

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
North Dakota Section of AWWA
February 6, 2008

The winter meeting of the North Dakota Section of the American Water Works Association was held at the Seven Seas Inn of Mandan, ND on February 6, 2008. Present at the meeting were Chair, Brett Jochim; Chair-elect Joe Ferguson; Director, Jack Long; Trustees, Duane Friesz, Tim Paustian, Dean Sletten, and Eric Volk; Secretary/Treasurer, David Bruschein; Assistant Secretary, Brian Blotsky; Assistant Treasurer, Greg Wavra. Others attending the meeting were Sue Anderson, Miranda Kleven, Larry Thelen, and Hazel Sletten.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jochim at 8:05 a.m.

The Secretary's Report was presented by Mr. Bruschein. Mr. Long moved that the minutes of the October 24, 2007 Board Meeting be approved as published in the OB. Seconded by Mr. Sletten. Motion carried.

Mr. Wavra presented the Treasurer's Report. As of December 31, 2007, the Section had income of \$32,120.18 and expenses of \$21,037.63. The Section has \$40,162.46 in the checking and money market accounts. The Section also has scholarship endowments and a reserve account that total \$80,653.83. Mr. Sletten moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Mr. Friesz. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Public Relations (PR) Committee

Ms. Hazel Sletten & Ms. Anderson discussed adding the PR committee to the list of committees that trustees rotate through to help the PR keep an area of focus. They felt that there should be a more proactive approach in promoting events such as operator training, drinking water week, water taste test, etc. It was felt that this would also increase memberships. Ms. Anderson, Mr. Bruschein, Mr. Paustian, Mr. Thelen, and Ms. Sletten volunteered to help with this.

Education and Research Committee

Ms. Kleven reported that Dustin Schultz and an operator from Southeast Water Users will judge at the science fair for AWWA in April. Ms. Kleven also discussed finishing the agenda for the surface water workshop to be held in Moorhead MN on April 30 to May 2. Fliers will be sent out after the agenda is completed. Mr. Jochim suggested that the committee look at comments from the last workshop for ideas on improvement.

Water Utility Council

Ms. Kleven presented that Jason Sorenson and Nate Weisenburger will attend the AWWA Fly-In in Washington DC. Mr. Jochim asked that they inform the delegation of AWWA's support for the state selling bonds to provide the required 20% match for DWSRF loan program.

Water for People

Mr. Bruschein reported the WFP raffle raised \$1,250 at the 2007 NDWPCC, golf sponsorship raised \$3,000, \$225 from mulligans for a total of \$4,475. This is in addition to the \$1,000 that the section donated. This met the section's goal of obtaining \$5,000 for WFP

Membership

Mr. Sletten reported that membership is at 248, which is down from the prior year. He said that there were a few members that were in the process of renewing which would bring this number up slightly. Mr. Wavra stated that the section was not able to obtain a booth at the Energy Conference. Discussions also focused on how the young professionals social in Fargo was a big hit and how a similar event could increase membership. It was felt that a social offsite in Bismarck & Minot should supplement the young professionals social that was held in Fargo. Also adding an AWWA flier to the conference registration was discussed.

Director=s Report

Mr. Long highlighted the mid-winter board meeting held in San Diego. Mr. Long stated that financially AWWA is doing a lot better. Reserves were expected to be at 50% of expenses for 2008. Health insurance is becoming a big issue because of the increasing costs. Also discussed was a \$20,000 enticement allotment for small sections to hire staff. One of the problems with this is that the sections would need to compete for the allotments from year to year. The mid-winter board meeting also introduced Gary Zimmerman who was voted in an unanimous decision. Gary has no water experience but has experience with fortune 500 companies. This was looked at as a good thing since he will focus more on the business side.

Mr. Thelen presented the 2008 budget. He did note that the proposed budget leaves a deficit. Mr. Long moved to approve the 2008 budget and the motion was seconded by Mr. Sletten. It was noted that the income for satellite conferences was no longer coming in due to their discontinuation. The board than voted to disapprove the motion. Mr. Thelen made slight changes to the budget. Mr. Long than moved to approve the 2008 budget with the corrections that Mr. Thelen made. Seconded by Mr. Paustian. Motion carried. Mr. Thelen indicated that he would email the revised budget.

Mr. Wavra explained how the WARN program is progressing. Ms. Anderson was appointed the AWWA committee member. There is an initial mutual aid agreement that has been drafted and currently being looked at. A state wide committee is hoped to be formed by March.

Mr. Long reported that he gave Jack Hoffbuhr a bottle of wine from the section at his retirement. The section received a book with copies of all of Jack's "Waterscape" articles. The section also received the book "7 Measures of Success". Discussion than centered on other ways of honoring Jack's services. The idea of making a donation in Jack's name for WFP was brought up.

Chair Jochim appointed the following committees;

Trustee Nominating – Mr. Sletten (chair), Mr. Jochim, and Mr. Friesz

Fuller Award– Mr. Vein (chair), Mr. Gillund and Ms. Ansley

Operator Meritorious – Mr. Ferguson (chair), Mr. Volk, and Mr. Blotsky

Director-The new director is elected at the annual conference-Committee to elect candidates for the new director- Mr. Long, Mr. Vein, and Mr. Bullinger

Mr. Bruschwein reported the RMSO will be held in Dearborn, Michigan this year on May 16th and 17th. Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Friesz, Mr. Jochim, and Mr. Paustian expressed an interest in attending.

Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Andrew Job were two applicants for the Management Institute Scholarship this year. Mr. Ferguson withdrew his application and Mr. Job was awarded the scholarship.

The 2008 ACE is in Atlanta. Mr. Ferguson will go as the Section's incoming chair and use the complementary registration provided by the Association. Mr. Vein will attend as the Section's Fuller award winner.

Mr. Ferguson moved to donate \$1,000 to WFP, \$250 to AWWARF, \$1,000 to the Gateway to Science

Center, and \$750 to the Dakota Science Center which is the same as last year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Long and the motion passed.

Mr. Bruschwein reported that the City of Fargo has been an AWWA member for 50 years. The PR committee will post this on the section's website.

Mr. Long motioned to make a \$500 contribution to WFP under Jack Hoffbuhr's name. Seconded by Mr. Ferguson. Motion carried.

Discussions again focused on an offsite social to increase membership for the section. The board felt that including other organizations in the social would not increase the section's membership. It was felt that the section spearhead the social on its own.

The Board considered having a motivational speaker at the annual conference. Members felt that many individuals left last year during the speaker's presentation. Discussions revolved around changing the time of the speaker to not having a speaker at all.

The board was reminded that ideas for topics and speakers should be thought about well ahead of the annual conference. Ms. Sletten said many of the topics at the ACE could be used at the annual conference. The section will again find the presenters for one of the afternoon sessions.

Mr. Paustian motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Friesz.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Blotsky
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer