



**MSAWWA-MWEA Joint Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – 11:00 am
Morrison – Maierle
Helena**



Call to Order

1. Mike called the meeting to order.

Attendees

- Wayne Lovelis, MSAWWA Past Chair
- John Alson, MSAWWA Chair
- Greg Lukasik, MSAWWA Section Director
- Jeff Jensen, MSAWWA Vice Chair
- Carrie Gardner, MSAWWA Sr. Trustee
- Keeley Barry, MSAWWA Jr. Trustee
- Herb Bartle, MWEA Past President
- Mike Abrahamson, MWEA President
- Neil DeZort, MWEA Vice President
- Rika Lashley, MWEA President Elect
- Gene Connell, MWEA Sr. Trustee
- Barb Coffman, MWEA Jr. Trustee
- Robin Mathews-Barnes, Exec. Secretary/Director

Old Business

1. Review and approval of Spring Meeting Minutes
 - a. A motion was made by John Alston to accept the minutes with the following typo correction the #8 and a note to #9 that MSAWWA did not have interest in make the legislative/government affairs committee of each association a joint committee. Wayne Lovelis seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

New Business

1. MWEA President's Report – Mike Abrahamson
 - a. Mike provided an overview of MWEA's board meeting. MWEA has budgeted about \$25,000 for expenses. The board also discussed moving some money in the money market account to the mutual fund to stop losing money. Mike reported Gene Connell presented ideas on expanding the Beneficial reuse committee to include resource recovery. MWEA has been approached to develop a service award in honor of Todd Teegarden based upon leadership and community service. MWEA has \$2,500 set aside for its Grants for Teachers program. MWEA has emailed a survey to its membership looking what they want to do and the direction they want to go. MWEA has about 130 members. This year's International Stockholm Junior Water Prize awardee was from Australia. MWEA will need judges for Montana's science fairs in February and

March, 2020. The Stormwater committee was very active this year and may want a tract at the 2020 Joint Conference. Barb Coffman will be MWEA's Education Chair. She has recruited MWEA members associated with MRWS and DEQ to help review, modify and add photos to the WEF Powerpoints to update wastewater operator certification review sessions. Amy Deitchler's term the MWEA Delegate expires this year. A candidate will have to be voted on at the 2020 conference.

2. MWEA Delegate's Report – Amy Deitchler

- a. Amy Deitchler provided an update. WEFTEC is early this year. A WEF grant program has \$100,000 available for member associations. Small MA's get extra points on their application for applying. Walter Marlow is the new WEF Executive Director. WEF has new bylaws. So, MWEA will have to update its bylaws. WEF has made a documentary called the Brave Blue World. It will be available for us to present to the public groups. WEF's Sharing Resources is now available on the WEF website. There will be 4 WEFMAX meetings this spring for MA board members to attend. They will be in New York/New Jersey, Hawaii, South Carolina and North Dakota in April and May. Amy attended a session on "Making Your Conference Better" which provided information on using conference apps for message blasting, tracking CECs/PDHs. She thinks it would be in MSAWWA's and MWEA's best interest to look at these.

3. MSAWWA Chair's Report – John Alston

- a. John reported the MSAWWA board has finally passed its bylaws. The membership will vote on the bylaws at the 2020 Joint Conference. Membership is dropping but MSAWWA did meet its first year member retention goal. Membership is at 243. MSAWWA is working with METC to provide two grant funded USDA workshops in Montana. First one was held in Helena in May and was well attended. The second one was scheduled for October 1st in Billings but was canceled due to a lack of preregistrations. It will be rescheduled. MSAWWA is also working with METC to provide one grant funded EPA workshop in Montana. It is scheduled for November 6th in Helena. There is no charge for either the USDA or EPA workshops. John also reported there is a lot of money in the Farm Bill for source water protection. He hopes we can bring some of that money to Montana. The City of Bozeman got third place in the ACE water taste test.

