

**MSAWWA/MWEA BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
Monday, April 24, 2023—3:00 pm  
Location: Copper King Hotel Butte, MT/King Ballroom**

**Call To Order:** Keeley Barry, 3:05 pm

Introductions by all present: John Alston, Jason Fladland, Matt Mudd, Jarrett Moran, Keeley Barry, Robin Barnes, Matt Waite, Stephen Sanders, WEF Dignitary, Bruce Souder, Collette Anderson, Barb Coffman, Rika Lashley, Rickey Schultz, Neil DeZort. Ken Lykens, AWWA dignitary was on his way from Bozeman and arrived partway through the meeting.

**Old Business:**

1. Review and Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes—All
  - a. Collette motioned to approve the minutes, John Alston seconded, motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. MWEA President's Report—Barb Coffman
  - a. Discussed budget proposal and trying to make some cutbacks due to diminished income
  - b. Have almost final version of Code of Conduct and Terms and Conditions document for conferences – MSAWWA will need to review the Term and Conditions but we will send to lawyer first.
  - c. We will finalize our new strategic plan within a month.
  - d. Bylaws will be ready for MWEA members to vote on by next year's membership meeting. These will also be reviewed by a lawyer and the WEF Bylaws committee.
  - e. Decided to increase membership dues for the Montana Membership Association.
2. MWEA Delegate Report—Dave Aune
  - a. Barb for Dave: Dave sent a report to Dave: Dave attended WEFTEC 2022 in New Orleans. Delegate report attached to these minutes.
3. MSAWWA Chair's Report—Keeley Barry
  - a. MSAWWA Board discussed conference numbers and talked about their committees.
  - b. No nominations for operator meritorious award – wish to see more excitement about this award in the future.
  - c. Excited about Fuller award – there were several nominees.
  - d. Fly in was attended by John Alston and Nate Weisenberger.
  - e. Membership is looking good; doing board duties of calling members and reminding them to renew.
  - f. Water for People is doing a raffle for a fly rod again this year.
  - g. MSAWWA has some candidates for Junior Trustee.
  - h. Neither YP who were approved to go to the YP Summit went (or did not submit expenses).
4. MSAWWA Delegate Report—John Alston
  - a. Overall membership is over 50,000.
  - b. AWWA budget is making a rebound to be in the black again.
  - c. Strategic planning initiative is ongoing – Ken will talk about that in his presentation on Wednesday.

- d. AWWA has initiatives in South Korea and India.
- e. AWWA is working on enhancing their Website.
- f. Government affairs is busy with PFAS, cybersecurity, and others.
- g. Carrie Gardner will replace John at this year's ACE conference.

5. Joint Committee Reports:

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Board Oversight</u></b>	<b><u>Committee Chair</u></b>
<u>Cross-connection</u> Back up to normal routine of tester classes (4 per year) about 200-220 certified testers in the state; Barb will attend National Conference – she is on the Board and has applied for 2 additional years on the Board	MSAWWA/MWEA Sec/Treasurer David Carlson/Rika Lashley	Barb Coffman
<u>Exhibitors</u> No report but might want to do some recruiting as we visit with vendors	MSAWWA Sr. Trustee/MWEA Matt Mudd/Rickey Schultz	No Chair
<u>Host City</u> Shanna Adams and David Carlson were helping Robin but she might need some help for setup for game night. Everything is in order.	MSAWWA Chair/MWEA Keeley Barry/Rika Lashley	Shanna Adams— Robin will report
<u>Information Management</u> MWEA files are part of this – MWEA will pay 1/3 of fees from now on. Also, please submit material for posting on Facebook to Dave Carlson.	MSAWWA Jr. Trustee/MWEA Jarrett Moran/Matt Waite	David Carlson
<u>Lifetime Achievement:</u> Nancy Cormier and Terry Campbell; Todd Teagarden: Anna Miller	MSAWWA Natl Director/MWEA John Alston/Dave Aune	Jeremy Perlinski
<u>Program</u> Last minute spots were filled, one cancellation today	MSAWWA Chair/MWEA Keeley Barry/Barb Coffman	Amy Deitchler
<u>Public Outreach</u> Nothing to report. Rika will no longer be committee chair.	MSAWWA Vice Chair/MWEA Jason Fladland/Collette Anderson	Rika Lashley
<u>Scholarship</u> One scholarship to MSU student. Six firms donated \$3,000 total which paid for scholarship and prizes. So all money from raffles will go to the endowment.	MSAWWA Past Chair/MWEA Carrie Gardner/Neil DeZort	Greg Lukasik
<u>Student &amp; Young Professionals</u> Meetings every Thursday mornings; water-related topics from the news, upcoming networking opportunities, member spotlights; poster competition organization; ski outing in March, Trivia event in May, June tour of WWTP. Some concerns with the committee veering away from original objectives of the	MSAWWA Past Chair/MWEA Carrie Gardner/Neil DeZort	Alex Ciessau

<p>committee, such as poster competition. There was a lot of turnover over the past year. Most members are YPs, only few students; mostly consultants plus Josh Viall. Keeley and Barb will talk to Alex, the chair, about Board expectations since the committee operates under the board and is part of our organization.</p>		
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6. 2023 Conference Update—Robin
  - a. Up from last year in all categories
  - b. \$9,200 in sponsorships
  - c. 42 Booths
  - d. 160 registrations
  - e. 82 preconference registrations
  - f. Please talk to vendors, all of them, including those in the corners!
7. 2024 Conference Update—Robin
  - a. Missoula reserved for same week in 2024: April 22-25
8. Sponsorship Discussion—Rika
  - a. Rika motions to increase sponsorship levels to \$500 for bronze, \$1,000 for silver and \$1,500 for Gold; John seconds, motion carries
9. Future conference ideas/interactive presentations—Rika
  - a. Need to offer more interactive offerings that people walk away from thinking they had an experience, rather than just collecting credits.
  - b. Make pre-conferences dual credit as much as possible.
  - c. Stephen confirms that dual credits are important; make sure it is marketed the right way;
  - d. Have committee workshops.
  - e. Need to get better at communicating – could do workshops on that. Missoula, Bozeman, and Billings have communication directors who we might talk into helping us.
  - f. Involve vendors.
  - g. Consider facilitated discussion / networking events.
10. MT Legislative Update—Barb
  - a. Barb reported on SB 462 (RRGL irrigation preference) killed in 3rd House hearing; HB 761-762 (plumbers for DW UV operators) killed in the House. Rural Water, DEQ, and Barb sent letters that helped. Legislature is done on May 6.
11. Other Business
  - a. By Ken Lykens: AWWA: fly-in is coming up; AWWA is gearing up for “Water 2050” initiative
  - b. By Stephen Sanders: WEF: WEFTEC registration opens tomorrow; WEF has a computer game called 2050
12. Adjourn
  - a. Barb moves to adjourn, Matt Mudd seconds. Motion carries. 4:24 pm.