



# American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section

## WINTER TRUSTEE MEETING Virtual Via Zoom MINUTES January 23, 2024

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Dan Sleeth. Also present were Chair Elect Nick Belmont, Past Chair Michelle Cheek, Trustees Libby Barg Bakke, Joel Cary, Jolene Gibson, Chandra Hingston, Erika Murphy, and Tonya Reiss, AWWA Director James Dean, Treasurer Jason Canady and Executive Director Kyle Kihs.

### Chair's Report - Dan Sleeth

- The upcoming Spokane conference is our focus now with registration already looking strong.
- Executive Director employment contract has been updated, reviewed by the Executive Committee, and completed.
- Ad Hoc Committee addressing conference registration fees has been assigned to Chair Elect Belmont.

### Association Director Report – James Dean

- AWWC winter meeting was just completed. The 2030 Strategic Plan will be presented soon to the membership. It appears the membership will be pleased with the direction the Association is taking in the next five years.
- A day was spent on the 2050 campaign, narrowing down 47 directives that came out of the initiative by priority and areas of concentration. Information will be unveiled to the Sections in the coming months.
- A Bylaw change was adopted which requires a Director at Large position to be reserved for a Young Professional; this further illustrates the Association's commitment to those who will be leading the organization in the next few years.
- Legislation issues related to PFAS and lead and copper rules are taking shape slowly.

### Treasurer's Report – Jason Canady

- A robust, balanced budget has been adopted that invests heavily in the membership.
- Revenues and expenses both came in slightly above projections, with a net end-of-year balance of \$107,000 in excess of what was anticipated.
- Committees did an excellent job of controlling expenses while coming close to meeting their revenue goals with \$88,000 of the \$95,000 projected for training income realized.
- Calendar year 2023 was closed in a very strong position. Although financial expectations were exceeded, the Board is advised to use caution when considering expenditures like donations and limit those to help rebuild reserves so we can be positioned well for an unexpected COVID type event in the future.
- A robust discussion at the Board level indicated a strong desire for potential investment in leadership;

no consensus was formed but would like this to be further addressed by the Executive Committee prior to the summer Board workshop when specific ideas will be discussed. There was also consensus to put some thought into where we can benefit our membership the most through funding. Some ideas include a symposium, individual classes, and a bigger focus on track training at the conference so members can see value for increased registration fees.

**Consent Item: Approve Fall Meeting Minutes**

**Motion: Dean moved to approve the minutes of the 2023 Fall Trustee Meeting, seconded by Cary. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Approval of Section Election Results**

**Motion: Reiss moved to approve the following Section election results, seconded by Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Elect: Joel Cary

Oregon/Idaho Trustee: Jeremiah Hunt

Washington Trustee: Brian Wilson

Trustee at Large: Joanie Stultz

AWWA Director: Alex Mofidi

**Appointment to the E&T Fund Board**

**Motion: Gibson moved to approve the appointment of Tom Keown to a second four-year term on the E&T Board, seconded by Belmont. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Blue Mountain Subsection Bylaw Update – Dan Sleeth**

**Motion: Dean moved to approve a change to the Blue Mountain Subsection Bylaws which will allow business to be performed by vote when a quorum is present, seconded by Reiss. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Ad-Hoc Pricing Committee Update – Nick Belmont**

- Guidelines for setting conference registration prices do not exist; it has been noted that without guidelines, it has sometimes been necessary to institute a large increase to make up for several years without an increase. The committee is putting together a policy to guide future boards so that prices can be set in a consistent manner. A draft policy has been completed and will be brought forward to the Board after it is finalized by the committee.

**2024 Spokane Conference – Ray Foster**

- Still 22 slots open for volunteers (room assistance – scanning)
- Golf is locked in for Prairie Falls in Post Falls, Idaho; Foster will meet with Dan Kegley next week to go over tournament issues.
- Floor plan of the vendor hall is available online; registration opened on January 2 and 30-35 booths out of 97 are still available.

