

MWEA BOARD MEETING
Tuesday September 15, 2015 — 9:00 A.M.
Helena, MT

Call to Order –Dana Audet, Coralynn Revis, Starr Sullivan, Jeremy Perlinski, Herb Bartle, Mike Abrahamson, Amy Deitchler.

Old Business:

1. *Review & Approve Spring Meeting Minutes* – Coralynn motions to approve, Jeremy seconds and minutes are approved.
2. *Budget Review* – Dana reviewed the budget, which is still in good shape.

We will ask Robin about future website fees at the Joint Meeting.

Dana said that we may want to add a line item on our budget for the METC calendar at \$550 which is currently being accounted for under Administrative/Miscellaneous.

Cora brought up the current donation for \$500 that we give to “Water for People” every year and the concern that maybe they are funded adequately. The MSAWWA no longer donates funds to “Water for People” either. A discussion ensued and it was suggested that there are other organizations we want to contribute to such as STEM, Engineers Without Borders etc. **Starr motioned that we make the donation a general donation to the organization or charity of the board’s choice. Mike seconded and the motion passed.** Where the money is dispensed will be determined at the spring board meeting in Bozeman.

3. *Grants for Schools* - Amy presented the latest information on the Grants for Schools program she has diligently been working on. She passed out a proposed “Grants for Teachers Funding Request Form” that she had put together. The board reviewed the document and was generally in agreement that we roll with it and see what kind of interest presents itself. Cora suggested that maybe if it takes off we may need to form a committee to assist with administering the program. Jeremy thought that maybe MSAWWA would be willing to kick in some funds to assist. The program needs to be posted on the website and Amy stated she would get it to the OPI and they would send it out to all of the pertinent teachers statewide.
4. *License Plate Funding* – Starr reported that he has been in contact with Kelsey at the WEF concerning the design and feasibility of the proposed MWEA license plate. If we are serious, she will turn the idea over to the WEF marketing department. They are willing to do a market analysis as well to assist with levels of feasibility. They are willing to do the design and don’t necessarily want a cut of any revenue generated. MSAWWA has expressed a desire to get in on the action, so we will discuss with them at the joint meeting.

New Business:

1. *Committee Reports.*

- Long Range Planning: Coralynn's term as Delegate is through 2016 so the board will have to determine what to do – have Coralynn re-up or select someone else. The Stormwater Committee needs to be added to the L.R.P. This committee needs to get active again. Jeremy suggested getting Scott Murphy and Dan Harmon involved and Cora said she would help.
- Government Affairs: No report.
- Membership: Coralynn has stepped in for Mike J. on this committee and reports that the MWEA membership is quite stable at 131.
- Education: Bill Bar and Paul LaVigne have been handling the training sessions sponsored by the MDEQ the last few years and Mike stated the grant funding will continue. These are really good sessions and the MWEA pays for the refreshments and snacks for each of them.
- Honors / Awards: Bill Bahr is the main driver here. Jeremy has put together a spreadsheet that lays out the timing of the awards, who has won them in the past and when they are coming due. He will send out a copy to all board members and to Bill and Paul, as well.
- Beneficial Re-use: Herb reported that he has not heard from Terry Campbell on this award but it is not due for two years so no worries.
- Nominating: The board will need to nominate a Junior Trustee, a Secretary/Treasurer and possibly a National Delegate, unless Cora agrees to stay on for another 3 year term.
- Pre-treatment: Amy is planning a conference call after WEFTEC to include the new committee chair LeAnn Books in an effort to get this committee rolling.
- Stormwater: Cora is still working this out. WEF is pushing M.A.'s to have active Stormwater committees.

2. *Strategic Plan* – Michelle has been keeping this updated. It is basically a one page document on the front of the Long Range Plan. Amy has reviewed the current plan and the accomplishments of the board. Jeremy suggested putting both the Strategic and the Long Range plan on the website. Amy said she would send out the updated plan to the board. The Grants for Teachers Program and the License Plate proposal need to be added.

3. *Mutual Fund Investment* – Cora discussed that currently the scholarship fund is invested in mutual funds and did well early on but has lost a little since the market adjusted. It is in for the long term so will remain as such. Jeremy expressed a desire to maybe start putting the MWEA C.D. funds to work in a similar manner. The next C.D. is due 7/8/16 so the board will make a decision at the spring meeting whether to invest in mutual funds.

4. *WEF National Delegate* – Coralynn's National Delegate 3 year term is up next year. The board will need to decide what to do with this position at the Spring Meeting 2016. Cora expressed a desire to stay on as delegate which would seem to be the easiest and most logical decision to make as Cora has represented well.

5. *Vendor Prize Money*: This amount used to be \$50 per vendor but has been reduced to \$35 per vendor which is probably adequate. Some board members think that maybe giving some of the gifts away at the conference banquet may entice more vendors and M.A. members to stick around and attend as last year's banquet was poorly attended.

6. *Membership Dues Increase:* The WEF continues to increase the dues that all level of members must pay. The board discussed increasing the MWEA portion of the dues but felt it was not necessary at this time.
7. *MWEA Pins:* Dana and Jeremy have been working with WEF to get some pins made up and purchased so we can give them out at miscellaneous functions like the Spring Conference, Rural Water, Wefmax and Weftec. Dana said he would follow-up and make sure this gets done prior to the Spring Conference. At the Joint Meeting, Robin said she thought she had some pins stored away somewhere and will check to see. Dana will double-check with her to see if she has located them.
8. *Newsletter / Journal:* Jeremy discussed an email the MWEA had received concerning a professional group that we could pay to do the Newsletter. The board agreed it made sense to continue to have Robin do it in the same manner as before. Jeremy expressed a strong desire to make it a joint newsletter with the MSAWWA and possibly split any advertising revenue with the MSAWWA. It is currently their newsletter and we contribute some stuff but we are kind of an afterthought. This will be discussed at the joint meeting.
9. *5S:* Dana will continue working with Mike Jacobson and Dan Harmon to make sure this group stays active from year to year.
10. *Secretary / Treasurer Replacement:* Dana announced that he will be resigning his position as Secretary / Treasurer at the end of the Spring Conference in Bozeman which will be the completion of his 6th 3-year term. He suggested that Rodney Lance, the Operations Manager in Great Falls would be willing to take on the job. The fact that Dana and Rodney work together would make for an easy transition and Rodney has stated he would be interested. This position will need to be nominated by the board and voted on by the general membership at the Spring Conference.

Cora motioned to adjourn and Jeremy seconded:

Adjourned: 11:20 p.m.