

## **MWOA Executive Board Meeting**

**June 1, 2016**

### **St. Cloud Public Works Facility**

**Members Present:** Rick Olson Rick Ashling Dan O'Connor Brian Mehr

Kay Curtain Al Parrella Nick Chaves Chris Kleist Jim Miller

Joel Rubbelke Jason Smitke

**Member Absent:** Jeff Janiksela Josh Gad

**Guests:** Todd Carlson Amy Schreader Randy Poore Linda Mullen

President Olson called the meeting to order at 11:05 and welcomed the group. Motion by Al Parrella to approve the minutes of the March Board Meeting, second by Nick Chaves, passed.

President Olson related that the previous committee discussion held prior to the Board Meeting had reviewed the preparation for the 40th Annual Conference and that all efforts were on track to conduct a successful event. Al Parrella chairing the Technical Program has put together a very good list of speakers and presentations. Dan O'Connor is looking to have an enjoyable gold outing as part of the social activities.

The Scholarship applications were reviewed briefly and chair of the committee, Joe Rubbelke will be reviewing the accuracy and eligibility of those received. A motion by Brian Mehr to allow Joe Rubbelke to review and propose up to four \$1000 scholarships from the submittals, second by Kay Curtain, passed. (Joe will forward those names to Sec/Treas Jim Miller to prepare notification letters to the recipients.)

The 2017 Annual Conference was discussed with the proposed dates being July 25-28, 2017. Rick Ashling had been approached by the Austin Holiday Inn as a potential site to consider for upcoming meetings including the 2017 Annual. Discussion by SE Section and concerns voiced by the SW Section prompted a further review of the suitability of the Austin site. There was a great deal of discussion surrounding the original practice of moving around the State and that the organization may be missing the opportunity to have some of the smaller cities members in the southern part of the State miss out on attending the conference. At this time it appeared that there were some concerns that Austin may have some difficulty in attracting the number of attendees and vendors and it was the consensus of the Board to continue looking at Grand Rapids for 2017. Guest Amy Schreader suggested the possible use of "survey monkey" to poll members. Guest Todd Carlson suggested that if a decline in attendance at Grand Rapids occurred, then it might be time to look at moving or some form of rotation of the site. Motion by Brian Mehr to have Linda Mullen (Arrangements Chair) look at a potential survey through the WASTEWATCHER or internet options to poll the membership, Second by Dan O'Connor, passed. The Arrangements Committee and Board should continue to discuss this with their Sections and also look at

potential sites that could both fulfill the space and logistical needs along with providing the financial success that provides the majority of the operating costs for the annual budget.

Trustee Rick Ashling reported that the Mn Section of CSWEA held their CSX Meeting and approved support of the MWOA Scholarships and also to continue splitting the proceeds from the Joint Sponsored Innovative/Alternatives seminar in St. Cloud. He noted that the MN Section Chair – Chris Harrington was looking for ways to support MWOA activities and perhaps their Young Professionals group may be one avenue. The Collection Workshop will be held in October at the Seneca RMF MCES facility.

Nick Chaves reported that the Metro/Suburban Section met January 13 in Dundas and had good attendance with 32. The August 10 meeting will be held at the MCES main facility in St. Paul and will require advance registration due to security measures in place at that location. They are hoping that more MCES involvement will result in holding their meeting at this site. They also hope to repeat this meeting site to allow other members to attend in upcoming years. The October 19 meeting is planned for Forest Lake.

Amy Schreader reported for Josh Gad that the SE Section had just held their joint meeting with the SW Section in Mankato May 4. It was a good meeting with 35-36 in attendance from the SE Section. Their next meeting will be in Faribault October 12.

Dan O'Connor related that 19 from the SW Section were present at the joint meeting in Mankato and due to their healthy balance they will be considering additional contribution towards the scholarship funding. The Section is also looking at ways to improve attendance and would like to utilize the membership list to determine which cities have let their memberships lapse for their employees or targets to ask to attend. They re-elected Clark Corbett as Chair and will have upcoming meeting in Bingham Lake (11/2/16). They will be updating their calendar to select the first Wednesday in February, May and November each year for consistency.

