

# **Pennsylvania Water Environment Association December 10, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Holiday Inn Conference Center – New Cumberland, PA**

**Board members present:** Art Auchenbach, Joseph Drnach, Larry Fair, Mike Kyle, Dean Miller, Fran McGovern, Charles Music, Tina Myers, Doug Pike, Joseph Rost, Mike Sassaman, Mike Sedon, Alison Shuler and Daniel Slagle

**Committee Chairpersons present:** Hugh Archer, Marilyn Baron, Patrick Canavan, Tony Elberti, Jim Kern, Dana Pizarro

**Staff:** Susan Boynton

## **CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Dean Miller called the meeting to order at 10:08AM; a quorum was confirmed.

President Miller asked for discussion on or approval of the September 24, 2010 Board Meeting minutes as submitted.

**Motion/Second by:** Art Auchenbach/Mike Sassaman  
**Motion (passed):** To approve the September 24, 2010 Board Minutes as recorded.

## **President's Report**

President Miller presented information on the potential for a joint annual conference with the WWOAP in 2012. After hearing the interest of board members, First Vice-President Joe Drnach suggested that an Ad-Hoc committee be formed to research, meet and discuss details such as task sharing, revenue sharing, etc. and report back to the board with a recommendation on whether to meet with WWOAP. Board members Mike Sassaman, Alison Shuler, Marilyn Baron, Art Auchenbach and Chuck Music all volunteered to be on the Ad-Hoc Committee; with Chuck Music volunteering to be the Chairperson.

President Miller requested input on the document titled "Fixing a Broken System." The basic inference of the document was that recommendations could be made to the PA DEP to improve or enhance the current systematic program and related policies and processes. Both pros and cons were expressed in endorsing the document as written. It was noted by several board members that the author did not attach their name to the document. Hugh Archer noted that the Commonwealth's new Administration would be reviewing state programs looking to see where cuts can be made. A recommendation was made to defer the document and its subject matter to the PWEA Government Affairs Committee for review and that the Committee draft a paper for PWEA to present to the PA DEP.

Dean noted that he would like to work on schedule a meeting with the Sections during the annual conference to review status and continue discussing PWEA's strategic goals.

## **First Vice President's Report**

First Vice-President Joe Drnach had nothing new to report.

## **Second Vice President's Report**

Second Vice President Chuck Music reported he had attended last couple meetings between PWEA and the PA DEP and that the relationship had improved over the last few years.

## **First Past President's Report**

First Past President Alison Shuler reported the EPA is reviewing WIPS and noted that there will still be a backup TMDL. She noted that the DEP will not support the EPA criteria and that the issue may end up going through the legal system. Hugh Archer commented that the PWEA needs to support the PA DEP

criteria standards should a legal battle ensue with the EPA. He noted that \$33 million in federal money was at stake for the Commonwealth. Alison also reported the PA DEP was looking to reduce the number of advisory committees in the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy program.

### **Second Past President's Report**

Second Past President Doug Pike had nothing new to report

### **Editor**

Absent, no report submitted.

### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Secretary/Treasurer Art Auchenbach briefly reviewed the month ending November financial reports. Art reported the reserves were in very good standing for the Association.

### **Western Director's Report**

Western Section Director Dan Slagle reported the Section had 670 current members. The first meeting of 2011 was to be held in March and that the Section board voted to move business meetings from Thursday to Friday. The Section had two dates identified to offer the PA DEP mandatory security training. The Section thanks the PWEA for its contribution to the WPWPCA Scholarship fund.

### **Central Section Director's Report**

Central Section Director Fran McGovern reported the Section's slate of 2011 Officers.

### **Eastern Section Director's Report**

Tina Myers was introduced by Larry Fair as the newly elected Eastern Section Director. Larry reported the EPWPCOA created a board position specifically for the current PWEA President. The Section's membership had a very slight drop from the same time period one year earlier. Larry noted that the EPWPCOA Board voted to not change the legal name of the Section Association.

