

**Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 7, 2007
Millbury, MA**

MWPCA President Joe Witts called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance:

Thomas Azevedo, Tom Bienkiewicz (MA DEP) - Guest, Jane Brooks, Valerie Flaherty, Mike Foisy, Mike Moreau, Janice Moran (NEWEA), Bob Pariseau, Joe Pease, Charlie Tyler, Joe Witts

Minutes:

- 1) **Minutes from December 6, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting** - A motion was duly made and seconded to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting.

Old Business:

- 1) **Tradeshow follow up** - Charlie Tyler reported that he will continue to work on developing a one-page vendor flyer as previously agreed upon at the December 6, 2006 Board Meeting. The flyer will highlight exhibiting opportunities and survey results from the 2006 Fall Tradeshow in Westford, MA and will be distributed to vendors to solicit more responses for the 2007 Tradeshow. Charlie also reported that Henry Albro and Mike Moreau were working on developing a list of vendors who did not make the Westford meeting in September.
- 2) **Budget Committee Update** - no report
- 3) **Operator Exchange Update** - Mike Foisy reported that no one has volunteered to participate in the 2007 Operator Exchange Program. He mentioned that flyers advertising the Operator Exchange Program were handed out at the December 2006 Quarterly Meeting in Taunton, MA and it has been advertised in MASS Waters. Charlie Tyler suggested allowing non-members to participate in the program. Valerie Flaherty offered to check with some of her co-workers to see if they were interested in participating.

- 4) **Membership/Plant Directory** - Charlie Tyler reported for Henry Albro, who was unable to make the meeting that Henry had reworked the draft advertising numbers to increase revenue in order to offset the printing cost of the directory. Revised advertising numbers were presented as a handout. Joe Witts suggested posting the directory online and sending members a disk. It was thought that advertisers wouldn't be as interested. A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of printing a directory and what would be the content.

Mike Moreau noted that MWPCA has a dwindling membership and that there is a need to make MWPCA more attractive, retain its members and gain new members. He suggested that the MWPCA website needs to be updated and that the board should consider redesigning the website. Questions were raised as to how much a website redesign would cost and who would maintain it. It was decided that the directory project would be put on hold for now. Mike Moreau volunteered to contact a web design company to get an estimate to present at the next board meeting to be held at the March 21, 2007 Quarterly Meeting in Westford, MA.

- 5) **Certification Board/NEIWPC Update** - Guest, Tom Bienkiewicz, MA DEP reported that he will be getting a new job and that NEIWPC is currently handling the examinations and renewals for licenses. DEP has proposed adding printing of licenses and certificates, phone calls, mailings and all status changes. Reciprocity request will be put together by NEIWPC and sent to the board of certification for approval. The board will keep plant gradings, exam contact, exam appeals and training contact hour approvals. NEIWPC will take over everything by the end of 2007. There will be a 3-4 month learning curve for NEIWPC. Board of certification will be under DEP.

Tom suggested that it would be beneficially for MWPCA to have a small group of board members meet with the Acting Commissioner, Arleen O'Donnell to express concerns and opinions about the need for certified operators and the shifting of responsibilities from DEP. Bob Pariseau, Charlie Tyler and Mike Foisy volunteered to be on the subcommittee to speak with the Acting Commissioner.

- 6) **MWPCA Course Offerings/TAC Update** - Charlie reported that he and Bob Pariseau were at the Training Advisory Committee Meeting at the 2007 NEWEA Annual Conference in Boston, MA. The Spring 2007 course listing has been published and it looks like they have included MWPCA course suggestions.

- 7) **Mass Water Investment Collation** - Charlie Tyler mentioned that he has been attending the meetings and that there is new legislation proposed and many interest groups are listed on it. The bill that has been filed proposes to have the government appoint a broad-based commission to investigate methods for funding infrastructure maintenance and replacement needs. Charlie indicated that Tom Walsh has attended some meetings, and that he'd be a good representative for us at the Water coalition meetings.

- 8) **NEWEA - Operators Day & Luncheon Update** - Bob Pariseau reported that there was a good turnout. A total of 26 operators participated in Operator's Day at the 2007 NEWEA Annual Conference in Boston, MA.

Joe Witts mentioned that he overheard comments of people getting tired of the food choices at the Operator's Day Luncheon. He will talk with Tom Azevedo to see about changing the menu for next year.

- 9) **MWPCA Laptop** - It was reported that Jane Brooks will give Mike Foisy the laptop to lock it up in the cabinet in Millbury.

