



**DRAFT MWEA 2024 SPRING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, April 22, 2023 — 12:30 AM**  
**Missoula, MT; Hilton Garden Inn, Salon E**

**Call to Order** – Colette A. 12:33

**Introductions** – Board Members; Janet Hurley Cann, WEF Board of Trustees  
As part of her introduction, Janet let us know that she is looking for info regarding workforce development, needs, what is being done, ideas, etc. for an exchange with WEF and to see if WEF can lend any support.

**Old Business:**

1. Review & Approve Fall Meeting Minutes – All motion: Rodney motioned to accept the fall meeting minutes; Matt seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

1. Budget Report – Rika L.
  - a. Rika went over line item changes from last year – insurance went up, delegate travel went down, since only one person is expected to travel, added officers travel to have delegate attend one WEFMAX in Utah, honors and awards went up a little based on this year's number of award plaques, SYP went up to previous level, legislative services was given budget this year.
  - b. SYP budget – see above.
  - c. Mutual fund options – Barb, Rickey, and Rika met with Sean Pahut (LPL Investment Advisor with Montana Wealth Management, Great Falls) to explore other options for investing our money. Process stalled and needs to be revived. Robin recommended having someone (hire someone or find a knowledgeable volunteer) take a look to help evaluate if this is still the way to go or if we need to change direction. If we figure anything out, let Robin know.
2. IRS Reinstatement as Non-Profit – Rika L. – created account and set up the form in January; prompted updates to Bylaws to add the paragraphs required by the IRS; got that done. Finally filed and paid on Saturday, 4/19/2024. Filed same as first-time application for non-profit status – did not file to reinstate based on advice from IRS person in Utah office. MWEA is now in the system with the correct EIN, correct name, and as a non-profit.
3. Robin's Contract Renewal: (Contract Dates: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) – Rika L.
  - a. Collette, Rika, Robin signed
4. WEF Delegate Report – Scott B.
  - a. Scott just attended the quarterly meeting on Wed. 4/17 but was also in the middle of a plant startup. He will review the meeting recording and provide a more detailed summary later. Overall, the meeting included a strategic plan overview by John Ikeda with strong focus on DE&I initiatives; they went through all the different committees; there is interest in Montana; lots of plans for advocacy with Advocacy Committee – Scott is now on this committee. Advocacy is sought through direct contact with

representatives (fly-ins). Janet also attended this meeting and reported that folks can sign up for the water advocacy program to get legislative alerts with easy to send form letters to legislators. Program is growing and having impact.

- b. WEF supports the fly-in efforts, which are voluntary. WEF has young professionals fly-in scholarship, as well as a mid-year scholarship opportunity for young professionals.
- c. Janet reported about the MA grant program. The application deadline is in June. Can be used for pet projects. Need to explain what it will be used for in the application. Guidance for application is available.

5. MWEA Committee Reports:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Board Oversight</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
<b>Beneficial Reuse</b> Committee met and looked at the beneficial reuse award nomination; they are active; reaching out to Butte and Big Sky	Rickey Schultz	?
<b>Education</b> Not active this year Collette will give a shout out at general session for pre-con next year	Barb Coffman	
<b>Government Affairs</b> Scott volunteered to reinvigorate the committee. Looking for input from us.	Scott Buecker	Scott Buecker
<b>Honors &amp; Awards</b> 7 committee members; This conference we'll have Lifetime Achievement, Todd Teagarden, beneficial reuse, Hatfield, MWEA Small Systems; multiple awards for several of these; good to get multiple nominations as in the past sometimes we have not gotten any nominations.	Rodney Lance	Jeremy Perlinski
<b>Grants for Teachers</b> The committee exists, no grants this year; not sure where things are at.	Rika Lashley	Amy Deitchler
<b>Strategic and Long Range Planning</b> Discussed getting rid of the committee because it would really have to be Board members working on these efforts, and instead have a standing agenda item for each board meeting. Rodney motioned to do discontinue the committee and introduce a standing agenda item for strategic planning, bylaws, policies & procedures; second ed by Rika; motion carried unanimously.		Board Members
<b>Membership</b> Rika reported that we currently have 134 members, 29 new, 27 lost but some are Bozeman utility members – need to follow up; may also need to follow up with some of the other expired members.	Collette Anderson	Laura Gundlach
<b>Pretreatment</b> Need to invigorate; Dell Phipps from Kalispell might be interested. Region 8 has their pretreatment conference in Whitefish in two weeks – may be able to find someone there who would be willing to	Bruce Souder	?
<b>Stockholm Junior Water Prize</b> Will hopefully be able to announce winner on Thursday at lunch – papers were only just submitted and it is a fast turn-around. One of	Matt Waite	Kristi Kline

