

Minutes of the November Business Meeting
Wisconsin Section - Central States Water Environment
Association

November 11, 1998

Midway Hotel - Brookfield, WI

The annual business meeting of the Wisconsin Section of Central States Water Environment Association was called to order by Chair Paul Nehm at 2:05 p.m. on November 11, 1998 at the Midway Hotel in Brookfield, WI.

Chair, Paul Nehm presided and Secretary/Treasurer Tom Sigmund was present.

Board Members present:

- Paul Nehm, Chair
- Carol Strackbein, Vice Chair
- Tom Krueger, Past Chair
- Jim Shaw, Trustee
- Judy Tholen, WWOA Liaison
- Tom Sigmund, Secretary/Treasurer

27 members of the Section were present.

Approval of September 18 Board Meeting Minutes: Typographical corrections were made to the previously distributed minutes of the September 18, 1998 Board Meeting. Carol Strackbein moved the meeting minutes be approved as corrected. Second by Tom Krueger. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Sigmund reported that there was a balance in the Section's accounts of \$2,692.60 as of November 6, 1998. John Leonhard moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Second by Ken Sedmak. Motion carried.

CSWEA Trustee Report: Trustee Jim Shaw presented a verbal report and forwarded a copy of the draft meeting minutes of the CSWEA Executive Committee held on October 4, 1998. Jim Shaw and Jim Nemke led a discussion of actions taken by CSWEA at the meeting and presented several items to the Wisconsin Section that the CSWEA Executive Committee wanted input on:

- A recommendation to increase the annual dues for CSWEA members from \$10 to \$15 with the extra \$5 passed on to the Sections to be split one-third to each section. A motion put forth by the

Wisconsin Section Board prompted this item. The dues increase will be put forth in an amendment to the CSWEA Bylaws at the Annual Meeting in May 1999.

- Discussion to change the timing of the golf outing at the annual meeting to the last day of the conference. The consensus of the group was to keep the golf outing on the first day of the annual meeting.
- Discussion to change the schedule of the annual meeting to start on a Sunday instead of a Tuesday. The consensus of the group was to support the start of the annual meeting on Sunday.
- CSWEA is co-sponsoring a specialty conference with WEF in Milwaukee on June 6-9, 1999 on the topic of "Maximizing the Performance of Small and Medium Sized Wastewater Treatment Plants". Dave Flowers is the co-chair of the specialty conference.

Jim Nemke asked that input on the above items be forwarded to CSWEA through the Wisconsin Section's representatives to the Executive Committee (Shaw, Nemke, Leonhard, and Smith) prior to January CSWEA Board Meeting.

WWOA Liaison Report: Judy Tholen presented a written report. Judy was appointed by WWOA President Dan Busch as the WWOA Liaison to the Wisconsin Section. The dates of upcoming Wisconsin Section/WWOA seminars are: Government Affairs Seminar on February 25, 1999 at the Marriott in Middleton, and the Spring Biosolids Symposium on March 16, 1999 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

Committee Meetings

Chair Paul Nehm recessed the meeting at 2:30 p.m. for the Committee meetings. The meeting was reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

Dave Flowers presented thanks to the Wisconsin Section on behalf of Riveredge Nature Center for the \$1,500 contribution that the Section gave to Riveredge in May for the constructed wetland wastewater treatment system at the center. The system is working well and is being used by school children and teachers for environmental education. Dave estimated that 15,000 children would tour the constructed wetland each year.

Committee Reports

Collection Systems: Chair Steve Bruskiwicz submitted a written report. The Collection System Committee decided to increase the registration fee for the 1999 Collection System Seminar to \$25 (from \$20) with vendor registration to increase to \$45 (from \$35) in response to Chair Nehm's request that the all of the seminars sponsored by the Section improve their profitability. The date of the 1999 Collection System Seminar is June 3, 1999 in Watertown. The committee is also working on screening candidates for the Collection System Award and the Golden Manhole Award.

Government Affairs: Rusty Schroedel presented an oral report for Chair Phil Budde. Schroedel stated that many of the concerns expressed by Wisconsin Section members were incorporated by DNR and the Department of Commerce into COM 83. The DNR is preparing their biennial budget and want input on potential watershed issues. Other issues such as NR 104, chloride standards, and potential nationwide nutrient standards were discussed. Chair Phil Budde submitted a written report on the 1999 Government Affairs Seminar.