New Business:

- 1) **Stockholm Junior Water Prize Contract** - Joe Witts reiterated to the board that by signing the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Contract with NEWEA, MWPCA agrees to host and pay for the Massachusetts candidate for the three years to participate in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. Joe will sign the contract. He has requested NEWEA to send a copy to him and John Connor for their records.

- 2) **NEWEA and NEIWPCCC Need Updated Membership Info** - Charlie Tyler noted that there was a need for NEWEA and NEIWPCCC to receive updated MWPCA membership information including membership numbers in a timely manner. Charlie noted that both parties have since received the information from John Connor.

It was also mentioned that MWPCA has only 400 current members. The other 300 members are lapsed. Mike Foisy volunteered to call some operators who have lapsed on their memberships. Janice Moran, NEWEA, reported that the Winter 07 Newsletter will be sent to the lapsed members with a notice indicating that their membership has lapsed. NEWEA was asked to also email a lapsed membership report to the Board so that calls could be made.

It was also suggested that when calls are made to the lapsed membership to ask why they have lapsed or decided not to renew. This type of information would be helpful to understand the needs of the membership.

- 3) **Membership Renewals** - Charlie Tyler reported that the membership renewal letters are confusing and that they need to be redesigned. Currently John Connor sends out the membership renewal notices. Discussion ensued whether to allow NEWEA to send out renewal notices and how to gain more members. There was discussion about the concept of having the non-member rate for Quarterly meetings include a membership fee. Joe Witts will work on creating a new non-member rate and will discuss with Tom Azevedo. A vote will be held at the next board meeting on March 21, 2007 at the March Quarterly Meeting in Westford, MA.
- 4) **NEWEA Director** - Charlie Tyler reported that the current State Director for NEWEA is Michael Burke and this is his last year. Nominations need to be submitted to NEWEA by June 2007. State Director is a three year commitment and there are six meetings to attend each year. The state director is also responsible for attending MWPCA meetings and reporting back NEWEA's activities. If you are interested, contact Michael Burke.
- 5) **Ops Training Day** - Jane Brooks reported that the 2007 Operations Challenge Training Day will be held on April 28th at the NH DES Training Center in Franklin, NH. She also noted that announcement in the Winter Newsletter is incorrect but the change in location came at the last minute. Jane mentioned that Massachusetts currently does not have a team and that the board should spread the word to interested parties.
- 6) **Salary Survey?** - Bob Pariseau suggested that MWPCA might want to do a salary survey for Massachusetts. It was mentioned the John Connor may have the forms from the last survey MWPCA did. Bob was wondering if there was a need.
- 7) **Awards Program for Plants?** - Bob Pariseau mentioned that MWPCA used to do an award program in the mid-90s for treatment plants that do a good job. They ask the treatment plants to fill out an application and the awards committee would take off points for violations. Should MWPCA start doing one again in order to recognize treatment plants? Tom Azevedo mentioned that Rhode Island does one for BOD. Mike Moreau suggested that treatment plants could mail in the application rather than having a committee member visit the plants. Tom Azevedo will send Rhode Island's form to Valerie Flaherty, Awards Chair for review.

- 8) **MWPCA Booth** - It was reported that the MWPCA booth needs to be set up at the March Quarterly Meeting in Westford, MA. Mike Moreau volunteered to do it. Joe Witts will put the New England WEA Founders Award with the booth.
- 9) **Winter Newsletter** - It was reported that the Winter Newsletter is currently at the printers and it has been posted on the MWPCA website. This issue of the newsletter will be printed in two colors, blue and black. An email has been sent to the membership.
- 10) **T-Shirts** - Tom Azevedo reported that he was unable to have the t-shirts ready for the 2007 NEWEA Annual Conference in Boston, MA but that he has recently located some old shirts. He and Henry Albro will continue to work on the t-shirts and will contact Norton True to see if he has the old artwork on file. Mike Moreau suggested placing a link on the website so that people can purchase them.
- 11) **Re-Election** - It was mentioned that MWPCA holds elections every year at the June Quarterly Meeting in Western, MA. Mike Moreau is up for re-election.
- 12) **Taunton Meeting - Food?** It was reported that the food was much better than previous years at the Taunton, MA Holiday Inn where the December Quarterly Meeting took place. Tom Azevedo will let the hotel know.
- 13) **Next Meeting** - It was reported that the next meeting would be held at the March 21, 2007 Quarterly Meeting in Westford, MA

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.