

**New England Water Works Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2010**

The New England Water Works Association Board of Directors held a meeting on July 29, 2010, at NEWWA's offices in Holliston, Massachusetts. President Christopher Woodcock called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Those present were Patrick Connelly, Christopher Woodcock, David Paris, David Kane, David Russell, David Polcari, Carol Harris, Michael Covellone, Matthew Pearson, Pam Irwin, Ken Booth, Craig Douglas, Robert Beurivage, Jim Marvel, David Harris, and Ray Raposa (ex-officio and non-voting). NEWWA Deputy Executive Director Ted Kenney and guests Kathy Moriarty, Bangor Water District; David Parent, Sanford Water District; and Jeff McNelly, Executive Director, Maine Water Utilities Association were also in attendance.

Item #1- Consent Agenda & Minutes of May 18, 2010.

Dave Harris made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda including the minutes of May 18, 2010. The motion was seconded by Dave Polcari and passed unanimously.

Item #2 – Old Business.

There was no old business.

Item #3 – New Business.

Item #3A – Maine Water Utilities Association Discussion – Craig Douglas and Chris Woodcock

Chris Woodcock welcomed Kathy Moriarty, David Parent, and Jeff McNelly representing Maine Water Utilities Association. He began by saying that this is very important business to NEWWA, and he wants to help the relationship work. He said that directors need to monitor and communicate with the states so that any issues that do come up can be resolved.

Kathy Moriarty began by thanking the NEWWA board for inviting them to the meeting and adding the discussion to the agenda. She praised Craig Douglas for communicating with NEWWA and MWUA. She explained the reason they are here is because the MWUA membership has voiced concern about the value of New England membership. The concerns were discussed at the MWUA board meeting, and they felt they should come together to communicate the concerns to the NEWWA board.

The first concern was of the value of membership in New England. How can we improve the value of our membership for NEWWA and MWUA and how can we help each other serve our membership?

Another concern is to make us aware of the issue of legislation last year regarding water extraction rules in Maine and if they could be impacted by written comments. The proposals were directed at bottled water, however, they could also impact public water suppliers. Dave Parent and Jeff McNelly are working with legislature on these issues that have impacts on all water users. There was an idea to write a letter regarding The Source water article; then it moved to wanting to discuss the issues with the NEWWA board.

Dave explained that Jeff wrote a memo on this issue that was in the board packet. Jeff began with a background of bottled water vs. tap water and membership related issues. They see that the bottled water vs. tap water is a concern in New England. Maine has found they are caught in a cross fire with legislation on bottled water; there were sixteen issues in legislature. He said we can work together on some of these issues with bottled water companies. Also, we all need a consistent message on sustainability. There is concern about anti-bottled water comments. There are 150 utilities in the state that use groundwater, which will be impacted by fall outs of these issues. There

is a management of risk standpoint. Questions for Maine are will this fuel controversy in Maine and how will it impact the discussion?

Dave Parent gave examples of the specific bills; one was targeting Poland Springs. He felt there was misinformation about Poland Springs. Legislation impacts all water suppliers, not just Poland Springs alone, who has resources to adjust and deal with most regulatory changes.

Another issue was excise tax on extraction of water for bottling and that it can affect anyone packaging water (an ice manufacturer, etc.) or any groundwater. It will not affect Poland Springs and could result in municipalities needing to pass ordinances. He passed around a handout from the Maine Legislature regarding municipalities and ordinances governing the extraction of groundwater. They don't want municipalities passing ordinances.

Another concern about risk of legislation was in Southern Maine and there not being enough water in individual towns. There was misinformation that southern Maine was running out of water. They do not want to have to defend what NEWWA says, against bottled water, as it may affect local water utilities. They asked NEWWA to consider the impacts and to tread carefully on bottled water.

Chris suggested that Jeff continue with the other issues on the agenda.

A separate item discussed was the NEWWA Spring Exhibition & Conference. A concern is whether the NEWWA conference is pulling attendance from their February exhibition/meeting. They know that some is due to time changes. They asked for consideration to avoid conflicts and make sure that the two meetings complement each other. We should try to partner with each other and promote both associations' activities. NEWWA is valuable to their meeting and shouldn't be referred to as controversial. He added that they brought in Maine wastewater for training last year but also kept NEWWA on two tracks to continue the best partnership.

Also, there is a concern about the cost of NEWWA training classes and that they are costly for some to take advantage of (\$140). Is there a way to minimize the cost?

