



## **MSAWWA/MWEA FALL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017 — 1:00 PM**

**Morrison-Maierle Building**

**1 Engineering Place • Helena, MT**

### **Attendees:**

Robin Barnes (MSAWWA/MWEA Executive Secretary)  
Amy Deitchler (WEF Delegate)  
Jeremy Perlinski (MWEA President)  
Herb Bartle (MWEA President Elect)  
Mike Abrahamson (MWEA Vice President)  
Rika Lashley (MWEA Senior Trustee)  
Neil DeZort (MWEA Junior Trustee)  
Rodney Lance (MWEA Secretary/Treasurer)  
Greg Lukasik (MSAWWA National Director)  
Collette Anderson (MSAWWA Past Chair)  
Jeff Ashley (MSAWWA Chair)  
Wayne Lovelis (MSAWWA Vice Chair)  
John Alston (MSAWWA Senior Trustee)  
Jeff J. (MSAWWA Junior Trustee)  
David Carlson (Information Management Committee Chair)  
Keeley Barry (Student & Young Professionals Committee Chair)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Jeff Ashley at 12:28 PM. Board members introduced themselves.

### **Old Business:**

1. Review & Approve Spring Meeting Minutes: Amy D. made a motion to approve the minutes. John W. seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **New Business:**

1. MWEA President's Report:
  - a. Jeremy discussed that the MWEA board meeting ran longer than normal. Had good discussions on a lot of topics. Total funds \$45K. Board approved a 2.5% increase to Robin's contract.
  - b. Beneficial reuse is coming up in 2018. If anybody has any ideas for 2019 Pre-conference please get with Nancy C. or Jeremy P.
  - c. Jeremy will be creating a new application form to submit nominees for MWEA awards.

- d. Grants for Teachers program is a success but still looking for ways to spread the word to other school districts.
  - e. Was notified that Mike Jacobson is the committee chair for the Membership committee.
  - f. Pretreatment is always looking for more members.
  - g. Will be looking for more members to be involved in the Stormwater program as well. Board will talk to committee chair and see a way to go forward with the respective committee. Lots of opportunity with training.
  - h. Amy discussed her upcoming trip to Chicago for WEFTEC.
  - i. Discussed a lot about the Strategic and Long Range Plans and those revisions will be forthcoming.
  - j. Rika discussed the working group and that the membership retention information is located on the WEF website.
  - k. Discussed cashing in one CD when it matures and investing it in a Vanguard account.
  - l. For Government Affairs MWEA does not lobby for Wastewater bills. Rika had discussed sending a survey to MWEA members to see what is important to them and what is beneficial to the members. Currently there are 77 people who get emails with details about the legislative bills. Is there any interest in putting a survey together, if so Rika will come up with the questions for a survey and possibly have Robin send it out. Task both the MSAWWA (Nate/Nick) and MWEA (Scott) to get together and see if there is traction in forming one joint committee.
  - m. Discussed ways to get more operators at conferences, to include possibly having certification exams provided at the conferences. Discussed an operations track for either a half day or one whole day. Program committee will request operations talks from municipalities that would be beneficial for operators.
2. MSAWWA President's Report:
- a. Jeff discussed that the MSAWWA budget is \$23K. Did have some extra director's expenses in the past year.
  - b. No initial nominations for AWWA president. Solicited nominations and John A. was nominated.
  - c. Education committee decided that mussel invasion is the theme for the Pre-Conference in 2018. Tasked the committee to do some soft skill training during the off-year.
  - d. Membership committee – 272 members, which is down from this past spring. Currently contacting new members and welcoming them to MSAWWA.
  - e. Honors and Awards – will be moving forward as it gets closer to the conference.
  - f. By-Laws – will send to members prior to spring conference for approval.
  - g. EPA workshop - \$3K - \$3.5K usually allotted. Was done a few weeks ago in Sydney. Has worked really well. Grant money is \$4.7K this time and will probably be done in Butte where lab training will be covered.
  - h. AWWA has a member summit in Jan 2018. Will likely send someone to it.
  - i. ACE 2018 conference will be held in Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay. In June of this year it was held in Philadelphia.
  - j. AWWA puts forth the agenda for RMSO and the event was good. 55 – 60 people attended it. Next year it will be held in Alaska.

