

Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association
Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 12, 2009
UBWPAD lower Conference room.
Notes by Charles Tyler

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Foisy at 1:21 PM

Presence of a quorum was noted. Members in attendance: Michael Foisy, Michael Moreau, Ray Willis, Thomas Azevedo, Jane Brooks, Michael Burke, Vincent Melendez, Eric Smith, Charles Tyler, and Valerie Flaherty.

Minutes of the July 7, 2009 meeting (graciously composed by Valerie Flaherty) were approved as presented.

Review of quarterly meeting planning:

1. Trade show: Vendor registration is only at about ½ the expected number based on that of previous years at this point in the calendar. The NEWEA office is planning another email stuffer to try to generate more vendor interest. T. Azevedo will also distribute a list of previous vendors with their email addresses to BOD members, and board members are encouraged to reach out to personally known vendors to try to increase participation. There is some concern that vendors may be out of Trade show budgets in this rough economic time.

T. Azevedo is working with Wachusett regarding luncheon guarantees – we may need to scale back on the guarantee if registration doesn't pick up. He is also working on a block of local hotel rooms for vendors.

Some ideas for increasing interest and attendance were kicked around. Some members are going to Wachusett later in August to the MWWA Trade Show to see if there are ideas we can use to try to improve participation in the MWPCA show.

2. December meeting 12/9, Mansfield Holiday Inn; one speaker has reserved a slot already, but any further additions will be welcome.

3. March meeting will be held on March 24 at the Westford Regency Hotel, no speakers in line yet.

Since we've decided to hold next year's golf tournament as a separate event from the quarterly meeting, the June meeting will be scheduled for the Log Cabin conference center in June; Tom A. will confirm a date once he has made the reservation.

Update of MWPCA legal/financial Status:

In the absence of J. Connor, President M. Foisy read his last correspondence (late July) from Mr. Connor on the subject. The email indicated that the MWPCA should be OK with regard to the Massachusetts statutes, but that the association's federal tax-exempt status may be in question;

we might owe late fees if it's determined that we owe back taxes due to our indeterminate status. Toy Town Tax has our paperwork, and is reportedly working on our balance and status. There was a question from the floor as to whether we have an agreement with Toy Town Tax, and if so, what the details are. Some members were of the opinion that a formal audit of MWPCA books was to be performed, but that has not been mentioned recently. It is the feeling of the Board that we need to set a date for action from Toy Town Tax, and if nothing happens by that deadline, to explore other professional avenues for the needed services. President Foisy will call a meeting of the Senior officers (President, 1st and 2nd VPs) for September 2, 2009, probably in the morning at UBWPAD, and will attempt to engage J. Connor and Toy Town Tax in order to clarify roles and needs. Any other Board members who wish to attend may do so.

NEWEA Admin Contract:

Elizabeth Cutone has been in touch with President Foisy regarding contract renewal. NEWEA may increase hourly rates by dollar or two, but otherwise no contract changes are anticipated. NEWEA will forward their detailed proposal soon.

Operator Wage Survey:

It's reported that NEWEA would be happy to perform the survey under our contract, but they'd like to check with NEIWPC, which had developed such a survey in recent years, so as not to "reinvent the wheel." President Foisy indicated that R. Pariseau has agreed to be the survey point person for MWPCA.

MWPCA Awards program:

Ms. Flaherty announced that several applications had been received, and that the Award Committee had debated before determining the winners in their respective categories; Small Plant – Edgartown, MA; Medium Plant, North Attleboro, MA; Large Plant, Lynn, MA. In addition, a nomination for the Laboratory Proficiency Award was made independently for Cheryl DeValk of the North Attleboro facility.

Also, John Caron of New Bedford has been nominated as MWPCA Operator of the year, but a biographical sketch and list of notable achievements is needed. T. Azevedo volunteered to pull together some info about Mr. Caron.

It has been suggested that Mr. Leo Dubois be awarded an Honorary Membership to MWPCA; Mr. Dubois has not retired, but is well into his 80s, and it's felt that he's earned a permanent membership. Mr. Azevedo proposed that the MWPCA create a new Lifetime Service Award, and name it after Mr. Dubois, awarding the first one to Mr. Dubois himself. There was some discussion in this regard, and after a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted unanimously to Award Mr. Dubois an Honorary Membership, and also to award him the first Leo Dubois Lifetime Service Award for his long service to the industry. V. Flaherty and C. Tyler will work on the new award criteria for inclusion in the Awards descriptions in the future. Ms. Flaherty

was given the go-ahead to have the Awards Committee begin procuring award plaques and materials at her convenience.

