

# **Pennsylvania Water Environment Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 5, 2010 – Conference Call**

**Board members present:** Art Auchenbach, Joseph Drnach, Larry Fair, Ed Gillette, Lee McDonnell, Mike Kyle, Fran McGovern, Dean Miller, Charles Music, Doug Pike, Jess Rosentel, Joseph Rost, Mike Sassaman, Alison Shuler, Dan Slagle and Shannon Williams

**Committee Chairpersons present:** Marilyn Baron, Dave Brown, Pat Canavan, Jim Kern, Lori Miller, John Schon, Stefan Weaver

**Staff:** Susan Boynton

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

President Alison Shuler called the meeting to order at 10:05AM; a quorum was confirmed. President Shuler asked for discussion on or approval of the December 4, 2009 Board Meeting minutes as submitted.

**Motion/Second by:** Mike Sassaman/Art Auchenbach  
**Motion (passed):** To approve the October 2, 2009 Minutes with one noted correction.

## **President's Report**

President Shuler reported a meeting was held on January 26, 2010 between the PWEA and the PA DEP regarding the DEP's notification of budget cuts and cancellation of certification exams, license upgrades and approval of new training courses. She asked Dean Miller to provide information on this meeting as she was not able to attend. Alison also reported a second meeting had been scheduled with the PA DEP for February 10, 2010 to discuss remaining concerns with the operator certification regulations.

Alison reminded the Board of the March WEFMAX meeting, indicating that several members were planning to attend.

She also reported that the PWEA had been given a voting seat on the PaAWWA Technical Council. Alison indicated that she would be representing the PSU Environmental Training Center and she invited Dean Miller to attend the first meeting of the PaAWWA Technical Council and return to the April Board meeting with a report on the meeting and to vote to designate whoever is holding the position of PWEA Vice President's position the PWEA representative to the PaAWWA Technical Council.

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

First Vice-President Dean Miller reported he attended a meeting on January 26, 2010 with the PA DEP and noted that John Hines, Dana Aunkst, and Lee McDonnell. Dean noted that he worked to keep this particular meeting focused on suggestions and ways that PWEA could assist the DEP with certification exams and proctoring and to save discussion on the remaining concerns with the operator certification regulations until the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dean noted that he offered to contact two community colleges that have indicated they could easily be set up to administer and proctor operator certification exams. He noted that John Hines requested a written document outlining additional details of Dean's proposal. Jess Rosentel, who was also at the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, added that the temporary cancellation of certification exams, license upgrades and course review and approvals appeared to be strictly budgetary in nature. Jess reported that he had contacted his local Legislative representative who indicated they may bring this issue up in budgetary meetings scheduled over the next two months. The representative indicated there may be a possibility of having stop-gap funding approved.

Dean reported to the Board that the PA DEP is looking for a letter from the PWEA indicating that the PA DEP has held dialogue with the Association regarding the proposed operator certification regulations and

that the public has been able to participate by providing comments. He also reported that discussion was held regarding review and approval of PWEA's conference sessions for contact hours. Chuck Music reported Dana Aunkst said he would pull staff member to review PWEA's conference session application. Alison Shuler noted that she would draft a letter to the PA DEP, as requested by John Hines, and send to the Executive Committee for review and provide edits or approve.

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

Second Vice President Drnach had nothing new to report.

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

First Past President Doug Pike had nothing new to report.

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

Ed Gillette reported there was some movement on the nutrient issue in Delaware and that John Hall of Hall & Associates would be providing further information in the near future. Ed reported the DE DEP wanted tighter standards than those of the Chesapeake Bay area.

#### **Editor**

Shannon Williams reported the committee met on January 29<sup>th</sup> and there are eight new committee members with four more people being potential committee members. Shannon reported the committee was still looking for articles to publish. Shannon reported the committee had split into two workgroups, one group including a team to address the RFP for Publisher. Shannon also reported the committee had begun to use GoogleDocs as a quick and easy way to share information between committee members.

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

Secretary/Treasurer Art Auchenbach reviewed the year/end financial reports and reported that dues income and PennTec exhibit fees for 2010 were \$2,500 and \$5,400 respectively lower compared to same time period in 2009.

