

KsAWWA Board of Trustees Meeting

March 6, 2020

Olathe Municipal Services

Chair Andrew Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Chair	Andrew Hansen	
Past Chair		Phillip Cooper
Director	Steve Randtke	
Vice Chair	Durward Johnson	
Vice Chair-elect	Katie Miller	
1 st Yr. Trustee	John Gilroy	
1 st Yr. Trustee	Jim Jackson	
1 st Yr. Trustee	Steve Nirschl	
2 nd Yr. Trustee	William Carr	
2 nd Yr. Trustee		Kurt Bookout
2 nd Yr. Trustee	Michelle Wirth	
Secretary/Treasurer	Terryl Pajor	
Section Manager	Hank Corcoran Boyer	

Committee Chairs and visitors: Troy Munsch, NRCS Salina; Brad Ebinger, WaterOne, Casey Leaf, Carollo Engineers; Tony O'Malley, Lamp Rynearson; Cody Isbell, KCK BPU; Jessica Adams-Weber, HDR; and Darci Meese, WaterOne.

Chair Hansen had everyone introduce themselves.

Section Manager Corcoran Boyer presented the minutes from the December 13, 2019 meeting. **1st Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson** made motion to accept the minutes as printed.

Director Steve Randtke seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Terryl Pajor presented the Treasurers report as of December 31, 2019: Intrust Bank account \$78,915.14; Intrust CD 004 \$37,120.09; Intrust CD 006 \$32,613.23; and Intrust CD 395 \$20,000.00 for a total of \$168,648.46. She then presented the report as of March 6, 2020 with Intrust Bank account \$89,768.07; Intrust CD 004 \$37,120.09; Intrust CD 006 \$32,734.21; and Intrust CD 395 \$20,000.00 for a total of \$179,622.37.

Director Steve Randtke made a motion to file the Treasurer's report for audit. **2nd Yr. Trustee Michelle Wirth** seconded.

Director Steve Randtke presented the following report:

In January I attended the Winter Meeting of AWWA's Board of Directors in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This was my first visit to Puerto Rico and I found it to be a very beautiful place filled with warm, friendly people. The Puerto Rico Section was a great host and we had a very enjoyable visit as well as a highly productive meeting. I was pleasantly surprised to run into Hector Julian Camareno, a KU chemical engineering alum who is Chair Elect of the Puerto Rico Water and Environment Association.

Our meeting began on a somber note as we shared memories of Keli Jackson, an Executive Administrator at AWWA who was CEO David LaFrance's personal assistant and the primary contact person for AWWA's Board of Directors. She was murdered on New Year's Day in an act of domestic violence. There was a tremendous outpouring of love and support for Keli and her family from members of AWWA. Her brother, Kristoffer Jackson, told David LaFrance that she loved her work at AWWA because she loved the people of AWWA. He set up a GoFundMe site so people could "honor Keli and her legacy of giving and love ... by supporting Project Pave," a local Colorado nonprofit organization seeking to end the cycle of relationship violence through education and action with youth. Over \$22,000 was raised, and a great many of the donators were affiliated with AWWA.

As I'm sure many of you know, Puerto Rico was recently hit hard by two severe storms and a series of earthquakes that caused much destruction. Our hotel showed no signs of damage, but a nearby hotel was badly damaged and closed for business. Water and sewer services had been completely restored in San Juan, but some rural areas were still being supplied with water delivered to large bladder tanks. Eli Diaz, Chairman of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA), gave a lunchtime presentation describing the widespread infrastructure damage, the emergency measures they took, their progress to date, and how proud he was of the resilience of the people and their determined rebuilding efforts.

