

**MISSOURI SECTION  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Date:** April 16, 2021

**Place:** Virtual Platform

**ATTENDANCE: 12/13 (Quorum secured)**

**Board Members:**

Mike Klender	Chair
Jenny Doyle	Chair Elect
Bob Parks	Vice Chair
Joel Ogle	Past Chair
Roddy Rogers	Director
Randy Moore	Director Elect
Tony O'Malley	Secretary-Treasurer
Nick Davis	Asst. Secretary –Treasurer
Scott Phillips	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee
James Okumu	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee
Mel Peterein	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Trustee
Kevin Wiggins	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Trustee

**Committee Chairs:**

Mike Galluzzo	Water Utility Council
Debbie Maurer	<i>Show Me</i> Magazine Editor
Heather Gipp	Diversity & Inclusion
Frank Genovese	MoWARN Subcommittee
Mark Griffin	Sustainability Initiatives Coordination
Mark Bross	Water Industry Coordination Council
Raed Armouti	Bylaws & Procedures
John Brummer	Site Selection & Fuller Award

**Guests:**

Jeff Clarke	Former Past Chair
Ashley Bruchis	AWWA Regional Manager

**Administrative Manager:**

Mary Odom

**Absent:**

Corinne Duckworth	3rd Year Trustee
Karen Marie Dietze	2nd Year Trustee

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Elect Jenny Doyle. She welcomed everyone to the virtual board meeting. After Mike Klender joined the meeting, the meeting was yielded to him.

**Approval of Minutes – Mike Klender**

**MOTION: To approve the January 15, 2021 Board of Trustees**

Made by: Jenny Doyle

Seconded by: Scott Phillips

No objections, motion passes by unanimous consent.

**II. CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chair Mike Klender discussed the following items:

1. Board actions since the last meeting:
  - None
2. Selection of ACE21 virtual attendees
  - The section will pay for registration fees (no travel expenses this year)
3. New committee liaison responsibilities- new Trustees were welcomed

**III. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Roddy Rogers reported that it has been a privilege and an honor to serve the Missouri Section over the past three years—even if about half of it was in a virtual world. I have appreciated the opportunity and hope that I have served the Section well. I know it is in excellent hands with Randy Moore as our next Director. It is unusual to have an incoming Director with more Board experience than the outgoing Director! I wish Randy and the Section all the best and stand ready to assist if needed.

ACE 21- The first item of interest is ACE which will take an all-virtual form. Staff monitored data, considered contractual limitations, financial impacts, potential attendance /low attendance, and above all ---safety. They even surveyed each Director (virtually) in person. There are a lot of moving parts and a decision about what to do was an unenviable one to have to make. All these factors and the fact that the San Diego Convention Center was not available led to a well-founded choice. Please participate however you are able, whether virtual or in person.

FINANCIAL UPDATE- Finances continue to be a challenge as cancellation of last year’s ACE along with this year’s virtual conference and potential for further revenue reduction will continue to have an impact. Staff has done a great job of adjusting, reducing expenses, and managing to keep the budget impacts minimal. Currently a positive variance between the year-end forecast and the adjusted budget is projected.

UTILITY ENTERPRISE MEMBERSHIP- The Utility Enterprise Membership Model Ad Hoc Committee is continuing its feasibility study of the membership model. Current efforts include sending out a survey to Utility Members to gauge sensitivity to a potential price increase among other matrices, and a review of other Associations’ membership structures. If you are the primary AWWA contact for your organization, watch for this survey.

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES- AWWA has embarked on a transformational year making changes to the systems architecture which will reduce overhead and improve operational consistency and adaptability. Efficiency in delivering member value is a key driver. Select 2021 key initiatives include: (1) migration of AWWA's Association Management System (Personify) to a Software-as-a-Service platform. AWWA staff will no longer need to operate the servers and infrastructure for this critical application; (2) development of Print on Demand capabilities so purchases of printed materials can be printed at the time of order and drop shipped directly to the customer. This reduces inventory on hand, improves cash flow, and speeds time to delivery for new products; and (3) evaluation of core business workflows to support the future implementation of an Enterprise Resource Program. This will ultimately reduce the number of systems used and allow for more consistent and efficient processes.

