Washington Fly-In:** Registration is open. Jim can't attend this year but is trying to find a replacement, since his registration is paid by National. It is questionable if Milo can attend because it conflicts with the three-organization conference planning meeting. It is ideal to have representation from each of the three congressional districts.

**AWWA Merchandise:** Merchandise is available for promotional giveaways.

**Annual Conference Certificates of Attendance:** We are looking into giving conference attendees a certificate of attendance. This would be helpful for engineers to earn CEUs. Craig passed out examples and they were discussed.

**Water Industry Luncheon at ACE:** Let Eric know if you need tickets to this.

**Membership Achievement:** Our Section received a check for \$292.50 for meeting our retention goal. Need to engage new members so they will renew.

**AWWA 2020:** National is looking at the Section Book Store Allotments and how it can be utilized.

**Regional Meeting of Section Officers:** The Region 3 RMSO will be held in Detroit April 12-14. It would be nice to have 2-3 representatives attend from the Nebraska Section. The budget would be \$650 per attendee.

**Diversity Plan:** National AWWA would like to see diversity in Section membership and boards and is working on a diversity plan.

**Congressional Legislation - Local Control for Material Procurement:** There is a national effort to eliminate local control of water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure systems and it would deny engineers, utility managers, and local government officials the ability to design water systems in the manner that best serves the needs of their communities. Examples of letters to senators on this issue are attached.

**Adjournment:** At 12:09 John made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric, with all in attendance voting aye, motion carried.

**Next Meeting:**

Date and Location: Monday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 in Kearney, NE, location TBD

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Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Poe, Nebraska Section AWWA Secretary