



American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section

**SPRING 2024 TRUSTEE MEETING
SPOKANE CONVENTION CENTER THEATER
May 3, 2024**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Dan Sleeth. Also present were Chair Elect Nick Belmont, Past Chair Michelle Cheek, Trustees Libby Barg Bakke, Joel Cary, Jolene Gibson, Chandra Hingston, Erika Murphy, and Tonya Reiss, AWWA Director James Dean, Treasurer Jason Canady and incoming Trustees Brian Wilson, Jeremiah Hunt, Joanie Stultz, incoming Treasurer Jamie Porter and visiting AWWA Dignitary Sally Mills Wright.

Chair's Report - Dan Sleeth

- The Chair thanked the City of Spokane and all involved in the local arrangements for an exceptional conference.
- He spoke about the importance of volunteerism and how the success of the organization depends upon the strength and number of its volunteers.
- Mr. Sleeth introduced AWWA Standards Council Chair Sally Wright.

Remarks from Sally Wright

- Ms. Wright noted she was happy to be back where she started her career and to connect with both new and familiar faces.
- Ongoing work of the Association includes Water 2050, a significant initiative that addresses how and what is needed to grow AWWA in the next 20-30 years. She noted the AWWA website has information about the initiative and its individual tracks. The Association is now embarking on a recommendation that will enable the organization to move forward and to look for more opportunities to work in partnership with others.

- AWWA is also working on a strategic plan, with goals relating to member engagement, organizational stewardship, knowledge creation and exchange, and water policy leadership.
- In consideration of the next generation of members and users, an initiative called the Young Professionals Advisory Program has been initiated. Three young professionals have been selected and invited to sit on the Executive Committee as well as the Board and the project has been successful in addressing barriers to getting younger member to leadership positions.
- The Board has reserved one of the four Director-at-Large positions for a Young Professional. She encouraged the PNWS to find young professionals to apply for the position.
- The importance of volunteerism cannot be overstated and AWWA is seeing a positive trend, with conferences well attended. AWWA needs a larger volunteer force as current volunteers are starting to retire. Section volunteerism is a good starting point for engagement with AWWA.

Chair Sleeth thanked Ms. Wright and presented her with a Pendleton blanket in thanks for her attendance and participation in the conference.

Introduction of Incoming Officers

Mr. Sleeth introduced incoming officers for 2024:

President Nick Belmont

Chair Elect Joel Cary

Oregon/Idaho Trustee Jeremiah Hunt

Washington Trustee Brian Wilson

Trustee at Large Joanie Stultz

Treasurer Jamie Porter

He thanked outgoing officers and trustees for their service.

Financial Update – Jason Canady

- Canady thanked incoming Treasurer Jamie Porter for preparing the financial report, which was provided directly to the Board members via e-mail.
- Finances continue to be strong at the end of the first quarter, with 56% of predicted annual revenue received. He noted that conference expenses will be coming in soon.

Consent Item: Approve Winter Trustee Meeting Minutes

Motion: Dean moved to approve the minutes of the 2023 Fall Trustee Meeting, seconded by Reese. Motion carried unanimously.

Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation on Conference Pricing Adjustments to CEU Pricing

The Chair stated that the Ad Hoc Committee's draft recommendation on conference pricing, lead by Chair Elect Belmont, will move to the Bylaw Committee and then be brought forward to the Fall Trustee meeting. Several iterations were reviewed but a manageable policy has been created after much thought and input. The policy will allow the organization to remain sustainable and renew support for the membership in many ways.

Canady added that an important aspect of adopting a policy is that additional revenue represents an investment in the membership which was reduced during COVID while revenues were down.

Approval of Slate of Candidates for 2024

Michelle Cheek, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of candidates for the 2024 election:

Chair Elect: Corianne Burnett, Jolene Gibson
Washington Trustee: Caren Sleeth, Jeremy Djajadi
Oregon/Idaho Trustee: Kyle Arnhart, Cody Scoggins
Trustee at Large: Andrew Nishihara, Enoch Nicholson, Katie Dillon

Motion: Belmont moved to approve the proposed slate of candidates for 2024, seconded by Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

2025 Section Conference in Boise, ID – Madeline Wyatt

- Ms. Wyatt introduced herself, noting her late husband, Greg Wyatt, led the utility for several years. She now manages communications and community engagement for the organization. She said Boise looks forward to hosting the 2024 conference.

Scholarship Committee - Cory Baune

- Baune noted he has retired from the chairmanship of the committee after 7 years.
- This year 12 scholarships between \$4,000 and \$5,000 each were awarded; total scholarship funding was \$51,950.
- The need to engage more operators continues and some funds were held back to

support operator short schools and other operator opportunities.

Comments from the Membership

The following members made comments:

Dan Kegley regarding IESS Truck Rodeo and the training provided.

Randy Black invited current and incoming Trustees to the Past Chairs meetings.

Doug Schlepp regarding the Red Wagon raffle which raised over \$650.

Cheryl Capron regarding operator certification scholarships.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.