

AWEA Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 19, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Jacobs
Montgomery, Alabama

Dana Raughton called the meeting to order. Those attending this meeting included the following: Dana Raughton, Matt Alpaugh, Mike Lankford, Suzy Lindblom, Tom Harwell, Dan Ballard, Jimmy Segrest, Kevin Kennoy, Steve King, Frank Eskridge, Wheeler Crook, Brian Shannon, and Kimberly Polifka. Christy Perdue joined by teleconference.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 18, 2018 meeting were presented by email for review. Mike Lankford motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Matt Alpaugh seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes of July 18, 2018 stand approved as presented and will be posted to the AWEA webpage.

Delegate's Report

Rob could not attend this meeting. Brian Shannon will become the Alabama Delegate in October. Rob will move to Delegate at Large and will serve on WEF's Budget Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Christy Perdue read off the account balances from Quickbooks Online. Balances are as follows: Regions Checking: \$147,440.50; Money Market: \$75,949.42; Scholarship Checking: \$15,000.00; and JCAC 2019: \$30,000.00.

Christy said that a significant error was found in the budget previously presented and approved. A revised budget was presented to all attending this meeting. Christy continued a brief review of the budget stating that without a conference this fiscal year, there'll be no income, yet the same expenses outside of the conference will continue. The Board expects to fall short because of no conference revenue, but should make up the difference in the following year since there'll be two conferences. The organization is currently looking at a potential loss of \$39,100. Tom Harwell asked about funds for shortfall and Dana confirmed that these monies will be drawn from the Money Market account, if and when necessary. The organization is not in danger of having no money.

Christy noted that WEFMAX is outside of our usual expenses, but that a total of \$12,000 had been budgeted for this event.

Matt Alpaugh made a motion to approve the revised budget as presented while being cognizant of spending during the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year. Suzy seconded the motion to accept the revised budget.

Christy presented figures for amounts to be moved to the Scholarships Account.

<i>55 Monies Collected During Conference</i>	<i>\$1,791.01</i>
<i>Fishing Tournament</i>	<i>\$629.64</i>
<i>Golf Tournament</i>	<i>\$3,091.36</i>
<i>Cash Reward from Credit Card</i>	<i>\$2,460.04</i>
<i>AWEA Budgeted Amount for Scholarships</i>	<i><u>\$3,000.00</u></i>
<i>Total Monies to be Moved to the Scholarships Account</i>	<i>\$10,972.05</i>

Proceeds from the Fun Run held during the annual conference were earmarked to support Auburn University's Stormwater Research Program. However, the net income from this event was \$32.90.

Dana made a motion to move \$10,000.00 to the Scholarship Account and contribute the remaining \$972.05 plus the \$32.90 (\$1,004.95) to the AU Stormwater Research Program.

A discussion was held about contributing to the Auburn Stormwater Program and/or starting a student chapter and used to facilitate research. Tom Harwell recommended that if we give the money, it should be meaningful. The general consensus was to give them \$1,000. The money can be used to gain interest in a student chapter at Auburn University.

Mike Lankford motioned to move \$10,000.00 to the Scholarship Account and donate \$1,000 to the Auburn University Stormwater Research Program. Dana seconded the motion.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dana Raughton

AWWI Meeting – Dana Raughton and Brian Shannon will attend the upcoming AWWI meeting in Montgomery, September 23 – 25, 2018.

WEFTEC Social – Dana reminded those present about AWEA's WEFTEC Social to be held on Sunday evening, September 30, 2018, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Barcadia. Kim and Brian will work on the signage for the social.

WEFMAX 2019 – At WEFTEC, Dana and Brian will make a presentation to other MAs to invite them to Alabama's WEFMAX to be held May 15 – 17, 2019 at Perdido Beach Resort. Dana showed the video that will be played at WEFTEC to gain interest for those attending. WEFMAX events for 2019 are as follows:

Vancouver, BC – March 13 – 15
Scottsdale, AZ – March 27 – 29
Orange Beach, AL – May 15 – 17
Nashville, TN – May 29 – 31

Utility Management Conference – Frank Eskridge updated those present about the planning of the Utility Management Conference to be held January 31, 2019. The committee is considering venue options and reviewing costs associated with venues. Frank has been in touch with Retirements Systems of Alabama (RSA) who has a space to rent for \$1000/rental and available January 31, 2019. However, RSA Plaza (\$700/rental) is available on January 30, 2019. He will be making a site visit. The committee is looking at the possibility of a paid speaker for this event. Frank asked about pursuing sponsors since there is no sponsorship package currently in place. It was concluded that the committee will need to seek event specific sponsors.

