



**MWEA FALL BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday October 11, 2016 — 10:00 AM**  
**Morrison Maierle: 1 Engineering Place, Helena**  
**Room: Conference**

## **DRAFT**

**Call to Order** – Present: Amy Deitchler, Starr Sullivan, Jeremy Perlinski, Mike Abrahamson, Rika Lashley, Rodney Lance

### **Old Business:**

1. Review & Approve Spring Meeting Minutes – All. Correction made to spelling of Ross Mollenhauer.
2. Budget Review – Rodney L.

Starr says we need to get the information out about the scholarship so that it gets used. The board will make an effort to discuss and come up with ideas to market the program better. It can be used for any ww/w training.

### **New Business:**

1. Budget Report – Rodney L. reported the budget is still in good shape. Directors and Officers Liability Insurance has increased \$100 from the previous year. Will now be \$1076.13. Received our portion of revenue from the 2016 conference held in Bozeman. Between the conference and ad revenue we received \$16,438.77.
2. MWEA Committee Reports:
  - Beneficial Re-use: No report on Beneficial Re-use at this time.
  - Education: Jeremy – Discussed with Nancy Cormier (Morrison Maierle) and there is a list of three topics possible for the pre-conference in 2017 (1. Stormwater; 2. Reuse; 3. TMDL Update). Hope to have a decision made on what topic before Christmas. Still looking for speakers for the conference.
  - Government Affairs: Amy – No report on government affairs at this time.
  - Grants for Teachers: Amy – Still need assistance in getting the word out. Looking to get it out to as many school districts as possible. While getting the word out for Grants for Teachers it might be a good idea to spread the word about the education scholarships that are available as well. Amy mentioned that in Helena it is the Assistant Superintendent that sends the word out to the teachers in both the Spring and Fall

timeframes. OPI (Office of Public Instruction) is not helpful. Hope to start seeing some applications soon. Amy will ask LeAnn about getting the information to Star Base (a program for Elementary and Middle Scholl students at Fort Harrison in Helena). Starr will talk to Deb in Missoula about the benefits of the program and how to apply for it. The STEM workshop held in Helena might be a way to get the word out as there will be teachers there who might take advantage of the Grants for Teachers program. Amy will send out applications to the board members so they can assist in distributing them in their respective areas. The board did give \$900 to Smith Elementary in May 2016 for their project in regards to equipment for some ponds and ecosystems.

- Long Range Planning: Michele Marsh (DEQ) will be asked to chair the committee. This plan is updated every three (3) years. No need to update unless something changes and there are revisions to be made. Objective is to work with the board. Robin will need to email Long Range plan to committee chairs. The Strategic Plan is reviewed and updated at the spring Board meeting.
- Membership: Jeremy – Talked with Cora about the committee. We have approximately 135 – 140 paid members. Relatively stable. Discussed trying to get Stormwater professionals to become members of MWEA. Need to find a way to show why it is beneficial for them to become members. The national level is pushing hard on this as well. One thought is to have a year-free membership for new members to get them into the organization. It was mentioned that Chris French (WEF chair for Stormwater) might possibly come out for the pre-conference.
- Pre-treatment: Jeremy – talked with LeAnn Books about the Committee. Had a brief meeting on October 7, 2016. Need to communicate with Robin on organizing FOG Training. LeAnn and Amy will put in Abstracts. This is an active committee and is doing good work. Amy spoke with Vince Chavez (Clean Water Services) at MSU. Look at the possibility of funds for some pre-treatment training in the spring. Training would be on dealing with FOG and not so much on the ordinances pertaining to it. Rika can advertise it in the newsletter.
- SJWP: According to an email and an invoice Brenna Demarios went to North Carolina for the SJWP.
- Stormwater: Mike – Lance L. talked to Kyle out of Bozeman about some possible stormwater talks at the conference. Possibly have stormwater tracks for half a day along with the pre-conference. Would have to ensure that they were different topics on stormwater to keep people interested in attending the tracks. Chris F. was also involved with the discussions.
- Honors/Awards: Jeremy took it over as Bill did retire. Need better documentation on awards instead of just an email or phone call nominating someone and voting off of that. Possibly have a nomination form that can be filled out then the voting members can look at the forms with actual data on them to form a decision on why this or that person should receive the award. Jeremy will look into the forms. WEF or AWWA might have some forms that can be utilized and revised to fit the MWEA needs. Once there are forms available and finalized Robin can send them out at the first of the year. This will allow people time to nominate and a recipient can be chosen before the conference is held in April 2017. The committee may want to revisit the MA Operator of the Year award since it is held only every three (3) years. Might be nice to have it every year to spotlight the quality of work and accomplishments of the personnel in the field. Awards spotlighted at the last conference. 1. Bill Enright and Bill Bahr received the Lifetime Achievement awards. 2. Glasgow was the small system award winner. 3. Dan Harmon