Brian Mehr reported that the Central Section's last meeting was April 12 in Hutchinson with 38 in attendance. They confirmed their operations award selections and they will be holding elections for Sec and Director. They are utilizing the practice of the Sec moving up to the Chair position to have some continuity in their officer progression.

NE Section Director Jason Smitke reported that there were over 20 in attendance at their meeting in Biwabik. They discussed scholarships and funding and would be submitting a contribution to that fund prior to the annual conference. They also are concentrating on gaining support and interest of younger operations personnel. They will continue to conduct 2 meetings per year through the Section. Site locations for 2017 will be determined in the upcoming months. Todd Carlson volunteered to determine the dates for the next three years with locations to be announced.

There was no report from the NW Section.

Randy Poore reporting for MNWARN related that they met recently and there are 376 towns that have joined. They are short on funds for publications and promotional material. They continue to grow about 20 new cities each year. He encouraged members sign up their cities if not already a partner.

### **Old Business**

President Olson noted that the Media Committee needs to get moving on providing advertising on the website as vendors were in support of this addition. There continue to be issues with routing of information to the webmaster. Josh Gad is also not getting emails that are originating from links on the site. It was suggested that contact to the webmaster go through the [webmaster@mwoa.net](mailto:webmaster@mwoa.net) address while issue with using the "Contact the MWOA" link are corrected. Sec/Treas Miller also related that we still need to establish a "quick link" for time sensitive news of members such as funeral notices, hospitalization or meeting changes.

### **New Business**

Randy Poore noted that the disposable wipe use and discussion continues. He urged members to stay in touch with efforts by the MPCA and others to restrict the use or marketing of these types of products that can cause major issues when flushed into the sanitary sewer system.

With no further business before the Board a motion to recess until Tuesday July 26, 2016 at the Board Room of the TLL in Grand Rapids was made by Dan O'Connor, second by Jason Smitke, passed at 12:04

### **Reconvened Meeting at Executive Board Room, Timberlake Lodge, Grand Rapids MN**

**Board Members Present:** Al Parrella, Dan O'Connor, Kay Curtain, Jason Smitke, Rick Ashling, Rick Olson, Josh Gad, Jim Miller, Nick Chaves, Chris Kleist, Joe Rubbelke

**Guests:** Amy Schreader, Todd Carlson, Linda Mullen, Brad XXXX

President Olson reconvened the Board Meeting at 7:01 p.m. in Grand Rapids.

The purpose for the reconvened meeting is a procedural practice instituted in the event that the Annual Meeting Budget requires amendment to reflect changes in costs or revenues that were expected for the event.

The group was informed that the MPCA Pretreatment Committee meeting was added on Thursday so it would not conflict with the Vendor event on Wednesday and did not require any additional costs for use of the room.

The attendance is looking good at around 140 at this point with over 60 vendors. Sec/Treas Jim Miller noted that he had learned of several issues with hotel reservations and with the change in banquet personnel, things have not been going as smoothly as anticipated. The breakout sessions will all be held in the three larger rooms on Thursday and the Pine Grove room (down by the pool) will only be used for the MPCA Committee meeting on Thursday afternoon. Dan O'Connor noted that the participation in the golf event was great with 67 golfers this year. Thanks to Dan and all the participants.

There were a couple of items brought up by Board members – Al Parrella noted that Randy Thoreson of the MPCA will be looking for a volunteer to be added to the Water Re-Use Committee and anyone interested in that opportunity should contact Al. Josh Gad indicated that Steve McCusky has inquired on how to be more involved with the MWOA and discussion relative to looking toward the Membership Committee to connect with Steve to take advantage of his offer.

With no further business before the Board a motion by Joe Rubbelke, Second by Nick Chaves with discussion provided by Jim Miller to thank outgoing president Rick Olson for his efforts and performance of the duties of President of the MWOA this past year, passed at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

James E. Miller

Sec/Treas MWOA