Strategic Planning Meeting – Due to scheduling conflicts, the strategic planning meeting has been delayed from fall to January or February. Dana suggested that it be held in Mobile since that is the destination for the 2019 conference. Dates selected were 1/25 (Fri) and 1/26 (Sat). Matt Alpaugh will coordinate with the Riverview and Battle House hotels in Mobile to plan this meeting.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE UPDATE – Kevin Kennoy

Kevin bragged on the leaders and members of the Wastewater Treatment/Operations, Collection Systems, FOG, and Stormwater Committees. Collection Systems is maxing out training sessions. Planning is underway for a Chlorine Safety Training workshop. The FOG Committee is busy planning a workshop for later this fall. It is believed that keeping training sessions affordable and moving them around the state are beneficial.

Kevin talked briefly about his participation with ADEM's Certification Exam Stakeholder Group. Kevin has been involved along with Jim Grassiano and the stakeholder group has met twice. Various trainers participate in this group. On a recommendation, several trainers took the exam. The passing rates cumulatively for Grade I is about 80; for Grades III and IV the passing rates are down in the teens and lower. Bench mark should be a 20% - 25% level. The passing rates dropped by over 50% from Grade I to Grade III. It was noted that there's almost no difference between passing rates of Grade III and IV. Past experience shows that operators aren't always involved directly with treatment prior to taking exam. There's a need for operators, but don't seem to get much mentoring. Better teaching resources are necessary.

There was a brief discussion among those present about the fairness of the exam, even when utilities spend a good deal of money on training.

Wastewater Treatment/Operations – Wes Cardwell

This committee is currently planning a workshop to be held in Haleyville, Alabama in October.

Collection Systems – Steve King

Steve King stated that the next SSORP workshop will be held in Athens, Alabama on September 25. Currently, 47 persons are registered for this event, which will include operator calculations in the morning and ADEM presentations in the afternoon. Additional workshops are planned for December 2018 in Jefferson County at the Shades Facility and in Mobile in March 2019.

Steve talked briefly about adding a forum to the webpage for questions/answers. Matt Alpaugh suggested that this topic be tabled for now. Possibly could piggyback off new JCAC webpage.

FOG Committee – Jimmy Segrest

A FOG workshop has been planned for November 2, 2018 at Jefferson County's Shades Facility. Jimmy has been in contact with the Alabama Department of Health in Birmingham to get someone to speak about upcoming legislation. He is also trying to get Shelby County to present at the workshop. If not, he will have pamphlets that can be distributed.

Stormwater Committee – Dan Ballard

Dan stated that he and Jimmy have been discussing making the November 2 workshop a joint effort and adding topics on drone applications for hardware/software for water/sewer/stormwater applications. Jimmy is looking for a representative who may put on a drone demonstration. Dan is meeting with Wes Donald on Friday about the drone program. He is interested in participating, talking about licensing and other items specific to water, sewer, and stormwater management.

Dan updated that he has been working with Kim to have a web presence on the AWEA webpage with a goal of implementing member services eventually. Dan has been working on a gap assessment regarding membership distribution and is looking at gaps in storm water services as well.

Tom Harwell talked briefly about the gap assessment information they have been putting together citing that it has been interesting to see the Alabama counties that have no members in AWEA. They will be looking to add information on all POTWs and treatment facilities to this information.

NEWSLETTER – Kim Polifka

Kim stated that the first proof should arrive any day for proofing. Wes Cardwell prepared the lead article. Kim will send to several folks for help proofing, including Wes and Dan, who provided articles.

The deadline for the winter issue is November 2. Ideas for content included joint conference announcements, call for papers, a potential article from Jim Grassiano on the operator exam update, WEFTEC Social, storm water, utility management focus, training workshops, strategic planning discussion, WEF MA article, training schedule, WEFMAX hosting information.