the teams is 2 -> could lead to higher fare for reimbursement.		
<b>Stormwater</b> Mace Mangold was trying to hand the reigns to Kayla Mehrens, however, Kayla moved to Colorado; need to find the right people but the need for a committee exists.	Bruce Souder	Zach Magdol (?) –

6. Strategic Plan Update and WEF Code of Conduct – Collette A. – Both are complete. Collette will update the nice one-pager and send out. We will send this to the membership. May need to revisit the action items. Collette will follow up after conference with action item reminders.
7. Long-Range Plan/Policies and Procedures – Rika L. for Barb C. – A portion of the Long Range Plan was incorporated into the Strategic Plan, the other portion will need to be turned into a Policies & Procedures document. Rika to ask Barb if she would be willing to start a draft for us to work with.
8. Updating By-Laws – Rika L. for Barb C. – The membership will be voting on Thursday’s membership meeting to approve the Bylaws. Then we will have to send them to WEF Bylaws Committee (Kelsey Hurst) who needs to approve – if they have changes, we go through the process again next year. At the membership meeting summarize changes: Bylaws had not been updated since 2007, some changes were required by WEF, needed some general updates, needed to add required IRS 501(c)(3) language.
9. WEFMAX 202X? – Collette A. – this is postponed for now. We are not ready to commit to this. As Scott learns more about WEFMAXs by attending, we can start thinking about that again.
10. Nominees for Junior Trustee – having trouble thinking of candidates, have a couple in mind.
11. How can we make our conference relevant again? – Rika L. – Table till fall meeting and then see if we want to communicate our ideas to the program committee.
12. Revival/Restructuring of Joint Exhibitor Committee Update – Collette A. – Committee has a few members; they will see how this year’s attempt at getting traffic to vendors will work and circle back. Idea by Janet: have exhibitor track where groups of attendees follow a leader to a group of vendors – grouped by topic. Would require some restructuring of program and new conversations with DEQ about CECs.
13. Membership in Montana Non-Profit Association – Robin B. – table till fall; they offer trainings; revolve around how to run a non-profit; advocacy at the state level for non-profits.
14. Other Business: Janet – 13 MAs with less than 200 members; 7 MAs with fewer members

**Adjourn: 2:25 pm Rodney and Matt**

**Action Items:**

**Rickey and Rika:** Check in with Sean Pahut and keep checking on investment options.

**Scott:** Provide more detailed summary of 4/17 HOD quarterly meeting.

**Rickey:** Reach out to members of the Beneficial Reuse Committee to see how they are organized and get a better idea of what they are doing. Three known members are Jeremy Perlinski, Alex Ciessau,

**Rika:** Reach out to some of the members who dropped off to see if they just forgot or if there are other reasons.

**Rickey and Bruce:** Reach out to Dell Phipps (Kalispell), Drew Newfeld (sp? Havre), and others to see if the committee can be revived and workshops be put on again.

**Collette:** Email Board members with action items from the strategic plan.

**Rika:** Ask Barb if she would still be willing to start a draft of a Policies & Procedures document.