

**MWEA BOARD MEETING  
AGENDA  
Monday May 4, 2015 — 2:00 PM.  
Holiday Inn Grand, Billings**

**Call to Order** – Michele Marsh, Dana Audet, Coralynn Revis, Starr Sullivan, Jeremy Perlinski, Herb Bartle, Dan Harmon, Amy Deitchler.

**Introduction of Guest, Jenny Hartfelder** – Coralynn R.

**Old Business:**

1. *Review & Approve Fall Meeting Minutes* – Amy motions to approve, Starr seconds and minutes are approved.
2. *Review & Approve December Conference Call Minutes* – Approved.
3. *Budget Review* – Dana reviewed the budget, which is still in good shape. The changes discussed involved reducing the Delegates Travel line item to \$3000 which is more than enough. General event liability will be reduced back to \$500 as last year's was \$1000 due to two payments falling out in one year. MWEA website funding was set at \$750 which should be enough to cover annual maintenance fees. The website- Montanawater.org just recently went live and will be announced at the Thursday luncheon. Two new line items added were "Grants for Teachers" at \$1500 and "Joint Committees" at \$1000.

**New Business:**

1. *MWEA Funds for MSAWWA/MWEA Joint Committees* – A discussion was held concerning the funding of joint committees since we assisted last year with funding David Carlson to attend a Young Professional conference/training session. The board decided to add \$1000 to the budget to fund joint committee requests in the future.
2. *MWEA Scholarships* – There has only been one scholarship applied for and given out so far. Hoping to get more in the future. These have been pretty well publicized so not really sure why we have not had more requests. The \$1500 budgeted for this will remain as is. We need to ask Barb to add the Scholarship information to the METC calendar, as it goes out to all registered operators.
3. *Robin's Contract* – Michele Marsh led a discussion about Robin's contract and possibly giving her a deserved raise. Robin expressed a desire to get paid monthly rather than as it is currently done – 6 month contract with 1 payment for services July-December. The board discussed and decided to give her a raise beginning with the new contract on July 1, 2015. Michelle motioned to increase her annual salary to \$5000 total, split into 12 equal payments of \$416.67. Starr seconded the motion and it passed. Michelle said she would take care of updating the current contract and getting it signed by the proper parties.
4. *Joint Committees* – Herb reported on the job fair he attended at Montana State University. He spoke with around 40 people at the event, but most were engineers and were already focused on careers not specifically related to water. He suggested that maybe these types of events are not the best venue to get the word out to operators or environmental engineers about the field. Herb suggested putting together a PDF with specific information on it about careers in water and distributing said PDF to counselors,

job coaches, science teachers, etc. statewide to all schools. The PDF could have specific information such as websites to the WEF, Workforce AWWA, AWWA itself and others that are applicable. The board felt this was a good idea.

*Young Professionals Committee:* Jeremy reported that Leanne Books is planning to get involved with the YP Committee on behalf of the MWEA, as we don't really have anyone actively involved like the MSAWWA does with David Carlson. It is important that we have a presence of some sort with these young people.

5. *WEF Engagement Team:* Jenny reported that the WEF has developed an engagement team to better interact with Local MA's such as ours. They recognized at the federal level that they were falling down on customer service to the MA's. Kelsey Hurst has been assigned to be our representative from WEF. They are available to help us, whether it is re-branding, logos, banners etc. They may be able to help us with our license plate design if we decide to go forward with that idea.
6. *Website:* Michelle discussed the importance of the website and the need to get information posted on it. There are a number of things that can go on there – if you want or need to post something you can get it to Coralynn or Robin and they can ensure it gets posted.
7. *MWEA Committee Reports:*

*Long Range Planning:* Michelle as president has worked with the Strategic Plan to ensure we are moving forward on the action items and it is updated. The Stormwater Committee was added to the list of MWEA committees. In addition, it will be necessary to add the need to develop a PDF to go to counselors as Herb discussed earlier. Starr suggested contacting / outreach to superintendents at all schools to promote at their community level. Jeremy said he would work on this.

*Government Affairs:* Al Towlerton provided weekly emails to those who wanted them concerning water related legislation taking place at the Capitol.

*Membership:* No report. The board thought we may want to discuss the \$10 fee the MWEA receives with every membership. It was decided to table the discussion for now and add the possibility of increasing this fee for discussion at the fall board meeting.

*Education:* Amy reported that the Pre-conference was their main duty and it was completely planned with a full agenda and ready to go for tomorrow.

*Honors and Awards:* Bill and Paul have this covered year to year.

*Stockholm Junior Water Prize:* Kristi Kline was not available but had reported via email that this year's winner, Brenna Demarois was not able to attend the conference but would be attending the National competition in Virginia. There will be a board meeting for the SJWP committee prior to the Vendor Reception following the Pre-conference.

*Pretreatment:* Amy plans to get with Don Clark and Mark Fitzwater to get this committee active.

*Beneficial Reuse:* Two nominees this year – Missoula WWTP tree farm and Bigfork. Missoula will receive the award.

Stormwater: The Stormwater committee has not really been officially formed. Cora suggested it be established in a fashion similar to the WEF Stormwater committee. The board decided that the Senior Trustee would have oversight for this committee. There is a meeting scheduled to discuss this committee at the 1<sup>st</sup> break on Wednesday.

8. Grants for Teachers: Amy has spoken with a lot of teachers and they seem excited about the potential for these grants. The easiest way to access available teachers is through the Office of Public Instruction which lists them all with email addresses so one email could be sent out to all of them announcing the available money. Jeremy motioned that we budget \$1500 per year for these grants. Amy seconded and the motion passed. Amy will put together an application.
9. License Plate Fund Raising: The board discussed and decided to table it unless a viable design is developed and more information is provided. A couple of potential designs that looked pretty good were provided the board to look at. Jenny said the WEF may be able to help with this design. We will discuss it again at the fall meeting.
10. Junior Trustee: Mike Abrahamson and Reka Lashley were suggested as possible nominees for Junior Trustee. The board will approach both to see if they are interested.
11. Jeremy passed out an example of the feedback he received after presenting at the Joint Engineers Conference. It was very detailed and gave actual written feedback for each presentation. He suggested that maybe this is something we could do at our conference as it was very valuable to all of the presenters in an effort to provide better training.

Adjourned: 4:02 P.M.