

Nebraska Section AWWA
Board Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2007

Attendees:
1. Tony Bilek
2. Joel Christensen
3. Bruce Dvorak
4. Chris Koenig
5. Teresa Konda
6. Kevin Tobin
7. John Olsson
8. Michael Wentink
9. Rich Koenig
10. Rob Pierce

The meeting was held May 11, 2007 at the Columbus, NE City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at approximately 9 a.m.

Minutes of March 12, 2007 Meeting

- No minutes of the last meeting have been received, as Secretary Chuck Thomerson is recovering from back surgery. The expected completion date of the minutes is unknown.

Treasurer's Report

- John Olsson provided a current summary of the expenditures, income and balances of the Section checking, savings and CD accounts.
- The status of the 2007 income and expenditures as compared to the 2007 budget was presented. Currently, the Section's net income is \$13,125.75.
- A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Chris Koenig; seconded by Tony Bilek. Motion approved by all.

Director's Report

- No report.

Committee Reports

1. Audit

- Chris Koenig provided the Section's financial records to the auditor May 7. The Section can expect the auditor's report at the July Board Meeting.
- Chris Koenig submitted the Section's tax report May 7.

2. Awards

- Rob Pierce reported that the Awards Committee is waiting for the WISA award nominations. The deadline for nominations is June 1. Four nominations have been received so far.

3. Budget

- Discussed under Treasurer's Report

4. Cross Connections

- Estimate about \$300 profit from Cross Connections training.

5. Education

- Mike Wentink reported that the Section received an invitation to participate in the World O' Water event. The World O' Water is September 16 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Wehrspann Lake / Chalco Hills Park. The target audience is grade school children; however all ages are welcome and a variety of ages has been seen at past events. The focus of the event is water conservation.
 - Tony Bilek recommended the Section accept the invitation. Tony suggested the Section request information from National AWWA, including brochures about water conservation, etc. The Section can use available funds to purchase children's materials.
 - Joel Christensen will follow upon finding out more information about the event. Mike Wentink will forward the invitation e-mail to Joel.
- Mike Wentink introduced discussion on possible policy change to waive registrations at NSAWWA events.
 - It was discussed that events that could be affected by waived registration may be teleconferences, training sessions, workshops, Fall Conference.
 - The possible people who may be eligible for waived registration are out-of-area speakers, visiting AWWA dignitaries, individuals in charge of organizing training sites.
 - The consensus of the group was that the policy change should leave room for the event coordinator's and a Section Board member's discretion for waiving fees for people who provided assistance with the event or provided in-kind services.
 - It was suggested that the Education Committee develop a draft proposal for the waived registrations policy. The Education Committee should send the draft policy to the Board by e-mail, and follow-up discussion will occur at the July Board Meeting.

6. Fall Conference

- Kevin Tobin reported that a draft schedule of presentations was developed at the Fall Conference Planning Session held April 30th.
 - Several presentations have been confirmed.
 - Speakers are being located for some presentations.
 - Presenter names and titles are being finalized.
 - Kevin is working out the last schedule issues.

7. Fuller Award

- Chris Koenig reported that he had a discussion with Jack Daniel to begin finding an award recipient.

8. MAC

- Tony Bilek reported that invitations to purchase a booth space at the Fall Conference will be sent to vendors in early July.
- The committee will continue to present Best of Show award.

9. Membership

- No report

10. Nominations

- Tony Bilek reported that he is compiling a list of potential Trustee candidates. Nominations are due July 31.
- At the July Board Meeting, the Board will discuss potential recruits for new committee chairs.

11. Public Information

- No report

12. Publications

- The deadline for the Wise Water Words is May 25.

13. Research

- No report

14. Safety

- Rob Pierce reported that one of the first safety trainings was completed in Gering. There was good attendance.
- Rob received a request from the northeast part of the state to hold a training session in that area.
- Rob presented the criteria for the Certificate of Safety Recognition award
 - The committee is preparing to send out applications for the systems' safety awards.
 - The committee asked if the Section wants to begin awarding non-water system awards for safety. The Board decided no.

15. Scholarship

- No report

16. Small Systems

- No report

17. SRF

- Rich Koenig presented the draft State Revolving Funds (SRF) Committee objectives.
 - The committee will consist of Rich Koenig and the current Treasurer.
 - The purpose of the committee is to effectively track and report the exchange of goods and services made with SRF as stipulated by contract between NSAWWA and NHHS R&L.
 - The committee objectives are as follows:
 - Report quarterly to NHHS R&L, in an agreeable format, the amount of expenditures made and reimbursements received from SRF with reference to goods purchased by those expenditures.
 - Report to the NSAWWA Board at each scheduled Board Meeting the amount of expenditures made and reimbursements received from SRF with reference to goods purchased by those expenditures.
 - Establish a method for the transfer of information to the SRF Committee from the various NSAWWA committees delegated by the NSAWWA Board to draw on the SRF, the reimbursement eligible expenditures as stipulated by the contract that are made by those committees.