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

Western Alternate Section Director Dan Slagle reported the next set of Section meetings were scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup>, February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup>, which was also the Section's business meeting. Section membership was approximately 550 paid members for 2010.

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

Central Section Director Fran McGovern had nothing to report at this time. Alternate Central Section Director Jess Rosentel also had nothing to report at this time. Chuck Music reported the next Section meeting was scheduled for April.

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

Eastern Section Director Larry Fair reported the Section was in good standing, but that they have experienced a loss of some members; current membership was at approximately 1,400.

Larry reported that Randy Hurst was again reviewing the new draft of the certification regulations at a cost of \$2,200. Dean Miller noted that Randy's first set of comments were helpful and that he would support some type of contribution be given to Mette Evans and Woodside. Representatives from the Eastern and Central Sections indicated their Sections had already decided to contribute something toward the \$2,200 cost. Dan Slagle indicated the next meeting of the Western Section was to be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>, at which time he would ask for discussion on the ability to contribute toward the regulation review cost.

**Motion/Second by:** Ed Gillette/Larry Fair

**Motion (passed):** To contribute an amount toward the \$2,200 cost of the regulation review equal to one-third (if the Western Section did not contribute in addition to the Eastern and Central Sections) or one-fourth (if the Western Section did contribute in addition to the Eastern and Central Sections).

**Motion/Second by:** Art Auchenbach/Dean Miller

**Motion (passed):** To contribute a maximum amount of \$1,000 toward the \$2,200 regulation review cost.

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

First Federation Delegate Mike Sassaman reported several members of PWEA's leadership would be attending the meeting in Puerto Rico March 11-13, 2010.

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

Second Federation Delegate Mike Kyle had nothing additional to report.

#### **Professional Wastewater Operations Director**

Absent, no report submitted.

#### **PA DEP Report**

Lee McDonnell asked for additional information regarding TDS and the lower tidal of Delaware. After further discussion of the subject, Lee indicated that he did not believe Delaware would be handled any differently than the Chesapeake Bay area.

**Motion/Second by:** Ed Gillette/Joe Dmarch

**Motion (passed):** To accept Officer and Director reports.

#### **WEF Board of Trustee Report**

Absent; no report submitted.

#### **Administrative Report**

Executive Director Sue Boynton reviewed the updated Board contact list and list of PWEA-only members who would be dropped for non-payment of renewal dues. The list of members to be dropped had been provided to the Membership Committee for review and any action they deemed reasonable.

#### **Advertising Committee Report**

Absent, no report submitted.

#### **Awards Committee Report**

Larry Fair reported the committee had met and all recipients for awards had been settled except for the biosolids award.

Lori Miller spoke on behalf of the Collection System Committee regarding the Golden Manhole Award. She reported the Committee was considering a change to the quantity of awards each year and how they would be awarded. The option having the most interest by everyone participating in the conference call was the option of having one recipient per Section each year with a maximum of 3 recipients.... with the caveat that if a Section did not have a deserving nominee for a particular year, then that Section would not have a recipient for the Golden Manhole Award. Thus only 2 names would be nominated & selected for the award. Also, nominations for this award are open to the general PWEA membership; all nominations received by PWEA staff for the Golden Manhole Award are forwarded to the CSC for consideration.

The Board discussion on this topic concluded with a charge to the CSC to bring back to the April Board meeting a final proposal for review, discussion and subsequent approval; any revised process would then be updated in the PWEA Policies, Procedures and Processes Handbook (which is provided to all Board members and all Committee chairs/co-chairs).

#### **Biosolids Committee Report**

Stefan Weaver reported the last year had been busy for the committee; the main issue being addressed was a bill proposing the ban of biosolids application. Stefan reported a hearing was held regarding the proposed bill that would impose high fees, which would effectively ban biosolids. He noted that representative Bud George was present, along with speakers including a farmer from Georgia and a professor with expertise on the subject. Stefan noted that he and Alison Shuler met with Representative

Hutchinson after the hearing to further discuss the issue. Stefan reported the PA Attorney General was challenging townships with regard to their biosolids ordinances. Stefan noted that in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association, the committee will be prepared and in a position to respond to the Attorney General's challenge. Stefan noted that the committee was regularly meeting by conference call one to two times per month to stay informed and plan.

