



**MSAWWA/MWEA BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, November 14, 2024—1:00 pm
Virtual Meeting hosted by AE2S, Inc. on Microsoft Teams**

Call To Order

Call to order by Matt Mudd at 1:00 pm

Present:

- MSAWWA: Jason Fladland (Past Chair), Matt Mudd (Chair), Andy Schultz (Senior Trustee), Ben Rigby (Junior Trustee), Dave Carlson (Secretary), Carrie Gardner (National Director),
- MWEA: Bruce Souder (President), Rickey Schultz (President Elect), Matt Waite (Vice President), Rodney Lance (Senior Trustee), Adam Marsh (Junior Trustee), Rika Lashley (Secretary/Treasurer)
- Robin Barnes, Executive Secretary/Director for MSAWWA and MWEA
- Absent: Collette Anderson (MWEA Past President), Scott Buecker (MWEA WEF Delegate), some attendees had to leave intermittently or early.
- Visting: Alex Ciessau, Nina Denny, SYP Co-Chairs

Old Business:

1. Review and Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes—Meeting minutes were reviewed, Andy Schultz motioned to approve, Rodney Lance seconded, motion carried and minutes were approved.

New Business:

1. SYP Committee Budget Request—Alex Ciessau and Nina Denny
 - a. Joint participation in 2025 YP Summit costs – Alex and Nina presented their 2025 budget (see below). The Poster competition is covered by MSAWWA as it is an AWWA event. All other items are split between MSAWWA and MWEA. MSAWWA will act on this as part of budgeting at the winter meeting. MWEA will work with SYP when Summit costs will be known and budget again at the spring meeting.

MSAWWA/MWEA S&YP Committee Proposed 2025 Budget

Expenses	Proposed Budget	Funding Sources			Total Funds
		AWWA Budget	WEA Budget	Other Budget	
February YP Summit - Attendance assistance (WEF/AWWA UMC)	\$4,000				\$0.00
Section Poster Competition (Student Expenses Support)	\$0				\$0.00
June Poster Competition at ACE - Attendance Assistance (Winner of Poster Competition @ MT Joint Conference)	\$2,000		N/A		\$0.00
MT MSAWWA/MWEA Joint Conference (Chair/Student Chapter President Registration)	\$0				\$0.00
College Outreach/Student Chapter Support	\$250				\$0.00
S&YP Hosted Social Events	\$250				\$0.00
TOTAL	\$6,500	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

2. MWEA President’s Report—Bruce Souder provided a report. MWEA met last Monday for fall Board meeting. Account balances are in good shape. Board talked about operator scholarship promotion to get better response to it. Discussed conference both regarding vendors and venue, as well as need to raise fees. MWEA’s tax status as non-profit is

restored, need to keep up on taxes to keep it; MWEA will try to reinvigorate committees that are not active, work on strategic plan one-pager for membership, and work on a policies and procedures document; new Bylaws are currently being reviewed by WEF; Ben Rigby offered to advertise the operator scholarship on MRWS website; Dave Carlson also offered insight on getting the info out. Ben Rigby volunteered to be on the MWEA Board.

3. MWEA Delegate Report—Scott Buecker was not present; no report was provided.
4. MSAWWA Chair’s Report—Matt Mudd reported good showing at ACE for Montana; AWWA has a new website; LCRI/lead is hot topic – low response on inventories; Robin was soliciting writeups for the newsletter; last newsletter went out before conference; SYP summit will be February 9-11; Rocky Mountain Section Officer meeting was attended by Ben Rigby and Jarret Moran; upcoming training: AWWA Law 101, Nov. 2024 about not-for profit law.
5. MSAWWA Delegate Report—Carrie Gardner reported on ACE in Anaheim; focus is still Water 2050 – One Water, holistic look at water; PFAS/PFOA is also a hot topic – court case challenging EPA for not having used the best available science when setting limits; AWWA has dedicated a Board position for a YP; National membership goal is 250,000; Carrie is adviser to the national YP Board; AWWA is reaching out internationally – AWWA India and K-Water are Asian sections; there was also a strong international presence at ACE;
6. Joint Committee Reports:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Board Oversight</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
Cross-connection	MSAWWA Sec.- Treasurer/David Carlson MWEA/Rika Lashley	Barb Coffman resigned from APWA, recommended Tim Tusken should be asked to be on this committee; Carl Carlson had volunteered to chair this committee but has not been responsive to Robin. Matt Waite will check in with Carl. Not sure if anyone knows Tim to reach out to him.
Exhibitors	MSAWWA Senior Trustee/Andy Schultz MWEA/Rickey Schultz	No chair-Robin reported that Collette and Cavin Noddings are only members. Cavin liked the exhibitor presentations and Robin will check if the Billings Hotel and Convention Center will lend itself to doing this again.
Host City	MSAWWA Chair/Matt Mudd MWEA/Rika Lashley	David Carlson, Chair, updated the Boards. Planning will kick off early next year.
Information Management	MSAWWA Junior Trustee/Ben Rigby MWEA/Matt Waite	David Carlson, Chair, reported. Committee is staying active. Public Outreach Committee members are generating monthly “did-you-know” blurbs for posting on Facebook
Lifetime Achievement & Todd Teegarden Awards	MSAWWA Director/Carrie Gardner MWEA/Scott Buecker	Jeremy Perlinski – Rika and Rodney reported that the committee will have a meeting next week and more information will be available then.

