

PACIFIC NORTHWEST SECTION

American Water Works Association

2025 Spring Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2025
Boise Centre – Room 120

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Nick Belmont. Also present were Chair Elect Joel Cary, Past Chair Dan Sleeth, Trustees Jolene Gibson, Chandra Hingston, Jeremiah Hunt, Erika Murphy, Joanie Stultz, and Brian Wilson, AWWA Director James Dean, and Treasurer Jamie Porter.

Chair's Report State of the Section

Chair Nick Belmont shared his appreciation to everyone for the completion of a great year, emphasizing the positive aspects of board continuity and especially the productive working relationships with Past Chair Dan Sleeth and incoming Chair Joel Cary. He noted in particular

- the implementation of a policy for conference pricing.
- the stable financial condition of the section.
- the potential of a leadership symposium.
- The update to the Code of Conduct policy which now aligns with the Section values as well as those of AWWA.

The Chair announced that Cody Scoggins is the new E&T Fund Board YP Officer.

He thanked the City of Boise and Veolia Water for being great conference hosts and noted everyone has enjoyed their time in this beautiful, clean city.

He then introduced incoming Trustees Kyle Arnhart, Katie Dillon and Jeremy Djajadi.

Chair Belmont introduced visiting dignitary AWWA Water Utility Council Chair Ken Lykens, from Colorado. Mr. Lykens was presented with the traditional gift of a Pendleton blanket.

Mr. Lykens covered several topics of interest at AWWA.

- The AWWA Water Utility Council at the national level is made up of 25 senior members of the utility profession from across the country, resulting in a diverse geographic group who work with the Washington DC staff in relation to regulatory issues with drinking water across the country.

- The 2025 Fly-in for Water Week emphasized the position of the water industry having to weigh compliance against financial constraints in regard to lead and copper and PFAS regulations. This year 200 delegates representing 47 states attended. Mr. Lykens elaborated on the following issues:
 - Lead and Copper Rule improvements (LCRR and LCRI) petition for judicial review is pending.
 - PFAS – April 2024 rule establishing 4 parts per trillion and index requirements also prompted a petition for judicial review.
 - PFAS enforcement under CERCLA – AWWA supports the PFAS Liability Protection Act for water utilities which is pending in Congress.
 - Cyber security – Water Resources Registry would authorize an independent organization to develop minimum cyber security regulations for the water sector.
 - He commended PNWS for having standing and functioning state WUCs.
- Water 2050 sets the framework to address issues that will affect us in 25 years. Five think tanks have been established to formulate policies. Reports have been submitted, and strategic initiative teams have been established that include AWWA staff, volunteers and people outside the water sector. Evaluation will occur every five years. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved.
- AWWA has put much effort into the Young Professional program. Three YP members have joined the Executive Committee as non-voting members with the hope they will gain the tools to become leaders in the association and the industry. One director-at-large position has been allocated to a YP and the first was elected at the annual meeting at Hilton Head.

Association Director Report

Director James Dean noted that AWWA continues its international partnership efforts with several nations, and this work is important to the discussions regarding Water 2050.

He also noted the Community Resource Group is looking for volunteers as strategic partners to help further their actions. He encouraged volunteering as a way to get involved with the Association.

Financial Update

Treasurer Jamie Porter noted that total assets increased from 2.9 million in 2023 to 3.4 million in 2024, largely due to the efforts of the E&T Board.

The Section showed a \$27,000 profit in 2024 with both income and expenses exceeding projections.

In the first quarter of 2025, 75% of the projected budget has been received, with expenses

lagging. He encouraged committees to continue working to raise funds.

He noted his goals for the year:

- Develop subsection audit procedures.
- Assist the Executive Director to review conference and training costs to be competitive.
- Focus on general fund budget as well as how side organizations (WUCs and WARNs) function.

Approval of Winter Trustee Meeting Minutes

Motion: Dean moved to approve the minutes of the winter Trustee Meeting as presented, seconded by Hunt.

There was no discussion.

Motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Slate of Candidates for 2025

The Chair announced the 2025 slate of candidates for approval:

- Chair Elect: Chris Young, Jeremiah Hunt, Brian Wilson
- Washington Trustee: Andrew Holmes, Emilia Blake
- Oregon/Idaho Trustee: Cole Bennick, Branden Rose
- At-large Trustee: Deb Cornford, Don Popoff

Motion: Hingston moved to approve the slate of candidates as presented, seconded by Sleeth.

There was no discussion.

Motion was approved unanimously.

2026 Section Conference

Marc Powell introduced himself as the volunteer coordinator for the conference; he noted a high bar was set this year and the Tacoma coordinators are ready to do their best.

Scholarship Committee

Jason Branstetter stated it was a great year for scholarships and thanked the E&T Fund members for providing funding.

- Thirty-five applications were received, and 15 scholarships were awarded.
- \$61,500 total allocated for scholarships.
- Outreach to Clackamas Community College Technology Program was very successful. Fourteen applications were received from students and four were awarded.

- 35 applications were received this year compared to 20 last year.
- More outreach to other educational institutions is planned.

Comments from the Membership

- Branden Rose presented a check for \$20,000 from the Inland Empire Subsection to Jason Branstetter for the scholarship fund. He noted that ISS hopes to raise another \$20,000 next year with events including the truck rodeo and golf tournament.
- Jeff Lundt noted that a portion of the total money allocated for scholarships was carried over from unused scholarships in the previous year.
- There was more clarification of how scholarship funding is allocated by the E&T Fund.
- The importance of individual donations was emphasized.

Comments from the Board

- The First Time Attendees event at the conference was very successful, thanks to Tyler and the committee for their great work.
- Thanks to Amerika for her role in the competitions.
- Chandra Higgins was commended for her support of member engagement; 3 of the 4 committees met monthly and she attended most and was very supportive.
- Dan Sleeth thanked all who assisted him along the way as he served on Board and through the offices. He noted it was his distinct honor to serve.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.