NEBRASKA SECTION AWWA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2006

Meeting was held March 15, 2006 at the Columbus NE City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present were: Larry Andreasen, Tony Bilek, Joel Christensen, Bruce Dvorak Rich Koenig, Teresa Kub, John Olsson, Rob Pierce, Chuck Thomerson, Kevin Tobin, Michael Wentink and Doug Woodbeck.

Motion made by Mike Wentick to approve minutes, as amended, of the January 12, 2006 meeting; seconded by Kevin Tobin. Motion approved by all.

Treasurer’s Report

John Olsson presented a recap of the 2005 financial results and the 2006 budget as amended. We ended 2005 with a surplus of about $13,200. The membership directory is likely to come in about $2,500 lower than the amount budgeted for 2006.

A question was raised as to if the cross-connection and safety committee expenses (and income) was listed in the correct line. John will report at the next meeting where the cross-connection and safety committee expenses and income was listed (e.g., if listed as miscellaneous, seminars or other line item).

A motion to approve treasurer report was made by Chuck Thomerson; seconded by Bruce Dvorak. Motion approved by all.

Director’s Report

Joel Christensen reported the following.

He attended the winter board meeting February 11-12 in Austin, Texas. Major items included governance of the association, elections, membership dues, Spring DC fly-in, the MTBE campaign and utility quality programs. There also was a session about trends in the water industry and impacts on AWWA and the Sections.

Governance of the Association

Each section will continue to be represented by a Board member. Policy and finance will remain the responsibility of the Board. There was a strong consensus for these two items. One additional vice president will also be elected by the Board.

AWWARF, Water for People, and Public Interest Advisory Forum representatives on the executive committee will be allowed to vote except for election of officers. They currently vote on the Board of Directors, except in elections. Some of us questioned the additional authority of un-elected representatives from organizations we deal with and provide contributions. There was a strong consensus that outside representation on a Board is healthy and that decisions will be balanced.

Elections

Nilaksh Kothari will be the next President-elect (as of June, 2006) and then President. Nilaksh is general manager of Manitowoc, WI public utilities. He received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in India and has worked for engineering consulting firms in Montana and Wisconsin. I believe he will be a very good leader. Five Vice Presidents and a Director-at-large also were elected. Janice Skadsen, the Association representative to our Fall Conference was again elected Vice President.

Standards
Nearly 20 standards were approved, mostly revisions. It also was decided to proceed with the creation of wastewater standards. During discussion about this item, it was pointed out that WEF does not write standards and we have many members with wastewater responsibility.

Board Communications
The Association is now sending minutes from the executive and other committees on a much more timely manner. A website, called DirectorNet, was created to “post” these and other information. I asked that the Board be given updates during the budget preparation process.

John Olsson made a motion, and Kevin Tobin seconded the motion to approve the director’s report.

Committee Reports

Audit
Tony shared Chris’s audit report for 2005. Tony stated the financial management appears to be in order.

Awards
Steve Kelly reported through Mike Wentink that the committee has mailed on March 6 a request for nominations for the Water Industry Service Award to the entire memberships. The membership should contact Steve with nominations for the other Association awards.

Budget
John shared the 2006 budget with the board. Joel noted that in the past NS-AWWA has paid for the director’s spouse to travel to the winter board meeting, so the expense should be included in the 2007 budget.

Kevin Tobin suggested the budget be modified to have a heading titled “conferences” and sub-item rows under the “conferences” for the specific meetings (e.g., teleconferences, safety conf., annual conference, pre-conf. workshop, cross-connection workshop, educational/training activities). These categories would be used for both income and expenses.

Bruce Dvorak made a motion, and Joel Christensen seconded the motion to approve the 2006 budget.

Cross-Connections
Rich Koenig noted that workshops will be coming in June. Some current committee members were dissatisfied that additional training dates were added without consulting the Cross Connection Committee.

Education
Mike Wentink reported the 2006 seminars jointly sponsored with the League of Nebraska Municipalities are progressing and the topic has been met with enthusiasm. Backflow training and AWWA Video teleconferences have been scheduled. The pipe design seminar (March 28) preparations are going well, and have 74 people pre-registered. Any income generated by the seminar will go to NS-AWWA as seed money for a similar seminar (concerning pipe installation) next year.

