

**Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 2008
Easthampton, MA**

MWPCA President Charles Tyler called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance:

Henry Albro, Thomas Azevedo, Doug Borgatti (Board of Certification), Jane Brooks, Michael Burke, John Connor, Valerie Flaherty, Michael Foisy, Daniel Freitas, Michael Moreau, Janice Moran (NEWEA), Bob Pariseau, Eric Smith, Charles Tyler, Ray Willis and Joe Witts

It was noted that there was a quorum.

Minutes:

- 1) **Minutes from the March 19, 2008 and April 23, 2008 Board of Directors Meetings - on motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to accept the minutes of the March 19th and April 23rd Board of Directors Meetings.**

Old Business:

- 1) **Acceptance of Election Results** - Charlie Tyler announced the election results for MWPCA director positions. Dan Freitas - 112 votes, Mike Foisy - 111 votes, Jane Brooks - 105 votes and Ray Willis - 98 votes. Charlie Tyler also mentioned that Valerie Flaherty is stepping down from her director position after July 1st.
- 2) **Article VI, Section 5 appointments** -
 - a. On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to re-appoint Charlie Tyler as President for a second one-year term.
 - b. On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted also to re-appoint Mike Foisy as First Vice President and Mike Moreau as Second Vice President, each for a second one-year term.
 - c. On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint John Connor as Secretary/Treasurer.
 - d. On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Thomas Azevedo as Meeting Management Coordinator.
 - e. On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Robert Pariseau as Education Director.
 - f. On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Eric Smith, FR Mahony as the 13th Director. It was noted that this is for a one-year term, per the bylaws.

NEWEA Contract adjustments - Charlie Tyler announced that it has been recommended that the current administrative support contract (October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008) with NEWEA be revised. Currently the contract has a prescribed number of hours per month for administrative support. It is recommended that the contract be amended to be based on hours used per month rather than a set number of hours, Other aspects of the contract will remain essentially unchanged, though it is anticipated that hourly rates will be discussed during contract renewal discussions prior to Oct.1.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to accept the proposed contract amendments.

- 3) **MWPCA Web Site** - The board has decided to redesign the MWPCA website. Henry Albro's daughter, Amy has recently graduated from college and is interested in doing the redesign.

A website subcommittee was formed to include: Mike Moreau, Jane Brooks, Joe Witts, Henry Albro and Mickey Nowak. The subcommittee will arrange a conference call with Amy Albro to discuss website redesign such as layout, photos and compensation rate. The subcommittee will keep the board informed via email. Any website ideas should be emailed directly to the subcommittee for discussion.

- 4) **Life Membership for Joel Gordon** - It was mentioned that John Connor had received a letter from MWPCA member, Joel Gordon requesting Life Membership. A copy of the letter was passed around to the board. A brief discussion was held.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to award MWPCA life membership to Joel Gordon.

- 5) **NEWEA Director Report** - Joe Witts reported that he attended the NEWEA June Meeting in Hyannis, MA. The meeting went well and the Rhode Island team won the Operations Challenge competition. All three teams, RI, ME and NH will head to finals at WEFTEC in Chicago, IL.

Joe also mentioned that he will be submitting Tony Alberta for the Pelouin Award but still needs a nomination for the operator award. Please forward all nominations to him before the August 1st.

- 6) **Awards Program progress** - Valerie Flaherty reported that the Plant Awards mailing has been sent out to all the treatment plants. Valerie has not received any nominations for the John J. Hartley award or Laboratory Proficiency award. The Life Member award will be given to Joel Gordon and Valerie may have a nomination from DEP for the Operator of the Year award.

The deadline for award nominations is August 1st. Please forward any nominations to Valerie.

- 7) **Newsletter report** - A discussion was held regarding printing the MWPCA quarterly newsletter in four color versus two color and adding an obituary section. It was decided that the cost difference between the two color and four color was minimal and that four color newsletter may increase advertisers. Regarding the latter, the board decided to hold off including an obituary section in the newsletter.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to print the MWPCA quarterly newsletter in four colors.

John Connor also reported that revenue from newsletter advertisers is down by 20%. John requested NEWEA to send him an updated advertising report for his records. It was discussed to send out the advertising contract to the Fall Trade Show vendors.