ADEM LIAISON UPDATE – Jim Grassiano

No Report – Jim was speaking at the AWPCA Meeting

COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

Advisory Committee – Mike Sims

Brian Shannon stated that this committee would recommend someone to fill the second delegate position in the event membership goes over 500 as of September. The Board will vote on the recommendation.

Dana asked when the second delegate would be added. Brian suggested that this question be posed to WEF.

Advocacy – Frank Eskridge

The Alabama Environmental Commission Rules Committee (ADEM Board) had a petition from environmental groups around the state proposing new rules regarding Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Plans (SSORP). The proposed requirements would have been overly restrictive and prohibitively expensive to implement. AWEA participated with other utility organizations in Alabama to argue that improvements were being made to the SSORP process by ADEM with full utility cooperation, and that these improvements were effective and sufficient. The ADEM Board voting to end discussion and not pursue new rules. Brian Shannon, Dana Raughton, and Mike Lankford attended the meeting. AWEA, AWWA, and AWWI made a very successful advocacy effort in order to convince the ADEM Board to take final action to end the discussion of new SSORP regulations at this time.

EPA has begun the process of making new rules regarding wet weather management regulations. Scott Cummings has been invited by WEF to participate in a panel discussion where EPA will be looking at different ways of handling wet weather management and treatment, and possibly develop regulations regarding blending.

Planning is underway for the Utility Management Conference to be held in January 2019 in Montgomery.

Joint Conference – Matt Alpaugh / Wheeler Crook

Matt reported that the committee is currently working on content for the website. Room blocks have been made and are open for reservation. The committee is investigating the social agenda and repository for abstracts. A rough format of the schedule is complete.

Sponsorship – Hal Humphrey

Dana opened a discussion about AWEA sponsorships in lieu of the annual sponsorship program that's been in place the past couple years. Matt stated that sponsorships will need to be event specific this year. Event planners are responsible for getting sponsors for each event.

Member Services – Tom Harwell

Tom reported current Membership at 495 and reviewed the following statistics:
Alabama Water Environment Association - Membership Data Snapshot – October 2018

Oct 2018	Change from Sept 2018
2 Corporate Members	0
4 Executive Members	0
8 Life Members	0
286 Professional Members	1
170 PWO Members	-1
2 Retired	0
3 SJWP	0
7 Student	1
13 Young Professional	-1
495 Total Members	0

+1 Professional / Student, -1 Operator / YP members

Other info

- 17 Dual (GA/TN/LA/FL/OH)
- 3 Academic (PRO)
- WEFTEC17
- 15 Memberships

Post conference, Tom would like to look at membership data on a map to determine which counties are missing memberships. This data can be used to look at public utilities and market to them.

Scholarships Committee – Lennette West

Lennette could not attend. She, too, was at the AWPCA meeting. Kim reported that the Scholarships Committee had selected to award scholarships as follows:

- Member Education Scholarship - \$1,500 to Jimmy Segrest of the City of Auburn
- Undergraduate Scholarship - \$1,500 to Katherine Bishop, daughter of Steven Bishop

Communications Committee – Lindsay Tucker

No Report

Newsletter deadlines and content discussed earlier in meeting.

Member Recruitment – Rob Coleman

No Report

WEFMAX – Brian Shannon

Brian updated the Board on the planning of WEFMAX. Dates are set and venue is booked, May 2019 at Perdido Beach Resort. Brian and Dana will make a presentation to other MAs at WEFTEC. The Committee will be looking for sponsors for WEFMAX and planning a social for the first night of WEFMAX.

Students and Young Professionals – Alex Leslie

Alex was not able to attend the meeting, but he reported the following by email:

- Awarded scholarships with the Scholarship Committee
- Met with Cameron Traylor to coordinate the starting of an Auburn Student Chapter
 - o reaching out to contacts this month and hope to have some ideas and interested student leads soon
 - o plan to pursue civil, chemical, and biosystems students for a unique group of environmentally focused engineering students
- Planning Birmingham S&YP gathering for early October
- Agreed to be the SJWP Organizer for the following school year

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Matt Alpaugh stated that he was contacted by Jimmy Stewart about AWEA pairing with the Louisiana Tech Asset Management Certification Program. He asked if there was any opposition to this type of certification program if AWEA stands to make additional income. The program is a multi-day training opportunity that certifies asset managers. Matt will have more information at the next meeting.

There being no further discussion, this meeting was adjourned.