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

Lori Miller reported the east and west workgroups had upcoming meetings; March 16<sup>th</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup> respectively. Lori reported she was assuming the position of co-chair, replacing John Mowry. Lori reported the committee was working on ideas for PennTec 2011 and articles to submit for publication in the KWQM. Lori reported the committee was presenting a workshop at PennTec 2010 covering collection system funding..

#### **Conference Committee Report**

Dean Miller reminded everyone that the venue for the awards program was set to be held at Beaver Stadium and that he was still working with PSU representatives to finalize who may be able to make a cameo appearance during the evening of the awards program.

Marilyn Baron reported the Exhibits and Sponsors Committee had made significant changes to the sponsorship menu for 2010. She also reported the return of the Sewer Bowl game and that a massage therapist was scheduled to be in the exhibit hall.

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

John Schon reported he was reviewing the recommended changes for the bylaws and that he would also be reviewing the WEF bylaws since the last set of revisions to ensure that PWEA's bylaws were in sync with WEF's bylaws.

#### **Finance Committee Report**

Doug Pike had nothing new to report.

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

Absent, no report submitted.

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

Absent; written committee meeting notes provided.

#### **Laboratory Practices**

Pat Canavan reported the committee was set for presenting its lab workshop at PennTec 2010. Pat noted that he will be reviewing the committee membership and making appropriate adjustments.

Pat reported he attended a hearing on the subject of water usage and contamination during the process of gas mining in the Marcellus shale regions. The hearing was chaired by MaryJo White and it included pre-selected speakers. Pat noted that the question was raised as to whether wastewater operators needed to be qualified to handle the post-process contaminated water. He reported this question was tabled since budget and other issues already existed with the existing operator certification program.

#### **Membership Committee Report**

Absent, no report submitted.

#### **Nominations Committee Report**

Absent, no report submitted.

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

Dean Miller asked Doug Pike if concerns with the operator certification regulations had been expressed at the December CPAC meeting. Doug indicated that he had not attended the December meeting. Mike Kyle reported that the DEP has read and heard comments, but that their position has not changed with respect to the regulations. Dean asked Mike Kyle, a member of the Operator Certification Board (OCB), if

the OCB approved of the January 21, 2010 draft regulations. Mike indicated that the OCB did support the January 21 version of the regulations and that the OCB did discuss the operator personal liability issue. Dean reminded everyone final comments to the January 21, 2010 version of the operator certification regulations were due by February 26, 2010.

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

Doug Pike reported draft revisions to the PWEA Handbook has been completed and were submitted to the Executive Director for review and would be provided to Board members for the April Board meeting.

#### **Public Education Committee Report**

Absent, no report submitted.

#### **Research Committee Report**

Absent; written committee meeting notes provided.

#### **Safety Committee Report**

Joe Rost reported the committee was ready to present a safety-related workshop at PennTec.

#### **Training Committee Report**

Dave Brown reported that DEP approval had not been given for continuing education credit for the PennTec 2010 conference sessions because of the current state budgetary issues. Dave noted that at the recent meeting with the PA DEP, Dana Aunkst had asked for PWEA to submit completed paperwork to him for the 2010 conference session and that he would do what he could to try and have a review completed for the 2010 conference sessions.

Vice Chair Jim Kern reviewed the written document provided to the Board covering continuing education for Professional Engineers (PE) and asked if anyone had any questions. Being there were no questions, Jim asked if the Board wanted the Training Committee to move forward with the proposal to include continuing education for PE's in future educational events. The consensus of the Board was for the Committee to move forward with incorporating future training events that would provide Professional Development Hours to PE's.

#### **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**

Absent, no report submitted.

**Motion/Second:** Mike Sassaman/Ed Gillette

**Motion (passed):** To accept WEF Trustee, Administrative and Committee reports.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Executive Director Sue Boynton reported the schedule for Board meetings during the 2010/2011 term had been schedule and the dates/locations were noted on the Board Agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45AM.