2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2026
Heathman Lodge Vancouver – General Howard Room

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 9:00 by Chair Jolene Gibson. Also present were Past Chair Joel Cary, Chair Elect Chris Young, Trustees Kyle Arnhart, Emilia Blake, Jeremy Djajadi, Don Popoff and Branden Rose, Treasurer Jamie Porter, and Executive Director Kyle Kihs. Trustee Katie Dillon and AWWA Director Alex Mofidi were unable to attend.

Chair's Report
Chair Gibson thanked all volunteers and speakers for a successful training and encouraged attendees to build on the friends and connections made.

Association Directors Report – Alex Mofidi
Mr. Mofidi was unable to attend the meeting.

Treasurers Report – Jamie Porter
Mr. Porter noted that finances are in good shape at the 2/3-year mark. The revenue goal for the year has been surpassed. Conference income and expenses were both higher than forecast, with a net result of $40,000 more profit from the conference than anticipated. The 2027 budget continues maintaining the reserve fund and anticipates continued growth in investments.

Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes

Motion: Rose moved to approve the spring meeting minutes, second by Arnhardt. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Announcement – Jolene Gibson
After thanking Jamie Porter for his hard work in bringing the Section finances to the next level, Chair Gibson announced the appointment of James Dean as the new Section Treasurer. Dean will take office following the Section Conference in Spokane.

2027 Spokane Conference Program – Aimee McAuliffe
Program committee Coordinator Aimee McAuliffe was unable to attend. Executive Director Kihs reported 181 abstracts have been received (down from about 200 in 2026). Submissions for CEU approval will be forwarded to Washington and Oregon by the end of the year. Idaho approves CEUs through a reciprocal agreement. Any questions can be submitted via e-mail to Ms. McAuliffe

2027 Spokane Conference – Ryan Petaluna
Petaluma is researching golf courses, trying for Indian Canyon which is a city course. The first conference planning meeting is scheduled for November. Spokane is looking forward to hosting.

Subsection Advisory Council – Bill Reynolds
Bill Reynolds reported that the SAC is moving forward with their mission. Officers will rotate into new positions after the annual conference. They are currently recruiting for a secretary. Updated documents are now included on the SAC drive, including financial reporting forms.

Preparation for competitions at the Section level is underway to prepare for ACE. Coordinators have been named for each competition. Hydrant Hysteria will still be encouraged at the Section level even if not included at the national level.

The Committee is working on formalizing officer roles and Subsection bylaws may need updating to be compliant with AWWA.

Next Wave Endowment Fund – Tom Keown
Tom Keown noted that this is a pivotal moment for the fund as the committee is planning to transition the fund from its initial establishment phase into a long-term stability and sustainability phase. They believe this requires a financial advisor with demonstrated expertise in managing nonprofit endowments of similar size, along with a clear methodology for ensuring continuity as committee membership rotates. An RFQ was issued in May Two firms were shortlisted and the committee recommends Clearstead, an Ohio company that has the appropriate expertise. A handout was provided with details on the firm and the committee seeks board approval when this information has been processed.

The Chair stated that committee representatives will be invited to a future meeting to continue the discussion and any questions from the Trustees will be provided to the committee prior to the meeting. The proposal will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting and after due diligence the issue will come back to the Board for approval, potentially at the Winter Meeting.

2027 Budget Discussion – Jolene Gibson
A balanced budget for 2027 has been submitted with no cuts to committee funding requests. Some funds are earmarked for the 100-year celebration. Subsections will hold some money aside for local events.

2027 Budget Approval – Jolene Gibson

Motion: Cary moved to approve the 2027 budget as presented, seconded by Rose. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Division Reports
Chair Gibson noted that complete division reports are available on the website. Trustees have been asked for a brief presentation of bullet points today.

Joel Cary – WUCs and WARNs (Government Relations)
- ORWARN has launched a new website; it is a work in progress.
- ORWARN provided support to Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs during a water line break related to emergency wildfire response.
- OWUC and WWUC remain active and involved in several areas of regulatory and government affairs; WWUC is leading planning efforts for the annual tri-state WUC meeting in November in Vancouver.

Kyle Arnhart – Public Communication
- Cross Connection Control Committee hosted a one-day, in-person Cross Connection Control Basics training in September at the Tacoma Water Department.

- Water Conservation Committee continues to host quarterly virtual discussions which are well attended. The September training included speakers from the City of Tumwater, Clackamas River Water Provider and Medford Water.
- Customer Service Committee meets every 2 to 3 months and is now fully staffed with officers. Kudos to all who helped revive this committee.

Emilia Blake – Water Science

- Water Treatment is hosting Taste and Odor workshop in October at Mercer Island. The session will be hands on with a virtual option.
- All committees are busy working on selecting abstracts for the pre-conference and technical sessions for the Annual Conference.
- New committee members are always welcome and needed. Research Committee is looking for a secretary.

Jeremy Djajadi – Philanthropy

- Next Wave Fund is going through a process to find financial advisors to align with its vision in managing the endowment fund.
- Philanthropic Advisory Council is lining up events including Water for Water in March and silent auction at the annual conference. They are also coordinating with Next Wave to determine how to allocate proceeds via scholarships or other means.
- Scholarship Committee is working on a new application process that will enable inclusion of more applicants by modifying categories and criteria.

Branden Rose – Water Science

- SAC meeting invitations have been distributed through early 2027. SAC is actively recruiting for positions of secretary and treasurer as well as a coordinator for Gimmicks and Gadgets.
- Engineering Committee has really been active. They hosted a Corrosion Symposium in September with a budget of $3,000 which brought in revenue of $8,000.
- Distribution has actively added new members and are currently reviewing and selecting abstracts for 2027 conference and working on a single-day training in the fourth quarter of 2026.

Katie Dillon – Member Engagement (presented by Jolene Gibson)

- Water Information and Technology held a training in Boise in July, will be reviewing abstracts for potential WITC track at the annual conference and focusing to find more members from partner utilities for the committee.
- Young Professionals are continuing YP Wednesday virtual events, developing new approach and formal documentation of that approach and selection process for the Pioneer Award and will host Fresh Ideas Poster event again, opening competition to working YPs.
- Membership well on their way to their goal of 3% membership growth. AWWA is currently reporting a 4.5% growth for PNWS since last year. A Portland State Chapter has been established.

Don Popoff – Internal Communications

- Utility Management has hybrid training planned to discuss Enterprise Resilience Iin January and looking for additional speakers. They continue monthly meetings virtually and are planning one-day conference track in Spokane.
- Public Information Committee is in transition.

- Publications Committee continues to publish Water Matters each quarter.

Comments from Membership
Jeff Lundt reported on the very successful Day with DOH virtual event sponsored by the Northwest Washington Subsection. He noted that 218 attendees logged in to hear 14 speakers from DOH. The Subsection is looking forward to making this annual event. DOH did an excellent job of covering a great deal of material. DOH and County Health Department employees attended free of charge and attendees paid a fee of $50. Twenty-one of 39 counties were represented. Attendees also included two students and six small systems scholarship recipients.

He also noted that the operator scholarship program is getting started and a volunteer review committee has been formed to review applications. This will help operators to become certified or increase their certification when the utility cannot help with costs. Funds can be used for certification exam costs, study aids, etc.

Adjourn
The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and noted the form for sponsored reimbursement is on line. She thanked all attendees for the thoughtful questions, feedback and collaboration. She also thanked the Board for stepping up to deliver needed help to the committees and noted that personal invitations to serve are very important and effective. She looks forward to joining everyone for the 100-year anniversary celebration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.