

# **AWEA Annual Business Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017**  
**8:30 a.m.**

**Perdido Beach Resort**  
**Orange Beach, Alabama**

Wheeler Crook called the meeting to order. A sign-in sheet was passed throughout the meeting as a record of those in attendance. The sign-in sheet is attached and made a part of these minutes.

## **Annual Conference Overview**

This was the second year for the Open Forum / Round Table. Scott stated that the discussion ended up more scholastic, but also discussion related to SSOs. Future events may include flipping the format for different topics. Wheeler suggested maybe doing this on a smaller scale—two rooms instead of the entire ball room.

Changes suggested to encourage folks to walk the exhibit hall on Sunday and Monday evenings included looking into offering wifi during the opening session so that the Masters could be viewed from booths rather than just one room. Complaints received that folks came to eat and watch the Masters instead of migrating through the exhibit hall.

## **Election of Officers**

Rob Coleman, Delegate, presented the following slate of nominations for the incoming Board:

President – Mike Sims  
Vice-President – Dana Raughton  
Treasurer – Matt Alpaugh  
Secretary – Christy Perdue  
PWOD – Suzy Lindblom

Ed Moore motioned that the slate be accepted as presented. Scott Cummings seconded this motion. After a unanimous vote, the 2017 / 2018 Board stands as presented. Wheeler Crook passed the gavel to Mike Sims who accepted the office of AWEA President.

Mike talked about being an advocate for the training of operators and plans to focus efforts on bringing more operators into the organization. Advocate for training of operators.

## **YP Recruitments / College Initiative – Dr. Joshua Boltz**

Josh introduced himself and talked about being previously involved with WEF and AWEA (2005 – 2012) by leading Student and Young Professional initiatives. He introduced Alex Leslie of the University of South Alabama. Alex will serve as Chairman of the Student and Young Professionals Committee.

Josh stated that they had reached out to Auburn University and The University of Alabama. UA asked that involvement hold off until fall. Josh asked that the Board consider a budget for the work of this committee. He has developed a preliminary budget of approximately \$1,000 for travel, lunches/dinners at universities – one day each quarter.

Josh stated that, in his experience, this committee works best when it is chaired by young professionals and typically, the Vice-President serves as the liaison. Furthermore, he suggested that scholarships be extended to graduate students. Not expecting a financial constraint for getting students to the conference.

Josh made a motion to the Board to form a Young Professionals Committee, citing that Alex Leslie will Chair the Committee. He asked to submit a formal budget request to the Board within 30 days.

The minutes from the February 15, 2017 meeting were presented. Mike Lankford motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mike Sims seconded the motion. The minutes stand as presented.

### **AWEA / AWWA – Collaboration Committee Update**

Brian Shannon spoke about the tentative plans to collaborate with AWWA AL/MS Section to combine resources and reach water professionals. One idea is to host a joint conference in 2019; although there are hurdles that need to be worked through for this to happen. The potential is to reach out to many groups. The meeting held during the conference with AWWA committee persons was productive and encouraging.

Brent Robinson inquired about the goal and benefits of this collaboration. It was discussed that one of the initial long term Strategic Plan goals was to work collectively with other organizations. Potentially, if people and resources are combined, a higher profile event capable of pulling in more water professionals could be hosted. Ed Moore talked about the last joint meeting held in Birmingham, Alabama with AWPCA in 2000 and was attended by approximately 750 persons.

### **Committee Re-Evaluation**

Wheeler presented a preliminarily revised set of committee guidelines. He encouraged the Board to look at the committee details and make revisions and adopt. Suggestions included:

- Committees need a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson for support.
- Advocacy committee – Scott Cummings has been serving in this capacity for a long time. This committee can be more encompassing.
- WEFMAX Planning Committee – move this committee to Advisory Committee – Brian Shannon
- Make revisions, ask committee chairs to serve, find committee co-chairs and adopt at May 2017 meeting.
- Not standing committees (except Nominating) so they can be changed and appointed each year. Looking for long-time participants. Looking for involvement.

### **Publication and Communication Goals**

Discussions have been held about combining newsletter publication with AWWA—possibly one issue per year to start.

Wheeler suggested that Christy Perdue, as Member Services Committee Chair, look at member outreach, social media, and publication changes to be made in 2017. Suzy suggested adding an article to each publication about why AWEA wants to collaborate with AWWA. Frank suggested a collaboration column.

### **WEFTEC Gathering**

Currently waiting for fall sports schedules so potential attendance problems in Chicago can be determined. The Board needs to make a decision at the May meeting to finalize options for this event.

### **Fall & Technical Conference Planning with AWWA**

The Board would like to possibly hold this event in Tuscaloosa in an effort to gain participation from Mississippi AWWA.

### **Financials and 2017/2018 Budget and Future**

Dana Raughton presented the Treasurer's Report. Wheeler made a motion to have AWEA's accounts and assets managed by a CPA firm that specializes in the management of non-profits. Dana asked for suggestions from the Board for representative firms. Mike Sims made a motion was made for Dana to solicit proposals for these services. Wheeler Crook seconded this motion.

It was suggested that Dana contact Penny Young, WEF's Chief Financial Officer for direction.

### **Old Business from the Floor**

None

Mike Sims thanks Rick Warner, WEF President, and Dianne Crilley, WEF Liaison for visiting our conference and providing feedback on the organization.

There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at the offices of Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood in Montgomery, Alabama.

Pete Strimple  
Mary Holland

ED MOORE

Suzy Linelblom

Wes Cardwell RWCcardwell@GoverUSA.com

MIKE LANFORD

Jennette West

Christy Perdue cperdue@brastfieldgarrie.com

Dianne Crilly dcrilly@wef.org

TJ Rickey rickey@southalabama.edu

JOSHUA BOLTZ joshuaboltz424@gmail.com,  
jboltz@volkert.com

Virgil White vwhite@athens-utilities.com

Alex Leslie alex.leslie@volkert.com

Patrick Wootton

Rick Warner rick.warner@att.net

SCOTT CUMMINGS scummings@hazenand sawyer.com

FRANK FESKRIDGE feskridge@athens-utilities.com

DANA RAUGHTON dana.raughton@ch2m.com

MAT ALPAUGH alpaughm@jccal.org

BOB COLEMAN RCOLEMAN@MORROWWATER.COM

Wheeler Cook WATCOOK

Kimberly Polifka

Michael Sims MUISINSEMAUSS.COM