

MWOA Executive Board Meeting
June 7, 2002
Kelly Inn, St.Cloud

Members Present: Ron Hagemeier Jim Miller Dave Simons
 Joe Stepun Pat Meyer Dianne Navratil
 Darsey Thoen Jerry Balbach Mary Fralish
 Randy Stetler Rick Ashling Ken Kuchera
Members Absent: Steve Carson

Guests present: Dean Nelson

President Ron Hagemeier called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m. at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud. Motion by Jerry Balbach to approve the March Board minutes, second by Darsey Thoen, passed.

2002 Annual Meeting

Jerry Balbach reported that the technical program was nearly complete with only a few bio sheets outstanding. The mailing for this conference included an additional 2100 names from the MPCA certification list. The biosolids session should give members additional opportunity to receive their required certification hours. The City of Red Wing will also be furnishing a blower to be utilized for a hands on demonstration during the technical sessions.

Dean Nelson reported that the local arrangements were nearly complete and that his committee has been very helpful in completing the arrangements.

Jim Miller discussed the mailing to the life members was pending and a motion by Pat Meyer, second by Ken Kuchera to require an RSVP by July 10th for those life members planning to attend.

Vendor Display is being coordinated by Costa Dimitracoupolas and the mailing should be out next week. Costa was having surgery today and was unable to attend.

The Awards selections have been submitted and the appropriate plaques will be prepared for presentation at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Scholarship nominations were presented to the Board for consideration by Past President Randy Stetler. Six candidates were approved pending confirmation of SUSA's intention to continue to support the Scholarship program. During the scholarship discussion Rick Ashling informed the Board of the possible intent of CSWEA MN Section to possibly join MWOA in presentation of Scholarships or add additional awards through their organization. Discussion will continue at the MN Section level and Rick will keep the Board informed. Pat Meyer made a motion to accept the names presented, second by Ken

Kuchera, passed. Four awards will be made with an additional two awards should SUSA confirm participation in this year's award.

2003 Annual Meeting - Del Haag was unable to attend the Board meeting due to prior commitments. A contract for the Annual Meeting was received and reviewed with a number of exceptions being noted. As the primary issues of concern deal with financial guarantees and some concern over some of the contract language it was decided that Darsey Thoen would look into alternatives that may be available for the Northwest Section.

Training Coalition representative Dave Simons reported that the committee had met recently and were considering alternative training opportunities to the previous thought of conducting a confined space workshop. Other opportunities may include joint meetings of AWWA Districts and MWOA Sections. Dave will continue to keep the Board informed on such opportunities.

The Cooperative Training Committee had met March 25th and the primary topic was attendance at training sessions. The group was discussing possible ways to standardize the manner in which attendance is confirmed for their respective sessions. The preliminary method may be to utilize logo stamps on a bingo style card with attendees being responsible for having their cards validated for the sessions attended. When the method is developed it will be presented in the WASTEWATCHER and Website.

The lab committee is again planning a training session in July with more emphasis placed on operational procedures.

Dianne Navratil passed out the proposed MPCA calendar and noted that only a portion of the calendar proposed has been confirmed. This brought up additional discussion regarding the MPCA training efforts and should problems arise with continuance of the MPCA efforts, Rick Ashling will convene the Cooperative Training Committee to look at possible alternatives.

The MWOA display has been showing its age and is in need of refurbishment or replacement. Discussion regarding this led to a motion by Randy Stetler, second by Ken Kuchera to have the display taken to Skyline for refurbishing prior to the July Annual Meeting.

President Hagemeyer brought up the issue of the membership directory with a decision to prepare a disk or CD version of limited information regarding members to be made available at the registration table during the Annual Conference.

Dan Johnson was not in attendance but assured the Board that the June issue will go out on time. Discussion regarding additional Special Recognition Awards as deemed appropriate by the Board for persons providing support and service to the MWOA occurred.

Additional discussion by the Board included attendance by Board Members, in particular the SW Section Director. While he has continued to be quite active on the Section level has missed every Board meeting during the last year. Several Board members indicated that they would talk to this member and report back at the reconvened meeting in July.

Joe Stepun inquired of Board members whether there was any negative feedback regarding the location of the July Annual. There is some concern by several members in the NE Section but since the announcement - Board members in attendance indicated a very favorable response to the location.

Rick Ashling reported that the Innovative Alternative Conference being planned for next February will be the 20th Anniversary. Members of the planning committee would like to do something special for the occasion. Discussion related a consensus that such activity be part of the planning. In additional discussion regarding student involvement a motion by Rick Ashling, second by Joe Stepun to award scholarship runners-up with one year MWOA memberships, passed.

Dianne Navratil indicated that the MPCA Facility Awards criteria was being considered for review and that Board members were going to be asked for their input. Pat Meyer reminded Board Members that the Central Section was holding a Section meeting in Brainerd June 11th. Randy Stetler indicated that the nominating committee would furnish two names for Vice-President at the Annual Business Meeting.

With no additional business or discussion before the Board a motion by Jerry Balbach, second by Pat Meyer to Recess until 8 p.m. Tuesday July 23, 2002, passed at 1:11 p.m.

The MWOA Board meeting was re-convened by President Ron Hagemeyer July 25, 2002 at the Treasure Island Resort and Convention Center at 8:00 p.m. Members absent were Steve Carson and Mary Fralish. Guests present were Gene Erickson, Steve Duerre, Dean Nelson and Marion Graham.

Ron introduced the topic of the MPCA Annual Awards criteria and allowed Joe Stepun to lead the discussion. Recently the MPCA had brought up the discussion of the manner in which Awards from the State are selected. Input from peers within the State had been asked for input. Directors have received the present awards criteria and were asked to provide input on how the selection process may be changed or improved. Discussion within the MWOA Board centered on potential changes to allow various levels of awards based on effluent quality. The discussion resulted in the Board directing that a letter be prepared to address these issues and available for Directors and MWOA members to send to the MPCA.

Jerry Balbach reported that the Technical Program was set and ready to go. He had checked with the MPCA and there will be sign-in sheets for each session. The moderators will circulate the sheets during each session.

Dean Nelson reported that the Local Arrangements were going well and had a good turnout at the Picnic. Steve Duerre related that the Awards were set and that once again there was a good slate of recipients for this year's Operation Awards. There was a brief discussion regarding the nomination and selection of Special Recognition Awards. Randy Stetler reported that there were six Scholarships awarded (SUSA had agreed to support the additional two awards) and that all applicants were given one year memberships in the MWOA to promote the Association.

Darsey Thoen reported on the 2003 Annual Conference. He and Jim had met with the Marriott staff regarding arrangements. The staff contacts have been very cooperative and willing to make changes needed on guaranteed numbers and arrangements. When an agreement is reached and signed with the Courtyard (Marriott) a letter addressing issues with Helms-Briscoe will be prepared. Darsey will continue to work towards a final agreement with the Courtyard Motel.

Rick Ashling reported that the Cooperative Training Committee is scheduled to meet in September. The MPCA calendar has been set through December 2002 despite some rumblings regarding training. The issues will be discussed at the September meeting.

Jerry Balbach reported that the SW Director Steve Carson had been contacted and will be finding a replacement as soon as possible.

Marion Graham reported that the Lab Committee had a very successful session in St. Cloud in July. Next year the session will be aimed tentatively at QA/QC. Discussion regarding the potential of presenting ABC Lab exams at the MWOA Annual next year will be undertaken in upcoming months.

With no further business before the Board a motion to Adjourn by Ken Kuchera, second by Pat Meyer, passed at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James E. Miller
Sec./Treas. MWOA