- 8) **MWWA/MWPCA Joint Conference** - It was mentioned that MWWA is interested in holding a joint conference with the MWPCA on October 28th in Devens, MA on pharmaceuticals. Jane Brooks and Joe Witts will be attending a meeting with MWWA to discuss co-sponsorship and will report back to the board.

- 9) **Gillette Stadium Specialty Conference** - Joe Witts reported that he has some information on the event and that he will be meeting with MWWA to discuss the logistics with them. Joe mentioned that holding a conference at Gillette Stadium will be expensive but doable with high attendance numbers.

It was reported that it is expected that the conference be held at Gillette Stadium no earlier than next spring and would include technical session, exhibits, tour of the visiting team locker room, a lobster bake and a tour of the nearby reuse facility. MWPCA is looking to cosponsor this event with other organizations.

- 10) **Holyoke Specialty Conference** - Mike Burke reported that he is currently working on the logistics but that a date still needs to be determined. He suggested that the date be in late October/early November. The board decided to target November 5th. Mike will continue to work on the logistics and will report back to the board.
- 11) **Letter to Commissioner** - Charlie Tyler reported that he recently met the DEP Commissioner, Laurie Burt. It was agreed that MWPCA write a letter to the commissioner requesting a meeting with her to discuss the status of operator training in Massachusetts. Charlie will email a draft letter for comments next week.
- 12) **Org Manual Progress** - No progress to report.
- 13) **Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products Summit** - Charlie Tyler mentioned that he recently attended the summit. More information regarding the outcome can be found on DEP's website. Charlie will keep the board posted.
- 14) **Status of S-2292 (or Section 89F of S- 2714) - Infrastructure Finance Commission** - It was reported that an email has been sent to the MWPCA membership regarding support for the budget amendment to the water infrastructure commission.
- 15) **Non-Profit Status** - John Connor looked into leveraging our non-profit status to reduce the newsletter mailing costs and has determined to forego the idea due to the inefficiencies of bulk mailings
- 16) **Operator Exchange** - Gene Valliere not present. It was mentioned that there is a candidate to visit Maine for the operator exchange program.
- 17) **Proposal to include the cost of a membership in the fee for non-members to attend a quarterly meeting.** - Ray Willis reported that he has written an article to be included in the newsletter. The article did not appear in the Spring issue. It was discussed that the article should be included in the next newsletter and an email announcement should be sent to the membership.
- 18) **Training Items:**
Boot Camp Idea - It was mentioned that this program has been successful in RI. Charlie Tyler will forward a letter on this program to the board next week for future discussion.

Certificate Program Idea - Doug Borgatti mentioned that the Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) offers associates program to operators. The STCC currently is offering a course this fall 2008. Doug would like to look into course accreditation with the MWPCA and will report back to the board on his findings. Tom Azevedo mentioned that there is also a program at Bristol Community College that merits attention in this regard.

- 19) **Operator Certification Issues/Ideas** - Doug Borgatti distributed a handout that announced online operator certification testing opportunities at two H&R Block test locations (Holyoke and Saugus). The test is being offered by the Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities and Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP). Doug has asked NEIWPCC to look into this option for wastewater operator tests.

New Business:

- 1) **Future BOD Meetings** - Charlie Tyler distributed a list of future board of director meetings for review. Board members discussed holding some meetings by conference call. Tom Azevedo also noted that he will confirm future quarterly meeting dates with the hotels.
- 2) **Bill for Signs** - Mike Foisy reported that he has received a final bill (\$550) for signage to re-name the training center in Millbury, MA. Mike will ask the company to submit a new bill to John Connor for payment.
- 3) **Computer Donation** - Mike Foisy mentioned that Upper Blackstone is donating three computers for the Millbury training center. Mike will store the computers in the AV closet until the software can be loaded onto them.
- 4) **Norton T-Shirts** - It was discussed that more Norton t-shirts and possibly ball caps need to be ordered prior to the Fall Trade Show in Westford, MA. Reaction of the board was favorable, and Mike will investigate pricing and inform the Board.
- 5) **Next Meeting** - It was reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on August 20, 2008 at 2:00pm at the Millbury Training Center in Millbury, MA.

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