OTHER AWWA NEWS- In other creative and technical areas, AWWA's Guidance for Developing a Water Utility Innovation Program was featured in "Connections" and may be accessed on the website. Community Engineering Corps is recruiting Technical Review Committee members to support project reviews. Licensed Professional Engineers (Civil, Environmental, Mechanical, Structural) may apply online.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS- staff are busy as AWWA has asked a federal court for permission to participate in two lawsuits filed against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in cases directly impacting AWWA members concerning specific contaminants. The first lawsuit involves EPA's decision not to regulate perchlorate in public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the court has already granted AWWA's request to support EPA's decision in this case. Due to the change in presidential administration, EPA has asked the court to pause this case until the new EPA leadership has time to review EPA's decision. EPA will provide the court with the first update on its progress in April.

In the second case, AWWA has asked the same court – the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit – for permission to support EPA's recent revisions to the federal Lead and Copper Rule. The groups challenging EPA's revisions to the rule believe it should be more stringent. The court has not yet decided whether AWWA can participate in this second case. Sources tell AWWA that EPA is likely to ask the court to also pause this case to give the agency additional time to review the revisions to the rule. Staff also prepared a letter to new EPA Administrator Michael Regan outlining important issues for the water industry including DBP's, PFAS, source water protection, affordability, cybersecurity, and funding.

A virtual fly in event preceded by two online preparation webinars, was held April 19-30. Thank you to Randy, Bob Parks and Karen Marie Dietze for their continued leadership in this. There will be a debriefing webinar on May 7.

In closing, please accept my sincere thank you for allowing me to serve as your Director. I remember once in a third world refugee camp, while helping install disaster relief water systems, how a resident explained why the children followed ecstatically each day when I walked past their makeshift tent homes. He said, "They believe if you can bring them water—you can bring them anything." In the developing world, even children, have an understanding of the requisite role that water plays and where it falls in the hierarchy of "things". Nearer to home that realization is rare—except among water professionals. Through the years, I have seen the dedication, commitment, and passion of water professionals to that vision of "bringing water" over and over. Water professionals are the best people and being able to work

alongside each of you for a “better future through better water” is an opportunity I am grateful for and hope that I used in a way worthy of the position.

Randy Moore reported that the Water Infrastructure Council is meeting in person this year.

#### **IV. SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT**

Tony O’Malley presented a dashboard of financial charts that included a Condensed Statement of Activities, Revenues by category, Expenses by category, and Assets. Total Assets are \$303,537 and Total Liabilities are \$1,090. We are expecting an \$8,000 payment from Kelman for magazine advertising revenue. This year’s budget reflects \$25,000 revenue from the annual conference which is about half of what we have received in the past.

2020 taxes have been filed. We are receiving a refund of \$398 from the federal government and \$75 from the state of Missouri. As a nonprofit entity, we are exempt from taxes.

#### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER’S REPORT**

Mary Odom discussed the following:

New Board Policy Manual- need help from the Bylaws Committee to update the Administrative Guidelines. I need to request the Bylaws Chair, Raed Armouti to convene his committee to make updates to the AG in the policies section, Audit Committee section, and adding the new Sustainability Award.

Quickbooks migration- as a nonprofit entity, we have secured a QB Plus subscription with TechSoup. This is the organization that we secured Google G-Suite at no cost. QB Plus will be \$75 per year which will save us \$345 a year in perpetuity. Our CPA firm is assisting with the migration which will take about a month.

Communication metrics- We have gained 74 social media followers over the last quarter. Our following is almost 700 which is curiously at the same level as our membership numbers. Our email campaigns are also going in the right direction with our open rate averaging 22% and our click rate averaging 4.59%. The target we are shooting for is 25% and 5% respectively.

Section Services Webinar on Insurance is scheduled for April 20 at 2:00 pm. If interested, let me know, and I will register you.