Program	MSAWWA Chair/Matt Mudd MWEA/Adam Marsh	Amy Deitchler – Matt Mudd reported that call for papers will go out very soon. David Carlson is chair of Education Committee for preconference.
Public Outreach	MSAWWA Vice Chair/Jarrett Moran MWEA/Collette Anderson	No chair – Rika Lashley reported that the committee has been meeting regularly identifying items they can do and accomplish; asking if a joint LinkedIn account might be considered (see agenda item below)
Scholarship	MSAWWA Past Chair/Jason Fladland MWEA/Rodney Lance	Jackie Kuhl/Greg Lukasik co-chairs Rodney reported that the committee will ramp up in January when organizing the raffle and solicit applications.
Student & Young Professionals	MSAWWA Past Chair/Jason Fladland MWEA/Rodney Lance	Alex Ciessau/Nina Denny co-chairs – uncertain if one, both, or none of the co-chairs will attend the YP Summit next year; will organize the poster competition again; did not report on much else but is an active committee.

7. Update on joint accounts—Robin; Scholarship Vanguard fund has done well recently; joint scholarship savings account has small interest. Separate endowment creation lost traction and is not currently going. What is the money in the Vanguard fund to be used for? Robin will touch base with Greg to see what this money is for. Carrie recalls that the gains were to be used for scholarships.
8. 2024 Conference Wrap-up/Distribution of proceeds— Robin shared the balance sheets for the conference.
 - a. Audit of conference bookkeeping - Collette and Jason will need to look over Robin's numbers to audit her balance sheets. After all is approved, checks will be sent out.
9. 2025 Conference Discussion: April 22-24, 2025/Billings Hotel & Convention Center—Robin
 - a. Increase conference fees? Robin expects food and facility charges to be lower in Billings. AWWA sections in Alaska and Hawaii charge around \$300. Facility rental fees and food prices have been going up a lot. Ben reported MRWS conference fees, which are generally \$50 higher than ours and include a very high walk-in fee to discourage that. Discussion about value of conference, income for MWEA, difficulty estimating fees based on on income goal because venues and attendee numbers change too much.
 - Had 26 first-time attendees and 14 walk-ins.
 - After lengthy discussion, Rika motioned to keep student and lifetime member fee the same, increase walk-in to \$350 regardless of membership, and increase all other fees by \$50.
 - Ben Rigby seconded, the motion carried for MSAWWA. MWEA will follow up by email vote.
 - b. Maps/rental fees/contract – room rates \$119 for 2025; map looks as though the new conference space will work out well. Robin is still working through use of space with the hotel. Separate quiet space for poster competition is in the plan.

- c. MWEA Code of Conduct & MWEA attendee terms and conditions on registration form – Rika instructed to use language as is, no change in verbiage. MWEA will update Robin if a change in verbiage is needed in the future.
 - d. Vendor track discussion – let’s plan on a vendor track again.
 - e. Communications workshop-ongoing discussion – let’s have the Program committee handle this – they could include this as a topic when soliciting abstracts.
10. 2026 Conference location—Robin: Great Falls unless we decide otherwise. Robin needs a decision. David and Rika to send out emails to the Board members letting them know that Great Falls is up in 2026 and see if there are any objections to going there again. MRWS 2026 will likely be in the second week of March (not confirmed yet).
 11. 10. 2025 Legislative session updates/splitting costs—Ben reports \$16,000 per year. In years past the contribution was \$750 per and the MRWS Board agreed to keep that amount the same.
 12. Public Outreach Committee request/LinkedIn account—Rika – will invite David Carlson to the next Public Outreach Committee; Ben Rigby reports that MRWS LinkedIn account has not been very successful yet but will hire a person to work with that more. And there might be some chance for collaboration.
 13. DE&I Joint Committee progress—not much progress – it was decided that this committee must be created.

Other Business

14. Robin – do we want to have an informal virtual meeting in the middle of June to recap the conference and welcome the Junior trustees, introduce board members, etc.? Not required. The general consensus was that this would be a good idea. There was no vote required.
15. Adjourn Motion Bruce, Carrie second, motion carried and meeting was adjourned at

Action Items:

Rika to email MWEA Board members and ask for vote on raising conference fees. CC Robin.

Robin will check with Greg Lukasik on purposes for Scholarship Vanguard fund and email Board members.

Collette and Jason will audit Robin’s conference finances prior to Robin sending out the checks.

Rika and David to send emails to Board members asking for opinions on going to Great Falls in 2026.

Attachments:

1. Joint spring 2024 meeting draft minutes
2. Joint account balances
3. Vanguard statement—scholarship account
4. 2024 Conference breakdown
5. Conference Inc/Exp year over year
6. Billings Hotel map
7. FY2025 SYP Budget