Another issue of concern was advocacy. What does NEWWA do for state associations and members and what can they do? He said NEWWA could be a great benefit and resource. An example was shared of the Chloramines issue in Burlington. A question was asked if NEWWA can be effective or what vehicle is best to address day-to-day advocacy. He commented that traditional environmental organizations have a very strong network and posed the question, how can we network better? They have learned from Massachusetts on water allocation. We should try to have a better mechanism for communication. MWUA is adding a forum on their web site which hopefully will be helpful.

How can we better maintain/improve connectivity of membership and do a better job of communicating and networking to accomplish a consistent message?

Ken Booth said communication was a focus on outreach and information transfer at yesterday's planning session. He said new software modifications will improve communication. It was further suggested we need to be more "linked" and we should look at how we can make it easier. It was agreed to make this a goal.

Carol Harris asked if there was a consistent message on bottled water and asked what MWUA's message was. Jeff responded that they are very good partners with Poland Springs but recognizes there are conflicts. The message to legislators is focused on the resource; how it's managed, and is it sustainable. They want to go forward and take the message to decision makers and try to bring a message of managing resources and build on successes.

Carol asked what the conversation was about the value of membership and the controversy of the meetings. It was discussed that the Worcester conference is big and possibly pulls vendors and attendees from the MWUA trade show. Is it because of the success of the NEWWA conference or the logistics; i.e. the distance from Connecticut to Portland, and changing times, for example?

Pam agreed with Ken's comments about the communication discussion at the planning session and the message about outreach. There should be a universal message about public outreach. She suggested that it may be time to survey the membership again. It would be helpful to get information from members for future planning.

Jeff suggested the association also connect with the other state agencies. It would be helpful for them to come and tell their story and concerns.

Dave Paris commented that the changes in the exhibit hall at the February show seemed to work well and wondered if they agreed. Jeff said that yes, they'll do it again. They had 6 booths that did not sell but they plan to work on that. Dave Parent and Kathy agreed as well, as did Carol Harris. Kathy said there have been many discussions on changing the MWUA trade show. MWUA and NEWWA shouldn't be competing. They must accommodate change for it to be successful. Pam questioned if the fact that it was held in the winter could be an issue due to inclement weather. Kathy and Jeff agreed that has been discussed quite often and there are opinions on both sides. Winter is a good time because it is not as busy, especially for utilities. They did ask their membership, but it was decided to keep the trade show in February. Jeff agreed it may be time to consider another time of year and to also have wastewater group consider it too. Kathy said the discussion comes up every year. Nothing is cut in stone and it may make sense to change. They are always willing to look at it as an option.

Dave Harris also commended the change in the trade show. He said vendors appreciated the change and the timing was great with customers. Vermont has combined water and wastewater and it has also worked out well. He continued that we need to make sure there is an equal partnership. We need to have a balance and timing and to determine who needs what. Green Mountain tries to balance with vendors and training and has been successful. Travel and scheduling is always an issue. He thinks that MWUA has a niche in February. Green Mountain has a show in November and invited them to go and discuss what works and what doesn't. He doesn't think it's due to the NEWWA Worcester show, but more that it's a change of the times.

Dave Harris also brought up the water resources law in 2008 in Vermont. He offered for them to review a report done by Jean Nicolai at Vermont Rural Water. Municipalities, farms, and the agriculture industry are exempt from permitting. The change required anyone drawing up to a certain amount of water to obtain a permit. The state of Vermont doesn't have a lot of companies or entites pulling water out of ground. Jeff said that Hawaii was the one state that had public trust and asked if Vermont did. Dave said they are still writing rules even though rules for public trust went into effect. Green Mountain Water Environment Association is involved but they don't have someone specifically involved.

It was asked what the concern was about NEWWA's message. Kathy said they just wanted to inform NEWWA about where they stand and their concerns. It was agreed that NEWWA wants to work with MWUA. They may not agree but will work to find a mutual avenue.

Dave Parent said they wanted to communicate their concerns early in the game. They had heard about the conflict at the Water For People Gala regarding Poland Springs as well as an article in The Source. He felt it was important to discuss their concerns before they become an issue. Jeff agreed that there needs to be a partnership just like with the chloramines issue in Vermont. We need to communicate that we are all there to help.

