



**MSAWWA-MWEA Joint Board Meeting  
Minutes  
Monday May 14, 2018—4:00 pm  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Room: Bitterroot A&B**

**Attendance:**

Greg Lukasik, MSAWWA National Director  
Amy Deitchler, WEF Delegate  
Jeff Ashley, MSAWWA Chair  
Jeremy Perlinski, MWEA President  
Wayne Lovelis, MSAWWA Vice Chair  
Herb Bartle, MWEA President Elect  
Mike Abrahamson, MWEA Vice President  
Collette Anderson, MSAWWA Past Chair  
John Alston, MSAWWA Senior Trustee  
Rika Lashley, MWEA Senior Trustee  
Jeff Jensen, MSAWWA Junior Trustee  
Neil DeZort, MWEA Junior Trustee  
Robin Barnes, MSAWWA/MWEA Executive Secretary  
Rodney Lance, MWEA Secretary/Treasurer  
Nate Weisenburger, MSAWWA Secretary/Treasurer  
Kevin Bergschneider, AWWA Vice President  
Ifetayo Venner, WEF Trustee  
Barb Coffman, Montana Environmental Training Center

**Call To Order**

1. Introduction of board members: Jeremy called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm. Participants introduced themselves.

**Old Business:**

1. Review and Approval of Fall 2017 Meeting Minutes: Amy made a motion to approve the minutes. Herb seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**New Business:**

1. MWEA President's Report—Jeremy Perlinski
  - Financial position is good; looking for ways to expend budget.

- Approved Robin's contract with a modest cost of living increase.
- No nominations for resource recover grant.
- Program committee is planning for next year.
- Two awards will be provided this year.
- Grants for teachers committee is very active and awarded \$2,000 this year.
- Membership is steady; discussion about recruiting; need an active committee chair.
- Pretreatment workshops are ongoing; need an active chair.
- Stockholm Junior Water Prize – judging is in progress and prize will be awarded.
- Storm water chapter is in the works; submitted information for ASCE report card; conference call to discuss where the committee fits best.
- Considering having Operator Certification Exams at the annual conference; perhaps not enough interest; not a warm reception by DEQ.
- Investment funds in CDs; rolling into an investment account.
- Government affairs committee does not currently provide a benefit; discussion of potential synergy with MSAWWA Legislative Committee; function of each committee and their role was discussed along with comparisons with other Sections; general consensus was to keep the committee in place and reevaluate options.
- Pre-conference topics for next year: nutrient removal, metals, public outreach, general regulatory update and reaction, resource recover, and optimization.

2. MSAWWA Chair's Report—Jeff Ashley

- Financial situation is good.
- Awards committee has not been able to solicit nominations over past few years; new chair is taking over the committee.
- Pre-conference is invasive mussels; 45 attendees.
- Fuller Award nominee has been identified.
- Membership committee chair is needed; currently 282 members; met membership quota challenge and received \$800.
- Water for People will hold a canister raffle and a raffle for a fly rod.
- Revising by-laws to be consistent with AWWA recommendations.
- EPA training grant session will be held in Lewistown on August 15, 2018.
- Upcoming events: ACE 2018 in June; Summer Workshop in July; and RMSO in Sitka in August.

3. Joint Committee Reports:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Board Oversight</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
Cross-connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helped with Backflow Preventer Assembly Certification testing sessions.</li> <li>• Montana Big Sky Section was dissolved for various reasons.</li> <li>• Requesting approval for Big Sky Section members to become affiliated with the Cross-connection committee and support from MSAWWA/MWEA on various training activities; both boards were supportive of the request.</li> </ul>	MSAWWA/MWEA Sec/Treasurer Nate W./Rodney L.	Barb Coffman

