



# American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section

## 2023 Spring Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes May 5, 2023 Three Rivers Convention Center Kennewick, WA

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Chair Michelle Cheek. Also present were Past Chair John Roth, Chair Elect Dan Sleeth, Trustees Libby Barg Bakke, Nick Belmont, Joel Cary, Tyler Clary, Jamie Porter, and Tonya Reiss, AWWA Director James Dean, Treasurer Jason Canady and Executive Director Kyle Kihs.

### Chair's Report

Michelle Cheek thanked the City of Richland for being excellent conference hosts. She noted the conference has been fun and successful and noted the return of competitions.

Incoming officers were introduced: Chair Elect Nick Belmont, Oregon/Idaho Trustee Chandra Hingston, Washington Trustee Jolene Gibson and Trustee at Large Erika Murphy.

### AWWA Vice President Michelle Stockness

The Chair introduced AWWA Vice President Michelle Stockness.

- Ms. Stockness thanked the Section for its commitment to a better world and better water and noted the Association is here to help members every day in their jobs.
- There are 50,000 members of AWWA including 4500 active volunteers in 96 countries.
- AWWA's current major emphasis is on Water 2050, working proactively to look at what we want the future of water to look like and how to get there.
- AWWA can help Sections with policy, webinars and navigating through information.
- A consolidated report will be presented at ACE in June and planning for year-by-year progress will begin. Sections will be encouraged to tie their activities into the overall vision.

- She complimented the Section for good technical content in the conference sessions, for the number of operators involved in the conference, the YP program and diversity and inclusion efforts.
- She emphasized that member engagement is the key to success.

Vice President Stockness was presented with a Pendleton blanket by the Chair.

### **AWWA Director Report**

- Dean said that Vice President Stockton had covered most of the Association issues.
- He emphasized that Water 2050 and Diversity and Inclusion are of primary importance.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Canady stated the Section finances look very good in the first quarter; there are strong conference revenues and overall revenues for the year are expected to come in ahead of the budgeted target.
- The budget process is starting and liaisons are encouraged to work with committees to be realistic about revenues and expenditures.
- He thanked the Executive Director for all his work toward keeping the Section healthy and well run.

### **Consent Item – Winter Trustee Minutes**

**Motion: Cary moved to approve the minutes from the 2023 Winter Trustee Meeting, seconded by Roth. Minutes were approved by consensus.**

### **Action Items**

#### ***Slate of Candidates for 2023***

**Motion: Roth moved to approve the following slate of candidates for 2023, seconded by Sleeth. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Elect: Libby Barg Bakke, Joel Cary, Doug Schlepp  
 Washington Trustee: Brian Wilson, Enoch Nicholson  
 Oregon/Idaho Trustee: Andrew Nishihara, Jeremiah Hunt  
 Trustee at Large: Joanie Stultz, Jeremy Djajadi

### ***Diversity and Inclusion Committee Adjustment***

**Motion: Cheek moved to establish the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee as a stand-alone Committee, seconded by Porter. Motion carried unanimously.**

Board members had positive comments and Past Chair Ronda Farmer noted she was pleased that her initiative has been achieved so that the Section can better reflect the people we serve.

### ***Merit Increase for Executive Director***

**Motion: Cheek moved to approve a 4% merit increase for the Executive Director, seconded by Porter. Motion carried unanimously.**

Cheek noted that further improvements are needed to the performance evaluation process and work will continue under Dan Sleeth.

### **2024 Section Conference in Spokane, WA – Ray Foster**

Ray Foster, City of Spokane Water Department stated he is the local liaison and volunteer coordinator for the 2024 conference. He noted that planning is just getting started and he will have a more complete report at the Fall meeting.

### **Scholarship Committee (Cory Baune)**

It was noted that 11 scholarships have been rewarded at \$4,000 each. The committee was thanked for reviewing all the applications and Dan Kegley thanked the Board and the Education and Training Board for all their support.

### **Comments from the Membership**

There were no comments from the membership.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.