



American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section

WINTER 2025 TRUSTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Virtual Via Zoom

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Nick Belmont. Also present were Chair Elect Joel Cary, Past Chair Dan Sleeth, Trustees Jolene Gibson, Chandra Hingston, Jeremiah Hunt, Erika Murphy, Joanie Stultz, and Brian Wilson, AWWA Director James Dean, Treasurer Jamie Porter and Executive Director Kyle Kihs.

Chair's Report – Nick Belmont

- Chair Belmont stated it has been an exciting year working with this Board and a lot has been accomplished. Conference planning is underway and he is looking forward to seeing members in person in May.

AWWA Director's Report – James Dean

- Lily Lopez from Cal-Nevada Section was elected as the first-ever YP-at-large.
- Some changes in the Water 2050 Initiative will be coming in the Spring.
- The DC fly-in was scheduled and Section leaders are encouraged to attend; this year is particularly important with many pertinent legislative issues pending.

Treasurer's Report – Jamie Porter

- Although a \$36,000 profit was anticipated in the adopted budget, the actual gain was about \$27,000. The conference cost a bit more than anticipated and brought in a little less. Office expenses were trimmed, and committees did well fundraising.
- Total assets went from \$3 million to \$3.5 million with 2.5 million in the Education and Training Fund. The Section is in a good position to start 2025.

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

Motion: Cary moved to approve the Fall 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Hingston. There was no discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Section Election Results and Appointments to Education and Training Fund

Motion: Dean moved to approve Section election results and appointments to the E&T Board as presented, seconded by Cary.

Section Election Results :

*President Elect: Jolene Gibson
OR/ID Trustee: Kyle Arnhart
WA Trustee : Jeremy Djajadi
Trustee at Large: Katie Dillon
AWWA Director: Alex Mofidi*

*Appointments to the E&T Fund Board:
Michael Pleasants
Stuart Vaughn*

Chair Belmont noted that Jeff Lundt and Heather Pennington are leaving the E&T Board and extended a big thank you for their service. He noted there is an opening on the Board for a YP position for a two-year term. There was no further discussion.

Motion to approve section election results and appointments to E&T Board carried unanimously.

Approval of New Section Code of Conduct Policy

Belmont stated the Board has spent most of the last year reviewing the policy, including review by an HR Department and reviewing alignment with AWWA policy.

Motion by Hunt, second by Porter to approve the Section Code of Conduct Policy.

It was noted the policy will be posted to the website and an announcement will be included in the upcoming e-newsletter. The intention is to have a check box on registration forms for training and social events, stating that attendees agree to conditions stipulated by the policy. The check box will be absent for the Section Conference because registration has already opened but the policy will be applied. There was no further discussion.

The motion to approve Section Code of Conduct Policy carried unanimously.

2025 Boise Conference – Madeline Wyatt

- Construction in Boise may taper off in May. Local conference planners are looking forward to the conference and most arrangements have been completed.

Program Committee – Michelle Johnson

- CEUs have been approved by Oregon and submitted to Washington.
- The Conference has 40 tracks and three pre-cons, with a full day on Thursday and full morning on Friday as well as several afternoon tracks on Friday. The Committee is now working on finding session moderators.

King County Subsection – Jon Miner

- Three open positions exist including secretary, treasurer and PAC liaison but there are interested parties who will attend the next meeting and current officers will stay on through the conference.

- Water Olympics is scheduled for March 28 with raised fees for sponsorship and it is hoped all spots will be filled. This year the entire brewery will be available with room for 140. A golf tournament is also upcoming.

South Sound Subsection – Shantel Broussard

- 2024 highlights include three successful trainings.
- The women’s tapping team took nationals.
- Donations totaled \$8,000 and included \$3,000 to the E&T Fund and \$2,000 to a local organization that helps people pay their utility bill.
- Planning three trainings in 2025 including Waterworks 101 in Silverdale to help network with folks in that area. Also planned are a day with DOH and PFAS training this fall.
- The current golf tournament venue is costly so a new course will be selected.
- Succession planning is ongoing.
- The Fall Committee and Subsection training was really excellent and greatly appreciated.

Lower Columbia Subsection – Kristin Kihs

- Highlights from 2024 include two successful fundraisers – Beer for Water and golf tournament. The Subsection donated over \$7,000 to PACs Greatest Need Fund. Additional summer training and plant tours were added to the schedule.
- Currently succession planning challenges include finding a Vice President who will move to the presidency and a new YP liaison.
- Beer for Water is scheduled for mid-May and a golf tournament will be held in early September. Tri-Mountain Golf Course is being sold so looking for new location.

Central Washington Subsection – Ryan Withers

- The subsection is looking to build on a great 2024. There was a great turnout for Best Tasting Water and hope to exceed that this year. Wine for Water in Walla Walla will be held in April, hope for a solid local contingent as well as visitors.
- Anticipating three trainings in 2025.
- Golf tournament will be the third Friday in August at Apple Tree course.

Blue Mountain Subsection – Tom Scallom

- No report

Inland Empire Subsection – Jessica Waller

- Had a great 2024 and moving to a busy 2025.
- Planning is underway for a one-day short course.
- All sponsorships have been filled for the Truck Rodeo.
- Planning CPR training in March.

Southwest Idaho Subsection – Greg Dye

- The subsection hosted three training courses including an operator challenge which will be a starting point to develop teams for conference competition.
- Fundraising efforts include teaming with a local brewery and hosting at least two events.
- Nearly a full contingent of officers but actively recruiting for a treasurer.
- Meeting attendance has grown.

Eastern Oregon Subsection – Deb Cornford

- No report

Cascade To Coast – Lisa Erkert

- Identifying tentative dates with potential for competitions at Forest Ranch on April 3. Because of projected high attendance, elections will be held then.
- Looking for a YP liaison.
- Planning first golf tournament at Emerald Valley in Creswell.
- A network event in the Fall is planned as well as a December training in Springfield or Eugene and at least one more event.

Southern Oregon Subsection – Cody Scoggins

- In 2025, two events are scheduled, with golf tournament in August, then bowling or pool tournament.
- Planning short school in September.
- Continuing partnership with Rogue Community College.
- Presentations to schools were increased, with information about AWWA and PNWS and scholarships offered to seniors.

NW Washington Subsection - Nick Leininger

- New leadership has stepped up but still looking for officers and working on succession planning.
- Water Olympics March 13 will be paired with a training event. No DOH this year.
- Would like to do another plant tour followed by a social event; following the first successful event that attracted about 40 people.

NW Oregon Subsection – Andrew Wentworth

- Found two volunteers to co-chair the Waterworks School with the goal of hosting the short school again this year
- Good attendance at events but difficult to fill officer roles. Still looking for an activities committee chair
- YP Committee continues to shine with regular YP Wednesday events and other YP meetups.
- Hoping that continues participation in events translates to people taking on more volunteer positions

Chair-elect Joel Cary encouraged all subsection leaders to look at what other subsections are doing for examples to help keep momentum going.

Items or Comments from the Membership

Madeline Wyatt said more volunteers are needed for the conference and added that volunteering is an opportunity to get CEUs and free access to the conference for a day.

Chair Belmont noted one of his goals this term was to reconnect and create new value to the membership with new trainings and rejuvenated existing trainings. He said he was pleased with all the activity reported by subsections and feels this is the first time since COVID that the

conversation is about enhancing programs rather than just trying to get people back into the organization. All were thanked for their efforts.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50.