



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

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

February 27, 2013

Madison Marriott West – Middleton, WI

Chair Bill Oldenburg called the Wisconsin Section of Central States Water Environment Association Winter Board Meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. on February 27th 2013 at the Conference Center at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, WI.

Board Members present:

- Bill Oldenburg, Chair
- Dave Arnott, Vice Chair
- Joshua Gable, Secretary/Treasurer
- Jane Carlson, Past Chair
- Bill Marten, Trustee
- Sharon Thieszen, WWOA Liaison

Other members present were: Keith Haas, Hans Holmburg, Brandon Koltz, Jay Kemp, and Dale Doerr.

Introduction of those present:

All attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of the November 13th Annual Business Meeting Minutes:

A correction to the minutes was made pertaining to the justification for reducing the budget for the Public Education and Awareness committee, additionally Mark Mittag was added to the list of attendees. With the consideration of these amendments, Jane Carlson motioned to approve the minutes. Second by Sharon Thieszen. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Josh Gable presented the Treasurer's report, which showed a balance in the Section's accounts of \$40,515.28 as of February 26th, 2013. Of this amount, \$16,215.41 was in our checking account, \$18,827.95 was in our savings account, and \$5,471.92 was in our 14-month CD. Keith Hass moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Second by Dave Arnott. Motion passed.

CSWEA Trustee Report:

Trustee Bill Marten did not give a verbal report however a written report was provided and can be found within the Committee Reports Packet at www.cswea.org.

WWOA Liaison Report:

WWOA Liaison Sharon Thieszen reported:

WWOA has hired a new executive secretary, Karen Harter. Karen officially took over the role as of February 1st. The WWOA directory will now be available in print for the cost of \$10 while the directory continues to be accessible online free of charge. At the next WWOA meeting an operator competition will be taking place. Tuition reimbursement and scholarships continue to be available and are currently under-utilized. The next board meeting will be held on March 22nd and 23rd.

Committee Reports

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

Collection Systems Committee:

Committee Chair Randy Belanger was not present and however Dave Arnott mentioned the following:

Things are shaping up well in preparation for the two conferences this year. The articles of incorporation for the committee can be found on the website. The committee is planning to start transitioning leadership at beginning of year instead of transitioning between the two conferences which had been done traditionally.

Josh Gable added that the board highly recommends that committees make the official transition of officers at the Annual Meeting in May. He will send out a reminder of this to committees prior to the May meeting.

Jane Carlson inquired as to whether the reason of this change of times for this transition was because of the timing of the conferences which the Collection System's committee organizes.

Dave Arnott plans to discuss the proper transition time with Randy Belanger.

Government Affairs Committee:

Committee Member and Future Chair Hans Holmberg reported: The alternative management technical handbook has been released by the WDNR and can be found at [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Surface Water/AdaptiveManagement.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Surface%20Water/AdaptiveManagement.html) .

The WDNR is currently developing a "Scoping Statement" for using bioconfirmation for waterbodies suspected of Phosphorus impairment.

The SSO rule has been approved and just needs to go through promulgation before becoming law which should take between 90 and 120 days.

Looking at the Great Lakes, lake levels are at all-time lows. Keith Haas added that the state is increasingly worried about thermal pollution on Lake Michigan. Regarding the lake levels he added that "we are in a new territory" and that the new low levels are creating expensive problems for the shipping and recreational boating industry while the low levels haven't had a significant impact on WWTPs along the lake.

Brandon Koltz added a few items: On the federal level, new recreational standards have been developed and are dictating that states start monitoring E. Coli rather than the current standard, Fecal Coliform. Recommendations for NH₄, Cl, and Se, to be published this spring. On this subject, the WDNR is not being proactive and is waiting for EPA Region 5 to act first.

Industrial Waste Committee:

Mike O'Neil was not present and no report was submitted.

Membership Committee:

Committee Chair Jay Kemp reported the following items: Jane Carlson has made several contacts for the committee and is doing a great job. The group is currently planning to get together for a discussion about how to improve the committee and membership as a whole. One current initiative is to contact businesses and promote them in sending their employees to the organization's events and become active participants.

The committee had been excited about the concept of an associate membership which would ideally break the ice and get more new peoples involved but CSWEA has decided not to proceed with this concept.

Ken Sedmek is however pushing for the operations track which would work similarly for municipalities, costing them less money overall and promoting the idea of involving their operators in CSWEA events. The committee hopes to develop that more in the year to come.

Finally, Jay is looking to resign as the committee chair and thus in search of a replacement chair. Tom Kruzik is the current vice-chair.

Operations Committee:

Committee Chair Troy Larson was not present. Jane Carlson briefly mentioned that the committee is busy with awards.

Sharon Thieszen added that the Activated Sludge workshop at MWIE was very successful.

Management Committee:

Committee Chair Ken Sedmak was not present. Josh Gable added that Mike Simon will be taking over the chair position for the upcoming year.

Public Education and Awareness Committee:

Future Committee Chair, Sharon Thieszen reported that applications for the SJWP are due on April 15th. Judging to be completed by April 30th.

The WDNR is currently promoting an apprenticeship program. The program is for 3 years and will pay for up to 432 hours of coursework. The program was started in 2011 and the extent to which has been utilized is quite low. There is a link to more information about the program on the WWOA webpage. Everyone is encouraged to help promote the program. Bill Oldenburg added that he believes someone at the Green Bay District is enrolled in the program. Brandon Koltz added that the program should be advertised at technical colleges around the state. A link should be put up on the Section website.

Safety Committee:

Committee Chair Bill Oldenburg reported: A new committee member has been recruited to help kick-start the group. The two are currently working to develop expectations and goals for the committee.

