



**The Wisconsin Section
Central States
Water Environment Association**

**Minutes of the Summer Board Meeting
Wisconsin Section - Central States Water
Environment Association**

August 15, 2007

Ruekert/Mielke, Inc., Waukesha, WI

The Wisconsin Section of Central States Water Environment Association Summer Board meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Marten at 2:09 p.m. on August 15, 2007 at the Ruekert/Mielke in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Board Members present:

- Bill Marten, Chair
- Steve Godfrey, Vice Chair
- Tom Mulcahy, Past Chair
- Ken Sedmak, CSWEA Trustee
- Randy Thater, WWOA Liaison
- Dave Arnott, Secretary/Treasurer

Other members present were: Andrew Craven, Jim Beier, Rachel Lee, Jane Carlson and Rusty Schroedel.

Introduction of those present: All attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of the May 24, 2007 CSWEA Annual Meeting Minutes: Randy Thater mentioned that there are several places in the minutes where it is stated that information was on the website and the website did not contain this information. Dave Arnott explained that numerous reports were in the process of being added to the website. Dave Arnott was working with the new Webmaster. Randy Thater moved that the meeting minutes for the May 24, 2007 CSWEA Annual Meeting be approved. Second by Ken Sedmak. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Arnott presented the Treasurer's report, which showed a balance in the Section's accounts of \$30,601.11 as of August 10th, 2007. It was noted that this balance did not include proceeds from the Collection System Seminar. There was a short discussion about

the Central State's mandate to reduce reserves. The idea is to have enough money in reserves to cover one year's worth of seminars and workshops. For the Wisconsin Section, that would be approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000. Dave Arnott stated that the Wisconsin Section had been trying to reduce reserves by providing greater financial support to Students and Young Professionals Activities. Jim Beier moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Second by Randy Thater. Motion passed.

CSWEA Trustee Report: Trustee Ken Sedmak presented a verbal summary of significant items in his written report, which is posted on the Wisconsin Section website. Items Ken talked about in his verbal report were: the success of the 2007 CSWEA Annual Meeting this past May, that State Section budgets and financials are reporting properly, that State Sections are to develop a plan to reduce reserves, that the 2008 Education Seminar will be on activated sludge and will be held on April 1, 2008, and that CSX recommended to the Executive Committee that separate committees for students and young professionals be formed to provide a focus for each group. Bill Marten stated that the discussion on reducing reserves would be tabled until the November Annual Business Meeting.

WOWA Liaison Report: WOWA Liaison Randy Thater presented a verbal summary of key items from his written report which is posted on the Wisconsin Section website. Items Randy talked about in his verbal report were: the WOWA Annual Conference in La Crosse which will include a sporting clay event in addition to golf this year, a new website for WOWA, WOWA working with the UW Water Resources Library to provide reference books for loans to operators in preparation for certification exams, and WOWA being contacted by EPA Region 5 about possibly sponsoring an asset Management Workshop in 2008 or 2009. WOWA feels the workshop at this point is too large to take on. Joint sponsorship with CSWEA has been talked about. The workshop is on the back burner for now.

Committee Reports

Committee reports can be viewed on the Wisconsin Section website. Noteworthy discussion items pertaining to each committee are summarized below.

Collection Systems: Chair Todd Stelmacher had submitted a written report. Andrew Craven presented a verbal report. The 2007 Collection Systems Seminar was held June 7, 2007 in Watertown. The Conference was a success and the net profit was approximately \$1,100.

In 2008, a second Collection System Seminar will be held in Marshfield. The tentative date for the seminar is August 14, 2008. Bill Marten stated that this is close to the Management Seminar date. After some discussion, it was decided that this would be OK since the two seminars target different audiences. The seminar will follow the same model as the Watertown seminar, but will not be exactly the same.

The committee is trying to recruit operators for its membership. Gary Buntrock from Fredonia will join the committee.

Jim Beier mentioned that the Collection System Seminar has their own checking account, which is open and closed each year for just for the seminar. All three State Sections are set up with a tax exempt ID number and do not pay taxes since we are a nonprofit organization. All three State Sections' finances are rolled up into the Central States Water Environment Association. The question came up on whether it is OK for the Wisconsin Section and thus CSWEA, to be accepting net profit from a seminar from a separate checking account from an organization (WOWA) that does pay taxes. Dave Arnott will look into the past Collection System Seminar reports and discuss with Eric Lecuyer.

Government Affairs: Jane Carlson submitted a written report and presented a verbal report. Jane stated that the website will be updated. Jane reported that three new members have joined the committee. They are Brandon Koltz of Symbiont, Bill Oldenburg of Green Bay MSD, and Keith Haas of Racine Water and Wastewater. The committee will review topics for tracking at their new face-to-face meeting.

Industrial Waste: Chair Brian Molenaar did submit a written report. No oral report presented, as Brian was not at this meeting. The committee is planning an inaugural Pretreatment Seminar in 2008. The tentative date is June 18, 2008. Discussion took place concerning the closeness of this date to the Collection System Seminar date of June 5th, 2008. It was decided that this would not be a problem since the two seminars are targeting different audiences.

Brian stated in his report that they will be requesting approximately \$2,000 in seed money for this conference. The committee agreed in principal to this and will vote on it at the November Annual Business Meeting.

Membership: No written report was received. Chair Rob Szekeress was not present to give a verbal report.

Operations Committee: Chair Troy Larson had submitted a written report. The Board felt the committee's idea for making nomination forms was good. This would organize information in a uniform manner that would allow committee members to more objectively evaluate candidates for various awards. The Board felt it did not have to review the forms.

