The Nebraska Section American Water Works Association (NS-AWWA) held the Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 A.M., January 11, 2007 at the offices of Olsson & Associates in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Those in attendance were Bruce Dvorak, John Olsson, Chris Koenig, Michael Wentink, Joel Christensen, Tony Bilek, Kevin Tobin, Rich Koenig, Teresa Konda, Rob Pierce, Mari Matulka, Chuck Thomerson.

Chris Koenig made the motion to approve minutes of November 8, 2006 Executive Board Meeting, motion was seconded by Tony Bilek; motion was approved by all.

TREASURER’S REPORT

- Currently at a negative $9,500, but are owed $10,832 by APWA for Fall Conference, so we will end slightly in the black.

- Joel Christensen suggested webcasts are painless and useful for earning CEUs. He suggested working towards that goal with teleconferences.

- Chris Koenig raised concern that we need to do more with our budget, since we are having surplus.

- John Olsson suggested that at the next meeting the board discuss if we want to roll over the CDs.

Joel Christensen made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, motion was seconded by Teresa Konda; motion was approved by all.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Joel Christensen reported the Winter Board Meeting in Hawaii is late January 2007; both Joel and Chris will attend. Chris will be formally installed as the new director in the summer.

Rob Pierce made the motion to approve the Director’s Report, motion was seconded by John Olsson; motion was approved by all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit: Mike Wentink reported the cost for auditing the 2003 books in 2004 was $2,780. We need to perform the audit (every three years) on the 2006 books in 2007. Mike requested that Chris Koenig and John Olsson get quotes for audit services and report back to the Board.

Awards: No Report.
Budget: John Olsson reported the following:

- AWWA Fly-In was a pass through (reimbursed) expense.
- Teleconference was improving, but Income/Expense line items needed to be adjusted from $500 to $1,000; more discussion later (agenda item).
- Directors' Board meeting has been adjusted from $3,000 to $1,500.

A preliminary approval of recommended changes to the budget line items was made by Chuck Thomerson, same motion was seconded by Bruce Dvorak; motion was approved by all.

Cross Connection: Rich Koenig reported there would be a Cross Connection Class, September 11-14, 2007. Check the 2007 Training Calendar for the scheduled Road Show event locations.

Education: Rob Pierce reported that Steve Kelly has been assisting with the Fall Seminar and was requesting $100/day for coordinating the event. The League is to review and present the findings at the March 12, 2007 meeting.

(Frank Dvorak was excused from the meeting)

Fall Conference: Kevin Tobin reported the day of the golf outing was cutting in to the attendance of the Top Ops event. The Board Meeting will be held on the Monday, the General Business Meeting would possibly be on Wednesday. There is a Joint Leadership meeting being held at the Great Plains Conference in Council Bluffs, IA.

Fuller Award: No Report.

MAC: Tony Bilek reported he would be working with Mari on providing vendor registration for conferences on the website.

Membership: No Report.

Nominations: No Report.

Public Information: No Report.

Publications: Mari Matulka reported the following:

- Mari presented a handout of those advertisers that have committed to advertising in the publication. (See Attachment)
- Lost HGM and Jacobsen • Helgoth Engineering as advertisers.
- Picked up HTM as an advertiser and possibly American Ductile Iron (ADI)
- Chris Koenig presented contract for approval.

A motion was made by Tony Bilek to approve the contract for vendors as presented, same motion was seconded by Kevin Tobin; motion was approved by all.
Research: No Report.

Safety: Rob Pierce reported the following:

- Four (4) new members. (See Attachment)
- AWWA Section created its own awards and presented a Safety Survey.

Scholarship: No Report.


Student Activities: No Report.

Water for People: No Report.


