

MSAWWA/MWEA Joint Membership Meeting
May 9, 2013, 7:00 A.M.
Great Falls, Montana

Presiding: Bill DeMeyer, MSAWWA Chair, Coralynn Revis, MWEA President; Karen Pallansch, WEF Representative and Rosemary Smud, the AWWA Representative.

Minutes: May 2, 2012 Billings Joint Membership Meeting: Approved.

Annual Conference Preliminary Report: Robin presented the 2012 Conference preliminary report which included: 155 on the initial registration roster; 66 pre-con attendees; 56 paying vendors; There were probably less vendors due to the fact that our conference dates conflicted with the Pacific Northwest Conference. We will try to avoid this in the future. The vendors appeared to be very happy with minimal complaints and liked the overall setup. The meeting rooms were good but some ventilation noise did create some issues hearing the presentations at times. Electronic conference registration worked well with minimal glitches and considerably reduced the amount of paperwork Robin had to do.

Joint Committee Reports

Program Committee: Nicole Mosby stated that she thought the conference program was very good and thanked the program committee. Robin stated that Nicole did a great job and was very organized.

Exhibitors: Bill reported generally good positive feedback from the vendors with minimal complaints. They liked the setup with the curtains being used for isolation from the main portion of the hall. Terry Campbell commented that some conferences actually do a track with the vendors whereby small groups move thru the vendor area from vendor to vendor and receive short presentations from each. This is something we could consider in the future.

Historical: Nate Weisenburger reported that they were still working on getting a presentation set up. He has only received a couple more pictures so not much happening in this area right now. Steve Wonacott stated that maybe they will try to set up the presentation next year in Missoula and would contact Starr Sullivan about getting some historical pictures related to Missoula and it's Public Works Dept.

Host City: Mike J. reported that everything was planned well and the things the host city committee was responsible for came off as planned. Greg Lukasik stated the casino night went well but was not as well attended as last year.

Cross Connection Control: John Alston stated that the Cross Connection Control Committee is alive and well. A cross connection specialty class held recently was excellent and well attended. He stated that Barb Kaufman is doing an excellent job with the training involved.

Scholarship Committee: Coralynn reported that there were several applicants and that the MA's would be awarding only one scholarship this year to an MSU student by the name of Andrew Olson. The investments supporting the scholarship have not done very well, limiting the money available to award more than one scholarship. This is something that may have to be looked into with the possibility of getting a better Return On Investment in the future.

Lifetime Achievement: Mike J. stated that the Lifetime Achievement award went to Warren Jones, a former MSU professor.

MWEA Business

Report from the Chair: Coralynn Revis reviewed the MWEA meeting highlights with the group to include the Budget report; a briefing from Karen Pallansch of the WEF; an updated MWEA Long Range to include a Strategic Plan; the MSU-Northern Scholarship fund; various committee reports and the Junior and Senior Trustee nominations. The MWEA budget is in great shape moving forward. The MWEA is considering a website and also will play host to a Regional WEFMAX meeting next April.

Budget Report: Dana Audet presented the 2013-2014 budget report. Jeremy Perlinski motioned to accept the budget and Michelle Marsh seconded and the budget was approved.

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning: Coralynn reported that WEF is requesting that the MWEA create a yearly “Strategic Plan”. The board discussed it at their Monday meeting and decided to add a short addendum to the plan each year, laying out specific goals and objectives for the various committees.

Membership: Mike Jacobson passed out a membership report. Membership is up 5 this year with 15 new members on the rolls and 18 members lost.

Education: Jeremy reported that the pre-conference on Nutrient Removal was the responsibility of the MWEA this year. There were several good topics and good speakers and it was well attended. He thanked Paul Lavigne for assisting with planning and lining up speakers.

Beneficial Reuse: Terry C. reported that the award is not due until next year and expressed hope that with the renaming and restructuring of the committee to now include any beneficial use of water and/or biosolids, that there would be a number of applicants to choose from.

Government Affairs: Craig Pozega had provided an extensive report to the MWEA Board for their meeting. He reported at the membership meeting that he was now a member of the WEF GAC/MA Liaison Sub-Committee. The committee shares what is going on in our respective states and EPA regions regarding legislative and regulatory activities. The report he provided discussed what he has been following at the Montana Legislature to include: SRF; Nutrient Reduction; Secondary Standards; Discharge Monitoring Reports; Mixing Zones and Blending and Stormwater. He stated that there is a Nutrient Work Group meeting coming up on the 20th which will be important as Non-degradation will be discussed.

A discussion ensued concerning how and how much of this information should be disseminated to members. Some suggestions involved: distributing thru Robin, using a website; or using what is available now and that is to opt-in on the MSAWWA website by sending an email.

