

MWOA Executive Board Meeting – September 4, 2013

St. Cloud Maintenance Facility, St. Cloud MN

Members Present: **Chris Kleist** **Jim Miller** **Joe Rubbelke**

Todd Carlson **Rick Olson** **Dan O'Connor** **Dianne Navrati**

Rick Ashling **Brian Mehr**

Members absent: **Jeff Janiksela** **Greg Guerrero** **Randy Poore** **Steve Daniels**

Guests present: **Steve Duerre** **Linda Mullen**

President Kleist called the meeting to order at 11:10 am at the Board room located in the St. Cloud Utility Maintenance Facility in St. Cloud.

After welcoming the group, he called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June and continuation of the meeting July 23 Board Meeting. Motion by Todd Carlson , Second by Joe Rubbelke , passed.

Linda Mullen gave a recap of the Arrangements Committee meeting that was held prior to the Board Meeting. The evaluations compiled from the members returning them at the Annual Conference were overwhelmingly in support of the efforts for the Technical Program and Arrangements at the Timberlake Lodge in Grand Rapids. It was also noted that the technical program inclusion of the Biosolids, lab and exam refresher has been well received. Dianne noted that 8 out of 9 who attended the refresher were successful in passing their respective exams. Joe Rubbelke made a motion to return to the Grand Rapids location, utilizing input from the evaluations to improve the conference for 2014, second by Rick Olson, passed.

Trustee/Director/Committee Reports

Rick Ashling gave the Trustee update relating that the Training Coalition held their last meeting August 8th. MRWA was not in attendance at the meeting. The updates included efforts by MAP (Midwest Assistance Program) offering to become more involved in training sessions. He also noted that MAP has traditionally been more directly involved with tribal sessions. Rick noted that the MWOA calendar has successfully been brought up to the goal of projecting dates for Section Meetings and other events 3 years out. The goal now will be to get the Sections to identify locations at least one year out to assist members with their planning of training. The next Coalition Meeting will be February 5, 2014.

Brian Mehr reported that the Central Section was having a meeting next Tuesday (Sept. 10) in Buffalo and there were 40 RSVP's so far. Bolton and Menk was hosting the meeting and supplying the noon meal. Post cards were sent to members to determine whether direct mailing has a favorable impact on gaining attendance. The December meeting is hoped to be finalized by the meeting in Buffalo and the April 2014 meeting will be in Hutchinson. They are continuing to improve their technical content of the meetings as well.

Joe Rubbelke reported for the Metro/Suburban Section, stating there had been no change. The October meeting will be in Stillwater.

The Southwest Section will be in Marshal November on the 6th according to Director Dan O'Connor. There was also discussion regarding a SW/Central Meeting similar to the SE/SW meeting in May. All present discussed potential methods to improve attendance and improve Section Meetings.

Rick Olson reported that the SE Section will hold their next meeting October 9th in Faribault. The agenda will include information relative to the major renovations at the WWTP.

Chris Kleist reported that the NE Section will be holding their next meeting at WLSSD in two weeks. The proposed Collection System Workshop proposed in October may need to have a date change as it conflicts with the WWOA meeting and some of the planning personnel for the Collection Workshop ate involved with that session in Stevens Point WI.

Steve Duerre reported for the Awards Committee and there was a great deal of discussion regarding the newly created Collection Class Awards. The primary concern was that some members who have a certain class Operations Certificate but not a "S" series certificate would not be eligible under the present criteria. The result was a motion by Brian Mehr, second by Dan O'Connor to change the criteria to include "significant percentage of time involved with Collection duties for the Class being considered, passed.

President Kleist opened discussion regarding the Webmaster position and looked for input from the Board and VP (Rick Olson) regarding continued improvement to the site. Advertizing was also looked at as a potential method to allow more time to be spent by the webmaster (funding) as the present allocation puts most of the amount towards site hosting and software costs. Rick Olson will continue to work with the webmaster (Tom Miller) to improve content and organization of the site.

President Kleist rescinded the motion to approve Steve Lipinski as Ast. Sec/Treas and will continue to look at potential candidates for long term resolution of a transition plan for the Sec/Treas position.

The membership drive discussion carried over from the previous Board meeting included looking at tracking new members and sponsors between now and the 2014 Annual Conference. A wireless tablet was noted to be the award for the member sponsoring the most new members by a Motion from Joe Rubbelke, second by Brian Mehr, passed.

Linda Mullen reminded all members to route material for submission to the website through VP Rick Olson. Dianne Navratil asked Board and members to forward ideas for training and inclusion on the Speaker Bureau to her for distribution to the Directors and Section Officers.

With no further business before the Board a motion to adjourn was made by Todd Carlson, second by Joe Rubbelke, Passed at 12:10 pm. Jim Miller – Sec/Treas MWOA.

(The December Board Meeting was planned for December 4th at the St. Cloud Maintenance Facility)