was the Arthur Bedell award winner. The Burke (safety) and MWEA Operator of the Year awards will be awarded in 2017 in addition to the MWEA small systems, SJWP, Lifetime Achievement, and Willems scholarship awards which are awarded every year.

3. Amy attended WEFTEC this past year in New Orleans. Other than it being really hot and humid she had a great time. She participated in a SYP service project at City Hall where they worked on a rain garden. She was also involved in a Strategic Plan Workshop where she gained valuable insight into how WEF is going forward. WEF encourages everyone to have a good working plan. WEF is revising their Bylaws and constitution. Drafts will be out this fall, then shortly afterwards approved and finalized. Our MWEA bylaws will then need to be updated as well.
4. Young Professionals (YP): Rika asked if WEF puts on a conference or training or SYP. Is there any money allocated or SYP. There is \$1000 under joint committee where this falls under. Jeremy motioned that \$750 be used for SYP to be able to attend national conference. Amy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. Charities/Donations: There should be a formal request for the donations. A form should be filled out to receive the funds. Where do we want to give our charity donation this year? Starr suggested donating to the Watershed Education Network as they have asked for money in the past and could really use it. They provide field trips and training. Had a conference call with Deb from the Watershed Education Network. Discussed how the funds might be allocated. Deb mentioned that it can be for classes that need financial support or one can adopt a specific class. There are classes at CS Porter Middle School that could really use it for field trips to the Bitterroot River to study the local biology. Amy motioned to give \$500 to Watershed Education Network for the CS Porter Middle School. Rika seconds the motion. Motion passed.
6. Carryover discussion from last meeting:
  - a. If we want to invest our CD's in mutual funds? What is the best option for CDs? Need to discuss with Cora R. regarding CD #2 and the possibility of reinvesting it in mutual funds or leaving it where it is. It matures May 20, 2017. CD #3 matures in November 2017.
  - b. Discussed the license plate topic. Board collectively decided to abandon it for the time being as there is still discussion as whether it is worth it to do it. How long before the organization will recuperate its money and start making revenue from it for instance.
  - c. MWEA pins—how are they to be distributed? Jeremy suggested attaching the pins to the name tags at the conference. Conferred with Robin at joint meeting. She agreed that it was a good idea. Need to get pins to Robin?
7. Education Scholarship: Discussed how to get the interest up on the education scholarships – how to get the word out. Need to mention it at Rural Water, at our conference. Might want to have applications on tables at METC for easy accessibility for students attending there. Need to get the word out to mayors and council members so they can assist in spreading the word to their constituents about the scholarships. Scholarships are awarded up to \$500 and preference is given to MWEA and AWWA members but is not a requirement to be a member to receive the scholarship. Will offer it to Clerk School as clerks are on the front lines of dealing with the applications for operator certifications. Amy mentioned that the application needs to be updated to reflect Rodney's name instead of Dana's on it. Jeremy will look at and revise the application for use with the new MSU-Northern program.

**Adjourn: Jeremy motions – Amy seconds. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.**