Randy Moore reported that the Innovation Award will be given at the virtual ACE21. They received quite a few nominations, but eventually they will be funneling award nominations up through the sections. He would like this added to the Administrative Guidelines, and so will help with the revising of the Administrative Guidelines. Jenny Doyle also volunteered to assist with the revisions.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

April 20, 2021	Section Services Webinar on Insurance
April 26-29, 2021	AWWA Fly-In (virtual)
June 14-17, 2021	AWWA ACE (virtual)
July 13, 2021	AWWA Summer Workshop #1 (virtual)
July 20, 2021	AWWA Summer Workshop #2 (virtual)
July 27, 2021	AWWA Summer Workshop #3 (virtual)
Aug 3, 2021	Young Professionals Summit (virtual)

Aug 3-6, 2021	Utility Management Conference in Atlanta
Aug 8-11, 2021	MO-AWWA Joint Annual Conference at Margaritaville
Aug 16-18, 2021	AWWA Transformative Issues Symposium in Cincinnati
Aug 25-26, 2021	AWWA Virtual Summit: Water Science
Sep 12-15, 2021	AWWA Water Infrastructure Conference in Phoenix

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Director Roddy Rogers:

#### **Fuller Award-** John Brummer

Roddy reported that the committee is on track for the selection of the 2021 recipient. John Brummer reported that the committee has met and identified a candidate.

#### **Membership Engagement-** Jenny Doyle and Scott Phillips

We have experienced a steady decrease of individual memberships over 2020, and we have not bottomed out yet. This is due to the pandemic and expected from all of the uncertainties. Other sections are also experiencing these challenges only to a greater degree than we are. Our current active membership is 696. We've had about the same number of folks raise their hand to volunteer this year as in past years which is a good sign.

#### **National Nominations-** Tony O'Malley

Congratulations are extended to Bob Parks for winning a national award as one of the "Five Under 35" young professionals in the organization!

#### **Water Industry Coordinating Council-** Mark Bross

Roddy Rogers reported that the WICC is discussing the LCCR revisions and a couple of other issues.

### Chair Elect Jenny Doyle:

#### **Budget-** Mike Klender/Jenny Doyle

Budget was approved at the Annual Business meeting earlier today.

#### **Strategic Planning-** Jenny Doyle/Bob Parks

Consensus is that we would like to do Strategic Planning in person. Mike Klender suggested doing it in August at the conference to avoid travel restrictions currently in place.

#### **Water Utility Council-** Mike Galluzzo

Mike attended the Safe Drinking Water Commission meeting this week. The primacy fee will take effect next year. Last month, the unregulated contaminant monitoring rule round 5 was published which included 29 on the PFAS compounds plus lithium. Sampling will take effect during years 2023 through 2025.

The LCCR revisions are being reviewed by the new administration. If they extend the effective date, they should extend the compliance date too. Mike is concerned that there is a fair stakeholder process so that all of the responsibility for removing lead is not placed on the utilities instead of on the school districts. The EPA is planning

stakeholder meetings and roundtables for giving feedback. Stay tuned for more to come.

**Vice Chair Bob Parks:**

**Annual Conference Management-** Bob Parks

Joint planning meeting is scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mary asked that we add some language to the website so that members will know when to check back to get registered.

**Exhibits-** Joel Ogle/Ben Freese

We are talking to Margaritaville about floorplan. One issue is that the venue has an overlapping conference starting on Wednesday. Due to spacing requirements, we may expand to the lower level. We will be using kiosk registration with Cvent so that attendees can check-in and print their own badges this year.

**Technical Program-** Jenny Doyle/Bob Parks

We are surveying all of the selected speakers so we can determine their ability to travel. The survey will close on May 31<sup>st</sup>. We will be trying to add social distancing space in the classrooms. The technical program is about 70 presentations right now. We will know more at the end of May about how the program will change. Any speakers that cannot present will be referred to Karen Marie for scheduling in our virtual training program.