The 2007 AWWA seminar topics were discussed. The consensus of the board was that the Distribution Rehabilitation topic was very appropriate for Nebraska. The LT2 treatment principles and drought were other AWWA Seminar topics of interest. Joel offered that M.U.D. would likely be willing to help provide a tour opportunity, if needed, for the distribution rehab seminar if it was held in Omaha.

Fall Conference
Mike Wentink reported that he sent a note to officers and chairs concerning possible topics for the fall conference. Mike plans to organize the fall conference planning session in mid-to-late April in Fremont. The joint AWWA, APWA and NWEA planning meeting will occur on Thursday, March 30, 1 p.m., at the Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs.
Fuller Award
Rich Koenig reported there will be an award.

MAC
Tony reported that he will work with Mike Wentink on planning for the vendor exhibit.

Membership
No report.

Nominations
Joel Christensen is completing his last year of his three-year term as director. Tony Bilek appointed Larry Andreasen, Tony Bilek and Joel Christensen to nominate a candidate for the position of Nebraska’s director at the fall conference of 2006. A nomination must be forward to the Section Secretary by July 2006. The nominations for the next slate of officers are on-track.

Public Information
No report.

Publications
Mari Matulka reported the 2006-2007 Nebraska Section AWWA Membership Directory was published and mailed to members. Cost: $3,904.87, which was $2,595.13 under budget (we received a discount from the printer). We received $1,250 from advertising for this publication.

The Spring issue of Wise Water Words was published and mailed. Estimated cost: $2,732. To date, we have received $3,750 from advertising for 2006 Wise Water Words. We will receive another $800 from American Ductile Iron for advertising in the next two issues. In addition, CAS Construction called this past week and may be advertising in an upcoming issue or two.

The Legislature plans to adjourn April 12. The next Wise Water Words will include dispositions of bills from this session. Deadline for the summer issue of Wise Water Words is May 19. This issue will include the nominations for 2007 officers and a report on the Water for People Golf Tournament.

Research
No report.

Safety
Rob stated that one more mailing must be sent out to get the 2005 data for the awards. The committee decided to buy frames to put the national award certificates in when distributed to the winners.

Scholarships
Larry Andreasen reported the committee put the operators’ scholarship application in Wise Water Words. Larry discussed the possibility of changing the SRF contract to allow operators from small systems to attend a conference or seminar in the state to attend and have the costs reimbursed through the SRF contract.

Small Systems
No report.

Student Activities
The student chapter has met once and is planning to take students to the Great Plains Waste Management Conference in Council Bluffs.

Water for People
Glenn reported that Water for People thanked the section for our donations.

Water Utility Council
Jerry and Chuck will attend the spring fly in.
Young Professionals
No events were scheduled yet, although events will announce soon.

Old Business

Groundwater Children’s Festival
Teresa represented NS-AWWA using the groundwater model and it worked well for the exhibit hall. She recommended having two people give this type of presentation in the future. She also noted NS-AWWA may want to consider purchasing a groundwater model.

Summer Workshop – Breckenridge, CO, 7/21-7/23
Proposed sending several officers. Several discussed attending.

AWWA Specialty Conference – Omaha host
Tony is considering working with the Omaha Quest Center and Chamber of Commerce to solicit several AWWA Specialty conferences.

Regional Meeting – Des Moines, IA, 4/21 – 4/22. Tony will contact board members in the next few weeks. The Nebraska Section would like to have as many people there as possible.

New Business

WFP Golf Outing
The Water for People Golf outing will be held Friday, May 12 (end of Safe Drinking Water Week). New brochures will be distributed.

SRF Funding update
Rich Koenig shared the idea of NS-AWWA bidding on a NE HHSS contract (to be let for bidding in about 15 months). This contract would be to provide technical assistance to operators of small systems, and would allow NS-AWWA to provide more benefits to small systems. The contract would require NS-AWWA to contract with one or more individual to provide the said service. The current Nebraska HHSS contract for 15 months is for $167,000 to provide technical assistance. Doug will share an RFP from the last round with the board. This will be a topic of discussion at the next board meeting.

The meeting ended at 12:36 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Friday, May 12, at the Columbus Municipal Building Council Chambers.

Submitted for approval March 16, 2006 by Bruce Dvorak, NS AWWA secretary.