



**MWEA 2022 SPRING BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday: April 25th — 1:00 PM**  
**HERITAGE INN: GREAT FALLS, MT**  
**ROOM: 200**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Neil DeZort at 1:00 PM. Present: Neil DeZort, Rika Lashley, Barb Coffman, Collette Anderson, Bruce Souder, Dave Aune, Rickey Schultz, Rodney Lance.

**Introductions:** Howard Carter, WEF Board of Trustees Delegate – From Saco, Maine – 30 yrs experience. Workforce development of an operator may be presented during the conference / Dave Aune, MWEA National Delegate

**Old Business:**

1. Review & Approve 2021 Fall Meeting Minutes: Rodney made a motion to approve the minutes. Rika seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. Budget Report: The budget is in good shape. Spent approximately \$8,125.40 so far this fiscal year (May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022). On track of what was spent last year. Have lost \$591.40 in the Mutual fund account since May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Ask Robin about Webgrain. Rika made a motion to increase General Event Liability and D&O Liability by \$100 each while decreasing MWEA Website to \$200. Collette seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. Robin's Contract Renewal (Contract Dates are July 1 2022 – June 30, 2022): Old Monthly Invoice: \$471.43. New Monthly Invoice: \$483.22 (\$5,798.64). The contract is to be signed by Robin and Neil, and then it will be finalized. Dave brought up about having the criteria established for Robin so she knows what the expectations are. Presidents of both boards would then review and evaluate Robin's progress and discuss any concerns or issues.
3. MWEA Committee Reports:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Board Oversight</b>	<b>Committee Chair</b>
Beneficial Reuse: Now includes Resource Recovery. Not sure of current members. Nothing new to report at this time.	Senior Trustee – Collette A.	Neil D.
Education: Nothing to report at this time.	President – Neil D.	Barb Coffman / Doug Whitney
Government Affairs:	National Delegate – Dave A.	Amanda M. possibly

There is no committee at this time. Communication with the MWEA concerning Federal and State legislative bills. Important to communicate to the members what is going on at the Federal level. Rika will follow up with Amanda M.		
Honors & Awards: Need to confirm if Jeremy still wants to be the committee chair. Applications for awards should be sent in November. Rika will temporarily be the committee chair until a permanent one is in place. Will discuss more at the Spring Conference. Bob Morrison and Gary Swanson - Lifetime Achievement Award. Terry Cambell – Bedell Award. Karen Sanchez – Todd Teagarden Award. City of Townsend for Small Systems Awards.	Past President – Rika L.	Jeremy P.
Grants for Teachers: Teachers not interested this year. Maybe next year when things are back to normal.	Secretary/Treasurer – Rodney L.	Amy Deitchler
Long Range Planning: Did have a couple of conference calls last spring but no progress. Still no strategic plan draft. Long Range plan will need to be updated in 2023 (every 5-years). Nothing new to report at this time. Possibly receive help from Kelsey Hurst.	President – Neil D.	Court Harris
Membership: Robin is the only one with access to it as there is only one license. Increase in new members.	President Elect – Barb C.	Laura Gundlach
Pretreatment: One class was held back in November 30, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM as a virtual seminar. Amy would like to step down as Committee Chair. Will need to find a replacement. Nothing new to report at this time.	Vice President – Collette A.	Amy Deitchler
Stockholm Junior Water Prize: Four fairs were held with two finalists. Judging is on-going. MWEA will pay for the airfare.	Junior Trustee – Bruce S.	Kristi Kline
Stormwater: Committee was a little less active this past year, still interested in participating in webinars; Neil will reach out to Mace for further information. The committee has started a newsletter that is distributed to a small number of people at this time.	President – Neil D.	Mace Mangold

- Code of Conduct – Howard Carter addressed it. The Code of Conduct does not apply to non-WEF members. Way to report infractions to an ethics committee. Look to incorporate the Code of Conduct into the By-Laws? Policies can be voted on by the Board, By-Laws require voting by members.

5. Restructuring of Board Oversight Committees – Barb addressed the possibility of looking at once you come onto the board you stay as Board Oversight, where one will not have to switch every year. Will have more continuity that way for several years this way. Would require a change in the Strategic Plan. Rodney motioned to restructure the Board Oversight Committees. Neil seconded the motion. The motion passed.
6. Updating By-Laws – Possibility of Kelsey Hurst with WEF reaching out to Neil, Barb and Collette to restructure the By-Laws so they conform to WEF By-Laws. Board will be responsible to update it and have the members vote on it
7. Strategic Plan Update – Possibility of Kelsey Hurst with WEF reaching out to Neil, Barb, and Collette to restructure the Strategic Plan. Board will be responsible to update it and have the members vote on it.
8. Long Range Plan Update – Possibility of Kelsey Hurst with WEF reaching out to Neil, Barb, and Collette to restructure the Long Range Plan. Barb may email the Long Range Plan to the members to see what is relevant and what can be deleted. Rika will also reach out to the Long Range Committee as this falls in their scope
9. Carryover Discussion from last meeting:
  - a. Montana Operative Initiative – Barb Coffman stated that it is collaboration with MSU Civil Engineering School and Montana DEQ. Spring school scheduled in May in Miles City. Dual credit classes are a plus for operators if it is a virtual streamed class.
  - b. Operator Apprenticeship Program by MRWS – goal is to have the first apprentices by October.
  - c. Discussion on virtual events for 2022 – Does MWEA still wish to pursue this? – Neil stated that for operators they like it but they have a tendency to get pulled away from it and they don't learn it. Bruce stated there wasn't much in terms of wastewater events. The board decided not to pursue it at this time as in-person is now available.
10. Other Business
  - a. Neil brought up about being done with the City of Whitefish on June 1<sup>st</sup> and not having the time to fully commit to supporting the Board. He can stay on as Past-President but may not be able to be fully supportive in that capacity.
  - b. Nominees for Junior Trustee and Secretary/Treasurer will be needed for the Joint Membership meeting to vote on. Will also need to vote Rickey Schultz in as the Senior Trustee. He is currently serving as an appointed trustee.
11. Adjourn: Rodney made a motion to adjourn. Dave seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.