The month before the Board meeting in Puerto Rico, I spoke with Jonathan Yoder of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about a presentation at an upcoming conference at KU. He mentioned that a colleague had been working on a "hurricane recovery project" in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico focusing water quality in household water stored in cisterns, that CDC recently completed a study having implications for improving water storage and treatment in emergency settings, and that CDC has developed several drinking water advisory and other communication tools. Jonathan graciously agreed to speak during our Board dinner and gave an outstanding presentation that held the interest of the entire audience and provided an excellent opportunity for AWWA to strengthen its ties with CDC, an organization that also has public health protection as its first and foremost goal.

AWWA's accomplishments in 2019 include:

- Increasing membership to 52,073, the first time above 52,000 in more than 5 years*
- Net operating income \$1 million over budget*
- A strong ACE19 and a very successful D.C. Fly-In*
- Refreshing the Association-Section Affiliation Agreements*
- Advancing communities of interest (Finance, Legal, and IT)*
- Securing over \$2 million in grant funds for small system training*

- *Adding new training services*
- *The PFAS report, LCR updates, and AWIA tools*

AWWA Goals for 2020 include:

- *Evaluate an enterprise membership model (i.e., one that would consider all employees of an enterprise (e.g., a utility member) as AWWA members;*
- *Finish updating AWWA's Strategic Plan (then encourage Sections to review their strategic plans and consider aligning them with AWWA's)*
- *Launch Envoi, a platform that will provide AWWA members convenient online access to AWWA publications (journals, manuals, standards)*
- *Increase video streaming*
- *Add a wastewater package to Exam Prep*
- *Continue focusing on the Association-Section Business Model, including Section leadership training and collaboration guidelines*
- *Develop a strategy that helps utilities build public trust in water*
- *Develop a grants management capacity strategy*
- *Continue closely following LT-LCR and PFAS developments and help utilities to comply and to communicate with the public*

Elections. During the winter Board meeting, Chi Ho Sham, the visiting officer from AWWA at our Joint Conference in 2019 and a member of the New England Section, was voted in as President-Elect of AWWA. John Eaton (Minnesota Section) was elected Treasurer; Jennifer Elms (Texas Section), Patrick Staskiewicz (Michigan Section), and yours truly were elected as Vice Presidents (thank you for your support!); and Michelle Stockness (Minnesota Section) and Corianne Burnett (Pacific Northwest Section) were elected as a Directors-at-Large. All will take office at the conclusion of ACE20.

Coronavirus. AWWA has been monitoring the spread and severity of the coronavirus. In a recent memo to the Board, AWWA CEO David LaFrance stated: "We are also taking precautionary steps to protect AWWA's employees, assess and plan for potential business impacts, and prepare for business continuity. Our operational objective is to be vigilant while also carefully continuing with our important work. This will require monitoring the risk of the virus, coordinating and communicating throughout AWWA, and—if risks increase—making some difficult business decisions. For now, we have the luxury to plan and prepare, so we are doing just that." AWWA is also alerting its members to publications and online resources they may find helpful in dealing with a pandemic outbreak.

Source Water Protection Funding. The [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#)

allows for the formation of partnerships to address agricultural resource needs, including source water protection. The current round of funding is for \$300 million nationally. In the application period that just ended, AWWA and its volunteers and consultants helped form five partnerships that completed applications. If funded, these five projects will deliver more than \$11.8 million in source water protection, with nearly half of the funds coming from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It's time for utilities to start gearing up for the next round expected to begin in June.

This includes forming partnerships and discussing source water needs with NRCS, local conservation districts and the local agricultural community to lay the foundation for successful larger partnerships that can take advantage of future farm bill funding. AWWA's [Source Water Protection Resource page](#) links to several relevant resources. Interested utilities can contact [Adam Carpenter](#), AWWA's energy and environmental policy manager in the Washington, D.C. office.

In response to EPA's proposed Long-Term Lead and Copper Rule (LT-LCR), AWWA submitted detailed comments to EPA in February, as did the KsAWWA Research Committee, under the leadership of John Gilroy and in cooperation with KDHE. AWWA continues to closely track this issue and has a wealth of information and resources available on its website to help utilities understand lead issues, comply with the current rule, prepare for future changes, communicate with their customers, assess their distribution systems, and work toward a future where drinking water no longer comes into contact with lead.