Honors and Awards: The Bedell award was won by Paul Lavigne, the Lifetime Achievement by Warren Jones and the Small Systems by Conrad Public Works.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize: Triston Isaacson of Fairfield was awarded the Montana State Stockholm Junior Water Prize. He will be attending the National SJWP awards event in Portland, Oregon. MWEA funds his plane ticket out and WEF pays all other expenses. Triston was able to attend the conference for a while to discuss his project and visit with attendees.

Bill Bahr commented that other MA’s award medallions to their state winners and thought it might be a good idea if we did the same in Montana. He agreed to look into getting this started in Montana and would check on cost and discuss it with Kristi Kline, Committee Chairperson.

Junior Trustee Nomination

Jeremy Perlinski of MMI Engineering, Herb Bartle of the City of Bozeman WWTP and Starr Sullivan of the City of Missoula WWTP were nominated to fill the positions of Junior Trustee and Senior Trustee for the MWEA Board. A vote was held and Starr was elected at the new Senior Trustee and Jeremy was elected as the new Junior Trustee for the 2013-2014 year.

National Delegate Nominations

Mike J. discussed the WEF House of Delegates; how it is structured and how new delegates are elected. He commented on the overall structure of the WEF as well and some of the changes that occurred recently. Mike's term as National Delegate for the MWEA ends this fall at WEFTEC. Jeremy nominated Coralynn Revis to replace Mike as National Delegate. The nomination was seconded, voted on and passed. Coralynn will become the New National Delegate and both Mike and Coralynn will attend WEFTEC in Chicago this fall.

MSAWWA Business

Report from the Chair: Bill Demeyer reported that the structure of the MSAWWA was being changed by new bylaws that would create a board of 7 members rather than 9 and it would be instituted by next year's meeting. He also commented that: John Alston was elected AWWA V.P.; Junior Trustee Robin Mathews attended an RMSO meeting in the Napa Valley; WIFIA was discussed at the annual AWWA Fly-in; and that next year, there will not be an MWEA/MSAWWA booth at the Rural Water Convention due to lack of interest and overall traffic.

Budget Report for 2012-13: Robin presented the new MSAWWA Budget for 2013-14. Jeff Ashley motioned to accept it, Greg L. seconded and the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Education: The MSAWWA Education Committee has been making an effort to get into the schools to try and educate students about the organization and possibly recruit new, young members. Slim said they had made a presentation at Carroll and Collette stated that it may be helpful to get into the grade and high schools as well.

Legislative: WIFIA financing was discussed at the Fly-in. Bill, John A. and Nate attended the Fly-in.

Membership: Logan stated that membership was down 8 from last year's total of 277. He reiterated the need to recruit members. There are 20 members who are late to submit dues who need to be contacted and between 20 and 25 members who dropped off the roles.

Awards: Steve Wonacott reported that the Operators Meritorious Award was given to Ron Shorter of the Gardiner Park County Water District. There were no nominees for the Safety/Heroism award. Bill Bahr stated that in the past the Safety/Heroism Award was Joint and was headed up by Rick Cottingham. He thought that maybe this award would be better suited once again as a Joint Committee Award. The Fuller Award was won by Logan McInnis. John Alston stated that the future looks great for this award with several worthy candidates available.

Small Systems: The Small Systems Committee once again had a booth at the Rural Water Convention. The MWEA also contributed to the display. The location was not great, traffic was minimal and very few membership packets were distributed, thus next year there will not be a display at this convention.

Water for People: John Camden reported that Water for People donations, raffles, etc. will approach \$5000 when it's all accounted for.

MSAWWA Junior Trustee: Gwen Pozega nominated Collette Anderson and Greg Lukasik nominated Nicole Mosby for two available Junior Trustee positions. There were no other nominations so President Bill Demeyer welcomed them to the Board as the two new Junior Trustees.

National Director: John Alston nominated Logan McInnis as the new National Delegate and he accepted. The Delegate will be required to attend 2 national meetings, and attend the Annual Ace and Board Meeting. One of the new trustees will be asked to attend a regional RMSO meeting as well.

Chair Elect: John A. nominated Greg Lukasik to become the next MSAWWA Chair Elect and he accepted the nomination.

Student and Young Professionals Committee: Nate Weisenburger commented on the newly formed SYP Committee. The mixer held at the front was well attended with nearly 30 people. David Carlson of AE2S Engineering volunteered to be the Committee Chair. Dana provided David with some contacts at the National Level that provide good information on what activity there is and what other MA's are doing with this same committee. Slim mentioned using the website to entice some of these young people and Nate suggested Facebook and twitter as a couple other ways to get these youngsters engaged.

Adjourned: Mike J. motioned to adjourn, Terry C. seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 A.M.