

**MWEA BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday October 7th — 9:00 AM.
MSU BOZEMAN STUDENT UNION BUILDING, Bozeman MT
Room 168**

Call to Order: Amy, Jeremy, Dan, Herb, Dana, Starr, Michelle

Old Business:

Review & Approve Spring Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved

Budget Review – Dana reported the budget being in good shape. Income from the Spring Conference in Missoula is estimated at \$8800, which is good for a year when the MWEA did not sponsor the Pre-Conference.

New Business:

Budget Report:

A discussion ensued concerning the use of funds for public education and outreach. Herb – wants to work with Joint Public Education Chair, Tammy Filiater. Their goal would be to get out and promote our industry at job fairs, educate the public about what we do, recruiting people into the field. The Board felt that we may need to add some money to the education budget for travel to these job fairs. Jeremy stated that the Board will work with the committee to make this happen. Some coordination of funding may be necessary with the MSAWWA to assist with travel expenses for this public outreach effort. It was suggested that public outreach could be accomplished by including fliers in bills. Starr passed out a brochure about wastewater that they pass out in Missoula to plant tour participants and at City Hall. Michelle had Water School put out applications for the education scholarship and membership applications, as well.

Further discussion evolved into operator education and recruitment. Jeremy stated there is currently no seed program for operators but it's been discussed several times. Attending the larger job fairs will be a big plus in this regard.

Need to put together a list of job fairs and information available to hand out. Amy stated that maybe prospective applicants/operators get with DEQ to acquire the test application and the available study materials. Starr said the WEF is focused on the need to take advantage of social media, especially for younger people.

Herb will draw something up as a proposal for this public outreach plan, including job fair listings, needed resources and any other possible needs and concerns.

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning: Michelle passed out the 14-15 MWEA Strategic Plan. The Stormwater Committee information needs to be added to the Long Range Plan. Michelle will take care of this.

Government Affairs: Starr reported that he gets reports from League of Cities and Towns. The head of the League, Alec Hanson keeps the City of Missoula informed. Some discussion took place concerning the need for this committee. Reports are available from Rural Water if you let Robin know you are interested in getting the emails. The board decided to continue in this manner and will touch base with Nate Weisenburger at the joint meeting for further information.

Membership: Mike Jacobson – no report. Membership is stable in the 130 range but Herb's public outreach proposal will help.

Education: Amy reports the MWEA is in charge of the pre-conference at the 2015 conference in Billings. The plan is to do general Pretreatment in the morning and then get into specifics in the afternoon. Flushables/disposables, addressing metals in wastewater and water, as well, are planned for discussion. Amy is looking for suggestions for possible presenters. Dana suggested Randall Rappe of the City of Great Falls Industrial Pretreatment Program as a possible presenter.

Honors & Awards: Dan stated that the Lifetime Achievement Award is a yearly, and getting nominees is always a concern. He reiterated the desire to make sure the awards go beyond the conference i.e. present them to councils, commissions, etc. to make the sure the awardees get recognition at the local level. Jeremy said he would take a look at the schedule of awards and make sure they are on track. Bill Bahr and Paul LaVigne are two valuable resources in this vain.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize: No report. Kristi Kline does a great job with this committee.

Beneficial Reuse: This award is due in 2015. Terry heads this and it is important to get the word out soon on this award. Jeremy will contact Terry about it.

Pretreatment: Training was held in Helena last month. Amy talked to Don and Mark. They plan to do a winter conference call and maybe a presentation at the spring conference in Billings. Need to get something in the next newsletter about flushables.

Stormwater: Need to assign oversight and recruit members. Dan will talk to some people in his office. Terry Campbell is in charge of the program and Michelle has approached him about Stormwater classes. Jeremy suggested asking specifically for Stormwater and Pretreatment topics when we send out the call for abstracts.

MWEA Scholarships – The application form will be updated to be more specific on what will be paid for.

