

MSAWWA/MWEA Joint Membership Meeting
May 7, 2015, 7:00 A.M.
Billings, Montana

Presiding: Greg Lukasik, MSAWWA Chair, Amy Deitchler, MWEA President Elect; Jenny Hartfelder, WEF Representative.

Minutes: May 15, 2014, Missoula Joint Membership Meeting: Allen Kelm motions to approve, Slim seconds and the minutes passed.

Annual Conference Preliminary Report: Robin presented the 2015 Conference preliminary report which included: 205 on the initial registration roster; 71 pre-con attendees; 55 paying vendors and 3 free; the vendors appeared to be very happy with minimal complaints and liked the overall setup. Overall the hotel staff was good; the food was OK for lunches but better at the banquet, although the banquet was under-attended. Of 160 that registered to attend, only around 100 showed up – very few vendors. The future conference line-up has Bozeman in 2016, Great Falls in 2017, Missoula in 2018 and Billings again in 2019.

Joint Committee Reports

Program Committee: Terry Campbell has announced this will be his last year as Program Committee Chair. He has done an admirable job in this role. Jeremy reported that there were lots of good submittals and they actually turned back 7. The Vendor blocks were full and good.

Exhibitors: Robin reported that that vendor feedback was all good. The breaks were well attended with a lot of traffic through the vendor area. Jeremy stated that the vendor layout got all positive feedback. Dan Harmon stated that one vendor requested longer breaks.

Information Management: Coralynn announced that the Joint Website was now up and running. Robin will be maintaining the site and add new content as it is received and requested high resolution photos related to water be submitted. Slim gave kudos for those involved in getting it up and running.

Public Education: Amy discussed the fact that Herb Bartle had attended a Job Fair at MSU but is turned out not to be a great experience as there were not many students interested – most were already focused on what they wanted to do. MWEA will put together a PDF of water related job information, websites, etc. that will be provided to schools at the high school level. Amy has been involved in both water related education sessions for preschoolers as well as older students in the STEM program.

Host City: Greg Lukasik reported that the planning went well, meals were ok and the Casino Night for entertainment was a lot of fun.

Cross Connection Control: Barb Coffman stated that the Cross Connection Control Committee is alive and well. A cross connection committee meeting was held recently and was well attended. Barb expressed a desire to have a presentation in place on Cross-Connection for next year's conference.

Scholarship Committee: Coralynn reported that there were 5 applicants and that the MA's would be awarding only one scholarship this year to a Carroll student by the name of Kayla Bayer. A five person committee last year worked on choosing an investment to put a CD into when it came due. That CD was invested in November 2014 and has earned about \$230 in six months so a much better return. The Joint Boards decided to invest the other CD that comes due this year into the same fund. Bill Bahr said he will get the plaque at the DEQ updated with the winner's name.

Lifetime Achievement: Bill Bahr stated that the Lifetime Achievement award went to Wayne Robbins, formerly a Veolia employee who worked as plant manager of the Great Falls WWTP for several years.

Students and Young Professionals: David Carlson, Chair of the Committee reported that he was able to attend a summit in Austin, Texas that the MWEA and MSAWWA helped fund. The summit also included a full day of training. The committee met in Billings with around 15 attendees. They plan to have regular meetings going forward with a Poster Competition scheduled for next year. Logan McInnis suggested contacting college professors in Montana if you know any, to try and make them aware of the committee and help with lining up students who may want to join or attend the meetings.

MWEA Business

Report from the Chair: Amy Deitchler, sitting in for Michelle Marsh, reviewed the MWEA meeting highlights with the group to include the Budget report; a briefing from Jenny Hartfelder of the WEF; an updated MWEA Long Range Plan to include a Strategic Plan; an updated contract for Robin; various committee reports and the Junior Trustee nominations. The MWEA budget is in great shape moving forward. The MWEA has revived the 5-S Society and played host to a well attended Pre-Conference on Industrial Pre-treatment this year. A new program called “Grants for Teachers” has been budgeted and will provide money to teachers for water related science projects.

Budget Report: Dana Audet presented the 2014-2015 budget report and it was approved.

