

**KsAWWA Board of Trustee Meeting
Teleconference Meeting
August 9, 2019**

Chair Phillip Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

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

Committee Chairs and visitors present: Tony O'Malley, Water For People; Dan Defore, Operator Meritorious; Denise Friday, Diversity; John Gilroy, Research; and Brooke Conrardy, YP's.

Section Manager Hank Corcoran Boyer presented the minutes from the May 3, 2019 meeting. **Director Steve Randtke** made a motion to approve as presented. **2nd Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson** seconded. Motion approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Terryl Pajor presented the Treasurer's report - She presented a corrected May 3, 2019 report: Intrust Bank Account total as of May 3, 2019 \$91,700.00; Intrust CD 004 as of May 3, 2019 \$36,999.77; Intrust CD 006 as of May 3, 2019 \$32,081.96 for total assets of \$160,781.73.

She then presented the report as of August 9, 2019: Intrust Bank Account total \$78,676.75; Intrust CD 004 \$37,120.09; and Intrust CD 006 \$32,316.57 for total assets of \$148,113.41.

2nd Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson made a motion to file the Treasurer's report for Audit. **Director Steve Randtke** seconded. Motion carried.

Director Steve Randtke presented the following report:

*I enjoyed seeing many members of our section at ACE19 in Denver and look forward to seeing many more at our Joint Conference with KWEA in August. I arrived at ACE two days early to attend meetings of the AWWA Board of Directors over the weekend, prior to the conference. The biggest highlight of the meetings for me was celebrating the arrival of the **Water Buffaloes**, which this year included three riders from Kansas: Jim Jackson, Kurt Bookout, and Hank Corcoran Boyer.*

***Other Board meeting highlights** included updates on the Young Professionals Committee; the Water Equation program; AWWA's Utility Risk & Resilience Management Program; the Farm Bill and AWWA's efforts to help utilities take advantage of the funding it provides for source water protection; state and federal regulation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); the upcoming AWWA/WEF Transformative Issues Symposium; AWWA's strategic goals and related priorities and programs; and AWWA's innovation initiative. The Board also heard presentations by representatives of AWWA's partners in Asia, including the Korean Water & Wastewater Works Association, the Japan Water Works Association, the Indian Water Works Association, Pub Singapore (Singapore's National Water Agency), and AWWA India.*

*This year's **Water Matters Fly-In** was once again very successful, drawing more than 150 delegates, representing 49 states, who met with nearly 350 congressional offices – 63% of Congress – to express our Association's views on water policy. Our delegates reported positive feedback from congressional staff on funding for both infrastructure and conservation, and mixed reactions to EPA's PFAS Action Plan.*

*On May 15, Tracy Mehan, AWWA's executive director of government affairs, testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on the Environment and Climate Change about how to address **polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** in drinking water. His testimony emphasized the importance of employing sound science to evaluate PFAS regulatory options, using existing authorities to protect against PFAS contamination, and the need for resources to support PFAS research, including research needed to establish a scientifically sound basis for maximum contaminant levels for PFAS. A press release outlining the testimony is available on AWWA's website.*

*AWWA has notified both Sections and water utilities that EPA guidance to states for Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule monitoring is leading some states to revisit **public notification requirements for manganese**. In March, Iowa became the latest state to indicate that manganese observations greater than 300 µg/L would trigger Tier 1 public notification. Iowa indicates that it is developing a baseline monitoring program for manganese in public water supplies this year. In Iowa, as of April 3, certified laboratories will be required to report sample values above 300 µg/L to the state within 24 hours. The EPA health advisory for manganese was published in 2004; Health Canada proposed a health-based drinking water standard of 100 µg/L in 2016.*

AWWA CEO David LaFrance, Tracy Mehan (Executive Director of AWWA's Government Affairs Office), and other leaders in AWWA continue to urge Sections, appropriate Section committees, and members to engage with the Natural Resource Conservation Service

(NRCS), in cooperation with EPA and other organizations, to take full advantage of the opportunities for **source water protection** that recent legislation presents. Those interested in learning more about this are encouraged to (1) read the editorial by David LaFrance in the April issue of JAWWA: “A Call to Action: How to Use \$4 Billion for Source Water Protection”; (2) attend related presentations at our upcoming joint conference, including a presentation by Mike Armstrong and Karen Woodrich (our new State Conservationist) on using farm bill funds to protect water supplies; (3) read the article by Tracy Mehan and Adam Carpenter in the August issue of JAWWA (“Bringing Agriculture and Drinking Water Utilities Together for Source Water Protection”); (4) drop me a note via e-mail.

This past year AWWA, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the Water Environment Federation co-funded a report on **affordability**: “Developing a New Framework for Household Affordability and Financial Capability Assessment in the Water Sector.” Since this report is geared toward informing EPA regulatory policy, a purpose best served by continuing and deepening an ongoing dialogue with EPA, AWWA transmitted the report directly to EPA without creating a media moment. AWWA has since focused on consistent messaging and posted the report on three of AWWA’s websites as a for-members-only item. Moving forward, the information will be shared more broadly with AWWA members and the public at large through announcements and articles in regular publications including *Water Utility Insider*, *AWWA Connections*, *OpFlow*, and *the Journal*. The report recommends using two metrics to assess affordability: (1) the Household Burden Indicator (HBI), the combined cost of water service (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) as a percentage of the 20th percentile of community household income; and (2) the Poverty Prevalence Indicator (PPI), the percentage of households in the community that are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

AWWA recently launched a five-course **Utility Risk & Resilience Certificate Program** to help utilities apply sound risk and resilience management strategies that will facilitate compliance with requirements of AWIA (America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018). Learn more at www.awwa.org/riskresiliencecertificate.

In July, DJ Johnson and I attended AWWA’s **Summer Workshop for Section Leaders**, held in Denver. DJ wrote an excellent summary of the workshop, and I added a supplemental report with a few details regarding two breakout sessions I attended and some of the individuals I met I met at the conference. I will not repeat those details here except to say that: 1) Karen Woodrich (State Conservationist, USDA & NRCS, Salina, KS) offered to attend one of our Board meetings, and I’d be happy to invite her if the Board so desires; and 2) I have been in communication with Steve Barr (AWWA’s Program Manager for the CE Corps) since June regarding formation of a team for a Community Engineering Corps project in Kansas.

Chi Ho Sham, Chair of AWWA’s Technical & Educational Council, will be the official AWWA representative to our annual conference. As his official host, I look forward to personally introducing him to many of you. He is highly knowledgeable about many topics of possible interest to members of our Section, including source water protection, using AWWA’s water utility management standards, affordability, the current status of federal legislative and regulatory efforts, the Partnership for Safe Drinking Water, and the Partnership for Clean

Water. Please let me know if you or a committee on which you serve would like to meet with him during his visit to Kansas; and please feel free to walk up and introduce yourself to him during his visit.

*I saved the most exciting topic for last: our **Affiliation Agreement** with AWWA. Some old-timers might remember all the time and effort that went into developing, explaining, and signing this agreement many years ago. AWWA suspects that many members of Section boards are not as familiar with their Affiliation Agreement as they ought to be, so refreshing folks minds about the terms of these agreements is currently a key point of emphasis. Section Directors have been given an assignment: have a conversation with your Section Leaders about the AWWA–Section Affiliation Agreement and complete a survey before November 1, 2019 answering the following questions:*

- Has your Section board read the agreement and discussed it as a group, and do they understand it?*
- What questions does your Section Board have about the details?*
- Is your Section in compliance?*
- Does your Section Board feel the Association complies?*

Does your Section partner with other organizations? If so:

- Are the partnership roles and responsibilities outlined in a MOU, contract or other document?*
- Does the partnership protect the interest of your members?*
- Does it protect and promote the AWWA brand?*
- Are there shared responsibilities?*
- Do the shared responsibilities maintain fiduciary responsibility and control*

Chair Phillip Cooper said he had looked at the MOU between KsAWWA and KWEA for the joint conference. A motion was made to have **Chair Cooper** sign the MOU contingent on any minor revisions to affiliation agreement. **Secretary/Treasurer Terryl Pajor** seconded. Motion carried.

Chair Cooper talked a little about the water projects being paid for with private investors' money.

He also stated he had attended ACE19 along with about 12,000 other AWWA members.

Section Manager Hank Corcoran Boyer reported she had been working on the joint annual conference; sending out confirmations to the Speakers and Moderators – the past week had been spent on making the necessary changes to the conference agenda and where the different events would be held since the Stormont Vail Events Center was inaccessible to the attendees because of construction this year. She reported she had also prepared and submitted copy to Tina for the Summer Solution H2O. She had worked with OTC on a workshop held at WaterOne and was getting things ready to send out for the NE Sub-committee's workshop to be held in Liberal, Kansas in September.

Program Chair Andrew Hansen thanked Tina Leitzel and Hank for the work on dealing with the issues that arose with the Stormont Vail Events Center not being accessible to the attendees because of construction. He said he thought the keynote speaker would be entertaining and that Marc Pedrotti had taken care of most of the planning with the keynote speaker. He said he thought everything was in order for the upcoming joint conference.

Committee Reports:

John Gilroy, Research Committee presented the following report:

Met April 3, 2019 at WaterOne's Hansen Treatment Plant

Attendees: John Gilroy, DeWayne McAllister, Greg Totzke, Kevin Caveny, Chad Harrington, Rachel Drain, Lester Estelle, Emily Tummons, DJ Johnson, Andrew Hansen, Frank Blaha, Kristina Daggett

Old Business:

- *Algal Toxins*
 - *Last Kansas River Study Meeting on Algal Toxins*
 - *Discussed measuring additional parameters but there is some concern on available funding.*
 - *Discussed monitoring plan if there is a hold and release system on the Kansas River similar to 2011-2012. Schedule April-October, state would run tests for \$25 a test for utilities interested. Could craft a common message for HAB.*
- *Lead & Copper*
 - *No new updates at this time. Still waiting for regulations.*

New Business:

- *Available federal funding for watershed protection*
- *UCMR4*
 - *Starting this year for Olathe and BPU. WaterOne has completed sampling.*
- *PFA's*
 - *Discussed during AWWA fly-in. Has not been enough work done to determine MCL levels.*
 - *Fort Leavenworth has some potential issues.*
 - *AWWA urging support for funding to EPA to determine harmful levels, sources, and high-level concepts for treatment.*
- *TCR*

- *WaterOne in discussions with KDHE regarding this. Trying to get more info about sampling directives regarding rotating sample locations and division of system into sections. Waiting for response/approval. (210 samples reqd)*
- *Olathe in discussions with KDHE regarding this. Olathe provided a proposed approach – maps told the story. Distributing according to population. Waiting for response/approval.*
- *BPU has already been sampling in rotations by sections. Submitted info to KDHE but did not hear back.*
- *Kristina indicated that part of it is KDHE effort to update information and get background/justification.*
- *If anyone receives correspondence, coordinate with other members.*
- **Lawrence & Wichita Representation**
 - *Greg to reach out to Brian Stapleton at Lawrence.*
 - *John to reach out to Brook Bailey at Wichita.*
- **Other Topics:**
 - *WaterOne has fielded questions about glyphosate and breakdown compounds. Active ingredient in Round-Up and present in agricultural runoff. Greg can share information from USGS. EPA has stated its not a carcinogen, but there are some other conflicting studies out there.*
 - *Would be good for group to compile data set and info.*
 - **Flooding**
 - *More snow melt to come.*
 - *Missouri River operation by Corps is being driven by various endangered species.*
 - *Corps Bi-Annual Meeting next week in Smithville. Kevin will be attending.*

Water for People Chair Ton O'Malley reported that he was still looking for participants for the Trap Shoot and donations for the Silent Auction. He also reported that Charlie Wheeler, Clear Water Equipment was the new lunch sponsor for the Trap Shoot.

Andrew Hansen chair of the Scholarship Committee reported that the committee had 5 applicants this year and they were evaluating each of the candidates and would be making a selection to make scholarship presentations at the Annual Meeting in Topeka.

Operator Meritorious Chair Dan Defore reported he had a recipient of the award and it would be presented at the Annual Conference Banquet.

Summer Workshop Update: Durward Johnson presented the following report:

The workshop was held at the Renaissance Stapleton Hotel in Denver, CO from Wed., July 24-Frid. July 26.

Nancy Sullivan, Section Services Manager and Jim Williams, President kicked off the workshop by welcoming all, reviewing the workshop agenda and by expressing appreciation for all who were attending.