### **First Federation Delegate's Report**

First Federation Delegate Mike Sassaman reported the new Executive Director had been selected and that an official WEF announcement would be forthcoming. Mike also reminded board members of the 2011 WEFMAX meeting schedule. Mike also reported that he was continuing to work with WEF to effect a change to the WEF website to reflect the PWEA being the first Member Association to start a 5S/Sludge Shoveler's Society.

### **Second Federation Delegate's Report**

Second Federation Mike Kyle reported on working being done by the WEF House of Delegates Operator Outreach workgroup. Seven recommendations were approved by the House, which the Trustees deferred to WEF staff for review and recommendation on what can be done from a staffing standpoint. Mike noted an Operator Certification Summit would be held in late March 2011.

Dean Miller expressed his appreciate to Mike Kyle for facilitating the Operator Certification session during Leadership Day at WEFTEC.10 in New Orleans.

### **Professional Wastewater Operations Director**

PWO Director Mike Sedon had nothing new to report.

### **PA DEP Report**

Absent, no report submitted.

**Motion/Second by:** Mike Sassaman/Dan Slagle  
**Motion (passed):** To accept Officer and Director reports.

### **Administrative Report**

Executive Director Sue Boynton reviewed supporting documents provided in the Board packet. She brought to everyone's attention that the DEP's document with proposed exam dates should read 2011 and not 2010.

#### **Advertising Committee Report**

Absent, no report submitted.

#### **Awards Committee Report**

Larry Fair reported the Committee would be meeting in February and that nominations were being accepted through December 31, 2010.

#### **Biosolids Committee Report**

Absent; no report submitted.

#### **Collection Systems Committee Report**

Absent; refer to written report in Board packet.

#### **Conference Committee Report**

Joseph Drnach reported plans for the 2011 conference were moving along. Marilyn Baron recapped the Exhibitors and Sponsors Committee meeting held in October and noted their next meeting would be sometime in January 2011.

#### **Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report**

Absent, no report submitted.

#### **Finance Committee Report**

Alison indicated she would provide her report under the New Business section of the Agenda.

#### **Government Affairs Committee Report**

Hugh Archer noted the importance of PWEA supporting the PA DEP on its effort to block EPA actions to further tighten the TMDL criteria standards in the Commonwealth. Hugh also reported that there are a number of interested parties involved with Marcellus Shale activities, and that a substantial amount of politics was also involved. Hugh recommended that PWEA continue to have discussion and work with John Hines to ensure a continued professional relationship with the agency.

#### **Industrial Pretreatment Committee Report**

Absent, no report submitted.

#### **Laboratory Practices**

Pat Canavan reported the Committee was continuing to finalize plans for the workshop to be offered at PennTec 2011. Alison Shuler noted that the Laboratory Certification testing would be delayed until 2012. She suggested that PWEA be ready to provide input for content of the exam as well as, how many degrees of certification should be required, citing the example of large versus small plant labs.

#### **Membership Committee Report**

Dana Pizarro reported he was continuing to work on re-grouping the Committee, but that scheduling issues were preventing the Committee from a face-to-face meeting. Dana noted that he would be working to schedule a conference call instead in order to get things moving. Dana also noted that he would like to see PWEA continue to providing training events geared toward Professional Engineers, especially since their requirements and license cycles had been finalized.

#### **Nominations Committee Report**

Absent; no report submitted

#### **Operator Certification Committee Report**

Dean Miller recapped information provided in the DEP document in the Board packet. He also reported on the discussion held with Niki Kasi on December 7<sup>th</sup> related to the certification exam process.

### **Policy and Planning Committee Report**

Alison Shuler had nothing new to report.

### **Public Education Committee Report**

Absent; no report submitted.

### **Research Committee Report**

Absent; written committee report provided.

### **Safety Committee Report**

Joe Rost reported the Committee would soon be submitting nominations to the Awards Committee. Joe also reported that the Safety Committee would not be sponsoring a workshop at PennTec 2011 since the DEP's mandatory security workshop was already selected to be sponsored by the PWO Committee.

