

NEBRASKA SECTION AWWA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2005

Meeting was held on January 20, 2005 at the Fremont NE City Council Chambers. Meeting called to order at 9:48 a.m.

Present were: Larry Andreasen, Bruce Dvorak, Joel Christensen, Tony Bilek, Mari Matulka, Michael Wentink, Rich Koenig, Dave Jundt, Rich Robinson, Chris Koenig, and Chuck Thomerson.

Motion made by Tony Bilek to approve minutes, as amended, of the November 4, 2004 meeting; seconded by Michael Wentink. Motion approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Koenig presented the 2004 current balance sheet and income statement. The disbursement from the 2004 annual conference had not yet been received from the Nebraska Water Environment Federation (NWEA), but when it does arrive, the Nebraska Section will end 2004 somewhere between \$3,000 and \$4,000 in the red. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Joel Christensen; seconded by Michael Wentink. Motion approved by all.

Director's Report

At the January 16, 2005 meeting the National Board of Directors took several actions including:

- Approved the changes to the Nebraska Section Bylaws, mostly language from the “Standard Bylaws for AWWA Sections” model.
- Approved the 2005 Budget and changes to the dues structure. The 2006 dues structure changes are designed to be revenue neutral.
- Approved a new Strategic Plan.

The Board conducted a special session to consider changes to Association Governance, including organization structure. An Ad Hoc Committee sent a questionnaire to all Board members. Many Board members felt they are not close to the decision-making process. I have a copy of the survey results for anyone interested. It will be our goal to initiate changes, if any, at the winter 2006 Board meeting.

A plaque from Water for People will be displayed at the AWWA booth at the Annual Conference.

National AWWA will pay for the registration for one of our section members (e.g., officer or staff member). That person must be available to “help out” on the section-related sessions. Contact Larry Andreasen or Joel Christensen about this opportunity.

Committee Reports

Audit

Larry shared the bi-annual audit from Hanigan, Bjorkman, and Ecklund, LLP of Lincoln. Each board member present received a copy. After discussing the recommendations, a motion was made by Bruce Dvorak and seconded by Michael Wentink to create an ad hoc committee

consisting of **Chris Koenig, Kevin Tobin** and **Bruce Dvorak**. The committee will prepare a short document for possible adoption by the Board concerning (1) a disaster recovery plan, (2) procedures of accessing the section’s checking account, and (3) bonding of the treasurer. Motion approved by all.

Awards

No report.

Budget

Chris Koenig shared the proposed 2005 budget. It was amended by eliminating the office expense of \$1,500. A motion to approve the amended 2005 budget was made by Chuck Thomerson and seconded by Joel Christensen. Motion approved by all.

Cross-Connections

Rich Koenig stated the dates for the workshops are on the calendar and the committee will purchase a USC video/powerpoint presentation.

Education

Mke Wentink reported the training coalition calendar will be out in February and the pre-conference workshop will be held Monday, November 7, 2005.

Fall Conference

It was suggested that a call for papers be included in **Wise Water Words**. NWEA/APWA/NS-AWWA will send a representative to a meeting held in the middle of the fall conference to discuss the next year’s conference.

Fuller Award

Terry O'Brien will be the chair of the Fuller Award committee in 2005. Other members will be **Rich Koenig, Jack Daniel, Chris Koenig** and **Joel Christensen**.

MAC

Tony Bilek suggested increasing vendor fees to \$450 from \$400 for this year. Rich Robinson proposed the possibility of having different prices for “member” and “non-member” vendors. Tony and Rich will prepare a proposal on this issue.

Membership

Rich Robinson reported on late and renewal membership letters. NS-AWWA received an award for being the section with the highest member retention rate during 2004.

Nominations

No report.

Public Information

Help at the Children’s groundwater festival in Grand Island (March 22) is needed. **Chad Roberts** is willing to assist, but additional leadership in providing an AWWA exhibit is needed.

Publications

Mari provided an update concerning advertisers for **Wise Water Words**.

Research

No report

Safety

Four traffic work zone workshops are scheduled and the committee is looking at national safety awards.

Scholarships

Larry Andreasen encouraged operators to apply for the scholarship.

Small Systems

Dave Jundt reported the committee has picked up several more members.

Student Activities

No report.

Water for People

A certification recognizing the NS-AWWA contribution was received.

Water Utility Council

Jerry Obrist is planning to participate in the Washington Fly In. Get issues and questions to Jerry.

Young Professionals

Twenty people participated in the Ion Exchange tour at Adams in December and two sessions of Pump 101 are scheduled for late January/early February at Ashland.

Old Business

Larry Andreasen briefly reviewed the Section Strategic Plan. Young Professionals is coming on strong. Rich suggested Larry identify five topics from the strategic plan to work on.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize Donation. Todd Bohling provided more information on the prize and past winners. The trade-off between Water for People and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Donation was discussed. A motion was made, by Joel Christensen and second by Bruce Dvorak, to take \$250 from the scholarship budget line in 2005 and give it to NWEA to provide for part of the Nebraska winner's travel costs to the national contest. Motion was passed by all.

New Business

AWWA Teleconferences. Mike Wentink asked what does NS-AWWA do to help public water supplies with future work force issues as the baby boomers retire. The board discussed different possible methods of helping address this issue: Helping at job fairs for high school graduates, educating councils and boards concerning the responsibilities of operators, and providing a track at the fall conference concerning how an operator can move into administration.

Golf Outing for Safe Water. Discussed John Olsson's e-mail. Decided proceeds will go to Water for People.

Library. Discussed a possible agreement with the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA) to take control over much of the NS-AWWA library. Bruce Dvorak will facilitate donating several AWWARF reports to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln engineering library. Bruce Dvorak and Mike Wentink will finalize an agreement with NeRWA concerning ownership and mailing costs for the library. Bruce Dvorak will place surface sensitive labels on all NS-AWWA items provided to NeRWA stating that the item is property of NS-AWWA.

Larry Andreasen made motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55; Tony Bilek seconded, and all approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m., Monday, March 14, at the Columbus Municipal Building Council Chambers, 1369 25th Ave.

Submitted for approval Feb. 14, 2005 by Bruce Dvorak, NSAWWA Secretary.