**Program Committee – Jill Hoyenga, Michelle Johnson**

- Review of conference program shows 4.5 pre-cons, two of which are off-site tours; in total conference will offer 42.5 tracks, more than any prior conference.

- Competitions are on schedule and located in the theatre.
- Two wastewater tracks are offered in addition to an Early Bird. Oregon has assigned wastewater CEUs to many sessions. Washington CEUs are not yet assigned.
- The program schedule is basically confirmed although, as always, there may be last minute changes.

#### **King County Subsection - Caren Sleeth**

- In 2023, a focus was on updating outdated bylaws; also worked on shoring up budget and strategic plan documents and making those available to the public.
- Very successful 2023 Water Olympics.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> annual charity golf tournament very successful with 112 golfers and more involved sponsors.
- Also focused on succession planning in 2024; recruiting more people to committees to give exposure and help encourage involvement.
- All voting board member positions are filled.
- In 2024, Water Olympics set for March; golf tournament in September; want more socials and happy hours to bring people together to support the mission and participate.

#### **South Sound Subsection – Chantal Broussard**

- Three successful trainings in 2023.
- Donated last \$8500 needed to establish a name E&T scholarship.
- Currently donating to local charities but transitioning to more Section-sponsored philanthropies.
- New committee members have joined and attended 2023 Fall training, which spurred a lot of conversation. There is still a gap in understanding AWWA at a local level; encourage future trainings to address both subsections and committees.
- 2024 goals include shoring up the board and getting a succession plan in place; need more engagement and doing outreach to smaller utilities including networking and training. Considering the potential to use some funds to defray membership costs for those who sign up for trainings.
- Golf tournament planned in July.

#### **Lower Columbia Subsection – Kristin Kihs**

- The overall theme in 2024 is growth and improvement.
- Planning a monthly newsletter.
- Succession planning – have open YP position. New treasurer will take Brian Wilson's place when he moves to his Board of Trustees position.
- Outreach to utilities and connection to all areas of the Subsection planned – not just Vancouver metro area.
- Plans to continue and grow quarterly training; would like more outreach to utilities and development of remote options.
- Possible site tour in July.
- YP events will be incorporated into the 2024 schedule.

#### **Central Washington Subsection – Pat Everham**

- Need more participation from cities and areas other than Yakima and Tri-Cities. Video meetings will make that easier.
- The annual golf tournament will continue.

- Training goals were not met in 2023. The State of Washington may help with training opportunities in 2024.
- Trying to encourage participation in competitions.

#### **Blue Mountain Subsection – Steven Schramm**

- The bylaws change adopted by the Board will make it easier to operate with quarterly meetings. There is currently good attendance.
- A summer social is planned in 2024.
- In-person trainings will continue to help operators network. So far the trainings have been well attended.

#### **Inland Empire Subsection – Branden Rose**

- Hosting a local YP event to encourage new spark and new ideas.
- The 20<sup>th</sup> annual truck rodeo is scheduled for Feb. 28. The event is budgeted for 150 participants and approved for .6 CEUs. Also discussing 2050 initiative as one of the classes to get YPs involved and hear their thoughts.
- The golf tournament at Prairie Falls had 91 participants and a good income in 2023.

#### **Southwest Idaho Subsection – Kalli Everhart**

#### **Eastern Oregon subsection – Deb Cornford**

These reports were not given – likely because the meeting moved much more quickly than planned and presenters had not joined yet.

#### **Cascade to Coast – Cody Scoggins**

- 2023 was a good year coming out of COVID; a short school was held with good participation and enabled a \$15,000 contribution to the E&T Fund.
- Subsection continues the partnership with Rogue Community College
- Great turnout for golf tournament, but would like to engage more in 2024. The goal is to have fun and network and raise as much money as possible for Water for People.
- Plan to continue momentum in training, and networking by YP committee with presentations at college and high school level.
- Want to encourage more participation from various municipalities, not just the biggest cities.
- Emphasize career opportunities that don't require a college degree.

#### **Items or Comments from the Membership**

- There were no comments from the membership.

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16