### **Training Committee Report**

Jim Kern reported the Committee was working on plans to offer the DEP mandatory security course via correspondence format and that it would be publicly offered once the process was finalized.

### **Utility Management Committee Report**

Absent; no report submitted.

### **Water Reuse Committee Report**

Absent, no report submitted.

### **Web Site Committee Report**

Absent; no report submitted.

### **Young Professionals**

Tony Elberti reported the Committee had an active fall season. Tony reported the Committee had a number of new members and suggested that the Board consider a YP member rate to help draw in additional new members. Tony reported the Committee was reviewing the use of LinkedIn for the social networking tool as well as, starting to use Google Calendar to enable better communication between YP members.

Tony reported the Committee would be submitted an article on the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual YP Food Drive for publication in the KWQM. The Committee was already starting to plan events for 2011 and hope to have a high amount of events in 2012. The Committee was review the possibility of hosting a physical event such as a 5K marathon.

**Motion/Second by:** Joseph Drnach/Alison Shuler

**Motion (passed):** To accept the Administrative and Committee reports.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The decision of whether to lend support to the proposed Bill titled "Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act" continues to be tabled until after January 2011, at such time when the Chesapeake Bay Foundation would have additional information to provide.

A proposed position statement was presented to the Board for review and approval.

**Motion/Second by:** Doug Pike/Art Auchenbach

**Motion (not passed):** To approve and adopt the draft Marcellus Shale position statement.

Additional discussion was held regarding the draft position statement. Three revisions were noted and incorporated into the original draft

**Secondary Motion/Second by:** Joseph Drnach/Chuck Music

**Motion (passed):** To amend the draft Marcellus Shale position statement to include three revisions noted by Board members and adopt as PWEA's official Marcellus Shale position statement.

*"The Marcellus Shale natural gas reserve and other similar formations underlying Pennsylvania represent a remarkable opportunity for the Commonwealth to invigorate the economy and spur development for years and decades to come. However, we caution that the private and public sectors must understand and address the substantial environmental and water management challenges presented by this asset. We feel that diligent technical consideration on planning and execution of sound water management strategies are essential to protecting the environment and public interest. PWEA is confident that the skilled and qualified water treatment and environmental planning professionals within our membership are capable of meeting these needs. As an organization, we welcome this new opportunity to guide, teach, spur innovation and protect the environment specific to this emerging area of interest."*

*"Currently, PWEA's membership includes approximately 2,000 professionals representing the private and public sectors. The Association provides a forum for continuing education, regulatory commentary and communication within Pennsylvania's water sector. Those interested in joining PWEA or becoming more familiar with our association are invited to visit us at [www.pwea.org](http://www.pwea.org)."*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A brief discussion was held on PWEA representation for the Sewage Advisory Committee. Alison Shuler noted that she and Duane Mowery were both willing to serve for another term in their current position.

**Motion/Second by:** Mike Kyle/Doug Pike

**Motion (passed):** To approve Duane Mowery and Alison Shuler as Primary and Alternate PWEA representatives on the PA DEP Sewage Advisory Committee, respectively.

Alison Shuler presented a proposed 2011 operating budget to the Board. She noted the Finance Committee had met by conference call on November 23, 2010 to review, discuss and make any changes they deemed necessary. Alison asked for comments or concerns. After a question about a budget for the Marcellus Shale specialty conference, Alison confirmed that event was included in the overall operating budget for 2011. Doug Pike commented that in keeping with strategic goals that had been outlined over the past couple years; he would like to see the Editorial Committee move forward with issuing an RFP for KWQM production services.

Hearing no further comments, concerns or recommendations, Alison motioned for approval of the 2011 proposed operating budget.

**Motion/Second by:** Alison Shuler/Mike Sassaman

**Motion (passed):** To approve the 2011 PWEA operating budget as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50PM.