As always, please do not hesitate to share with me your opinions, suggestions, questions, and concerns, or to contact me for additional information regarding any matter relevant to AWWA or KsAWWA. In response to a recent question from Michelle Wirth about how to get more involved in AWWA at the Association Level, I plan to submit a short note about this for inclusion in the next edition of Solution H2O.

Chair Hansen reported on several items including the Board had a conference call and approved the Section Manager's contract for 2020; appointed a Veterans Workforce coordinator – Leah Morris and he has possibly 10 other people interested in the committee. He is attempting to reach out to new members and will contact appropriate committee chairs to get these new people engaged into the Section activities. He also solicited more abstracts for the upcoming joint conference. He also is going to reach out to NAC regarding the Lead & Copper ruling.

Section Manager Corcoran Boyer reported she had sent out advertising requests for the 2020 Solution H2O and continues to work on the joint conference and is still looking for more papers.

Corcoran Boyer said AWWA had asked the Sections not to have any social events during the noon hour at ACE – they were encouraging everyone to use their tickets for lunches in the Exhibit Hall and to spend this time with the Exhibitors. It was discussed if we wanted to do a late afternoon or early evening Happy Hour. She reported the venues suggested by AWWA didn't appear to be something that would work for this and they were a distance from the convention venue. After further discussion it was decided she should look for a place close to the convention hall and schedule a Happy Hour on Monday, June 14 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. for heavy appetizers and drinks. She would reach out to our vendors who have sponsored our bar in the past to see if they want to do that again this year. The cost of the event was discussed, and the following motion was made by **2nd Yr. Trustee Michelle Wirth** - KsAWWA would pay for anything above and beyond what we received from our sponsors. **1st Yr. Trustee John Gilroy** seconded. Motion Carried. (Because of the continued COVID 19 crises I have not done anything with this).

Corcoran Boyer also reported the Section had received a check for \$500 from AWWA for meeting the goals of the 2019 Section Membership Challenge. She also presented **Jessica Adams-Weber**, **Membership Chair** with a \$100 gift card to support KsAWWA's 2020 membership efforts.

Durward Johnson, Vice chair/program chair said the Program committee for the joint conference is still looking for papers and that 40-50 papers are still needed. He said they were moving forward with a Water Day on Tuesday of the joint conference and they are reaching out to elementary students to participate in this event and are asking some high school students as well as the KsAWWA YP's to help with this event.

He reported they were proceeding with the Meet and Greet in the Exhibit Hall for Tuesday evening and then there would be a Block Party in the Exhibit Hall with games, a DJ, and food following the Meet and Greet.

They are also reaching out to local vendors to participate during the daytime in the Exhibit Hall – these would be coffee vendors, possibly a brewery, popcorn vendor, etc. These vendors would be able to provide the attendees with samples of their products and is a way to entice people into the exhibit area.

Committee Reports:

Troy Munsch with the USDA office out of Salina was a guest and gave a report on the Milford Project; the algae problems at Milford; talked a little about the new Farm Bill and gave an update on the last Farm Bill.

He talked a little about Source Water Protection, Water Quality & Water Quantity. He also encouraged KsAWWA to have someone sit in on the various meetings on these topics and get information for KsAWWA and member utilities.

Darci Meese, Water Utility Council Chair reported on the KDHE bill to increase the rates for water operator license fees. She talked about the water conservation in the western part of the state and that the enhancements requested for this are still in the budget. She talked about the water injection dredging at Tuttle Creek.

She said World Water Day was March 19, 2020 and WaterOne will be co-hosting with the Water Office a meet and greet with State Legislatures that day in Topeka.

The Fly-In is set for April 29 & 30 but the papers to be presented had not been sent out yet.

