



**MSAWWA-MWEA Joint Board Meeting  
Minutes  
Monday April 17, 2017—4:00 pm  
Heritage Inn/Great Falls  
Room: 201**

**Attendees:**

Robin Barnes (MSAWWA/MWEA Executive Secretary)  
Amy Deitchler (MWEA Past President/WEF Delegate)  
Starr Sullivan (MWEA President)  
Jeremy Perlinski (MWEA President Elect)  
Herb Bartle (MWEA Vice President)  
Mike Abrahamson (MWEA Senior Trustee)  
Rika Lashley (MWEA Junior Trustee)  
Rodney Lance (MWEA Secretary/Treasurer)  
Logan McInnis (MSAWWA National Director)  
Greg Lukasik (MSAWWA National Director Elect)  
Slim Miller (MSAWWA Past Chair)  
Collette Anderson (MSAWWA Chair)  
Jeff Ashley (MSAWWA Chair Elect)  
John Alston (MSAWWA Junior Trustee)  
Nate Weisenburger (MSAWWA Secretary/Treasurer)  
David Carlson (Information Management Committee Chair)  
Keeley Barry (Student & Young Professionals Committee Chair)

**Call To Order**

1. The meeting was called to order by Collette at 4:06 p.m.
2. Introduction of board members & guest
  - a. Logan McInnis introduced Aurel Arndt (AWWA Treasurer)
  - b. Amy Deitchler introduced Karen Kubick (WEF Trustee)
  - c. Attendees introduced themselves and provided their organizational roles

**Old Business:**

1. Review and Approval of Fall 2016 Meeting Minutes: Amy made a motion to approve the minutes. Logan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. MWEA President's Report—Starr Sullivan
  - a. Budget is in good shape
  - b. Discussed Robin's contract
  - c. Two scholarships, possibly three, will be awarded this year for individual operators to attend the Montana water schools; scholarships are advertised in METC documentation and Michele Marsh has been providing information to potential candidates at training events
  - d. MWEA is considering a nomination for the Laboratory Excellence Award
  - e. Strategic Plan update
  - f. Not planning on doing a license plate for fundraising
  - g. The grants for teachers budget was expended and considered a success
  
2. MSAWWA Chair's Report—Collette Anderson
  - a. 2017 budget update; contribution to Vanguard account with a gain of approximately \$3300 over the past year
  - b. Director report summary regarding membership, strategic plan, lead service lines, Community Engineering Corps, WIFIA, Buried No Longer tool for wastewater, and a conference for AWWA India
  - c. AWWA Fly-In attended by John, Wayne, and Nate
  - d. Membership committee initiatives include welcome emails and follow up with new members to encourage renewals; membership goals for 2017 were provided
  - e. Brown bags at Carroll College and Montana Tech; targeting MSU in 2017
  - f. Water for People fundraising raffles and update
  - g. Bylaws are in the process of being updated and approved
  - h. Keeley attended the Young Professionals Summit
  - i. Logan and Greg plan to attend ACE2017
  - j. RMSO for Region 5 will be held in Whitefish this year
  - k. EPA training in Sidney; METC coordination and assistance
  - l. Region realignment update
  - m. Community Engineering Corps project planned on the Flathead Reservation has been discontinued due to lack of response from contact person; Greg provided a brief summary of the program and its mission
  
3. Joint Committee Reports:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Board Oversight</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
Cross-connection	MSAWWA/MWEA Sec/Treasurer Nate W./Rodney L. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four backflow assembly classes with 40 attendees; 35 passed</li> <li>• Exam registration requirements have changed</li> <li>• Future training and exam dates and locations were provided</li> </ul>	Barb Coffman
Exhibitors	MSAWWA/MWEA Sr. Trustees Wayne L./Mike A. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robin provided an update on feedback received from exhibitors</li> <li>• Expressed need to establish an</li> </ul>	No chair

	<p>active committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey was sent to vendors who had not registered to obtain input</li> </ul>	
Host City	<p>MSAWWA/MWEA Chair/President Collette A./Starr S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dave provided an update of host city committee activities</li> </ul>	Wayne Lovelis/Mike Jacobson
Information Management	<p>MSAWWA/MWEA Jr. Trustees John A./Rika L.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarized efforts to place information on the Facebook page</li> <li>• Requested that board members provide information for placement on social media</li> <li>• Working on link from the Facebook page to the website</li> </ul>	David Carlson
Lifetime Achievement	<p>MSAWWA/MWEA Directors Logan M./Amy D.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recipients have been identified</li> </ul>	Paul LaVigne
Program	<p>MSAWWA/MWEA Chair/President Collette A./Starr S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to address submitted abstracts with the speaker deciding not to present</li> <li>• Only two abstracts were denied initially</li> </ul>	Amy Deitchler
Public Outreach	<p>MSAWWA/MWEA Vice Chair/Pres. Elect Jeff A./Jeremy P.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working on a newsletter</li> <li>• Meeting on Wednesday during the conference at 9:30 a.m. in the lobby of the conference hotel</li> <li>• Seeking direction for the committee moving forward</li> <li>• A presentation for elementary students is available for use; it will be placed on the website as a reference</li> </ul>	Rika Lashley
Scholarship	<p>MSAWWA/MWEA Past Chair/Past Pres. Slim M./Amy D.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seven applications were received</li> <li>• Two scholarships will be awarded</li> <li>• The scholarship account balance was discussed</li> </ul>	Greg Lukasik
Student & Young Professionals	<p>MSAWWA/MWEA Past Chair/Past Pres. Slim M./Amy D.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided an update on the Young Professionals Summit</li> </ul>	Keeley Barry

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus this year was on the media</li> <li>• Carroll College has started a local chapter</li> <li>• Brown bags considered successful</li> <li>• Update on Fresh Ideas Poster competition; eight submittals received this year</li> <li>• John, Logan, and Wayne will serve as the poster competition judges</li> <li>• Student attendees have been provided contact information for Keeley to arrange a mentor at the conference</li> </ul>	
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4. 2017 Conference Report—Robin

- a. Update on vendors, speakers, and registrations.
- b. 55-60 attendees are registered for the pre-conference
- c. Questions/issues
  - i. Introduction/recognition of new members/board members during general session
    1. Assign mentors to first time attendees; 20 total this year
    2. Assign board member to new members
    3. Identify new members and attendees during the General Session and offer to have first time attendees participate in a brief orientation afterwards
  - ii. Help with communication and interface with exhibitors
    1. Suggestion to have all moderators mention vendors at beginning or end of session

5. 2018/2019 Conference Location/Rotation—All

- a. The 2018 Conference will be held in Missoula on May 15-17 at the Hilton Garden Inn
- b. The 2019 Conference
  - i. The location is Billings based on the rotation schedule
  - ii. The last week in April was identified as a tentative conference schedule
  - iii. The need for a different venue was discussed
  - iv. Greg will research potential options.

6. Joint website—suggestions for additions—All

- a. Robin solicited input for improvements to the website
- b. Additional links to other websites were discussed
- c. The link to the new website from the AWWA webpage was updated

7. Other Business

- a. Joint Membership Meeting agenda: Robin requested the board to review the agenda and offer suggested revisions or additions
- b. The Board dinner will be held at the Celtic Cowboy, 116 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. South at 6:00 pm.

8. Adjourn: Logan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Logan seconded the motion.