WEFTEC Report – Starr reports that WEF wants to standardize certification nation-wide. Montana has a certification and experience requirement. 30 states are on board with some standards. Texas is a holdout and it is not interested in the WEF forcing them into requiring a form of certification. Michelle said maybe we could do something with educating and certifying Native Americans on the reservation – they need some help.

Pre-Conference – See above.

License Plate Fund Raising – Starr passed out an MVD brochure, describing the program and how it works. Any non-profit can do it and profit from it. It takes an investment of \$4000 up front to get it going. Jeremy and Dana have relatives that could design the plate and Starr has designing experience and will contribute some designs. Dan feels the cash needs to go somewhere specific like a charity. Jeremy stated the plate should contain a water related slogan. The WEF slogan “Water’s Worth It” was suggested as a possible plate slogan if the WEF would allow us to use it.

Membership Dues Increase – Michele put an article in the newsletter about the WEF increases – 3 years in a row. No need for MWEA to increase their portion of the dues at this time. Currently the MWEA portion is \$10 for most classifications.

Website Status – Robin will give us an update at the joint meeting. Turns out, not a lot has been done. The website has been built but needs content to get it up and operating. Currently it is inaccessible as per Jeremy.

Grant for Teachers – Amy contacted the Pacific Northwest M.A. concerning their Grant for Teacher’s program and the application they use. Their grants range from \$100 to \$1000, depending on the need and what they are applying for. She expressed the importance of looking into the Montana Science Teachers organization. They are having a conference in Missoula that Starr said he would attend and visit with the teachers about the potential MWEA grant program and their potential interest. Herb suggested putting together a packet of information for teachers to use as part of their curriculum. Amy passed out the information from PNWPCA. Amy has contact information for the MT Science Teachers Association. October 16-17 is the date of the conference in Missoula. Starr will talk to them to let them know we are looking at making grant money available for Science related projects. Dan suggested using the income from the license plate program to pay for the grant program and the board agreed this was a good idea. Working with the MSAWWA on this was suggested, but ultimately, the board decided to keep it as an MWEA program for simplification purposes.

Postcard Dues Reminder: The board decided to table this idea for now.

5S's (Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers): This program is up and running again with Dana Audet and Mike Jacobson taking the lead. The board decided the MWEA president should be the one to ensure from year to year that it continues.

Strategic Plan 2013-2015: Michelle passed out the updated Strategic Plan that Dan H. put together. The question arose as to when the plan will be published and it was decided that it makes sense to review at the fall and spring meetings and update as need be following each meeting. New dates will be added to the plan following the spring meeting. Any pertinent strategic plan items that are significant can be added to the Long Range Plan when it is updated every five years. Notes can be kept on the L.R.P. to keep track of this. Michelle will update following this meeting. The board thought the president from year to year should be in charge of the Strategic Plan review and updates as well as any changes or updates to the L.R.P. Most of the items listed on the current plan have been addressed or are in the process of being addressed.

Other Topics: Herb thinks we should have a package to give to science teachers to decide how to incorporate water related topic into their curriculum and it would also help them decide what they may want to apply for a grant for.

Action Items:

- Dana will send out an e-mail requesting a \$300 match of the MSAWWA's \$300 to fund the Joint Scholarship Fund.
- Herb will put together a proposal for public outreach – job fair attendance, etc. and put together a list of Job Fairs statewide.
- Michelle will add the Stormwater Committee to the Long Range Plan and update the 14-15 Strategic plan as discussed.
- Jeremy will verify that all WEF/MWEA awards are on schedule and put together a written schedule, as such. Jeremy will also update the scholarship application to be more specific about what will be paid for. He will also contact Terry Campbell about the Beneficial Re-use award and potential applicants.
- Amy will ensure something about Flushables/Dispersables appears in the next newsletter. She is also taking the lead with the Pre-treatment Committee.
- Dan will visit with personnel in his office to assist in oversight and recruitment of members for the newly formed Stormwater Committee.
- Starr will work on a license plate design. He also committed to attending the Science Teachers conference in Missoula on October 16-17 to see if they may be interested in grant program the MWEA is proposing.

Adjourn: J.P. motions and Amy seconds – passes – 11:30 am