Decentralized Plant Operations Committee:

R. Willis reported on the latest committee meeting, at which guests Margo Weber and Tom Bienkiewicz (DEP) were present. It was noted that the DEP is pleased to have organized input from this interest group within the operator community. The committee continued to hone the committee charge, and also worked on a proposal to develop a standard service contract form for minimal expected contractor services as well as owner responsibilities, with the hope that the DEP would endorse the concept of an agreement form outlining minimum roles and obligations. The Decentralized Plant Operations Committee also requested permission to set up a committee-specific adjunct booth by the MWPCA booth at the Trade Show and other events, in order to promote committee opportunities to existing and prospective MWPCA members and facility managers. It was pointed out that this same opportunity should be extended to any MWPCA committee to promote committee activities within the MWPCA. A motion, duly made and seconded, was approved to allow expenditure of up to \$200 for promotional supplies for the Decentralized Plant Operations Committee.

MWPCA newsletter advertising contract protocols:

After some discussion about the current rate structure and how it might be altered to everyone's advantage , it was decided to table the discussion regarding ad rates until a meeting when Janice Moran (NEWEA administrator) and John Connor are available, as they had specific concerns regarding this topic.

Water Infrastructure Finance Commission candidates:

C. Tyler gave a short history of the commission development and final enactment via legislative override. Three MWPCA member candidates have come forward – David Formato, Thomas Walsh, and Ray Willis, and a non-member candidate from Springfield also submitted his name. President M. Foisy will double-check with Tom Walsh about his willingness to serve, and then MWPCA will draft a letter for the governor, forwarding the names of our qualified candidates with information justifying their nominations. In the meantime, any other interested candidates can be screened and added to the list (up to a maximum of five). President Foisy will appeal to Jennifer Pederson of MWWA for guidance in drafting our nomination letter.

Government Affairs Committee charge:

The Board reviewed the draft Government Affairs Charge. V. Melendez suggested that Massachusetts Rural Water Association be added to the list of affiliated organizations in section 3 of the charge. C. Tyler agreed that this was reasonable, and reminded the group that this is a “living” document and that we can expect it to change as the committee gets off the ground. It was noted that J. Witts had offered to take the committee chair to start with, and to get the committee started. J. Brooks and V. Melendez indicated that they'd be willing to help out with

committee work, but would not be able to commit to extensive extra travel. It was suggested that, as most Board members are already busy with numerous items, some committee members might be recruited from the general membership. The Board voted to approve formation of the committee based on the submitted charge (but with the addition of MRWA to the affiliates), and concurred with President Foisy's plan to appoint J. Witts as Government Affairs Committee Chair.

Operator Exchange:

In the absence of J. Witts, M. Burke offered to contact Paul Desrosiers, the RI coordinator, with regard to exchange activities. Joe Pease of Holyoke is still planning to be the MA exchange operator. C. Tyler indicated that former exchange operator Phil Ryan of Haverhill may be willing to help out with coordination, if E. Valliere's status and availability are uncertain, or they could work together if both are willing. J. Witts, M. Burke, and T. Azevedo will contact them and NWPCA (RI) to iron out the details.

MWPCA Web site issues:

1. Job announcement time limits – There was discussion about expired job announcements that seem to stay on the site for too long, causing confusion. Discussion followed about whether Mickey Nowak might be ready to give up the Job Bank portion of the Web page. It was reported that NEWEA would be willing to pick up that portion of the web duties as a part of the admin contract.
2. Website updates/navigational changes were also discussed. Need to find a way to be sure that our important upcoming events are “front-and-center” on the site. M. Moreau suggested that he would touch base with Janice Moran (NEWEA) and try to stay on top of web site needs. He will try to be our point person regarding web issues.

MWWA updates:

The upcoming joint event at Devens is the only joint effort now under way between our two associations. A suggestion was made that we might want to consider staging more joint events – perhaps even attempt to combine Trade Shows.

Other business:

A question arose about the Training Advisory Committee, and when the next meeting would be. There has not been a recent meeting, since the Fall course schedule is pretty much in place. C. Tyler promised to keep M. Moreau in the loop on TAC activities as much as possible.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 PM.