



MWEA 2025 SPRING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Monday, April 21, 2025 — 10:00 AM
Billings, MT; Billings Hotel & Convention Center

Call to Order – Bruce S.

Attendance: Past President – Collette Anderson - absent
President – Bruce Souder
President Elect – Rickey Schultz
Vice President – Matthew Waite
Senior Trustee – Rodney Lance
Junior Trustee – Adam Marsh
WEF Delegate – Scott Buecker
WEF Dignitary – Kalpna Solanki
Guests - None

Introductions – All

Old Business:

1. Review & Approve Fall Meeting Minutes – Bruce S.: Adam motioned to approve the minutes, Scott seconded; motion carried.

New Business:

1. Budget Report – Rika L.
 - a. Go over line-item changes from last year
 - i. Increases for Robin's conference budget for an assistant and per diem, increases for delegate travel, SJWP, SYP, and awards.
 - b. Mutual fund – Board discussed and chose to leave as is as performance has been better over the past couple of years.
 - c. Reserve Account Balance – Rickey S.: Agreed that keeping at least one year of income in reserve works for our MA because our income is yearly through the conference, so the reserve will have to match.
 - d. Change signers for checking and mutual fund: Will wait till the fall with approval of minutes next spring meeting. Then change signers with the two financial institutions.
 - i. Current LPL: Rika L., Barb C., Robin B.
 - ii. Current checking: Rika L., Matt W., Robin B.
 - e. Request that treasurer is cc'd on conference budget review request from Robin; change that in the joint conference policy document (does not need membership approval)
2. IRS Tax and Montana Annual Report filing – Rika L.: see attached forms.

3. Robin’s Contract Renewal: (Contract Dates: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) – Rika L.: Will change the amounts for per diem and assistant per Board discussion to \$750 each. Signature page was signed – Rika will incorporate scan into revised contract and email out.
4. WEF Delegate Report – Scott B.:
 - a. Scott joined the Workforce Initiative Committee – will give presentation at preconference tomorrow; this topic is very relevant to MT; WEF community is working on tool kit for “advertising” water industry jobs; Scott expressed his hope that WEF will eventually have a national initiative, rather than relying on local and individual groups to muddle through on their own; Scott will disperse toolkit once developed.
 - b. Spring quarterly HOD meeting – how to handle “DEI” in current political winds; not stopping but be more quiet about it; need diverse workforce because the need is critical; Kalpna was asking if it is ok to talk about DEI in opening session; research shows that there is value about it; Kalpna talked about having started a recruiting website, [Watergeek | Careers with purpose. Become a #watergeek!](#), promoting work of operators. Rocky Mountain WEA has good resources too. Scott mentioned that we also need to focus on retaining the good people we have.

MWEA Committee Reports:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Board Oversight</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
Beneficial Reuse Moved toward awarding Reuse Award annually; have one awardee this year and prospective for next year; will distribute reuse survey at conference; looking to connect with other organizations such as PNW Water Reuse section; supporting the MT legislative Interim Water Reuse Committee and providing input as subject experts.	Rickey Schultz	Alex Ciessau
Education Good job putting together the preconference (dual credit)	Adam Marsh	David Carlson
Government Affairs Scott reported on three bills: HB629 annexation of nearby subdivisions to provide water & sewer service; HB664 repeal of numeric nutrient limits – send update to membership once we know where this went; HB 736 nutrient offsets; HB685 feasibility for non-deg. Scott thinks that it is important to keep track of the political pulse and volunteered to keep doing that.	Scott Buecker	Vacant
Honors & Awards Will give out 2 Lifetime Achievement Awards, 1 Todd Teegarden Award, 1 Small Systems, 1 Reuse Award, and Bedell Award.	Rodney Lance	Jeremy Perlinski
Grants for Teachers One grant sent to Cut Bank School District #15	Rika Lashley	Amy Deitchler
Membership 136 members – Rika provided breakdown of membership types; membership has been stable over the decades. Discussed reaching out to a few folks whose membership expired in March to remind them to renew.	Collette Anderson	No current chair
Pretreatment Bruce was not able to find anyone to contact.	Bruce Souder	?
Stockholm Junior Water Prize	Matt Waite	Kristi Kline

5 state submissions, 3 regional winners; need to judge papers by 25 th – hope to announce winner at lunch on Thursday.		
Stormwater Bruce was not able to find anyone; they don't seem to want to be part of our group; Dave Carlson, Steve Lipetzky; table till this year's conference sign-ups are known.	Bruce Souder	?

5. Rotation of committee oversight from past president to new junior trustee – Rika L.
6. Strategic Plan Update and WEF Code of Conduct – Rika L.: nothing to report – the strategic plan is complete; the WEF Code of Conduct is implemented when registering for the conference.
7. Long-Range Plan/Policies and Procedures – Rika L.: Rika did not draft a policy and procedures document. This task is still outstanding.
8. Updating By-Laws – Rika L. – needs updating based on WEF review comments. Adam volunteered to take a run at it.
9. Value of MRWS legislative updates – Bruce S.: Folks found Ben's format valuable.
10. WEFMAX 202X? – place holder
11. Operator Scholarship Application and Advertising – Bruce S.: "Ads" were posted on MRWS site and MSU water school registration page.
12. Nominees for WEF Delegate – Scott agrees to serve another year. All look for new nominee – can be someone who has not served on the Board and is involved and willing.
13. Secretary/Treasurer – Term from Spring 2022-2025: Rika is willing to serve another 3 years.
14. Nominees for Junior Trustee – Bruce S.: Bring ideas to membership meeting.
15. Joint Exhibitor Committee – Are there updates we should be aware of? – bring to joint board meeting.
16. Other Business

Adjourn:

Rodney motioned to adjourn, Adam seconded, motion carried, 11:59 am.

Action Items:

Robin: email Joint Conference Policy document to Board for modification to cc treasurers when asking for Conference financial review.

Various Board members: check with folks you know whose membership expired in March.

Rika: Update Robin's contract, insert signature page and send out.

Policies and Procedures Document: Any volunteers? Rika can keep it on her to do list, but it will not be done by the Fall meeting – maybe by next spring.

Rika: Email info on Bylaws and WEF comments to Adam. Thank you, Adam for taking a stab at incorporating those suggested edits.

All: Look for and talk to prospective WEF delegate nominees for next year.