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning: Amy reported that the yearly “Strategic Plan” was reviewed for those items that were completed in the last year and updated to include those action items the MWEA Board added at their meeting on Monday.

Membership: MWEA membership appears stable in the 130 range.

Education: Amy reported the Pre-Conference on Industrial Pre-treatment was well attended by 71 people.

Beneficial Reuse: Terry C. reported that the award was presented to the Missoula WWTP for their work on a sustainable fuel Poplar Tree farm.

Government Affairs: Al Towleron did an excellent job of updating the water related legislative information on a weekly basis. Robin forwarded this information to those members who requested they receive it.

Honors and Awards: Bill Bahr reported that the Hatfield, the Small Systems, the George Fuller and a Lifetime Achievement were given out. He stated that new Honors and Awards Committee members are needed.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize: Brenna Demarais of Missoula was awarded the Montana State Stockholm Junior Water Prize. She will be attending the National SJWP awards event in Virginia. MWEA funds his plane ticket out and WEF pays all other expenses.

There are five science fairs that are judged by MWEA members each year, with the winners of each fair being awarded \$50.

Industrial Pretreatment: Amy stated that she worked with the Education Committee to get the Industrial Pre-treatment Pre-conference arranged. There was also some state-wide training available on Pre-treatment the last couple of years. Bill Bahr said the State DEQ is working to possibly get a certification setup for those involved in Industrial Pre-treatment.

Stormwater: Coralynn reported that a meeting was held concerning this committee and it was well attended. The committee is looking for help / volunteers. As there are several MS4 permits becoming due, this committee will play an ever bigger role.

Junior Trustee Nomination

Coralynn Revis nominated Mike Abrahamson and Bill Bahr seconded. Jeremy Perlinski nominated Reka Lashley and Terry Campbell seconded. Both nominations were voted on and passed. A vote was held and Mike Abrahamson won, so he is the new Junior Trustee for the MWEA.

MSAWWA Business

Report from the Chair: Greg Lukasik reported that the MSAWWA Board updated their Strategic Plan at the Annual Retreat that was also attended by Nancy Sullivan of Denver. The Board also updated its policies and procedures into one document. Greg discussed a training session on Surface Water / Safe Drinking Water Act that was made possible by an EPA grant and with the assistance of Barb Coffman and METC there were 43 attendees and 7 speakers.

Budget Report for 2012-13: Nate Weisenburger presented the new MSAWWA Budget for 2015-16. Nate reported that the account balances are still good. Some of the major expenditures included an RMSO meeting in Banff, a summer workshop and a membership summit in Denver, along with Robin's fees. Logan mentioned that the MSAWWA is looking into moving some of its reserves into mutual funds. Collette motioned to accept the budget as written, Steve Ruhd seconded and it passed.

Committee Reports

Education: Collette reported that the MSAWWA is scheduled to host the pre-conference next year so they are looking for possible topics and additional committee members.

Legislative: Nate reported that he and John Alston attended the AWWA fly-in and also that WIFIA was approved by congress. He also mentioned the great job Al Towleron has been doing assisting in keeping an eye on water related legislation at the state level.

Membership: Logan stated that membership was fairly steady at 237. He reiterated the need to recruit members. He discussed the AWWA Membership Challenge that set goals of retaining 2/3 of all 1st year members and increasing membership by 1% per year. He said the membership committee is looking for a new chair for next year.

Awards: Michael Rubich was awarded the "Operators Meritorious Service Award" for 2015.

Water for People: Carrie Gardner reported that Water for People donations, raffles, etc. will approach \$6000 when it's all accounted for.

Fuller Award: Nate Weisenburger was the well-deserved winner of this award.

MSAWWA Junior Trustee: Nate nominated Wayne Loveless for Junior Trustee and Logan seconded the nomination. There were no other nominees so Wayne will be the new MSAWWA Junior Trustee.

AWWA ACE: Logan McInnis will attend ACE this year as MSAWWA Director. He thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Adjourned: Collette motioned to adjourn and Coralynn seconded. Adjourned at 8:15 A.M.