Membership Chair Jessica Adams-Weber reported that KsAWWA's retention on 1st year members is short. She is continuing to recruit through the OTC workshops. She is looking to do more joint events with the Missouri Committee. She said Andy Chase, AWWA was looking for recommendations for utility members and is looking at visiting Wichita this summer. **Jessica** also has a list of additional municipal utilities to add to his list of possibilities.

She is looking to create additional college chapters around the state.

She asked if KsAWWA could create a LinkedIn Account to get information out to the different members. This will be investigated by the **Section Manager**.

Brad Ebinger, OTC Vice Chair reported the OTC had all their slots filled for the joint conference. This year the OTC will have sessions all day on Wednesday along with the competitions in the afternoon. They are still looking for moderators for both the sessions and the competitions.

He reported Ft. Scott is doing more online classes in the western part of the State. The NE Subcommittee recently held a Water Operator Workshop at Eudora with 16 attendees. This workshop was held in conjunction with Ft. Scott Community College and continues to grow each year. Attendees not only get credits for Operator Certification but also get college credit for

attending. The NE Subcommittee is also looking to assist with a workshop in Garden City again this Fall and have another one coming up in April at Gardner, KS.

Dates for upcoming workshops this year have been submitted to KDHE for their calendar. KDHE Capacity Development Stakeholders is looking to have a centralized website where technical assistance providers could update their train dates/locations/topics that may be developed after the original calendar dates are set.

2nd Yr. Trustee Katie Miller reported that the AREA 1 Training/Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality Project 20-18-2021 had held their workshop on January 27, 2020 and KsAWWA had received \$4,200 from AWWA for completion of this workshop.

Denise Friday, Diversity chair reported there was an AWWA Webinar on How to form a Diversity Committee scheduled for March 17 from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.; she was going to invite others to watch and then have a small tour afterwards with a meet and greet. She said she would have articles for Solution H2O and finally Water Week is May 3-9 and she was doing a contest in the local schools.

Research Committee chair John Gilroy reported he had met with KDHE on the Lead & Copper Rule; Cathy Tucker-Vogel had testified in Washington D.C. on the Lead & Copper rule. He said that WaterOne with EPA were hosting a Black Sky Emergency Preparedness event on March 26 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

1st Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson reported for the Customer Service/Public Relations committee – they have Customer Service articles for Solution H2O.

Chair Hansen reported for the Water For People Committee – they are looking for articles for the Silent Auction and they will again host the Trap Shoot at the joint conference.

Old Business:

Chair Hansen asked for updates on the Board Members stretch goals. **1st Yr. Trustee Steve Nirschl** brought a new member with him to the meeting and is looking to integrate this person into the OTC Committee.

1st Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson said he would make it a priority to recruit more small utility members for AWWA.

KsAWWA Document Storage Options – After a discussion about the options for storage for KsAWWA with accessibility to the Chair and Board members it was decided KsAWWA would go with the free Google Storage. **1st Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson** made a motion to task **Section Manager Hank Corcoran Boyer and Tina Leitzel** with getting this set up for KsAWWA. **1st Yr. Trustee John Gilroy** seconded. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Director Randtke, Chair Hansen, 2nd Yr. Trustee Wirth and 1st Yr. Trustee Nirschl indicated they would be interested in attending RMSO on May 6 -8 in Savannah, GA

Director Randtke announced the Summer Workshop in Denver dates had been announced as July 28-29, 2020

Announcements:

Director Steve Randtke reminded everyone of his retirement party and if they were planning to attend, they needed to RSVP.

Nor further business **1st Yr. Trustee John Gilroy** made a motion to adjourn. **2nd Yr. Trustee Michelle Wirth** seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by

Hank Corcoran Boyer, Section Manager

PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAILS AND CHECK THE AWWA WEBSITE AS THINGS ARE BEING CANCELLED AND POSTPONED ON A DAILY BASIS.