

**MISSOURI WATER and WASTEWATER CONFERENCE**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 3, 2005**

Chair Rex Brinker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. Present at the meeting were Gene Thurman, Lena Bentley, Rob Trivette, Ken Hogan, Ron Testerman, Don Rea, Tom Stechmann, Cecil Gilkey, Bob Rasche, Chris Klusmeyer, John Betz, Liz Grove and Sandi Miller.

Chair Rex Brinker asked the Board if everyone had received a copy of the October minutes. Rex asked for a motion to waive the oral reading of the minutes. A motion was made by Gene Thurman and seconded. The minutes were approved by vote as submitted.

Sandi Miller and John Betz gave a report on the October MWWC Conference in Columbia. Pre-registrations totaled 246. 38 speakers and guests were involved in the program; 56 exhibitors with 123 representatives were in attendance. Total registration was 394. Rex Brinker said he thought the numbers looked good and that most of the comments he had received during the annual meeting were favorable. He thought we had held a very successful conference. The Board agreed.

John Betz passed along his thanks to Gary Thornhill for once again taking the responsibility for the awards. He said that Gary and his staff were responsible for ensuring that names were received and submitted for Conference awards in a timely manner and that all plaques were ready for the presenters at the annual banquet. The Board expressed their thanks also to Gary and his staff's great work.

The Board members thought that the technical program in October was well received and thanked technical program chair Gene Thurman for his work. Gene said that he once again wanted to thank Sandi Miller and her for their assistance in putting the program together.

Bob Rasche said that the Social Hour had once again turned out well. The food situation was much better planned this year and the set up in the exhibit hall for drinks and seating had worked for exhibitors and members. Bob said he had collected \$6,570.71 for the Tuesday evening event. The expenses were around \$5,000.

Ken Hogan said he was still looking for new ideas on locating and keeping in touch with Conference retirees. He said the Higgins Breakfast had been very successful and that he thought it was going to be something retirees would look forward to each year. John Betz said that Gene Thurman had done a great job in hosting the breakfast and should be commended for his efforts. The Board agreed.

Sandi Miller gave a report on the meal functions. The deli luncheon was well attended and the Board had done a good job in estimating the attendance for the event. Sandi said that next year she was hoping to do a better job in getting volunteers from the six sections

to help in the prize drawings and other events in the exhibit hall. The Annual Banquet was the best attended and most successful one the Conference has sponsored in years. Attendance at the function was 136, a record. Sandi thought the new registration form had helped in getting so many members and spouses there on Wednesday evening. She said she was a little disappointed, though, at the numbers who showed up for the Annual Awards Luncheon.

The Board passed along its thanks to Chris Brake from Columbia, who assisted once again as a driver for the spouses program. Sandi Miller said that Chris was very popular with the spouses and that a number of them had told her that his good nature and helpfulness each year during the program was one of the reasons they kept returning.

The Board discussed the plans and direction for next year's 2006 Annual Conference. Sandi Miller said that we had a contract with the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia and that the basic setup and format for the meeting would be the same. Don Rea said that he thought the registration forms that we used this year had worked out well and the Board decided to continue using the format for the coming year. The Board discussed the fees and said they would make a decision at the March meeting. John Betz said that he thought the Board should consider returning to an "Operators' Workshop" for the Wednesday afternoon session. He said that for decades, Wednesday afternoon was the time when many of the members were involved in the golf and bowling events, tours of facilities, shopping, and other activities, while the workshop was held for visiting water and wastewater operators who could only be away from their jobs a single day. There was a special lower registration fee for the workshop and it always worked as a major draw for the Conference. John said we might consider doing something similar in 2006 as a way to increase attendance. The Board said they we consider this and passed along the suggestion to Rob Trivette, the next technical program chair.

John Betz gave a financial and membership report. As of October 31, income for the year was \$16,789.43 and the expenses were \$18,452.99.

Sandi Miller gave a training report. She said that 2005 was proving to be our most successful year for training. The six Annual Section meetings in April had been very successful. Monett had drawn over 250 members for their training event. Sandi said that by the end of December we would have held 75 training classes around the state.

Rex Brinker opened the meeting to new business. Liz Grove gave a brief report on the current status of the State's efforts to renew and increase the fees for the State's Public Drinking Water Primacy Fee Program. Liz said that the fee had been established in 1992 and had never had an increase. The fee "sunsets" every five years and expires on September 1, 2007. She talked about the importance of the fee to the operation of the Drinking Water Program and the need to fund it properly. The Board agreed that support of the fee program was something the MWWC should consider supporting.

Tom Stechmann asked Sandi about how trainers were compensated for their teaching chores at seminars. In particular he was curious about whether the Conference paid

manufacturer representative for teaching duties. Sandi said we didn't. We picked up many of the expense fees, but manufacturer reps were very generous in their help and support of our training activities. Only those who worked strictly as instructors were paid for the help. The Board agreed that our program was very successful and that we had never had a problem with the way teachers were compensated.

The Board congratulated John Betz on his retirement from the City of Columbia after 37 years. Sandi Miller said the Conference was holding a reception for John downstairs in the Capitol Plaza hotel immediately after the Board luncheon. John Betz said that he was planning on continuing his volunteer work for the Conference as a recording secretary and that he wanted to expand his labors to handling training out of the office. He said he planned to be at the MWWC office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He hoped by doing this he could be more effective as a direct contact between the office staff and the Board. John asked for direction from the Board and said he was willing to do any work that the Board felt he should undertake. Rex Brinker said he would be in contact with John later with ideas. Over the coming months, John said he would be putting together training seminars in Jefferson City and around the state.

The Board discussed the possibility of holding the 2008 Annual Conference at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at the Lake of the Ozarks. Sandi Miller had a contract from the Lodge and passed it around for the Board to look over. Tom Stechmann said he was interested in touring the facility to get an idea of how it was laid out. He said he would be planning a trip shortly and a number of the Board said they might join him if he did so. The Board made a tentative decision to consider going to the Lodge in 2008.

The Board discussed possible times for the next Board meeting. Both March 9 and 23 were considered.

There being no other old or new business, Chairman Brinker asked if there were a motion from the Board to adjourn the meeting. Gene Thurman made a motion to do so. The motion was seconded and approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:45.