### 3. Joint Committee Reports:

| <b>Committee</b>   | <b>Board Oversight</b>  | <b>Committee Chair</b>                    |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Cross-connection:</b><br/>           Barb is requesting \$200 for purchase of pre-printed brochures on backflow prevention to handout at workshops and conferences. Three (3) Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester courses have been completed with 42 attendees. Next class is in October in Billings. 15 people currently registered for it. Jeremy motioned that each board contribute \$100 to fund the brochures. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p> | <p>MSAWWA/MWEA<br/>           Sec/Treasurer<br/>           Nate/Rodney</p>                | <p>Barb Coffman</p>                       |
| <p><b>Exhibitors:</b><br/>           Jeff reported there is a committee and it has several members in it. Had a brief call the prior week. One consistent theme with vendors is that they want a bigger block of time where people can meet with the vendors. One thought is that on Wednesday of the conference to possibly have lunch in the same area where the vendors are to allow members more time to interact with the vendors.</p>                                  | <p>MSAWWA/MWEA<br/>           Sr. Trustees John/Rika</p>                                  | <p>Collette? Jeff A.? Cavin Noddings?</p> |
| <p><b>Information Management:</b><br/>           A joint facebook page is up. Need items to push out, i.e. scholarships, etc. Still need to get website updated for direct link.</p>   | <p>MSAWWA/MWEA<br/>           Jr. Trustees<br/>           Jeff J./Neil</p>                | <p>Dave Carlson</p>                       |
| <p><b>Host City:</b><br/>           Meetings will be setup later with Robin.</p>   | <p>MSAWWA/MWEA<br/>           Chair/President<br/>           Jeff A./Jeremy</p>           | <p>Ross Mollenhauer</p>                   |
| <p><b>Lifetime Achievement:</b><br/>           Possibly streamline award. Will get nominees at a later date prior to the conference. Paul L. possibly retiring in 2018 and then Jeremy will take over.</p>   | <p>MSAWWA/MWEA Directors<br/>           Greg/Amy</p>                                      | <p>Paul Lavigne or Jeremy Perlinski</p>   |
| <p><b>Program:</b><br/>           Call for abstracts is ready to go. Papers will be due by December 15. Encourage people to submit.</p>  | <p>MSAWWA/MWEA<br/>           Chair/President<br/>           Jeff A./Jeremy</p>           | <p>Amy Deitchler</p>                      |
| <p><b>Public Outreach:</b><br/>           Help spreading the word to local council members promoting the great work operators are doing on a daily basis and the importance of water and wastewater treatment. Providing information to school districts is a good avenue to reach young people.</p>   | <p>MSAWWA/MWEA<br/>           Vice Chair/President Elect<br/>           Wayne/Herb</p>    | <p>Rika Lashley</p>                       |
| <p><b>Scholarship:</b><br/>           Greg provided literature to the board to review. Greg proposed two scholarships a year at \$2.5K for a total of \$5K annually. Would need to create an endowment fund of \$100K for it where there is a 5% annual return. Possibly have the eight engineering firms donate \$1K a year and after</p>   | <p>MSAWWA/MWEA<br/>           Past Chair/Past President<br/>           Collette/Starr</p> | <p>Greg Lukasik</p>                       |

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| <p>four years the engineering firms would donate \$32K. Possibly increase vendor fees by \$40? Jeremy proposed one scholarship for \$2K..</p>   |   |                    |
| <p>Student &amp; Young Professionals:<br/>Decided to enact a Vice-Chair. Discussed college outreach. Carroll college has a student chapter. MSU is on their way to get a student chapter, had lots of initial enthusiasm. Montana-Tech does not seem to be very receptive. Looking into if there is any interest at UM. 'Imagine a Day Without Water' is coming up on October 12. Asking for those who participate to bring back to the committee what lessons were learned. Rika will send out a reminder about 'Imagine a Day Without Water'. Call for abstracts for Posters will be coming out soon, by end of September. Looking at possibly having a WEFTEC team design competition in the future. Will require more funding to send a team to WEFTEC if it comes to fruition.</p> | <p>MSAWWA/MWEA<br/>Past Chair/Past President<br/>Collette/Starr</p> | <p>Keely Barry</p> |

4. MWEA Honors & Awards/MSAWWA Awards Solicitations – Jeremy/Wayne
  - a. Streamline the nomination forms for all awards. Simple form where one just fills in the blanks. Send one link to website with all awards on the site.
5. Critical Infrastructure Security Conference in Billings, MT (Oct 17 – 18) – Jeff
  - a. IT professional is asking that the board advertise to its' members. Do we want to promote it or not. Robin will send the agenda to the Joint Board Members. Get back with Jeff by COB Friday, September 29.
6. 2017 Conference Report – Robin
  - a. Proceeds from 2017 Joint Conference are:
    - i. \$15,964.53 to MWEA
    - ii. \$12,118.72 to MSAWWA
7. 2018 Conference Update: May 15 – 17 at Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, MT – Robin
  - a. Call for abstracts will be coming out soon.
  - b. Vendor Fees: Leave fees as is.
  - c. Registration Fees: Leave fees as is.
  - d. Question was asked if anybody is interested in moving to Mobile Apps for the conference. Would need to develop the Mobile Apps. Costs could be an issue. Need to compare printing costs (\$1.2K) to switching over to Mobile Apps (\$5K).
  - e. Possibly having a continental breakfast on Thursday. Decided against it.
  - f. 2019 conference is slated to be in Billings, possibly at the renovated Red Lion Inn. Robin will research it and get pricing. She will put it out for a board vote once the information is gathered.
8. Other Business:
9. Adjourn: Rodney made a motion to adjourn. Rika seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 PM