

MISSOURI WATER and WASTEWATER CONFERENCE
BOARD MEETING
9 March 05

Chair Ron Testerman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the office of the MWWC in Jefferson City. Present at the meeting were chair elect Rex Brinker, Marge Bentley, Jim Hopkins, Chris Klussemeyer, Rob Trivette, Dale Cline, Tim Campbell, Rob Rasche, Tom O'Connor, Don Rea, and Ken Hogan.

Rex Brinker made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the October Board meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Ron Testerman opened the floor to discussion on the upcoming annual meeting. At the last Board meeting, the Board expressed concern that the Conference had outgrown the Capital Plaza Hotel. Neither exhibitor nor parking space was adequate to accommodate our growing numbers. As per the Board's direction at the 2004 annual meeting, Sandi Miller negotiated a new contract with the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia for the 2005 annual meeting. The dates available were October 4, 5, and 6.

Vice chair Gene Thurman talked about the status of the 2005 technical program. Response from those wishing to give presentations had been so good, that Gene was able to announce that all the time slots were nearly filled. Arrangements were well underway, he felt.

Chair of the retirement committee, Ken Hogan, had a question for the Board. A number of members from around the state who have retired "early" wished to have themselves classified as "officially" retired for Conference purposes, even though they had found fulltime employment after retiring from their first job. Ken asked the Board whether these members were indeed truly "retired" and thus freed from the dues process. The Board unanimously agreed that such members weren't.

Sandi Miller gave a report on the exhibit. She said that she had already received twenty registrations for the October meeting. Jim Hopkins, representing the manufacturers and suppliers, said that he had not heard any major complaints from the exhibitors after the September annual meeting.

Rob Trivette said that we should consider having small “drinking stations” strategically placed around the exhibits. The Board agreed that this was a good idea and directed Sandi to talk to the hotel staff about it. Jim Hopkins thought it would be a good idea at meal events to have food at one end of the hall and drinks at the other. Jim also said that he thought we should do a better job at trying to encourage attendance at our meeting by representatives from large engineering firms and large utilities. The Board felt that it needed to be doing a better job at advertising the Conference and letting the engineering firms know that we give professional development hours.

Ron Testerman talked to the Board about problems with the current financial group managing the Conference’s reserve funds. There was a general consensus that the local managers of the Oppenheimer fund were not doing a good job in communicating with the Board and that there wasn’t really a designated representative to do so. Robert Scrivner of the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society gave a brief discussion to the Board about the services his group was willing to offer the Conference. He suggested the Board consider having automatic fund deposits made each month into a new money market account. The Conference office would also have internet access and check writing privileges. Mr. Scrivner also said that since his office was located next door to the MWWC, he would be able to provide a “personal” touch to his services by being able to be easily reached. The Board approved the setting up a new account with Woodmen.

The Board discussed allowing vendors to purchase extra drink tickets to hand out at the social hour. All were in agreement to do so.

Bob Rasche gave a report on the Social Hour activities. Collections for the September meeting exceeded expenses, allowing \$1,620.71 to be transferred over to the 2005 meeting. Bob thought that spreading the cost of the “Meet and Greet” Social Hour among all exhibitors worked well and we should do the same thing again this coming year. The “Meet and Greet” started at 5:00 p.m. and ended at around 6:30. Bob thought that time frame worked well and should be used again. There was a significant amount of leftover dry snack mix, cheese, and toasted ravioli; Bob said he will make changes in the amounts this year. In October, Bob said he will add two drink tickets to the registration packets instead of handing them out immediately before the Social Hour.

Recording secretary John Betz told the Board that we currently have four power point projectors for use at the October meeting. Rex Brinker said that we need an additional laser pointer.

John Betz gave a report on the financial condition of the Conference. Gross income at the end of February was \$17,569.84. Expenses totaled \$23,668.07. Net income was \$10,037.32. Reserve funds totaled \$16,172.89.

Ron Testerman gave a report on membership. As of March 2, the MWWC had 2,168 members.

The Board discussed the registration process for the Annual meeting. Sandi Miller explained to the Board that DNR operator training vouchers can't be used for dues to professional organizations. Rex Brinker expressed his concerns that separating dues from the registration costs might have an impact on attendance. He said that many employers might not be willing to pay for Conference membership if it is separated from the registration cost. The Board decided to monitor what happens this year when the dues are made separate from the registration cost.

New business: Jim Hopkins told the Board that in Illinois our sister organization there has a reception the night before their Conference begins where city administrators and board members are invited to talk about issues and problems in our field. He wondered if an annual event such as this might be something the Board should consider trying some day.

Sandi Miller asked for the Board's suggestions about a site for 2008. Rex Brinker said that he thought a central location in Missouri still worked best.

Sandi talked about office space. The contract with the new owner of the mall is running out in two years. Sandi said the Board should begin thinking about the future.

Don Rea made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved.