

KsAWWA Board of Trustees Meeting

December 13, 2019

Emporia Water Treatment Plant

Emporia, KS

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	Wm Carr	
2 nd Yr. Trustee	Kurt Bookout	
2 nd Yr. Trustee	Michelle Wirth	(Call In)
Secretary/Treasurer	Terryl Pajor	
Section Manager	Hank Corcoran Boyer	

Committee Chairs and visitors included Paul Garrett, YP Committee; Darci Meese, Water Utility Council; and Jessica Adams-Weber, Membership committee by call in.

Section Manager Corcoran Boyer presented the minutes from the October 17, 2019 meeting. **Director Randtke** proposed some changes to the wording of the minutes for the AWWA affiliation agreement and the organizing of a Veterans Workforce Committee. (See written attachment.) **1st Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson** moved the minutes be approved with the proposed changes. **Secretary Treasurer Terryl Pajor** seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Terryl Pajor presented the following treasurer's report: Intrust Bank Account \$80,005.43; Intrust CD 004 \$37,120.09; Intrust CD 006 \$32,554.84 and Intrust CD 395 \$20,000.0total assets of \$169,680.36. **2nd Yr. Trustee Michelle Wirth** made a motion to file the Treasurer's report for audit. **Director Steve Randtke** seconded.

Director Steve Randtke gave the following report – *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.*

AWWA organized a Section Services Leadership Webinar, held on Tuesday, March 19, that addressed "Insurance Coverage & Risk Management." Those who missed it can access the recorded version at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4654106673821705217>. Melissa Sapp-Birdwhistell,

Senior Client Service Supervisor with Arthur J Gallagher & Co., provided a review of AWWA's Section insurance policy, from general liability to coverage for events and liquor liability. In addition, she presented information about cyber liability: What is it, and does your Section need to consider a Cyber Liability policy? **Recordings of all past leadership webinars are available** on the AWWA Section Support microsite (click "Webinars" under the "Section Services Events" tab).

AWWA notified both Sections and water utilities that EPA guidance to states for the 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.

At our March 9 Board meeting we discussed at length AWWA's recent initiatives to work in cooperation with farmers, EPA, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to

improve **source water protection**. Those interested in this topic might also be interested in reading the editorial by AWWA CEO David LaFrance in the April issue of JAWWA: "A Call to Action: How to Use \$4 Billion for Source Water Protection 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) to take full advantage of the opportunities for source water protection that recent legislation presents.

Over the last year AWWA, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the Water Environment Federation have co-funded a report on **affordability**: "Developing a New Framework for Household Affordability and Financial Capability Assessment in the Water Sector." This report is geared toward informing EPA regulatory policy, a purpose best served by continuing and deepening an ongoing dialogue with EPA. Consequently, AWWA is focusing on consistent messaging and transmitted the report directly to EPA rather than creating a media moment. AWWA has since posted the report on three of AWWA's websites as a for-members-only item. 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, Connections, OpFlow, and Journal AWWA.

We were recently notified, and are pleased to announce, that **Chi Ho Sham**, Chair of AWWA's Technical & Educational Council, will be the official AWWA representative to our upcoming annual conference. I will serve as his host and, in cooperation with Hank, Phil Cooper, Andrew Hansen, and others, will prepare for his visit, familiarize him with our section and the logistics of our conference, and provide him with helpful background information.

I plan to attend the ACE19 meeting of the AWWA Board of Directors on May 8-9 in Denver, and look forward to seeing you and many members of our section at ACE19!

As always, please do not hesitate to share your opinions, suggestions, questions, and concerns with me, or to contact me for additional information regarding these or other matters involving AWWA or KsAWWA.

Chair Andrew Hansen addressed several topics including the KDHE committee groups; operator certification; lead & copper rule and PFAS which were covered by the various committees later in the meeting.

He is continuing to make membership calls to new members and Jessica Adams-Weber continues to send letters.

He has distributed assignments to specific Trustees. He has visited with Ashley Longmore, AWWA about succession planning for KsAWWA when the time come to replace the Section Manager – he has gotten information from Missouri Section regarding this as they are currently in the process of replacing their manager.

He is continuing to recruit new members and attending as many Section functions as possible.

Section Manager Hank Corcoran Boyer reported she had completed the details and financial business for the 11th Annual Joint Conference and attended the closing meeting in Topeka. She had met with the OTC committee in Salina. She is starting to recruit advertisers for the 2020 Solution H2O; has been working with Tina on making changes and adding items to the website; met with the 12th Annual Joint conference program chairs and has done some preliminary work for the 2020 Annual Joint conference.

Section Manager Corcoran Boyer also asked for assistance with the newsletter. She encouraged all of the Committee Chairs as well as Board members to submit articles either about something happening in the Section, personal utility or business or personal articles about KsAWWA members.

Vice Chair/Program Committee Co-chair Durward Johnson:

1. *Jason Patty (KWEA Vice Chair) and DJ continue to discuss activities and schedule for 2020 conference.*
2. *Keynote Speaker is to be Gregg Marshall - WSU head coach*
 - a. *Thank you to Mike Rudy for making the connection and arrangements.*
 - b. *Contract still needs to be executed – in Marshall's court*
3. *Speaker gifts have been decided (order around May 2020)*
4. *Conference tack list has been determined and submitted for website posting*

Tuesday 1/2-day tracks following opening session:

1. *Environmental Excellence competition*
2. *Government Affairs*
3. *Leadership (succession planning/diversity)*
4. *Water Issues*
5. *Asset Management*

6. *Community Engagement (telling our story)*
7. *Bio-solids/Soil Health*

Wednesday Full day tracks except where noted:

1. *Collections Systems*
2. *KS AWWA OTC*
3. *Regulatory update*
4. *Small systems*
5. *Lessons Learned (CIP/O&M projects)*
6. *Joint Topics*
7. *Wastewater Operations*
8. *Drinking Water*
9. *Water Distribution*
10. *Laboratory ½...Young Professional ½*

Thursday ½ day tracks:

1. *ABC Test Prep*
2. *KS AWWA Hot Topics*
3. *KWEA Hot Topics*
4. *Pump Station workshop*
5. *Risk Communication (more community outreach)*
6. *Technology*
7. *Industrial pre-treatment*

5. *Call for paper is posted on website:*

- a. *Committees chairs should review the tracks and work on soliciting papers and speakers for your areas*
- b. *Finalize Call for Papers - **April 1 2020**.*
- c. *Dr. Steve Randtke provided list of speakers and abstracts from Nancy Sullivan Section Services Manager from headquarters*

6. *Comments relative to 2020 Conference:*

- a. *Looking at a Kids Water Day following opening session... thank you Tonya Brownlee for agreeing to help organize this. Anyone else interested? Still forming what this looks like too.*
- b. *Exhibition Hall: we hope to partner with the Wichita Chamber to figure out the best vendors to include. We are waiting to hear from them how well this is received.*
- c. *Workshops – looking into a lab workshop and pump station workshop: troubleshooting issues may get a pump supplier to assist with this.?*
- d. *Considering a Live Auction if this gets wheels since people will be staying for the Block Party.?*

7. *Meet & Greet is to be: Block Party 2020, “One for the Ages” No idea what this looks like. Jason mentioned this to the Wichita Chamber. Likely food trucks as a food option, maybe something else as well that might speed up delivery? Corn hole tournament (maybe several different ones to keep things moving). We may look at how to form*

teams for some events. Still looking into this so if anyone has block party ideas push them our way.

Committee Reports:

Diversity in the Workplace – 1st Yr. Trustee John Gilroy reported he had met with **Denise Friday** chair of this committee and they had visited about getting more members for the committee, doing more programs, and putting articles in the newsletter.

Jessica Adams-Weber Membership Committee reported that she was also working with the **Diversity Committee** and continued to recruit new members. She was also looking for members for her committee. She was working with the **YP Committee**.

It was mentioned a Member Spotlight article in Solution H2O about new members would be a good way to get the rest of the members to know who the new members were and incorporate them into the workings of KsAWWA.

She reported the YP's had a social function with the Missouri YP's that had been successful.

OTC Committee report was given by **1st Yr. Trustee Steve Nirschl** - The OTC had met in Salina on November 14. They worked on the Annual Joint Conference for 2020 and proposed to the Program Committee to extend the OTC classroom track to all day on Wednesday rather than just in the morning. They will also have the competitions in the afternoon – this will give the operators more options. Brandon Sisk from KCK BPU has agreed to chair the Hydrant Hysteria competition; Dan Defore, City of Winfield will continue arranging for the Backhoe Rodeo competition and John Daughterty, Utility solutions Associates will continue to do the meter Madness Competition.

They talked about the free AWWA membership to first time members in conjunction with the OTC Workshops. They also addressed the fact that one had applied for the \$1000 One AWWA Operator Scholarships.

The rest of the meeting was the discussion regarding the KDHE proposed changes to the operator licensing regulations. See attached report from Nicholas Willis.

Vice-Chair Elect Katie Miller reported that there were grants that KsAWWA would be applying for and needed to be completed by the Fall of 2020. These is USDA grant on optimization for \$4750 and a RCAP/Midwest Assistance grant for \$4200.

Finally, the OTC will be holding the following workshops in 2020:

1. Advanced Operator Works in Eudora, KS on February 4 & 5
2. Distribution and Water Treatment workshop on April 21 & 22 at WaterOne
3. A Fall workshop in Garden City – TBD

John Gilroy Research Committee reported that he had not had a meeting of his committee since our last Board meeting but did ask permission to attend the stakeholder meeting on Lead & Copper Rule in Topeka and represent KsAWWA. He proposed that Director Steve Randtke and Greg Totzke, WaterOne also attend. People from KRWA, Ks League of Municipalities and KDHE childcare will also be in attendance. **Chair Hansen** said that Emily Tummons from Black and Veatch would also attend.

In addition to the lead and copper rule, John has also been working to get input from utilities and others regarding future orthophosphate issues.

Chair Hansen reported for the **Scholarship committee** and said that there were still 2 One AWWA Operator Scholarships for \$1000 each available for 2019.

Vice-Chair Elect Katie Miller reported for the WARN Committee: See attached report.

Water Utility Council Darci Meese, chair reported she had been working with the KDHE work group on legislative issues regarding fee increase and that this had not gotten out of committee.

She reported in 2020 KsOne Call is eliminating the tier process and trying to get tier 3 to become tier 1.

She will also be coordinating the Fly-In which is a little later than usual this year.

YP Committee report was given by **2nd Yr. Trustee Kurt Bookout**. He reported the YP's are looking for YP's in the Manhattan and Wichita Area. He reported they were looking to put together another social activity in the Wichita area going to attend the movie Dark Water (which is about PFAS). He also reported they are looking to put together a quad-city YP group in the KC region.

Chair Hansen gave an update on the **mentoring program** and is currently recruiting people for this program. Anyone who is interested can apply on the KsAWWA website.

Legislative Updates: [KS AWWA Operator Training Committee Report on Proposed Operator Regulatory Changes](#)

Background:

KDHE has proposed some substantial changes to its regulations for water and wastewater operators. During, the Operator Training Committee meeting held on November 15, 2019, these changes were discussed. This document serves to bring attention to the KS AWWA Board of Directors both the positives and downsides seen in the proposed changes by those serving on the Operator Training Committee.

The OTC believes KS AWWA should recognize that its membership leans more towards larger utilities. There is concern about rural/urban divisions on these changes during the legislative session.

Positives of proposed changes:

The proposed changes bring operator regulations more in line with neighbouring states.

Downsides/concerns of proposed changes:

Groundwater only systems are significantly “deranked” in their classification. Systems which only chlorinate, regardless of population, now must employ a small system operator. Large groundwater only systems such as Garden City and Dodge City are dropped from requiring a Class IV operator to a small systems operator. Additionally, all groundwater treatment systems, regardless of size or reason for treatment, require only a Class I operator. Cities such as Newton and Hays drop from a Class IV to Class I under this proposal. There is concern about protection of public health, property and exposure to acute MCL violations (i.e. failure of nitrate removal systems) if qualified operators are not required for these systems. Additional concerns about total talent pool of operators in the state exist if these systems decide to get by with operators of lower certification levels.

The issue with very low pass rates for operator examinations does not appear to be addressed with these changes.

Perhaps use of a standardized testing protocol – not specific to the State of Kansas – is more appropriate for examinations. For example, the ABC exams, which are used in whole or part by 31 states.

Operators in the field have access to references and other professions do during their professional testing. Why is open book note being considered for examinations?

There is concern about the changes failing to address adequacy of training opportunities for operator certification and maintenance of certification, particularly with respect to time/distance to appropriate/relevant opportunities.

Additional information on examination pass rates:

- Jason Solomon, KWRA (formerly with KDHE) – Shared a few stats in the November 2019 KRWA Journal – Certification pass rate overall average 2017 & 2018:
 - 2018 – 39.2% W / 38.6% WW
 - 2017 – 38.6% W & WW

2016 – 47% W / 37% WW

KDHE Exam Data 2016

Water Class	Attempted	Passed	Pass %
Small	65	33	51%
I	92	48	52%
II	97	48	39%
III	24	3	13%
IV	41	18	44%
Water Total	319	150	47%

Wastewater Class

Small	29	24	83%
I	118	66	53%
II	97	15	22%
III	19	3	13%
IV	59	10	17%
Wastewater Total	322	118	37%

PFAS Workgroup

Meeting: Oct 25,2019

- 14 attendees representing EPA Region 7, KRW, KMU, KSAWWA, KDHE
- PowerPoint on Sampling Plan for Public Water Supply systems – map showing potential generators and PWS's and overlaps
- Start initial sampling in 2020?
- Considering ~ 200 sampling sites - Initial round analyzed and paid for by KDHE
- Exclude UCMR 3 systems (essentially 0 found in these PWS's)
- Discussed when to sample, what methods to use to test, multiple samples per site, resampling, blank samples, etc.
- Discussed sampling surface/ground water around generators sites, Wastewater plants.?
- Discussed Risk Communication need
- Discussed what other Region 7 States are doing.
- Plan to have Meeting in 1 Quarter 2020 to review Risk Communication

Stretch Goals: Darcie Meese WUC: getting the YP's to attend a legislative session for one day to give them and understand of what AWWA can do at the state level.

Jessica Adams-Weber Membership: Her goals for the upcoming year include working with the OTC and getting more memberships from their workshops; attend the Membership Summit and take someone with her to mentor.

Vice-Chair Elect Katie Miller: said she was going to continue working on Customer Service training and had attended the AWWA Customer Service workshop in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She will work on customer services issues jointly with KsAWWA and KMU.

2nd Yr. Trustee Kurt Bookout said he was looking for more Water Buffalos – KsAWWA currently has 3 with a possibility of at least one more.

Secretary/Treasurer Terryl Pajor said she had all the old financial records dating back to 1998 in order and would continue to keep updated and making them available.

2nd Yr. Trustee Michelle Wirth said she would continue to help Jessica with getting more members as well as grow the YP's. She was also looking to see what AWWA committee she might want to work on and grow the KsAWWA Veteran's Committee and the Workforce Committee.

New Business:

SharePoint: Section Manager Corcoran Boyer had been tasked with visiting the Tina Leitzel regarding some type of sharing mechanism that KsAWWA could use to disseminate information between the Board and the Committees. She presented several options from Tina. Everyone was to look at these options and it would be an item on the next meeting's agenda.

2020 Budget – Secretary/Treasurer Terryl Pajor presented the 2020 budget she had compiled from the requests submitted to her. She also provided a 10 year history of revenue and expenditures and Brandon Sisk had compiled a graph showing this history.

There was also a discussion on the joint conference and the lack of a budget for this function.

After the 2020 budget had been reviewed line item by line item **Vice Chair Durward Johnson** made a motion to approve the 2020 budget with the noted changes. **1st Yr. Trustee Jim Jackson** seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Hansen reported that Leah Morris, City of Lawrence had been appointed chair of the **Veteran's Workforce Committee**.

Chair Hansen made a short presentation on a succession plan and what he had been looking at for when **Secretary/Treasurer Terryl Pajor** and **Section Manager Hank Corcoran Boyer** step down.

Section Manager's 2020 contract – it was decided that **Chair Andrew Hansen** would do a conference call between the Board members in the next couple of weeks to review the contract.

Vice Chair Durward Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. **1st Yr. Trustee John Gilroy** seconded. Motion carried.
Respectfully submitted,

Hank Corcoran Boyer
Section Manager.

SEE ATTACHMENTS BELOW --

Proposed Changes to the Minutes

p. 4, Under Old Business, paragraphs 2 and 3

Chair Hansen addressed the current Affiliation Agreement KsAWWA has with AWWA – all Sections were asked to review their agreements and respond to AWWA by November 1. After reviewing the agreement, it was decided both we and AWWA complied and **Director Randtke** would report to AWWA on the Section's behalf.

It was also noted KsAWWA had partnership agreements (MOUs) with several other organizations, including KWEA (for the Joint Conference), KMU and Fort Scott Community College, and these had been drafted in accordance with ~~in accordance~~ AWWA guidelines and were also in compliance.

p. 5, First full paragraph:

There was discussion on the idea that AWWA believes military members are a good fit for the water sector because of their technical expertise and experience working nontraditional hours in a regulated environment. The KsAWWA Membership Committee agreed some time ago to take the lead in organizing a Veterans Workforce Committee to promote AWWA's Veteran's Workforce Initiative here in Kansas, and the committee did hold an initial organizational meeting earlier this year. However, our Membership Committee also has other important tasks on its plate, and it might make more sense to form a separate Veterans Workforce Committee that would still work in collaboration with both our Membership Committee and our Diversity Committee. Furthermore, several years ago AWWA asked Sections to consider forming Workforce Committees. KsAWWA declined to do so, but since then the need for workforce development has grown stronger. It was suggested that forming a separate Veterans Workforce Committee would not only lift some of the load off the Membership Committee, but that once the Veterans Workforce Committee was up and running, it could also be asked to evaluate its scope and report back to the Board whether to morph into a Workforce Committee. **2nd Yr. Trustee Michelle Wirth** made a motion that KsAWWA develop ~~form~~ a separate Veterans Workforce Committee ~~Military Affairs committee~~. **2nd Yr. Trustee Kurt Bookout** seconded. Motion carried. Director Steve Randtke volunteered to serve as interim chair of the committee to get it organized and to recruit someone to serve as chair, and 1st Yr. Trustee Steve Nirschl also volunteered to help organize this committee.

2019 WARN Chairs Meeting Summary

Date and Time: October 20, 2019, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Central

Location: St. Louis, Missouri

Objectives:

1. Discuss current initiatives
 2. Identify future capabilities of the WARNs and resources needed to accomplish them
 3. Identify emerging issues and potential solutions
-

Action Items

WARNs

- Let U.S. EPA know if interested in conducting a functional exercise in 2020 with associated improvement planning sessions.

AWWA

- Continue to share information nationally about potential water sector needs during emergencies.

U.S.EPA

- Dawn Ison emailed the following resources to all WARN Chairs following the meeting:
 - ORWARN Shared Worker Agreement. It is currently available online at <https://wawarn.org/documents/shared-worker-agreement-addendum.pdf>.
 - EPA WARN recruitment video to play or send to potential members. It is tailored to smaller systems and debunks common misconceptions (e.g., we are too small to help, the legal agreement is too difficult, we don't want to be obligated to respond). It is available online at: <https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/mutual-aid-and-assistance-drinking-water-and-wastewater-utilities#3>
 - Fact sheets on the new America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Section 2018 Source Water requirements:
 - State and Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs and TERCs) and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs): <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/amendments-epcra-americas-water-infrastructure-act-guide-sercs-tercs-and-lepcs>
 - State drinking water primacy agencies and community water systems: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-05/documents/awia_sec_2018_factsheet_for_water_sector_final.pdf
 - The Crisis Event Response and Recovery Access (CERRA) guide has been published by DHS/FEMA and identifies utilities as a first responder. While the document is guidance and not law, WARNs are encouraged to provide it to utility members to use as a framework for working with locals on access. The document is available online at: <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/crisis-event-response-and-recovery-access>
 - VA WARN Brochure
- U.S. EPA will also share any other relevant state WARN resources with the group as they are received (e.g., recruitment letters and packages)

WARN Quick Hitters



SDWARN – Brad Lawrence, city of Madison

Brad Lawrence detailed the SDWARN responses to both the spring and fall 2019 floods in South Dakota. Many of the communities impacted were small and did not have the personnel or resources needed to respond. These small communities' contract for part-time operators and do not have funds to reimburse anyone who comes in to help. This is the case for most of South Dakota and is a challenge for SDWARN to assist. Mr. Lawrence also described the SDWARN challenge grant program that has helped raise \$30,000 over the last two years to purchase pumps. The challenge grant program began when the city of Madison pledged \$500 to SDWARN and encouraged others to do the same. The pumps purchased as part of the program are prepositioned throughout the state and maintained by South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) circuit riders. SDWARN is a 501(c)(3) charity under SDARWS.

FlaWARN – Scott Kelly, city of West Palm Beach

Scott Kelly provided an overview of the lessons learned and next steps that FlaWARN would like to take following Irma (2017), Dorian (2019) and other past hurricane impacts on the state. FlaWARN representatives continue to work with Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) to maintain generators that are available for deployment. FlaWARN representatives are taking the lead on trying to develop a utility-to-utility interstate mutual aid and assistance (MAA) agreement between communities in Florida and other southeastern states that will allow communities to share resources during an incident, similar to what was done with the EMAC response to the Florida Keys following Hurricane Irma. There is a lot of time involved in executing EMAC so FlaWARN is looking for a mechanism that would fill that time gap. Unfortunately, some states (e.g., Georgia) do not allow communities to enter into MAA agreements with communities in other states. Mr. Kelly noted the importance of continuing the U.S. EPA-sponsored Interstate WARN workshops and that he would appreciate sharing of any examples of current interstate MAA agreements. Existing interstate MAA agreements that could be used as models include:

- Utility-to-utility example – Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) has a multi-agency interstate mutual aid and assistance agreement with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in California.
- NCRWARN – Available online at <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2016/11/03/ncr-warn-mutual-aid-agreement-ncr-warn/>.
- Northern Emergency Management Assistance Compact (NEMAC) – Available online at http://www.nemacweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NEMAC_Agreement_Signatures2017.pdf.
- Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement (PNEMA) – Available online at http://www.nemacweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/PNEMA_Agreement.pdf.

WARN Reports – Accomplishments and Challenges

Kevin Morley, AWWA, and Dawn Ison, U.S. EPA, asked each WARN Chair in attendance to describe their WARN's recent accomplishments and current challenges. The information they provided is in the following table:

WARN	Recent Accomplishments and Current Challenges
Alaska	AKWARN hosted a U.S. EPA-sponsored tabletop exercise (TTX) on May 11, 2019. Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) was impacted by a November 2018 earthquake and this prompted them to join AKWARN in 2019. AKWARN now includes the three largest systems in the state. There were also several wildfires this past summer, but they did not impact any utilities. The state has a remote maintenance worker program that provides assistance to small communities. The biggest challenge for AKWARN is the size and remote nature of the state, but a future goal is to entice the neighboring communities of AKWARN members to join.
Arizona	AZWARN has 25 members and is a special committee within the AZ Water Association, which continues to keep track of funds provided through voluntary membership dues. AZWARN has completed the process of converting from an intergovernmental agreement to a standard agreement that allows private entities to join.
Colorado	CoWARN has 145 members and has added 15 new members over the past year. Members have provided assistance in response to eight incidents in 2018-2019. CoWARN challenges include getting members to attend meetings and serve on committees.
Connecticut	CtWARN has 21 members but has not been used to facilitate a response in several years. Utilities seem to be satisfied with existing relationships with neighboring municipalities and do not see the benefit of CtWARN. CtWARN is now a committee within the Connecticut Section AWWA. The steering committee is interested in identifying new ways to engage the existing membership, build credibility, and to promote CtWARN membership as a way to meet some AWIA requirements.
Delaware	DEWARN has 17 members, which includes all large utilities and communities in the state, but it has been challenging to recruit smaller communities. DEWARN representatives would like to attend Delaware Municipal Clerk Association meetings to reach smaller communities. The WARN Chair noted that Delaware utilities would be interested in providing interstate assistance if requested and that national status calls are helpful when hurricanes are approaching as a way to prepare for potential EMAC requests.
Florida	FlaWARN has over 260 members. After Hurricane Michael (2018), FlaWARN received 86 requests for assistance with 40 utilities and surrounding state rural water associations providing assistance. FlaWARN is interested in establishing regional coordinators in six districts that match Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) districts. Representatives are working with the American Public Works Association (APWA) to develop best practices for debris removal. FlaWARN is also adding GPS tracking on equipment, working with the state on credentialing, and would like to train city and county officials on how WARN works. In 2020, FlaWARN has planned six regional meetings, four webinars, two steering committee meetings and a functional exercise in west central Florida.
Georgia	GAWARN has over 50 utility members, with more than half considered actively engaged. The primary goal of GAWARN is to help and educate utilities. Currently, GAWARN representatives are trying to determine if it's necessary to keep funding its current website or if having a simpler, cheaper website is a better idea. Utilities are building stronger relationships with their county emergency management agencies and this is reducing the number of members as some think GAWARN membership is duplicative.
Idaho	IDWARN has 66 members and has added at least seven over the past year. The network was activated twice in the last year to assist small communities experiencing catastrophic water losses. The biggest challenge for IDWARN is the remote nature of the utilities and lack of response equipment to help the rural utilities.
Illinois	ILWARN has over 80 members and is an Illinois Section AWWA committee. Representatives participated in a statewide multi-sector exercise in 2018 and ILWARN is still represented at the state's Business Emergency Operations Center. Current goals include strengthening relationships with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and expanding membership. ILWARN is also working to update its website next year.

Indiana	InWARN has 147 members and in 2019 worked with state agencies to bring in water haulers and pumps to help communities impacted by flooding. This marked the first time that InWARN representatives had worked with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The Indiana Cybersecurity Council is coordinating with InWARN to help utilities develop cybersecurity plans, which are now required to obtain state revolving funds.
Iowa	IOWARN has 70 members and in 2019 John Lins represented IOWARN at the state EOC in response to flooding in the western part of the state. IOWARN is developing a WARN brochure to send to current members to remind them of the benefits of WARN and will be sending out a quarterly email to reengage members. IOWARN also plans to begin annually verifying that member contact information is up to date. With many WARNs now using BPro websites, John would like to share contact information so they can support each other with technical issues.
Kansas	KSMAP has 180 members and its electrical utility members facilitated assistance for electrical outages in 2019. A few smaller communities had staffing issues due to flooding, but the primacy agency provided technical assistance to help them. Most requests for assistance seem to be human resources versus equipment. Many Kansas water sector utilities are concerned about the impact of the silver tsunami (e.g., mass retirements) and training the next generation of operators. Future state regulations are expected to make the operator certification process easier.
Louisiana	LaWARN has 786 members. In the past year, LaWARN sent representatives to Florida to assist with the response to Hurricane Michael (2018) and also assisted local communities after flooding incidents. The Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) takes most emergency water calls in the state and coordinates closely with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to provide assistance. The WARN Chair noted that U.S. EPA, the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Rural Water Association have been supportive of LRWA providing assistance across state lines.
Maine	MEWARN has 124 members and gained three new members in the past year. MEWARN representatives worked with state agencies to coordinate power restoration to utilities after an October 2018 windstorm. MEWARN meets twice a year and one of the meetings will be a WARN summit. The Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) will host seven TTXs and one functional exercise in 2020.
Michigan	MiWARN currently has 33 members and has helped facilitate assistance to smaller utilities that needed personnel after several incidents. MiWARN is now represented at the state Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). MiWARN representatives attended several U.S. EPA-sponsored trainings over the past year.
Missouri	MoWARN has 50 members after gaining Missouri American Water systems as members during the past year. MoWARN is represented at the SEOC in Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3 through the Missouri Rural Water Association and provided assistance during flooding incidents. One MoWARN challenge is getting small communities to join.
Montana	MTWARN has 13 members and is in the process of increasing outreach, but some communities that have not yet joined are concerned about the current MAA agreement not having a non-discrimination disclaimer in it. The city of Seattle requires this language in all city agreements, and it could be a model for MTWARN.
National Capital Region	NCRWARN membership includes all the major utilities in the region. NCRWARN has not had any recent activations, but representatives participated in a functional exercise with a power generating plant on the Potomac River designed to test coordination with local emergency managers and the ability to deploy booming materials across the river. In 2020, NCRWARN members will participate in the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's Grid Security Exercise (GridEx). NCRWARN members and local emergency managers have started a working group to schedule joint training and exercises.

Nevada	NvWARN now has 32 members, an increase of 11 over the past year. NvWARN representatives have been involved in county and state level water contamination exercises. NvWARN representatives have also been working with the state Center for Threat Preparedness to develop trainings focused on how water utilities integrate with county and state emergency management. NvWARN has had success in recruiting tribal members but recruiting smaller communities has still been a challenge. NvWARN sends out monthly information to members via email to touch base and text alerts once or twice a year to test the system and verify contact information.
New York	NYWARN has 160 members and continues to receive support from the state primacy agency. In the past few years, cyanotoxins have been an issue for many communities and NYWARN facilitated emergency water delivery to one community due to a “do not drink” advisory. A continued challenge is getting wastewater utilities to join.
Ohio	OHWARN has 109 members and facilitated assistance after the May 2019 tornadoes that impacted Dayton, which is in OHWARN’s southwest region. Coordinators in other OHWARN regions helped complete the requests for assistance and five communities provided generators for both treatment plants and wellfields. The state primacy agency continues to encourage membership as part of sanitary surveys. One of the main challenges is getting members involved in the OHWARN steering committee.
Oklahoma	SoonerWARN has 88 members, recently became a committee under the Oklahoma Rural Water Association (ORWA) and now has a new website. SoonerWARN and ORWA recently provided assistance to communities impacted by flooding. A challenge has been getting smaller communities to join.
Oregon	ORWARN has 134 members and hosted a U.S. EPA-sponsored functional exercise on November 7, 2019. ORWARN representatives have been meeting with the nine tribes in the state to promote membership. The Warm Springs Tribe recently joined after seeing the benefits of joining the network when assisted by multiple ORWARN members after a series of main breaks in 2018. ORWARN added a stranded worker agreement to its MAA agreement and this was shared with all WARN chairs after the workshop.
Pennsylvania	PaWARN has 111 members and representatives worked with the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association to provide water buffaloes and leak detectors to an authority experiencing a major leak in their distribution system. PAWARN was also able to provide technical assistance through another utility to a system that had SCADA issues. PaWARN partnered with U.S. EPA and the Pennsylvania Black Sky Steering Committee to host Black Sky TTXs in Pittsburgh and Mechanicsburg in 2019. The next phase of the project will include improvement planning, Spring 2020 webinars and a best practices and improvement actions workshop. PaWARN challenges include maintaining coordination with state agencies (due to employee turnover) and convincing members to plan for long-term power outages.
Rhode Island	RIWARN has 18 members and continues to meet quarterly at member utility facilities and they do tours. RIWARN has a great working relationship with emergency management, even with high turnover rates, continues to receive support from the state emergency management agency and has a seat at the SEOC. RIWARN representatives are coordinating with state primacy agency representatives to continue to advertise membership. One goal is to recruit more wastewater members.
South Dakota	SDWARN has 116 members, including one tribal member that has a seat on the steering committee, and recently facilitated assistance for multiple flooding and tornado incidents in 2019. Some recent retirees have offered to assist WARN emergency coordination during incidents. SDWARN would like to develop a WARN mobile application in the future.
Tennessee	TNWARN has 21 members and a new Chair, and the goal for 2020 is to reinvigorate and advertise the benefits of the network. U.S. EPA is sponsoring a 2020 TNWARN functional exercise as well.

Texas	TXWARN has over 1,250 members and was recently used to provide assistance to a request associated with Tropical Storm Imelda (2019). TXWARN representatives have a good relationship with the state primacy agency and that has been the main reason it has not pursued a seat at the SEOC. The Texas Division of Emergency Management has undergone some changes due to legislative actions as a result of Hurricane Harvey, so that might result in changes regarding coordination with TXWARN. TXWARN would like to develop a rapid communication system for member coordination during an emergency and provide more training for members to understand what WARN is and what it is not.
Utah	UTWARN has 90 members and not been used to respond to any incidents recently. Representatives will be attending the U.S. EPA-sponsored December 2019 Region 8 Interstate Workshop.
Virginia	VA WARN has 51 members and in 2019 members provided leak detection capabilities and parts for repairing a sewer line in a community. The community was able to get couplings in 24 hours rather than several days. VA WARN representatives are working with rural water circuit riders and the state primacy agency to share a package of WARN related information, which will soon also include America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) information. VA WARN now has a seat at the SEOC in ESF #3 and WARN representatives would like to give a presentation at a future state emergency management agency conference.
Washington	WAWARN has 132 members and hosted a U.S. EPA-sponsored functional exercise in November 2018 that included emergency management and primacy agency staff. WARN was recently presented at an EPA Harmful Algal Bloom tabletop exercise. Representatives would like to increase coordination with and add smaller communities as members.
Wyoming	WYOWARN has 41 members and representatives are working with the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security to help them identify critical infrastructure throughout the state. WYOWARN was involved in a statewide TTX based on a long-term power outage scenario. It was noted that some small communities request WARN assistance for normal operations, which is an emergency to them.

Resource Typing Updates – Kevin Morley, American Water Works Association and Christine Herndon, Herndon Solutions Group

AWWA is in the process of updating its Resource Typing Manual (published in 2008) to integrate lessons learned over the past ten years. The update process has involved multiple comment periods and workshops with stakeholder groups, as well as several meetings and reviews with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staff. FEMA has accepted all water sector-based teams, but they are still reviewing non-water sector-based teams. Utilities find the 2008 manual useful for internal utility planning, especially to determine what resources they don't have available. The updated version of the Manual is available at:

https://www.awwa.org/Portals/0/AWWA/Government/AWWA_RT%20Guidance_FINAL_%20Nov2019.pdf?ver=2019-11-05-084838-303.

AWIA and WARN Opportunities – Brian Pickard, U.S. EPA Headquarters

AWIA section 2013 requires community water systems serving a population greater than 3,300 to:

- Complete and certify a risk and resilience assessment by specified dates, and
- Update their emergency response plans using the results of the risk assessment and submit certification within six months of certifying the risk assessment.

WARN fits under the "strategies and resources to improve resilience," as well as "plans and procedures that can be implemented" and thus helps facilitate AWIA compliance. Many WARNs have started promoting themselves this way with some success. While AWIA may be specifically designed for community water systems serving greater than 3,300 people, WARN membership is applicable for all water sector systems.

Florida Water Tracker Update – Joni Synatschk, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Florida DEP is consolidating current resources (e.g., WebEOC, StormTracker, FlaWARN) into one data management system, WATER Tracker, that should be operational and rolled out prior to the 2020 hurricane season. The previous systems were useful, but there was no integration between all of them and there were insufficient reporting and notification mechanisms. WATER Tracker will be a single source for all utilities for event-related status, needs and resources and will have an “SOS” button that allows users to send a quick email to the Florida DEP. Another goal is for this system to be useful for all incidents, not just hurricanes. Florida is willing to share the system with other states who might want to customize it to their needs.

EPA Updates and Additional Discussion

EPA-Funded Events and Tools: Dawn Ison, EPA, noted the following:

- EPA plans to fund one WARN Functional Exercise in 2020.
- EPA plans to schedule WARN webinars in 2020. The following topics are going to be voted on by the WARN Chairs to choose priority topics:
 - EMAC and WARN – deployment briefings, lessons learned, etc.
 - FEMA paperwork and reimbursement – important forms and lessons learned
 - Resource Typing and Mission Ready Package (MRP) development – practical applications for resource typing, step-by-step instructions for developing MRPs
 - 2019 WARN-facilitated responses overview
 - Digital resources – mobile applications and data management
 - WARN-to-WARN Deployment – pros and cons of interstate WARN deployment
 - Florida WATER Tracker – overview of Florida DEP’s new system under development

Credentialing: Brian Pickard noted that the Crisis Event Response and Recovery Access (CERRA) guide has been published by DHS/FEMA and identifies utilities as a first responder. While the document is guidance and not law, WARNs are encouraged to provide it to utility members to use as a framework for working with locals on access. The document is available online at:

<https://www.dhs.gov/publication/crisis-event-response-and-recovery-access>.

Water ESF: Kevin Morley shared that there are ongoing discussions regarding whether the water and wastewater sector needs its own ESF, rather than being under the broader public works and engineering ESF #3, which is led by the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers (USACE) as the coordinating agency. One proposed solution that seems to be amenable to U.S. EPA and FEMA is that EPA becomes a co-coordinating agency with USACE under ESF #3, thus allowing FEMA to assign tasks directly to EPA.

Emergency Drinking Water Supply: Brian Pickard noted that U.S. EPA is working to develop Emergency Drinking Water Supply (EDWS) templates for Colorado and Rhode Island based on one from California. These templates will eventually be shared with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) and WARNs are encouraged to work with their members to determine what EDWS resources are available in their state.