Chris Woodcock said the the Water for People Gala issue was not a NEWWA board position. The issue was that Water for People International did not want any affiliation with Nestle, Poland Springs' parent company. NEWWA, as a section of AWWA, had to follow AWWA's position. Dave Parent said he was more concerned in the tone of the message; that NEWWA was anti-Poland spring. He saw an article in the Source that could put them at risk with groundwater regulations. Jeff said they are building water laws one at a time and that there are a lot of pieces They are looking at the next several years and don't want a conflicting message with the Tap Water Delivers campaign and bottled water. He said that public water is looked at differently. Nestle doesn't mind adhering to the regulations. They are careful and willing to cooperate with local government. Farmers were willing to abandon sources and create new ones. The regulations hit Maine utilities, not farmers or Poland Springs. All water users need to be partners.

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Bob Beurivage said there are varied opinions on bottled water. He doesn't have a problem with it. Manchester sells water to Coke and it is a valuable relationship. The downside to bottled water is legislation and more stringent rules on groundwater permitting. On the training issue, New Hampshire has similar conflicts. NEWWA training is expensive; Rural Water does free training.

Pat Connelly said this was very a constructive conversation. As an AWWA Director he interacts with other positions and used Florida and Texas as example as far as travel for training. He said we need to work on the issue and keep at it. On the bottled water issue, he brought up the Only Tap Water Delivers campaign and that it doesn't downgrade bottled water. There needs to be a consistent message. AWWA and NEWWA have worked hard on that. We need to correct the perception that bottled water is better. We don't want to bash bottled water but make it clear there is misinformation. He agrees it's a fine line. The bottled water industry can bash tap water as well. Our message needs to focus on tap water – not against bottled water. The more we can develop a consistent message on tap water, the better we serve our members. Dave Parent agreed about that message. If you compare the aesthetics and convenience of bottled water, we won't win. He supported Poland Springs and their practices. We need to talk about the good things about tap water – they can't and don't compete with that. The message needs to be what we do that they don't. Pat agreed we are on the same page.

Pam Irwin said NEWWA decided not to fight bottled water. That's why the message is about tap water. We need to be allies with the bottled water industry. She was concerned about the e-mails they were referring to and that they were personal opinions and not necessarily the view of the NEWWA board.

Dave Parent said they were here as a prevention to make us aware of what is happening in Maine and that it is just a concern. Jeff used an example of their position on fluoride and that they don't take a position.

Pam said she is not against bottled water but about public perception and the water utility's image. She gave an example of a town meeting where members were drinking bottled water. It gave the wrong perception. She stressed the importance of perception. Jeff agreed they don't serve bottled water at their training.

Dave Paris, as incoming president, wasn't aware of what was happening in Maine and commended them for coming. It helped him understand issue. He is very frustrated about the bottled water issue because tap water is their business. Consumers have a choice. He wasn't aware of the regulations they are dealing with. We need to continue to have interactive conversations like this, going forward and he will encourage it as incoming president. He agreed there are many different opinions. New Hampshire holds all waters in public trusts. All states handle everything differently. He thanked them again for coming.

Dave Parent commented that the water bottles given at the NEWWA conference were great. He said that he notices a lot of young people using their own bottles for water and that it's a great idea to promote our water.

Pat Connelly agreed the input from members is that water suppliers are the best stewards in the natural environment. Bottlers are not stewards by putting water in plastic and that point should be made to the public. Dave Parent said that Poland Springs competes with other beverages, other than water. They promote the lack of sugar and a third of the plastic used in other beverage containers, such as Coke. We need to promote ourselves and not put them down. For example, they used jug of water and ice from a local ice company at their water resources meeting to promote local water and local ice – a great message to send. €€€€€

Carol had a few more comments to share. She thanked them for coming. An early point of concern was misinformation. There may have been a lot of misinformation between NEWWA and MWUA regarding their respective messages about bottled water. NEWWA's message of Only Tap Water Delivers is to promote the public water profession and public confidence in their public water supplies. MWUA's message of good water resource management is consistent with proper water supply practices and critical for sustaining any water resource; this should be promoted by everyone. She said she hopes that the conversation today clarified any misconceptions. Referring to the legislation issues, she commented that all states are going through similar water resource issues; however they may be at different levels in the process. Having the states work together could allow them to share information and learn from each other to develop the best solutions. NEWWA could assist by getting the state associations together so that they could connect with each other; then they could follow up individually. The best resolution may be meeting with the states and sharing experiences as we move forward.

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Ken echoed Carol's statement about getting states' concerns out in the open. He suggested that maybe it was time to consider quarterly meetings for issues to be discussed. This should be a priority. States need to be more organized and work together. Carol suggested that be an agenda item for meeting in September. Each state could share pertinent legislative issues to follow up on. Dave Parent and Kathy agreed it would be helpful. Jeff also agreed it needs to happen. Dave Parent commented that the environmental people do this full time.