Scott attended a hybrid conference recently and noticed that each classroom had video equipment for taping each session which seemed like a huge expense for a small event (about 100 attendees). Also, the Water Design Build Council would still like to be a part of this year's technical program and would facilitate setting up a separate track to present different topics during the day. We would need to pay for the speaker's travel expenses.

**Secretary/Treasurer Tony O'Malley:**

**Registration-** Tony O'Malley-

Using Cvent kiosks is a worthwhile expense that is going to assist with mitigating pandemic risks. Tony is expecting that our partner (MWEA) will share in half of the expense so that we don't have to bear all of it alone.

**Site Selection-** John Brummer-

We are contracted with Margaritaville through 2025.

**Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Nick Davis:**

**SHOW-ME Magazine-** Debbie Maurer

Debbie put out a call for articles for the Spring issue which she will need by this weekend.

**Public Information-** Melissa Carver- no report

Mary reported that we are attending Clean Water Day in Jefferson City on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 1:30. The event is for Missouri legislators, not for the public. Mary, Joel Ogle, Randy Moore, and Mike Klender will be attending. Stream Team is the organizer, and multiple organizations are participating including Rural Water Association.

**Webmaster-** Mary Odom

A Student Scholarship form was added on the Membership join page- if you know of college students that would like to join AWWA for free, the section will fund 25 scholarships this year. So spread the word to your colleagues and friends/family.

Page Views are holding around 3,000 a month during the first quarter.

We are having a lot of difficulty jumping through the hoops to transfer the domain to the section. Tony O'Malley presented an affidavit that transfers the domain to his name and address.

**MOTION: To approve the domain transfer affidavit as presented**

Made by: Joel Ogle

Seconded by: Nick Davis

No objections, motion passes by unanimous consent.

**Past Chair Joel Ogle:**

**Audit-** Elizabeth Robertson- no report

**Education-** Kevin Wiggins- Mike Klender reported that documentation has been submitted for the RCAP training grant that we should receive in the next 2 weeks.

**Nominating-** Joel Ogle – starting to consider candidates for trustees for next year

**3rd Year Trustee Corinne Duckworth : Chair Mike Klender reported for Corinne**

**Student Activities-** Corinne Duckworth- no report

**Sustainability Initiatives Coordination-** Mark Griffin

The Sustainability Award application deadline is April 30, 2021. We have received 3 submissions. Mark would like to present the awards at the banquet. But they could also be presented at the awards luncheon. Mark requests the board to decide what time slot would be best for presenting the award..

**JR Popalisky Scholarship-** Mike O'Connell- Winners of the 2021 J. R. Popalisky Scholarships were selected by the Scholarship Committee and provided to the Board at the Annual Business meeting in April. Scholarship awards were presented to the following student in the amounts indicated:

1. Daniel Caron: A junior at the University of Missouri-Kansas City majoring in civil and environmental engineering in the amount of \$2,500.
2. Jennifer Arms: A junior at the University of Missouri-Kansas City majoring in civil and environmental engineering in the amount of \$1,000.

**3rd Year Trustee Scott Phillips:**

**Awards-** Scott Phillips-

Committee will be meeting to organize for giving awards at our annual conference.

**Service Citation Award-** George Hausdorf- no report

**Professional Awards-** Tony O'Malley-

Deadline is June 30, 2021 and will be published in the upcoming Show Me Magazine.

Can we publicize to MWEA as well?

**Manufactures/Associates Council-** Scott Phillips

The council would like to assist with exhibits at the conference. A person from the MAC will attend planning meeting for the conference on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**2nd Year Trustee Karen Marie Dietze: Reported by Jenny Doyle on her behalf**

**Philanthropy-** Karen Marie Dietze-

WE Walk – April 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual walk from Denver to San Diego

We could form a team or make a donation if folks are interested, otherwise we can keep it to individual contributions. Goal is to raise \$30,000 for Water Equation. Currently at around \$10,000.