Watershed Management Committee:

Committee Chair, Julie McMullin and Future Chair, Mark Mittag were not present. Jane Carlson gave a brief update: The committee has recently had their quarterly meeting. The webinar attendance for this year was down from the past event. The committee is currently trying to figure out what caused the lower attendance, perhaps the location? The committee is planning to host the event again next year but a location for the event has not yet been determined.

Students and Young Professionals Committee:

Committee Chair Eric Lynne was not present. Josh Gable mentioned that Student Chapters UW Madison and UW Platteville had requested and have been sent annual funding while the Marquette Chapter has requested funding on a per event basis.

Spring Biosolids Symposium Committee:

Committee Chair Jay Kemp mentioned the following points: The group is looking forward to an interesting Lunch Talk for the event. The event will be held in Stevens Point it's looking to be a good event.

WWEA Committee:

Committee Chair Tom was not present but a written report was submitted.

Old Business

Strategic Plan Update:

Around the room for updates from each chair.

Jay Kemp –Membership Committee: Action items for identifying major contacts and maintaining the roster with CSWEA have been completed. For the item 'contact current members to keep involved', still in progress. The following items need further work: Recognize new members at conferences and seminars (Dale suggested that we publish a list of new members in CS Water, Bill Martin to talk with Mohammed); develop a mentoring program for new members (first step to create list of potential mentors); and Track and report WI Section membership statistics.

Dave Arnott - Vice-Chair: Most actions items completed. A few comments: transitions for chairs and vice-chairs should occur at the annual meeting. One item says that committee members should be posted online. This seems to be too much busy work. Bill Oldenburg added that having chairs report membership on quarterly reports should be sufficient. Josh Gable to send out reminder email.

Dale Doerr – Public Ed and Awareness: 'Updating and making available concise committee descriptions' –completed. The following strategy items need further attention by the upcoming chair: Utilize promotional brochures and displays to convey the Section's mission (display needs to be updated, where is the display currently?), activities and accomplishments (work with SYP committee to get materials to student chapters); Develop or utilize existing videos or other electronic videos or electronic presentations and make them available for local access TV, career days, or other opportunities; Aggressively promote the success of our organization and individual members; Promote environmental awareness with a focus on K-12 age students; Publicly present service awards.

Bill Oldenburg – Chair, Board/Committees: Item 'Evaluations and Financial Reports' typically reported in quarterly committee reports but may not have been making it directly to the board. Dave Arnott added that in general our seminars have been doing quite well financially. Jane added that we use liaisons to better train on action items to be completed. Promotion of

committee members on WEF national committees needs to be increased. Brandon Koltz added that there are some new opportunities and WEF is trying to promote them. Jane added the groups need to keep in better pace. Contacting Joan Hawley might be helpful as she is quite involved on the national level.

For the item 'Recognize WI Section Members for outstanding service to the organization', Bill O. added that we are planning to include a note in CSWater for summer 2013.

For the item 'Promote interaction of the State Section Boards', we need to plan to meetings between the groups (Bill O.).

For item 'Coordinate section activities with CSWEA' it is important to get people from our section there. In the past we have done a good job with this (Jane C.).

For the item 'Improve effectiveness of committees' we need to promote the creation of annual plans for each committee. Draft to be submitted by Nov. meeting, to be approved by board at Winter Meeting (Dave A.). Josh Gable to make an agenda item for next meeting.

WI PDH Update and Ad Hoc Committee:

Bill Oldenburg reported that four people have volunteered to serve on the new committee: Jay Kemp, Dave Arnott, Andy Craven, and Jon Butt. The group will take a look at the section as a whole and work with planning committees for existing seminars making recommendations on how to best serve the professionals attending these conferences for credits. Depending on the output of this group in the short term, it could become a standing committee for the future.

Some discussion ensued: Keith Haas wonders if attendance will increase at conferences due to the new requirements and how will companies deal with the new requirements? Jane Carlson added that some increase is likely but perhaps not more than 25%, nonetheless, the committee could help promote our seminars as a way of fulfilling the PDH requirements. Jay Kemp added that we still need to get clarity from the state as to whether or not PDHs = CEUs.

UW Library Funding:

DNR has requested that the Section provide additional money for books increasing the total to \$400 (Sharon Thiesen). Dave Arnott replied that in the Fall, the budget was adjusted to \$400 for this reason. No further action is necessary.

Liaison Contacts:

Dave Arnott reported that the Collection Systems committee is doing well. Dave was unable to get in touch with Mike O'Neil on the Industrial Waste Committee.

Bill Oldenburg reported that this committee has the ball rolling.

Sharon reported that she talked with Bill Oldenburg on the progress of the Safety Committee and that it is doing well.

Bill Marten did not make contacts but plans to do so shortly.

New Business

SSO Rule Update:

Discussed during committee reports.

WEF Mid-year Conference:

Brandon Koltz reported that at Mid-year it was decided that the Exhibition Hall will be free to all attendees this year at WEFTEC in Chicago if pre-registered.

Upcoming Events:

- WI Government Affairs Seminar – February 26th
- Spring Biosolids Symposium – March 13th
- University of Platteville Student Chapter’s Dinner – March 15th
- Pretreatment Seminar – June (date not set)
- “Classic’ Collection Systems Seminar – June 6th
- “Northwoods” Collection Systems Seminar – July 25th

Adjournment

There being no further new business, Sharon Thieszen moved that the meeting be adjourned. Second by Dave Arnott. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joshua J. Gable
Secretary/Treasurer
Wisconsin Section - CSWEA