Dave Arnott questioned whether the Section wants the same operator to participate in the WEFTEC Operators Competition several years in a row. Dave will review the participation guidelines.

Management Seminar: The 2007 Management Seminar took place on August 1st, 2007 at Cabela's in Richfield. Attendance increased probably due to the new and different location. Topics included pandemic planning, mutual aid agreements, financial planning, the open records law and the 1st amendment right in the workplace.

Public Education and Awareness: No report received and no oral report presented, as the Committee Chair was not at this meeting.

Safety: No report received and no oral report presented, as the Committee Chair was not at this meeting.

Watershed Management: No report received and no oral report presented, as the Committee Chair was not at this meeting.

Students & Young Professionals: Rachel Lee submitted a written report and presented a verbal report. Rachel reported that her, Tom Foltz, and Anthony Heddleston met to discuss ideas and plans for the UW-Madison student chapter. One idea was to have a night with industry where 5 to 10 students at the UW Student Chapter would have dinner with people in the wastewater industry. This would include operators, government officials, and consultants.

Anthony Heddleston wrote an article in Central States Water about the Engineering Expo Event at UW-Madison.

There was an SYP Brewer Game outing later that evening. More SYP events will be scheduled in the future. The plan is to have an event once per quarter. Ken Sedmak stated that these events are important and that there should be follow up to get SYP signed up as a member and actively involved.

Rachel reported that there will be a YP Exchange at the CSX event next summer.

Representatives Reports

Spring Biosolids Symposium: Bill Marten had submitted a written report. Planning for the 2008 Symposium will start in September. The symposium will be March 18, 2008 at the Stevens Point new Holiday Inn.

Water Wastewater Education Association: No report received and no oral report presented, as the Committee Chair was not at this meeting.

Old Business

Board of Control Liaison Committee Contacts: Bill Marten encouraged the Board to continue making contacts to their respective committees as was recommended by the Committee on Committees.

Randy Thater mentioned that it may make sense for the WWOA Liaison to be a liaison to the Collection System Committee instead of the Safety Committee since this person is automatically assigned to be a Collection System Seminar liaison through WWOA organization. The Vice Chair of the WI Section could then be a liaison to the Safety Committee. Randy stated that the WWOA organization may change in the future. The Board will not make any changes right now.

CSX Report: Ken Sedmak went over a handout entitled “CSWEA – CSX ’07 Big Ideas” which is a listing of ideas resulting from the 2007 CSX. Two items, adopting WEF’s half price membership for YP’s for the first three years, and having the YP Committee organize regional CSWEA YP Exchange (YPX) with other MA’s (AWWA, APWA) are already complete.

2010 CSWEA Annual Meeting Location (additional agenda item): Rusty Schroedel wanted feedback as to if there were any other cities that we should look into for being the host of the 2010 CSWEA Annual Meeting. The Board consensus was that we should stay in Madison as the location is central and the facilities are excellent.

Discussion on CSWEA Initiative to Separate the Student and Young Professionals

Committees: Rachel Lee explained the rationale behind the initiative was that there are different cultures and interests between students and young professionals. The idea of having the Chair of one committee be a member of the other committee was stated. Several people voiced concern about having enough people to fill two committees instead of one committee. Rachel was not sure if there would be enough members to staff both committees. If there were, she would be in favor of splitting into two committees. It was decided to table a decision until the November Annual Meeting. A Chair for the Student Committee would have to be identified. Rachel will consult further with Dan Busch.

New Business

Use of Funds for SYP Activities: Randy Thater voiced concern about the involvement of public officials participating in activities during normal business hours. Randy’s other concern was the use of public funds (dues from municipal members) for SYP activities. The Board agreed with Randy that we have to be careful. The Board felt that activities should mostly be planned after business hours. Ken Sedmak stated that the SYP are a great vehicle for getting young SYP together.

Canceled of Check No. 1301 to University School of Milwaukee: Dave Arnott explained how this check for \$503.40 for Stockholm Junior Water Prize travel reimbursement has been outstanding since 2004. The check was mailed in the summer and likely got lost. We have tried several times to call the School to follow up and they have not returned our calls. For the treasurer, it is a nuisance to account for this check when balancing the books. It was not clear if the check was still valid. Dave Arnott will look into this. A motion was presented by Tom Mulcahy that if the check was still valid, that the check could be canceled at an approximate cost of \$80. Second by Steve Godfrey. The motion passed.

Asset Management Training: Randy Thater discussed this topic as part of the WWOA Liaison’s Report

UW Water Resources Library (Additional Agenda Item): WWOA is working with the UW Water Resources Library to provide a number of basic reference books that could be checked out

and used by operators or any other person. The books would serve as training material for certification exams. The Board expressed interest in sharing the cost of this with WWOA. A vote will take place at the November Annual Business Meeting.

Upcoming Events

WEFTEC – October 13th through 17th, 2007.

Numerous WWOA Regional Meetings:

Southern Region – Madison, 8/15/07

Lake Michigan - Seymour, 8/23/07

Southeast Region – Germantown, 8/30/07

Wisconsin Section CSWEA Annual Business Meeting – Tentatively scheduled for November 7th, 2007. Dave Arnott will make arrangements.

Adjournment

There being no further new business Ken Sedmak moved that the meeting be adjourned. Second by Steve Godfrey. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

David W. Arnott
Secretary/Treasurer
Wisconsin Section - CSWEA