**Water for People-** Mel Peterein- no report

**Water Equation-** Jenny Doyle

**Research-** Karen Marie Dietze

Research & Education committees have continued providing virtual training sessions approximately every 2 weeks. It's been a great form of outreach and has been successful in delivering meaningful, timely, and relevant educational content in the absence of last year's conference. It's also been a great way to keep members engaged and identify new volunteers. We've hit a pretty steady balance with around 20-40 people attending each training session.

Future Planning:

Survey going out to 2021 conference presenters will include a question asking if they're comfortable presenting in person or would rather present virtually through the ongoing training program. People who opt for virtual presentation will be given priority on scheduling for future training sessions.

Upcoming Sessions:

Lime Softening 101 – April 29th

BRIC Grants – May 13th

Algal Toxins – July 29<sup>th</sup>

Requests:

I could use help moderating sessions or coordinating speakers if anyone is interested in getting involved with the virtual training program. Mel Peterein is willing to help, but we need several other folks to volunteer as well.

Other Exciting News:

We're also very excited to announce that the Missouri Section is receiving a Section Education Award, which was evaluated based on innovation, effectiveness of outreach, applicability of educational topics, and benefits to community/membership.

Our section will have an opportunity to present during AWWA's "Lightning Session: Best of Section Education" webinar in October. The goal of the lightning session is to share ideas and information across other sections.

**Drinking Water Week-** Karen Marie Dietze- a virtual happy hour is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The Young Professionals are helping with planning this with some games and prizes. Also, Water One is doing their Tower2Tower run on the Kansas side. James Okumu would like to distribute coffee sleeves printed with Drinking Water Week logo if these are available.

**2nd Year Trustee James Okumu:**

**Bylaws-** Raed Armouti- no report

**Safety & Emergency Planning-** Randy Moore/Frank Genovese

MoWARN has added new members to the committee: Lisa Douglas with Kowelman Engineering, LaDon Atkinson and Verlon Persinger both with Alliance Water Resources. The program has had new utilities join including Alliance Water, City of Bethany, City of Warsaw, and the City of Wentzville. Even with the cold spell in February, we have not activated any resources.

The webinar in February on earthquake preparedness was well attended with about 250 attendees, half of those were from the state of Missouri. Still working on an email list so that we can keep the member utilities informed. We'd also like to get the member utilities posted on mowarn.org.

Larger utilities may need some legal language to help them dovetail the state statutes on mutual aid with the MoWARN program. Randy will contact Kevin Morley and get that language for the section.

**Diversity & Inclusion-** Heather Gipp

We had a few prospective new volunteers, but they ended up declining a position on the committee.

We are likely going to try having a water tower in the fall. We have not made a lot of headway in planning because the one other person on the committee is studying for the PE exam, which takes place next week. City Utilities is very interested in doing a water tower competition in Springfield.

Heather attended the AWWA Women in Water Webinar on International Women's Day and found it to be extremely informative!

Jenny Doyle will be sending the name of a new volunteer for the Diversity Committee.

**1st Year Trustee Kevin Wiggins:**

**Small Systems-** Kevin Wiggins- no report

**Retirees-** Jenny Doyle- no report

**Operations Service Awards-** Kevin Wiggins – no report

**1st Year Trustee Mel Peterein:**

**Young Professionals-** Mel Peterein

The YP Summit will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> in a virtual format. This is a great opportunity for interested YPs to dip their toe in the water. The section will pay for the registration fee for any interested member to attend.

The YPs have held several Learning Over Lunch virtual events and are looking for more presenters and projects to highlight at future events. Randy has an idea on asset management practices and their incongruity with current municipal purchasing practices.

**Landmarks-** Nick Davis

We have a national landmark approved in Jackson, MO! We are arranging a ceremony to present the award to them in person. Special thanks to Randy Moore for securing the letter of recommendation to make this possible.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Next meeting is on May 12th at Noon for our virtual monthly call. The next quarterly board meeting is on July 16, 2021.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT at 10:45 am**

**MOTION: To adjourn**

Made by: Joel Ogle

Seconded by: Scott Phillips

Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Odom, Administrative Manager