



**MWEA 2020 FALL BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday: September 21, 2020 @ 9:00 AM**

**Virtual Meeting: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)**

**Conference ID: 576 210 010#**

**Call In: +1 701-566-0964**

**Hosted by AE2S**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Rika Lashley at 9:02 AM. Present: Amy Deitchler, Herb Bartle, Dana Audet, Mike Abrahamson, Rika Lashley, Neil Dezort, Gene Connell, Barb Coffman, Ryan Russ, Rodney Lance.

**Old Business:**

1. Review & Approve 2019 Fall Meeting Minutes: Mike made a motion to approve the minutes. Rodney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. Budget Report: The budget is in good shape. Spent approximately \$3175.50 so far this fiscal year (May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021). Received a \$5000 check from State of Montana for the Social Service Nonprofit Grant. Have gained \$1,567.42 in the Mutual fund account since May 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to COVID-19, we had fewer expenditures and less income. Robin, with input from Rodney, applied for a grant through the state to add \$5000 to our income. Discussed flexibility of the budget due to different needs this year. MWEA in the past has used some budget line items that were not being used for other items as discretionary spending. Discussed Legislative Services line item for the joint effort with MSAWWA and MRWS for lobbying activities. Members did not know what the outcome of these efforts were as no report was received. To be discussed at Joint Meeting if MRWS is asking us to do this again.
2. Robin's Contract Renewal (Contract Dates are July 1 2020 – June 30, 2021): Added cost of living adjustment to Robin's contract at 2.5% on a yearly basis. Contract has been revised to reflect the changes. Old Monthly Invoice: \$448.71. Current Monthly Invoice: \$459.93. The contract will be ready for signatures to be filled out at the spring meeting.
3. House of Delegates (HOD) Report: Dana reported that he attended the meetings and he forwarded an email to the board with a video detailing the new virtual meeting platform WEFTEC is using. It is pretty neat and has a lot of potential especially with the vendor exhibits. Dana will be attending some WEFTEC meetings on a Saturday, individual meetings in the morning and joint meetings in the afternoon. He will report on what came out of the meetings at the 2021 spring meeting. A lot of MAs are struggling this year due to COVID-19 issues. WEFMAX put a virtual conference and it was a success with a lot of people attending it.

WEFMAX in Springdale, UT - April 7-9, 2021; WEFMAX in Pittsburgh, PA - April 21-23, 2021; WEFMAX in Boise, ID - May 5-7, 2021, Canada - May 26-28, 2021. WEFMAX conference to be held in Montana in 2024, but probably need to pick a location for it in 2023. In 2024, besides Montana, WEFMAX will be held in Nebraska, New Jersey, New York and Virginia. WEFTEC for 2020 was to be held in New Orleans, LA, but will now be virtual.

4. MWEA Committee Reports:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Board Oversight</b>	<b>Committee Chair</b>
Beneficial Reuse: Now includes Resource Recovery. Has a few members but could still use more. Looking at future goals for the committee.	Senior Trustee – Barb C.	Gene C.
Education: Working on setting up the Pretreatment Workshop for this year...looking at having a virtual meeting.	President – Rika L..	Barb Coffman / Doug Whitney
Government Affairs: There is no committee at this time. A discussion was had about keeping or doing away with the committee. The consensus was to keep the committee on paper for now. Still no interest in it at this time from the board members. Dana will look into volunteering for the Federal Advocacy Workgroup in conjunction with WEFTEC to fill in some political information for MWEA.	National Delegate – Dana A.	?
Honors & Awards: Discussed whether to have the awards, there are several, mailed out or presented at the next in-person conference. Board agreed to have it presented to them at next conference (in-person or virtual) instead of mailed out.	Past President – Mike A.	Jeremy Perlinski
Grants for Teachers: Nothing to report at this time. COVID-19 has put a damper on it for this year. Issues are conducting field trips and some potential classroom training.	Secretary/Treasurer – Rodney L.	Amy Deitchler
Long Range Planning: A survey was sent out mid-September of 2019. Results are being looked at to revise the Strategic Plan and to streamline it going forward. A draft will be available at the Spring Meeting for the board to review.	President – Rika L.	Court Harris
Membership: 126 current members. 8 are new members. 8 are delinquent. Welcoming templates were setup to be mailed to new members. Format an email to entice members to renew their membership.	President Elect – Neil D.	Lora G.
Pretreatment:	Vice President – Gene C.	Amy Deitchler

Switching from in-person to virtual and new date is now Nov 19, 2020. Looking for speakers for the training.		
Stockholm Junior Water Prize: Lucas Ritzdorf was the regional and state winner and presented it virtually to the national SJWP committee.	Junior Trustee – Ryan R.	Kristi Kline
Stormwater: Committee is varied and full of energy. Pretreatment workshop was briefed to the committee members and they are excited about it and may look into something similar for next stormwater for year. Committee is interested in a webinar platform. They may be willing to pilot a webinar platform going forward.	President – Rika L.	Kyle Mehrens

5. Carryover discussion from last Fall meeting:
  - a. Long Range Planning – Survey results used to revise the Strategic Plan. No draft available at this time.
  - b. Education Subcommittee – Development of Wastewater Certification Study Materials. PowerPoint slides are being revised into a shorter presentation for operators to study. DEQ has updated the wastewater training materials and believe it is at the final stage now.
6. Wastewater Pretreatment Workshop – Barb C. / Rika L. – Discussed using the Delegate Travel budget line item. Made a decision to use approximately \$1,000 for it.
7. METC is currently not functional and don't know when and if it will be again. Discussion on whether MWEA would want to "adopt" some of the METC programs; maybe only the pretreatment workshop for now and others later? – Barb C. mentioned maybe sit back and wait on this for a bit as DEQ is working with MSU in Bozeman to potentially create "Montana Water Operative Initiative" and there are efforts to carry on with METC is some capacity. This will get tabled for now.
8. 2021 Conference – Need to discuss the possibility of what if we still can't gather. Would MSAWWA/MWEA want to look at tying in with PNCWA for virtual events? Would we want to offer our own virtual events? Will bring options forward to the joint meeting with MSAWWA later in the afternoon.
9. Other items to discuss – Welcomed Ryan Russ to the board.
10. Adjourn: Rodney made a motion to adjourn. Mike seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 AM.