Exhibitors • No report.	MSAWWA/MWEA Sr. Trustees John A./Rika L.	Cavin Noddings (Robin can report)
Host City • No issues identified.	MSAWWA/MWEA Chair/President Jeff A./Jeremy P.	Ross Mollenhauer
Information Management • Updates noted on Facebook page.	MSAWWA/MWEA Jr. Trustees Jeff J./Neil D.	David Carlson
Lifetime Achievement • Two recipients have been identified.	MSAWWA/MWEA Directors Greg L./Amy D.	Paul LaVigne
Program • One cancellation was filled. • Several abstracts were denied. • Appreciation to committee members.	MSAWWA/MWEA Chair/President Jeff A./Jeremy P.	Amy Deitchler
Public Outreach • Project WET contacted Rika for information for a 16-page booklet; seeking input on content. • Two newsletters published. • Looking for content for future editions of the newsletter. • Assemble a compilation of links to published materials to support outreach efforts to public schools.	MSAWWA/MWEA Vice Chair/Pres. Elect Wayne L./Herb B.	Rika Lashley
Scholarship • One scholarship winner selected out of 5 applicants. • Contributions toward the purchase of prizes to support scholarship fundraising was discussed; complications with Water for People was identified. • Suggested approach was to include funds in the operating budgets.	MSAWWA/MWEA Past Chair/Past Pres. Collette A./Starr S.	Greg Lukasik
Student & Young Professionals • Poster competition on Wednesday • 4 posters; judges identified • Winning poster will move on to ACE 2018 competition • Good progress on student chapters	MSAWWA/MWEA Past Chair/Past Pres. Collette A./Starr S.	Keeley Barry

#### 4. 2018 Conference Report—Robin

- Update

- i. Introduction/recognition of new members/board members during general session; Jeff A and Jeremy will have lists provided to them.

- 1. First time attendees and new members will be told to seek out a board member for questions/mentoring.

- ii. Communication and interface with exhibitors
  1. Moderators are being asked to mention vendors and taking the opportunity to visit with them at beginning of each break.
  2. The board was asked to assist communication with vendors during conference.
  3. New this year, Wednesday lunch will be served buffet style in the vendor area with high top tables spread throughout the vendor area in an effort to maximize exposure.
  4. Awards will take place at the end of the general session.
- iii. Entertainment after banquet is new this year and will be a relatively short activity. The board was asked to promote attendance at this; prizes will be awarded.
- iv. Other new implementations
  1. Call For Abstracts – electronic submissions was successfully used this past year.
  2. Revisit thoughts on moving toward mobile app for the conference; there was general support pending cost and logistics of the app; Robin will look in to options.
- Future conference ideas--Robin
  - i. Discussed additional tracks, i.e a standard stormwater track. Last year, attendance at some of the sessions was sparse because there were four tracks. Potential collaboration with Montana DEQ – recent storm water conference had 240 attendees. Invitations to well-known speakers may increase the draw of people to the conference – storm water conference invited a speaker from DC Water. Venues to hold a larger conference was discussed.
  - ii. Possibility of management topics/leadership sessions or leadership forum. The board was supportive of soft skill speakers/sessions; full CEC credit might be an issue.
  - iii. Consideration for a bonus or reduced rate for anyone who brings a new member – limited discussion.
  - iv. Prepare a flyer about “value of conference” in registration info for attendees to put in front of their employers – Collette will help Robin.
  - v. Memberships or free conference registration to poster competitors/scholarship applicants – limited discussion.
  - vi. Membership working lunch versus early morning meeting/other ideas.
  - vii. Registration gifts: Robin suggested not providing registration gifts; potentially solicit items or cash from sponsors.
  - viii. Written agreement between MSAWWA and MWEA regarding conference proceeds, preconference, etc. was discussed. General consensus was to prepare a document.

#### 5. 2019/2020 Conference Location/Rotation—Robin

- 2019 – Billings/April 22-25
- 2020 – Bozeman

#### 6. Joint website--Robin

- Asking Information Management committee to review and update links for resources – Robin will discuss with Dave.
- Should SYP info be more accessible on the website, i.e. its own separate tab – Robin will discuss with Keeley.

7. MWEA Government Affairs/MSAWWA Legislative Committees: Discussed during MWEA President's Report.
8. DEQ certification testing at conference: Discussed during MWEA President's Report.
9. Other Business
  - Committee reports from chairs for newsletter: all committee chairs should be required to submit a written report for the newsletter, with the intent of improving accountability. Appointment of committee chairs is currently handled by Robin. There was support for a suggestion that the committee chairs be approved by the board and joint board. Robin will forward the list of committee chairs for consideration.
  - Joint Membership Meeting agenda review—All
  - Board dinner: Iron Horse Restaurant at 6:30 pm.
10. Adjourn: Greg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wayne seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.