Michelle Hektor and Eleanor Allen gave presentation and communicated the impacts from the fundraising efforts associated with the Water Equation and Water For People. More specifically, in 2018, AWWA's Water Equation helped provide: 1) Twenty-five water & wastewater operators with \$28,000 in scholarships for training, tuition, books and conferences. 2) \$235,000 was raised to fund the future of water through Community Engineering Corps. 3) A 70% increase nationally in YP involvement in AWWA. With regard to Water For People, worldwide, 1 in 3 people have no access to drinking water. There are 200 people who work for Water for People. By 2021, their goal is to reach 4 million people in 9 countries to provide and sustain drinking water

Three breakout sessions were offered in the late morning and late afternoon on Thursday. The morning choices were:

- 1) Deciphering Data – This was about finding, using and interpreting AWWA's membership database for your section and understanding what the data means.*
- 2) We are the CE Champions – This was about how to engage Section volunteers and members in programs to support local water industry and infrastructure projects.*
- 3) Developing Strategic Communication Plans – President-Elect Melissa Elliot discussed how to refine your Sections communication strategy to effectively communicate with stakeholders.*

In the afternoon, the choices were:

- 1) Section & Grants – An AWWA & USDA partnership developed for small system training and to help small systems assess and improve their system*
- 2) Return of the MAC- Discussions on ways to revitalize Manufacturers/Association Council. The session covered ways for Sections to have strategic direction and support from and for manufacturers in the industry and support for exhibitors at the local conferences*
- 3) Risk Communications Plan- Aid in how to work with social media, quell rumors, and how to effectively communicate and respond to issues around PFAS, lead & copper, and other emerging contaminants.*

I attended Session 3 in the morning and Session 3 in the afternoon.

From Melissa Elliot's session, the main takeaways were: Have a strategic communication plan for your Section – write it down; plan to be engaged by a lobbyist or advocacy group and know the subject matter ahead of time. Know your target audience group and use strategies and tactics to keep the message short and clear without being too technical and don't use jargon that may not be properly understood by a lay person. She also talked about communication strategies within your Section. Treat members as individuals not just a part of a group. Ask them how they prefer best to be communicated with. Only about 20% of electronic newsletters get opened. Don't be afraid to use LinkedIn and Instagram and even consider using Podcasts to

communicate. Finally, she said at the end of meetings, workshops and conferences don't be afraid to recap the session and talk through the things to follow-up on next week or within a month prior to the next meeting.

From the afternoon session about Risk Communications; it was suggested that our Section and our members are to be the place where people look first for information about water and to have the trust of the people. That means being proactive, being informed, and being transparent. It also means building your standing in the community ahead of there being a crisis or a controversial issue or event when some others may cause doubt. Some areas of Risk Communication to consider are PFAS, Lead & Copper, Cyanotoxins, other emerging contaminants; or even the impacts of the Farm Bill as it relates to water for your area.

There were a couple of other major other topics discussed at the workshop. Those topics were, the source water protection issues and AWWA membership- challenges, benefits, Board governance and best practices.

Source Water Protection – Dave White, Clint Evans, Christine Spitzley and Tracy Mehan gave an overview of the Farm Bill and topics related to source water protection. Three regional conservation projects are currently underway and were talked about relative to source water protection, including one related to Milford Lake reservoir in KS. The importance of establishing relationships and partnerships between Sections and conservationists, ag producers and utilities was a point of emphasis. With all working together to better understand the issues around water shed, protecting waterways, and public water supplies, the end result would likely be better cooperation. One example or suggestion was possibly having utility labs offer testing services to those trying to implement improved runoff water quality.

Membership & Board governance practices- Bridging membership gaps was the point of emphasis; Section leaders should know who your members are and increase engagement. Connect with new members right away and get them engaged with the Section. Find new ways to communicate the value offered by AWWA and the value those individuals provide to the industry and organization. There was a presentation and some discussion on operating your Section as a non-for-profit. It was suggested to do consider doing away with Roberts Rules of Order and use Roberta's Rules of Order instead. Those rules are available online. It was suggested to have at each meeting something to celebrate; a success story from a real workforce event that occurred either in your State or in the news. It was also suggested to have committee reports turned in ahead of the meetings, run meetings with a purpose, and periodically review the Boards' duties and responsibilities.

I had the privilege of meeting and talking with other Section officers and trustees yoo. Most memorable connections were made with Joe Aldighiere of the New Jersey Section, Jack Brian of the Illinois Section, Jonathon Ladd of the South Carolina Section, and Abubakar Waraich of the Western Canada Section. Dr Randke introduced me to Jim Williams, AWWA President and Tracy Mehan, AWWA Government Affairs liaison. One social event was held at the Punch Bowl which was the old Stapleton airport control tower converted to a restaurant and game room with

bowling and shuffle board. That event was a great way to socialize with other Section members as well as the national staff.