Young Professionals: Bruce Dvorak provided a report from Ben Day that summarized previous AWWA Young Professionals’ Events and Goals for 2007. (See Attachment)

OLD BUSINESS

Teleconference Coordination

Chuck Thomerson reported the following:

- There will be a teleconference March 8, 2007. The topic is to be “Pipeline Repair”. (See Attachment)
- Sites listed so far are Gering and Hastings. Still looking for a site in Lincoln/Omaha to be a host site for the metro areas and an area between Gering and Hasting was being sought.
- UNL was a suggested contact for a site. Mike Wentink offered to find out who would be a contact person for determining possibility of hosting as well as if there was any place in the North Platte area would be interested in hosting a site.
- There was conversation about the quality of subject matter, location availability and coordination efforts; there would be a follow-up to the inquiries at the next board meeting.

Operator Retention

Mike asked for an adhoc committee to be created to work on operator retention in the organization, those appointed were Mike Wentink, Teresa Konda, Tony Bilek and others to be determined.

NEW BUSINESS
2007 Budget

John Olsson presented the 2007 budget for review and discussion. After discussion, the following line item changes were recommended for income projections:

- Annual Meeting was changed from $12,000 to $52,000 because the section would be hosting the annual conference.
- Teleconferences were changed from $500 to $1,000 to cover the required section registration and the projected site rentals and meal reimbursements expenses.

After discussion, the following line item changes were recommended for expense projections:

- Teleconferences were changed from $500 to $1,000 anticipating better attendance through more site availability.
- Director’s Board Meeting was changed from $3,000 to $1,500 to reflect the incoming director’s expenses were reimbursed through National.
- Membership summit was “zeroed out” and Regional Meetings was increased from $500 to $1,000.
- Annual Meeting was changed from $1,500 to $40,000 because the section would be hosting the annual conference.
- Water for People – Raffle (Fall Conference) was changed from $200 to $500, to reflect prize money to be awarded. Silent Auction was “zeroed out”.

AWWA Fly-In (Washington DC), April 17 – 18, 2007

Tommy Holmes requested representatives’ names attending event. Mike Wentink would contact Jerry Obrist and cover association member to attend the event with him. Mike would report later as to who the individual would be. John Olsson proposed that candidates interested in attending could submit a summary of why they would be interested in attending the event and what they would be able to contribute by attending the event. This proposal was tabled and the selection criteria would be discussed at a future date. (See Attachment)

AWWA Membership Summit February 1-2, 2007

Teresa Konda will attend the summit and provide a report. (See Attachment)
Policy on Guests of Section Award Winners at Conference Banquet

Discussion ensued about what the criteria of the policy would entail. Rob Pierce, Bruce Dvorak and Steve Kelly would draft a policy to be reviewed for Executive Board action at the March 12, 2007 Board Meeting in Columbus.

AWWA “WARN” Project – July 2007

Mike Wentink provided a copy of an e-mail communication and a handout on the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks (WARN). This plan was developed by the AWWA and has received approval to use existing grant funds available to assemble and present a series of workshops concerning “Utilities Helping Utilities: Mutual Aid Response Networks for Water and Wastewater Systems”.

It is recommended that each state provide 10 – 15 people as their team. The utility caucus (9 – 10 individuals) should be a mix of large, medium and small, as well as public and private utilities. The remaining individuals (5 – 6) should be set aside for representatives from the following agencies; AWWA Section, WEF Member Association, National Rural Water Association, Regional Community Assistance Program and each state’s Emergency management Agency and State Primacy Agency. The workshop will be in Denver, CO the week of July 9, 2007. Then workshop is designed to help these teams develop a WARN program in each state. (Attachments)

Those recommended team members suggested were:

State Government – Mike Wentink
NEMA –
Large System –
Medium System – Chuck Thomerson
Small System –
Engineering –
Primacy – Rob Pierce

There will be follow-up to this at the next executive board meeting March 12, 2007.

Strategic Plan

Mike Wentink provided a summary of changes to the AWWA Strategic Plan proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee. Mike also provided a copy of the NS-AWWA Strategic Plan, dated November 6, 2002. (See Attachment) There will be further discussion at the March 12, 2007 executive board meeting.

General Discussion

Tony Bilek announced some potential locations for the Regional meeting to be held in Omaha; they are Courtyard Marriot and Double Tree Hotel.

Motion was made by Rob Pierce to adjourn; motion was seconded by Chris Koenig. All approved.