18. Student Activities

- Bruce Dvorak reported the following:
 - The highlights from 2006-2007 include:
 - November 2006: Attended NWEA Conference in Kearny (8 people).
 - February 2007: Student meeting with two guest speakers representing Carollo Engineers presenting on the Steven's Creek Basin trunk sewer design (24 students, 4 guests).
 - March 2007: Field trip to the LES Salt Valley Generating Station Water Treatment System (12 students).

- May 2007: Assisted at Water For People Benefit at Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus (4 people).
- Vice President David Graiver was promoted to president after former president Josh Melliger graduated. David is a graduate student in Environmental Engineering.

19. Water For People

- No report

20. Water Utility Council

- No report

21. Young Professionals

- Teresa Konda reported that she and Chad Roberts attended the Children’s Groundwater Festival in Grand Island May 8. They presented the Section’s Groundwater Model to the children at the Festival Exhibit Hall.

Old Business

1. SRF Committee Objectives

- Discussed in SRF Committee report.

2. Operator Retention

- Tony Bilek reported that the Ad Hoc Committee has been active in trying to find the appropriate avenues to contact middle school and high school counselors and educators to inform them about the water and wastewater industries. Someone from the committee may attend a counselors/teachers conference in Kearny on June 5-6 to develop contacts and learn how to get involved. Once the contacts have been developed, the Ad Hoc Committee plans to develop customized brochures for Nebraska and find other sponsor organizations.

3. Policy: Guests of Section Award Winners at Conference Banquet

- Bruce Dvorak presented the Proposed Guideline related to attending the annual banquet for award winners, drafted by Bruce Dvorak and Steve Kelley. The wording of the draft guideline was discussed and was agreed upon by the Board to state:
 - “All national award winners and major section awards (WISA and lifetime membership) honored at the Section Annual Banquet should be invited as our guest to attend the NSAWWA banquet with a spouse or other guest, even if not registered for the conference. All Fuller Award winners should be invited as our guest to attend the banquet with their immediate family.”
- Joel Christensen made a motion to accept the policy. Mike Wentink seconded the motion.

4. Update: AWWA Project “WARN” – July 11, 2007

- Mike Wentink provided a fact sheet for WARN and a copy of the agenda for the WARN program meeting scheduled for July 11, 2007 in Denver.
- Rob Pierce and Chuck Thomerson are developing a list of potential meeting attendees from municipalities. John Olsson and Chris Koenig are developing a list of potential meeting attendees from consultants. The lists of possible attendees should be provided to Mike Wentink by May 25.

5. Highlights: RMSO in Omaha

- The RMSO went well. There were good discussions. Thanks to Tony Bilek for helping to organize the meeting.

- The AWWA Regions are being reorganized. Nebraska moves to a new region including Louisiana, Mexico, Texas, and others.
- It was noted that the individual sections are not required to attend the regional meeting in their region. For instance, Nebraska can still attend a regional meeting in Iowa, if it is more convenient.

New Business

1. AWWA Summer Meeting in Colorado Springs

- The Summer Meeting is scheduled for July 31 through August 2.
- Board members are encouraged to attend.
- Mike Wentink will send the invitation out to the Board members and Committee Chairs.

2. Registration Fees at NSAWWA Sponsored Events

- Discussed during Education Committee report.

3. NSAWWA Committees/Strategic Planning

- To rejuvenate the Section committees, the Board would like to explore the following actions:
 - Re-evaluate the goals of each committee
 - Re-organize committees
 - Institute terms for committee chairs with possibilities of reappointments.
- Strategic Plan
 - The current strategic plan was created five or six years ago. The Board would like to consider updates to the Strategic Plan.
 - The Board discussed the development of a document providing direction to Committee Chairs. This would be archived and updated on the Section website to serve as tools for new Committee Chairs and new participants.
 - Mike Wentink will send current list of committee goals to committees with the plan to receive feed back from committees regarding goals; provide opportunities for recruiting new committee chairs.
 - Bruce Dvorak will bring a copy of a National AWWA committee report form to the July Board Meeting. The form lists possible questions to send to the committees to begin the process.
 - The Board discussed the development of a committee succession plan, including instituting a Vice Committee Chair position.
 - The Board discussed making the process of participating in Committee Meetings, Board Meetings, etc. easier and less constrained by geographical limitations. Teresa Konda will investigate methods of conducting net-meetings, conference calls, etc that could be used to encourage more people to participate.
 - The Board will invite the committees to the July Board Meeting to discuss the rejuvenation process.
 - It was suggested the Board participate in a future retreat to focus on updating the Strategic Plan. The retreat could include an outside facilitator to assist in the Strategic Plan development.

The meeting ended at approximately 11:30 a.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Dvorak and was seconded by Chris Koenig.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Thursday, July 12 in Lincoln at Olsson Associates office, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln.

Submitted for approval on May 16, 2007 by Teresa Konda, NSAWWA trustee.