



MWEA FALL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 26, 2017 — 9:00 AM
Morrison-Maierle: Helena, MT
Room: 362

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Jeremy Perlinski at 9:12 AM. Present: Amy Deitchler, Jeremy Perlinski, Herb Bartle, Mike Abrahamson, Rika Lashley, Neil DeZort, Rodney Lance.

Old Business:

1. Review & Approve Spring Meeting Minutes: Amy D. made a motion to approve the minutes. Mike A. seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business:

1. Budget Report: The budget is in good shape. Will be getting \$15,964.53 from the Joint Conference and Pre-Conference revenues. Board will look at adjusting the budget limits at the Spring Meeting.
2. Robin's Contract Renewal (Contract Dates are July 1 2016 – June 30, 2017): Herb B. mentioned that we should review her budget every 3 years to determine if we need to raise her salary. Amy will talk to Robin and will discuss at Joint Membership. Amy motioned to add cost of living adjustment to Robin's contract at 2.5% on a yearly basis. Rika seconded the motion. It passed. Rodney will email Jeremy a word copy of the contract and it will be revised to reflect the changes.
3. MWEA Committee Reports:

Committee	Board Oversight	Committee Chair
Beneficial Reuse: Nothing to report at this time.	Senior Trustee – Rika L.	Terry C.
Education: Off year for MWEA. Start planning now on putting a great pre-conference for the following year, 2019.	President – Jeremy P.	Nancy C.
Government Affairs: Nothing to report at this time from Scott B. MWEA does not lobby for Wastewater bills. Need to have expectations for the committee chair/committee. Rika discussed sending a survey to MWEA members to see what is important to them and what is beneficial to the members. Rika will come up with the questions	National Delegate – Amy D.	Scott B.

for a survey and possibly have Robin send it out to the members.		
<p>Honors & Awards: Jeremy discussed having a formal application to fill out that can be used for submitting for each award. Jeremy will create the applications that will be sent out to the board later this year so it can be reviewed. The form should be ready to be sent out to the members by Jan 2018. Mike mentioned the board should reach out to DEQ as they deal with the plants on a regular basis and may know who to submit for the awards. Increase budget to provide funds for local press release news articles.</p>	Past President – Starr S.	Jeremy P.
<p>Grants for Teachers: Awarded \$1150 to Capital High School in Helena. Amy is still reaching out to school districts to promote the program. Need to send word out about the program to the members so they can promote it to their local school districts. Program is not inclusive to just Public Schools. Neil discussed possibly having a FACEBOOK page promoting it. Main point is to get the word out.</p>	Senior Trustee – Rika L. Secretary/Treasurer – Rodney L.	Amy D.
<p>Long Range Planning: Michele Marsh has updated the plan and it has been forwarded to the board. Committee Chairs need to review it and then get with their committees to revise what is pertinent to their respective committees. Plan is to have it completed by the end of the year and send it out to the members by beginning of next year. Made minor changes to the Long Range plan at the meeting. Jeremy asked to email additional suggestions for changes to him and will update and send out the revisions.</p>	Vice President – Mike A.	Michele M.
<p>Membership: Nothing to report at this time. Confirm with Robin who the Committee Chair is, Cora R. or Mike J.? Mike J. is the Committee Chair.</p>	President Elect – Herb B.	Cora R.
<p>Pretreatment: Training this fall, Oct 24, on FOG, in Billings. Committee is doing a great job.</p>	Vice President – Mike A.	LeAnn W.
<p>Stockholm Junior Water Prize: Montana winner was Ella Degrandpre. She attended the SJWP competition in NC back in June 2017. She was thankful for the opportunity to attend. Team from NY won the international competition in Sweden. There is currently a decline in the students involved in the science competition. Need to find ways to keep teachers and students motivated in the science fields.</p>	Junior Trustee – Neil D.	Kristi K.
<p>Stormwater:</p>	Vice President – Mike A.	Lance L.

<p>Nothing to report at this time from the committee. Chris French, WEF Director for Storm Water Programs, offered his assistance to the committee – uncertain if the committee has followed up with him. Need to check with Chris Romankiewicz, Montana DEQ Compliance and Technical Assistance – Storm Water, for assistance. Explore if he would be willing to chair or co-chair the committee with Lance L. Possibly have the board meet with Lance L prior to the spring conference to discuss the way forward with the committee.</p>	<p>Change to President – Jeremy P.</p>	
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4. WEF delegate briefing on WEFTEC in Chicago (30 Sept – 4 Oct 2017) – Amy D. will be attending the conference. Delegate meeting on Saturday, 30 Sept. Amy will provide an update to the board by email upon her return.
5. Carryover discussion from last meeting:
 - a. Strategic Plan Update: Board members discussed the Strategic Plan and changes were recommended. Jeremy updated/revised the Strategic Plan during the meeting. Jeremy will send a copy out to all board members.
 - b. Feasibility of whether DEQ can support/provide training and certification exams at future conferences – Hurdles to overcome are: DEQ has to approve it, need instructors for it, and need space at the conference for it. Follow up with Starr on what he found out from DEQ. Have a conversation with MSAWWA to see if it is even feasible.
6. WEF MA Workgroup Update: Rika L. participated in the 4 week workgroup previously. WEF marketing was looking at creating material for retaining and recruiting members. A survey was conducted and it was established that there needs to be better relations with new members, keeping them informed, etc. Committee chair should send out letters to new members to ensure the proper membership information is obtained. Membership retention is around 130 members annually.
7. Decisions of CDs coming soon – Check with MSAWWA to see how much they made with their Vanguard account (made approximately \$3K). Amy discussed moving one CD to a Vanguard account. Amy made a motion to withdraw CD #2 when it matures and deposit the funds into the checking account and then transfer it to a Vanguard account. Neil seconded it. Motion approved. Jeremy will discuss with Cora R. concerning what Vanguard account to invest in. Will further discuss at 2018 spring meeting.
8. Preconference 2019. MWEA will be responsible for the 2019 preconference. Start kicking around ideas and send them to Nancy C. or Jeremy P.
9. Other Topics:
 - a. Considered offering one-day track plus exam instead of two days or have a half-day operations track in the conference in general.
 - b. Recruitment: Consider sending invitations to list of certified operators in the state. Although there is general realization that we don't have much to offer to small systems operators.
 - c. Public Outreach: It was suggested to use the joint committee to work toward changing public perception of the work water and wastewater operators are doing.

10. Adjourn: Jeremy made a motion to adjourn. Mike seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM

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