

MEETING SUMMARY

ALABAMA'S WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting Held Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Submitted to: Tim Patton, President
Matt Dunn, Secretary

Rob Coleman, Vice-President
Sabra Sutton, Treasurer

Drafted by: Kim Polifka, Executive Secretary

Date: April 16, 2008

The following is a summary of the annual business meeting of the Alabama's Water Environment Association (AWEA) held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. at Perdido Beach Resort. Tim Patton, incoming President, called this meeting to order and presided over the meeting. Others in attendance were: Scott Cummings, Sabra Sutton, Matt Dunn, Rob Coleman, Liliana Maldonado (WEF Representative), Jim LaMoreaux, Bob Holbrook, Jimmy Junkin, Brian Shannon, Debra Waller, Drew Nelson, Phyllis McAleer, Mary Holland, Linda Boltz, and Kim Polifka.

The WEF Representative, Liliana Maldonado, spoke about her visit. She bragged about the positive energy that is present in AWEA. She talked about how WEF is in the process of updating their strategic plan and the various ways that WEF is trying to connect with the Member Associations (MAs).

Tim turned the meeting over to Scott Cummings who read the nominations for the 2008-2009 AWEA Board. Those nominations were:

Tim Patton, President
Rob Coleman, Vice-President
Matt Dunn, Secretary
Sabra Sutton, Treasurer

Bob Holbrook moved that this slate be accepted by acclamation. Jim LaMoreaux seconded. The motion carried and these individuals were inducted as the 2008-2009 AWEA Board Members.

Tim asked if our membership levels meet the criteria for a second delegate and asked how we go about adding a second delegate. Scott stated that a new delegate would have to be added through an election process. Scott reminded the Board that WEF would only recognize one delegate.

Scott called attention to the "new" faces visiting in the AWEA Annual Business Meeting. He encouraged each of them to get involved with AWEA. Tim thanked the Board for their efforts with AWEA and said that he is looking forward to service AWEA as President.

Sabra Sutton presented the Treasurer's Report. Because the bank account earns nearly the same percentage interest as investing money in CDs, Sabra recommended that the CDs maturing in May and June 2008 be rolled into the bank account. She further suggested that the Board look at reinvesting monies when interest rates increase. Jimmy Junkin motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jim LaMoreaux seconded this motion. Motion carries to roll interest and funds from maturing CDs into the AWEA bank account.

Board Meeting Minutes from the October 25, 2007 meeting were presented. Jimmy Junkin made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Bob Holbrook seconded. Minutes stand as presented.

Conference Report

Tim Patton stated that registration for the 2008 conference was up from that of 2007. "We didn't hit the 400 number we wanted, but the number did increase." There were 75 vendors, 40+ new members, and a strong technical program. Rob spoke briefly about exhibitors. Tim stated that Matt Dunn would handle exhibits for the 2009 conference since Rob Coleman would be handling the overall planning of the conference.

Rob spoke about the golf tournament. He stated that sponsorships were good and seventeen teams participated. Brian Shannon will be heading up the golf tournament for 2009. Rob and Tim thanked Debra Waller for taking conference-wide photographs.

Bob Holbrook reported on the Fun Run. He said there were 11 participants. Prizes will be distributed. There was no participation for the tennis tournament.

Future conference dates are:

2009, April 17 – 22

2010, April 16 – 20

AWEA continues to review venues/costs for hosting future conferences.

The following committees and chairpersons are in place for the 2008-2009 year.

Awards – Grady Parsons

Collections System – Tony Sneed

Government Affairs – Scott Cummings and Jimmy Junkin

Long Range Planning – Scott Cummings

Publications – *currently vacant*

Water Resources – Matt Dunn

Website – *currently vacant*

Membership – Phyllis McAleer

Tim Patton talked a few minutes about his goals as AWEA President for the coming year. He said that he intends to building on what has already been built. He stated that a lot of good people have come through the organization before him. Kerry Hannah will be leading as PWOD. Tim would like to get more people involved with the Board, look at the potential of holding another technical session—half or full day, look at more exposure during the year, and build on regulatory and SYPC involvement. Tim also recommended changing the newsletter publication schedule to February, May, August, and November.

Rob Coleman will be in leading the planning of the 2009 conference. The Board will look at the distribution of conference planning tasks and review a new program for conference registration. It was noted that Tony Fisher had expressed interest in getting involved with pre-treatment program. Sabra Sutton will review income, sponsorships, and expenses. The tasks presented are not new; the Board just wants to build on these issues in the coming year.

Strategic Planning Session

A Strategic Planning Session was held to document the ideas that come out at conference time and look at new initiatives. While these ideas may not be implemented in this specific year, the Board can begin a process toward resolution. The following input will be utilized to help set goals for the coming year:

Key Functions = Annual Conference

The Board has discussed the addition of more programs, but additional volunteers are needed since those involved are already spread thin. The newsletter also needs attention.

Scott opened the floor to comments, suggestions:

Rob suggested that we get some sort of involvement started with AWPCA. Debra Waller suggested that AWEA work toward the water side. She further stated that the operators go where they can get what they need. Scott Cummings stated that there have been past discussions about combining organizations at various events. Debra said that AWEA is perceived as being geared more toward professional and engineering, not operation.

Sabra stated that our push for sponsorship needs to be organized and the push made. Liliana suggested that we contact Jay Givens of the Virginia Water Environment Association regarding a template for soliciting sponsorships. Liliana said that they recently completed a template for this type of solicitation where the incoming president sends out a letter outlining what monies are used for in the coming year and offers various levels of sponsorship.

Tim Patton will lead the effort to organize the committees. He will gather information and report to the Board.

Tim Patton suggested organizing the conference planning/tracking in an effort to better handle the conference income, expenses, and deadlines. Linda Boltz suggested that subcommittees be formed to help the Conference Planning Chairman.

Scott Cummings distributed AWEA brochures and charged everyone present to review the document for a potential upgrade/revision to be used to better promote the organization.

Tim stated that he is excited about the coming year. He distributed a tentative list of scheduled meetings and conference calls for the coming year.

The meeting was adjourned.