Director Steve Randtke gave a supplemental report on the Summer Workshop:

On Thursday morning I attended the breakout session on the Community Engineering Corps (also known as CE Corps and CEC). The presenter was Stephen Barr, Manager of Community Engineering Programs for AWWA. The CE Corps is a program jointly sponsored by AWWA, ASCE, and EWB (Engineers Without Borders) that seeks to help underserved communities develop and design solutions to meet needs falling within the CE Corps' areas of expertise: water, sanitation, energy, structures and other civil works, and agriculture. They solicit applications and vet them to be sure the community and proposed project meet applicable criteria. After a project is vetted, they assemble a project team that plans the work, develops a solution, and presents the final work product to the community. Unlike EWB, they do not get involved in construction or provide construction services.

I first met Steve Barr at ACE19 and had begun corresponding with him in June and July regarding a possible CE Corps project in Kansas for which he is assembling a team. During the workshop I had an opportunity to learn much more about the CE Corps and to meet with Steve to discuss the project in Kansas. Steve plans to attend our Joint Conference to promote the CE Corps and recruit volunteers.

On Thursday afternoon I attended the session on the "Return of the MAC" (Manufacturers'/Associates Council) led by Kristen Kihs (Council Chair). The objective of the session was "to learn how to kick-start, or revitalize, your MAC and the different ways a MAC can support your Section's strategic direction." Several attendees shared details of their Section's MAC-related activities, including ways to increase traffic for their exhibitors. My thoughts as I listened to all that was shared were: 1) although KsAWWA does not have a formal "MAC", we are nevertheless doing most of the things other Sections are doing, and accomplishing the same goals; 2) we have a great relationship with our manufacturers and service providers; and 3) we need to continue maintaining and strengthening that relationship. There was much discussion of managing exhibits at Section conferences and ideas for increasing traffic in the exhibit hall. Two attendees shared that their Sections grant attendees 1 PDH credit (max) for spending time in the exhibit hall: one for spending one hour in the exhibit hall meeting with exhibitors, and the other for interviewing 4 or 5 exhibitors about their products or services. To my knowledge our Section has never done this in the past, but it might be worth considering if it passes muster with the applicable licensing agencies (KDHE for operators and KSBTP for engineers).

During the workshop I had the pleasure of meeting and getting acquainted with many other attendees and with several AWWA staff members I had not previously met in person. Tracy Mehan introduced me to two key players for source water protection efforts in Kansas: Jimmy Emmons, Coordinator, Southern Plains Region, NRCS (Taloga, OK); and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, USDA & NRCS (Salina, KS). I spoke with Mike Armstrong a few days before the workshop, and he informed me that our new State Conservationist was doing a great job and that the two of them plan to give a joint presentation, during our Joint Conference, on source water protection for Milford reservoir. It was a pleasure meeting Karen in person at the

workshop. She is very enthusiastic about source water protection and eager to meet folks associated with water utilities in Kansas. She offered to attend one of our Board meetings, and I'd be happy to invite her if the Board so desires.

Old Business:

Secretary/Treasurer Terryl Pajor reported that the Section has 2 CD and both have been renewed in 2019. These both had been purchased prior to 2002. **Secretary/Treasurer Pajor** had visited with AWWA while at ACE19 in regards to purchasing an additional CD because of the amount of funds in the general checking account. After this visit she had checked with the local banking establishment and is recommending that \$20,000 be placed into an additional CD for 5 years at 2.46% interest. **Director Steve Randtke** made a motion to permit **Secretary Terryl Pajor** to use her best judgement and do what she feels is appropriate. **2nd Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson** seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

Chair Phillip Cooper presented the information that **Director Steve Randtke** is eligible to hold a position as Vice-President for AWWA. He had visited with **Director Randtke** who said he was willing to run for this office.

The **Board of Trustee** endorsed **Director Randtke** for this position and instructed **Chair Cooper** to complete the necessary paperwork and submit to AWWA.

Director Steve Randtke inquired about inviting Karen Woodrich to our December 2019 meeting.

2nd Yr. Trustee Katie Miller addressed the request from the YP Committee for approval of using additional money not in their budget for their activities. **2nd Yr. Trustee Katie Miller** made a motion to approve the additional \$1,000 requested. **2nd Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson** seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Steve Randtke made a motion to adjourn. **Vice chair Andrew Hansen** seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Hank Corcoran Boyer
Section Manager