Groundwater Protection and Toxic Waste: No report was received.

Industrial Waste: Paul Nehm presented a written report submitted by Chair Joe Grinker. Discussion ensued on Wisconsin Section assistance and endorsement of the Federation of Environmental Technologists Industrial Wastewater Conference in September. The members encouraged Grinker to submit an advertisement for the conference in the WISILLMINN and to coordinate with Ken Sedmak on mailing labels to make sure that Wisconsin Section Members receive the mailing. It was suggested that the committee target POTW pretreatment coordinators as potential committee members.

Membership: Chair Ken Sedmak presented a written report. Over 50% of the Wisconsin Section member directories printed in 1997 have been distributed. 80 directories were distributed at the most recent WWOA annual conference. Directories have been mailed to 43 new members since the May 1998 meeting. Sedmak asked the members to contact WEF directly to update the members personal information.

Operations & Management Seminar: Chair Dean Falkner presented a written report. The committee is in the process of selecting an Operator of the Year Award and nominating a candidate for the Hatfield Award. With Dean's nomination to Vice Chair of the Section, he will step down as committee chair beginning in May of 1999 and will be seeking a replacement.

Jens Hetzler presented a written report on the Management Seminar. Only 35 attendees have pre-registered for the 1998 seminar and the seminar will most likely lose money. A budget was submitted for the 1999 Seminar. Jens put forth the question as to whether the Management Seminar should continue in light of such poor attendance. John Leonhard noted that originally the Management Seminar was not intended specifically to be a fundraiser, but a service to the membership. After discussion, Jens was asked to report back to the Board at the February meeting to determine the status of the 1999 Management Seminar.

Public Education: Chair Scott Thompson presented a written report. He discussed the impact of the \$1,500 donation to Riveredge Nature Center as an investment in environmental education of students. It is hoped that the center will provide a large target audience of teachers and students for Water Source Book distribution. The committee needs to re-order a new supply of the grade 9-12 books. WEF now has a grade K-2 version of the book out now and hopes to have the grade 6-8 version out in the fall of 1999. The committee plans to staff a booth at the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers convention on April 23rd in Lake Geneva and the Wisconsin Elementary Science Teachers Conference in Appleton on February 20th.

Safety: No report was received.

Lab Practices: No report was received. Paul Nehm approved the recommendation of Jeff MacDonald of Milwaukee MSD as the committee chair. Jim Nemke discussed the current eligibility requirements for the winner of the WEF Lab Analyst Award and will carry forward a recommendation to WEF to change the criteria to eliminate the requirement that the winner be a WEF member.

Representatives Reports

Spring Biosolids Symposium: Paul Nehm presented a written report submitted by Chair Dave Taylor. The symposium is scheduled for March 16, 1999 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. A tentative agenda has been prepared. Taylor submitted a budget for the 1999 seminar projecting a profit.

Water Wastewater Education Association: Representative Jens Hetzler presented a written report. The calendar is available on various web sites (not on CSWEA web site yet). Moraine Park Technical College is no longer offering Associate Degrees in Water and Wastewater. Rusty Schroedel is the new President of the organization. Contact Rusty Schroedel, Jens Hetzler, or Peggy O'Donnell/DNR at 608-266-0498 to add activities to the calendar.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Watershed Management Issues: Chair Mike Doran presented a written report. Doran reported on the efforts by the EPA on finalizing a national strategy for the development of regional nutrient criteria. They are working on a guidebook for ambient criteria and loading standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorous standards. Doran noted that the rules could be found on the EPA web site at www.epa.gov/OST/Rules/nutsi.html. Both Mike Doran and Rusty Schroedel submitted written reports on the Statewide Watershed Advisory Committee's activities.

Election of Officers

Chair Tom Krueger presented a written report from the Nominations Committee. Nominees were presented for Vice Chair and Trustee. The nomination for Vice Chair was Dean Falkner. The nomination for Trustee was Dan Lynch. Nehm called for nominations from the floor three times for the position of Vice Chair and three times for Trustee. A motion was made by Mike Doran to accept the nominations of the committee. Second by Jeff Brochtrup. Motion carried. Chair Nehm congratulated the newly elected Board members who will take office after the May meeting.

