

MWWC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2023

Chairman Verlon Persinger called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. The following were in attendance with him: Curtis Hedrick, Floyd Shell, Jr., John Betz, Archie Hendren, Jr., Matt Everts, Allen Taylor, Mike McMillian, John Waitman, Shelley Lane, Don Rea, Sandi Miller, Leslie Miller, Joshua Youngblood, and Brandon Renaud.

Allen Taylor made a motion to approve the June 15, 2023 board meeting minutes. Floyd Shell, Jr. seconded the motion and it carried.

Sandi began her report by thanking the board members for being there and emphasizing the importance of their involvement. She reported that Todd Baslee resigned his position, on the board, due to medical issues. She also stated if chairman elect Bryan Evans continues to be absent from board meetings, and with the current Immediate Past Chair, rotating off, three board positions will need to be filled in September 2024 and that the progression of current board members will be accelerated.

Sandi went on to discuss the following:

- a) The daily operations of the Conference continue as usual. Technical issues with the database, Weebly-square website, on-line banking, and on-line QuickBooks continue to be a challenge.
- b) The limited pool of instructors and programs is a concern for the training program. Lead trainer, John Betz, who recently celebrated his 77th birthday, typically teaches 3 or 4 days a month. Some days he shares with Ashley Mehmert or Mark Woodward. Mark Wade from Blue Water Solutions Group teaches every other month or so and the wastewater instructors teach three or four classes a year. Sandi is working with MPUA to determine available dates, instructors, and programs for February and March of 2024. Mark Mayer, from Enviro-line, contacted Sandi about coordinating with them to do training, in Farmington, in February 2024, in Farmington.
- c) The East Central Section held their 2023 section meeting on Wednesday, August 23. Attendance at the meeting was 87 including 65 individual registrants, 13 vendor reps, and nine guests. The East Central Section is planning their next meeting for Spring 2024.
- d) An audit committee consisting of John Betz, Don Rea, and Ken Hogan completed audits of MWWC's 2019, 2020, and 2021 books on October 18, 2022. An inside audit committee needs to be determined for the 2022 books. The audit of the 2023 books will be conducted by a professional auditor.
- e) Attendance at the 2023 annual meeting was approximately 175 including individuals, company reps, technical program presenters, staff, and guests. Approximately 40 people attended the meet and greet social hour on the evening before the technical program and vendor show. After polling vendors and talking with Chairman Verlon Persinger, the decision was made to discontinue the meet and greet social hour in 2024. As for vendors, in 2019 there were 49 vendor reps at 26 booths. This year we had approximately 40 vendor reps including 24 traditional exhibitors and 4 companies represented as Walking and Talking Exhibitors. For the same cost as traditional vendor registration, Walking and Talking Exhibitors received exhibitor ribbons and were recognized as Walking and Talking Exhibitors and Break Sponsors in the annual meeting program booklet, on MWWC's webpage, in the post edition of the MWWC Mainlines Newsletter, and through signage at the meeting. Through the special Walking and Talking Exhibitors the annual meeting income was increased by \$1,600.00.
- f) Sandi and Leslie explored several venues in Columbia, and one in Springfield for the 2024 annual meeting. Sandi has signed a rental agreement for MPUA's Kincheloe Conference Center in Columbia. The meeting

will be held on Wednesday, September 18. MPUA's facility will accommodate twenty-four vendor tables. Beyond that they will once again offer the Walking and Talking vendor registration. A board meeting will be held at the MPUA building on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 17. The board, section officers, staff, and significant others will have dinner at a local steakhouse, in Columbia, that evening. In lieu of a meet and greet social hour, there will be a full hot Bob Evans breakfast on the morning of the technical program and vendor show.

Leslie reported the membership total of 2,277 (1,815 individual, 43 associate, 415 life, and 4 honorary)

Leslie reported the following financial balances and presented the budget to date.

Hawthorne Bank - Checking Acct. (as of 11/27/23) \$48,681.67

River Region Credit Union - Reserve Account (as of 11/27/23) \$101,885.83

Sections (as of 12/31/22) \$ 80,311.64

Southwest \$9,773.99

Midwest \$ 11,414.18

Northwest \$20,559.75

Southeast \$29,630.51

Northeast \$ 4,726.59

East Central \$ 4,206.62

Curtis made a motion to accept the membership report and financial report. Don Rea seconded the motion and it passed.

Shelley reported that the 2024 East Central Section Meeting will be held, on May 16th in St. Peters.

Curtis reported that plans for the 2024 Northwest Section Meeting, April 4th are coming along well.

Allen reported that planning is underway for the 2024 Southeast Section Meeting.

John Waitman reported that the 2024 Southwest Section meeting will be held on May 7th.

Sandi said she would mail out an email of section meeting dates.

Sandi stated that that a committee needs to be formed to audit the 2022 financials. John Waitman and Verlon said that they would be willing to serve on that committee. Leslie and/or Sandi will work with John W and Verlon to determine when and where to meet.

Verlon asked Sandi and Leslie if the current \$10.00 per registrant state training fee is sufficient. Both Sandi and Leslie indicated that it is. Mike made a motion to approve the continuation of the \$10.00 per registrant state training fee. Allen seconded the motion and it passed.

Verlon asked Sandi to introduce the subject of planning for the future of the MWWC. Sandi indicated that she will be retiring sometime in the not-too-distant future and expressed her concern for the future of the MWWC as a stand-alone organization. Josh Youngblood, from MPUA, introduced himself and Brandon Renauld and ran a video about the MPUA. He then discussed the proposal outlining a plan for partnership between MPUA and MWWC. Sandi directed the interaction between the two entities. She asked John Betz and Don Rea, as Bob-Miller-Era members to share their vision of the future for the MWWC. Both agreed that the focus should remain on serving operators.

Mike made a motion to proceed with MPUA's initial proposal with more information to come. Curtis seconded the motion and it carried.

Sandi stated that changes may need to be made to MWWC's articles of incorporation and bylaws. She will send them to the board. Verlon will investigate legal counsel for MWWC and MPUA will meet with their legal counsel.

Board members discussed the need for MWWC members to be part of the decision-making process.

A short discussion took place concerning openings on the board. Sandi and Verlin encouraged board members to ask others, that would be a good fit for the board, of their willingness and availability to serve.

Next meeting will be held, virtually, at 10 a.m. on February 28, 2024.

Mike McMillian made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. and Curtis Hedrick seconded the motion.