4. MSAWWA Director's Report – Greg Lukasik

- a. Greg reported AWWA membership is around 15,600 members. AWWA's budget is in good shape – revenue is higher and expenses are lower. The USDA has provided \$1.3 million for their workshops. The workshops will be on-going. The source water protection funding is coming through each state's conservationist. AWWA will be rolling out four new standards. AWWA has asked for a call to action of its members regarding Congressional bills related to Per- and

Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). These bills mandate regulations but no one knows what the regulations are to be.

5. Joint Committee Reports

Committee	Board Oversight	Committee Chair
Cross-Connection	MSAWWA/MWEA Sec/Treas David C./Rodney L.	Barb Coffman Barb reported since the conference in May there has been one backflow assembly testers course held in Kalispell. About 15 people attended. The next class is in Billings the end of October. It has about 10 people registered. The number of ABPA certified testers in Montana hangs around 200. Four classes are scheduled for 2020. One each in Bozeman, Great Falls, Kalispell and Billings.
Exhibitors	MSAWWA/MWEA Sr. Trustees Carrie G./Gene C.	Cavin Noddings – only volunteer for the committee No update.
Host City	MSAWWA/MWEA Chair/President John A./Mike A.	Craig Nowak – Chair & Davide Carlson Vice Chair Craig and David are working to recruit members.
Information Management	MSAWWA/MWEA Jr. Trustees Keeley B./Barb C.	David Carlson Keeley reported the social media policy has been sent out to the MWEA and MSAWWA board members and is up for discussion and vote later on in this meeting.

Lifetime Achievement	MSAWWA/MWEA Directors Greg L./Amy D.	Jeremy Perlinski Amy reported Paul LaVigne will receive the award at the 2020 conference.
Program	MSAWWA/MWEA Chair/President John A./Mike A.	Amy Deitchler Amy reported the call for abstracts is ready to go. She just needs to add the title for the preconference which is "Control Systems – Improving System Efficiency". Doug Whitney is setting up the preconference agenda. John Alston suggested inviting a specialist from AWWA to talk on Security. It was also suggested to have the student poster sessions during as part of the regular sessions on Wednesday as the winners are announced at the banquet Wednesday night.
Public Outreach	MSAWWA/MWEA Vice Chair/Pres. Elect Jeff J./Rika L.	Rika Lashley Not much going on as of late. Earlier the committee did post a newsletter. She would like to post a newsletter twice a year. Rika is encouraging articles about cool projects. WEF's new documentary video, Brave Blue World, can be used as a public education tool.
Scholarship	MSASWWA/MWEA Past Chair/Past Pres. Wayne L./ Herb B.	Greg Lukasik

		The committee awarded 3 scholarships at the 2019 conference. 1- \$1,000 and 2 \$500. The committee would still like to get the scholarship account up to \$100,000 so that they could award 2 - \$2,500 scholarships.
Student & Young Professionals	MSAWWA/MWEA Past Chair/Past Pres. Wayne L./Herb B.	Keeley Barry The call for abstracts for the poster session is updated. Carrie, Greg and Keeley are going to Carroll College this afternoon to talk with the Student Chapter there. MSU-Bozeman is kicking off their student chapter for this school year. Chapters are invited to be joint AWWA/WEF chapters. Meetings are via internet. They have been spotlighting a new member during each meeting.

6. 2019 Conference Report/Distribution of Proceeds – Robin Mathews-Barnes
 - a. Robin reported there were 143 attendees and speakers, 58 booths were sold to 51 vendors, and there were 51 attendees at the MWEA preconference. MWEA will receive \$13,541.08 and MSAWWA will receive \$9,886.79 of the conference proceeds. The hotel rental in Billings was higher but the food was cheaper than in Missoula in 2018. More people attended the conference in Billings in 2015.