Old Business

Service Recognition: A plaque recognizing her long service as Secretary/Treasurer was presented to Carol Strackbein by Chair Paul Nehm.

Watershed Management Committee: A written report was presented by Mike Doran on converting the Watershed Legislation Committee from an adhoc committee to a standing committee. Doran presented 5 proposed charges for the committee. It was suggested that an additional charge be considered for the committee: Actively work for organizational structure to promote implementation of a watershed policy. After some discussion, a motion was made by Tom Bunker to form a standing Watershed Management Committee. Second by Jim Nemke. Motion carried.

New Business

1999 Section Budget: Tom Sigmund presented a draft of a 1999 budget for the Section, which was not in balance. After discussion it was decided that the cost of printing a membership directory in 1999 would be postponed until at least 2000, saving an estimated \$1,600 in expenses. It was also recommended to remove from the budget reimbursement for the WEFTEC Operations Challenge, saving an estimated \$1,600 in expenses. Sigmund will discuss with Paul Lange the feasibility of the group remaining self-funded through sponsorships and reimbursement from CSWEA as they did in 1997 and 1998. With those changes, the budget would be within \$100 of balancing. If the projections of income and expenses hold true, the \$100 will be taken from the Section's cash reserve. A revised 1999 budget is attached to these minutes.

There was discussion on alternative ways to make the Section's membership directory available to the members without printing and mailing the directory. Electronic methods were discussed for members to view the directory on-line. Ken Sedmak will research options to have the information available on the

CSWEA web site while maintaining the privacy of the members to outside mailings. He will report back to the Board at the February Meeting.

It was also suggested that the Section consider building a reserve account to fund years such as 1998 where revenues are low. Changes to the by-laws will be considered.

1998 Audit Committee: Paul Nehm appointed Rick Pace and Joe Mandala to perform the audit of the Section's financial statement for 1998.

Lab Practices Committee: Jeff MacDonald will serve as the chair of the Lab Practices Committee.

Review of Constitution/Bylaws/Statements of Policy: Chair Nehm has appointed Tom Krueger to head a committee to develop recommendations for changes to the Section's Constitution, Bylaws, and Statements of Policy. The changes will be presented to the membership at the May 1999 Annual Meeting with a ratification vote planned for the November 1999 Business Meeting.

CSWEA Web Page: Input is needed from the Section members and committee chairs to provide information for the Wisconsin Section's web page on the overall CSWEA web site. Items that could be kept on the web page are: committee rosters, Board contacts, brochures and seminar agenda, minutes of meetings, public education information, Constitution, Bylaws, Statements of Policy, etc. Contact Scott Thompson or Jeff Brochtrup for assistance and more information.

National Environmental Lab Accreditation Program: Paul Nehm discussed the registration process that DNR is considering for POTWs as well as for-profit laboratories. He cautioned that this would raise the cost to POTWs over the current program.

WEF Specialty Conference: Alan Scrivner presented information on the WEF specialty conference scheduled for June 6-9, 1999 in Milwaukee. The conference is titled "Plant Operations: Maximizing the Performance of Small and Medium Sized Wastewater Treatment Plants". The conference is co-sponsored by CSWEA. They are looking for papers and help in organizing the conference, reviewing abstracts, serving as presiders, and sponsors for events. The target of the conference is small and medium sized WWTP serving population of 125,000 and under. Contact Dave Flowers or Alan Scrivner.

CSWEA Water Reuse Committee: Ken Johnson is the chair of a CSWEA Water Reuse committee and is looking for committee members from the Wisconsin Section.

CSWEA Education Seminar: Tom Sigmund announced that the 4th Annual CSWEA Education Seminar is scheduled for March 30, 1999 at the Monona Terrace in Madison. The theme of the seminar is "Optimizing Treatment Efficiency and Capacity". The seminar will feature national experts on wastewater treatment topics.

John Leonhard moved that the meeting be adjourned. Second by Mike Doran. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas W. Sigmund
Secretary/Treasurer
Wisconsin Section - CSWEA