7. 2020 Conference Update – Robin.
 - a. The conference will be April 21-23 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls.
 - b. Conference Fee Discussion – Greg Lukasik
 - i. Greg noted that in his travels to other Section Conferences such as the Rocky Mountain section those sections charge the attendees and vendors a lot more than we do for the Montana conference. Most member associations charge more for prime vendor spaces. Jeff Jensen moved and Amy Deitchler seconded to motion to increase the vendor booth fee from \$500 to \$600 for the 2020 conference. All voted yes. Robin noted we also charge vendors \$180/person if they have more than one person

per booth. Robin also noted that 16 of the speakers did not pay registration fees for the 2019 conference. It was decided that Amy will add a line to call for abstracts stating that speakers are required to pay and will not be added to the 2020 conference agenda until Robin has received their conference registration and it is paid in full.

- c. Continued discussion on an exhibitor session for PHDs and CECs from spring meeting – Neil Dezort
 - i. Neil reported he sent a letter requesting approval for professional development hours for engineers for “mobile sessions” in the vendor. DEQ Operator Certification has told Neil they will not approve these sessions for CECs. Barb suggested assuring DEQ these sessions would be facilitated by a moderator to specific booths and to ensure the presentations are not sales pitches. John Alston sits on the Advisory Council and will bring these points up at the next meeting.
- d. Conference Mobile Apps
 - i. Some other state conferences are now using mobile apps for blasting out conference event notices during the conference, posting agendas and any changes, recording PDHs and CECs. Most ask a company to sponsor the App. John A. was concerned of the cost of the App. Greg L. pointed out a sponsor could pay for the App. Rika suggested talking to a couple contractors in the Great Falls area to see if they would be willing to sponsor the App for the 2020 conference. Sletten, Swank, Dick Anderson and COP were suggested contacts. It was agreed to set the sponsor price at \$2,000.
- e. Possible addition of meter competition to conference – Greg Lukasik
 - i. Greg saw the meter competition done at the Colorado conference and the southwest conference. The winner of the competition moves on to the ACE competition. He has talked with Northwest Pipe and they are willing to donate 5-10 residential meters. Registration money to participate in the competition would go towards the scholarship fund. It was agreed that for the 2020 conference the Trivia competition would be traded out for the meter competition. There will be an engineers’ competition and an operators’ competition. Teams will consist of 2 people. Gift cards will be awarded to the top team in each competition.

8. 2021 Conference Discussion: location – Robin

- a. Robin reported the Bozeman hotels have even begun to tear down the old hotels to begin the new hotel construction. They will not be ready in time for the 2021 conference. It was agreed to move the conference to the next city on the rotation. The 2021 conference will be held in Missoula.

9. Proposed Todd Teegarden Award – Greg Lukasik

- a. Greg reported he has been approached by John Camden of MRWS and Autumn Coleman of DNRC regarding MSAWWA and MWEA establishing a joint award in

honor of Todd who passed away in 2017. It was agreed that the MSAWWA and MWEA awards committees (Collette Anderson, Barb Coffman, and Jeremy Perlinks) will work with John and Autumn to develop the guidelines/application for this award which shall focus on leadership and community support. The goal is to present the first award at the 2020 conference.

10. Joint website continued discussion from spring meeting (updated resources and links/separate pages) for the SYP Committee and the Stormwater Committee. What information will be provided and who will update? – All
 - a. The SYP and Stormwater committees would like their own linked pages on the MSAWWA/MWEA website. Robin updates the website. She will need the content from each committee to develop the pages. These pages will be links under the committee tab already on the website. Keeley will work with Robin to develop the SYP page. Keeley noted they currently encourage people to look at the SYP Facebook page.

11. Joint Social Media Policy – need to vote for incorporation into Joint Policies & Procedures document that was approved at the Spring 2019 meeting – All
 - a. It was noted that Robin and David Carlson are the only authorized users for the website. Amy Deitchler moved that the policy be accepted with removal of the first “be” in item number 5. Neil DeZort seconded the motion. All voted yes.

12. Other Business
 - a. Joint participation in supporting the SYP chair to attend the SYP Summit – need approval.
 - i. Both associations have money in their budgets for this so no approval is necessary.

13. Next meeting
 - a. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at the 2020 Joint Conference in Great Falls on Monday, April 20, 2020.

14. Adjourn
 - a. Amy Deitchler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Abrahamson seconded the motion. All voted yes.