Craig Douglas also thanked them for coming. His experience, which is the Maine experience, is that we need to work together. The Water Sustainability Congress was another example. He had heard negative things. It can't change all at once. Regarding water resource management, everyone needs to be at the same table.

Chris Woodcock thanked them again. These issues and concerns are hugely important. He has been very focused on the subject and has been very concerned. He mentioned comments in the MWUA Journal in 2009 and compared it to the "bottled water's not evil" article. He agreed there are personal opinions, but he is very pro tap water. He did take issue with Dave Parent that there is an attack on tap water from bottled water companies. They don't see us as competitors but the Coke ad does attack tap water. He agreed Poland Springs is the most responsible. He wants to be clear and will keep his opinion private. However, we are here to promote tap water.

He also wants to address the issue of value in the association and he hopes that something comes out of this meeting. He appointed an ad-hoc committee to look at the value of membership concern. Mike Covellone will chair it and asks anyone else to be part of it. The committee will look at the issues on what we can do for training from different states, what are we providing to members from different states? Where and how are we doing it? Is it the appropriate mix or is there something we can do better to give more value? We're obviously not doing enough. See what we can do to work with Maine to improve.

The high training costs at Worcester were discussed and whether the money from the revenue sharing could be used as a mechanism to get people to training, by busing people to training as an example. Kathy said this had been discussed in Maine and everyone was receptive but it has not been acted on. The money could be used to help defray training costs.

A comment about having quarterly meetings instead of annually would be logistics. Chris asked for opinion of logistics. An alternative could be for legislative committees from the different states to get together? Would that work better? The discussion ended with a question if there are other specific things we can do together on regional advocacy, etc. He said states need to stay in touch, and he hopes that we can keep the communication open.

Dave Paris suggested they come to a meeting once a year. Jeff agreed it made sense for legislative committee chairs to get together. Dave Parent hoped the issue had not been over exaggerated. He said they wanted to share their needs and felt great that everyone was responsive. They hear positive things and are very happy with the reaction from the board. Jeff and Kathy reiterated the intent was to communicate concerns. They are very happy that they came to discuss these issues before things got out of control. Jeff passed out a legislature report for our information. Kathy appreciated our time and thanked us for having them.

Item #3B – Massachusetts State Leadership Award Nomination. Dave Polcari reported on the state leadership award nomination. The Massachusetts Water Works Association board has recommended Jae Kim for the Massachusetts State Leadership Award. Dave asked for the board's consideration. They would like to present it at their annual meeting in November and asked that it be kept confidential.

Pam Irwin motioned and Mike Covellone seconded to award the Massachusetts State Leadership Award to Jae Kim of Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

Chris asked for any comments on Jae's nomination. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

Item #3C – Other by Members. Pam Irwin expressed concern about MWUA mentioning what they had read in various e-mails. She asked if there was any control of confidentiality on board e-mails. She was unsure what e-mails they were referring to but wondered about confidentiality issues. Chris said he didn't think they were confidential and wasn't sure if there's any relevance. Mike commented that e-mails are easily forwarded on to people and that some comments could be passed on unintentionally. There is not really a way to control it. Dave Kane said that emails are public knowledge in a utility. Ray agreed that everyone has to realize an e-mail is public information.

Dave Paris said that we should act with prudence. Dave Harris agreed we need to police ourselves. E-mails can be read in many ways and the tone can be perceived differently. You need to re-write the e-mail if there's something that shouldn't be forwarded. Personal views in this case caused a bad light with the state of Maine. The board needs to be careful about what goes out in e-mails and watch out for personal opinions as they are not the board's position.

Chris brought up how Jim Fay did not use e-mail when he was concerned about public records with the chloramine issue. Dave Harris agreed that comments can be taken out of context and that could have happened in this case. He agreed we need to be careful.

Dave Kane said they made reference to a Source article and said it is a good reminder about our role and our personal opinions. Pat Connelly's impression was that one member had a passion about an issue and that stirred things up. Their board listened and checked things out. It was a good model and showed that communication is good.

Chris said he was worried and thanked everyone on the outcome of the meeting. The outcome was positive, and the meeting was very constructive. He doesn't want to forget about the issues discussed. Carol, Craig, and Dave Harris agreed to work on the ad-hoc committee. All directors should be involved including Bob Beaurivage and Pete Pezanko.

Dave Harris suggested the entire board send a letter to Jeff, Dave Parent, and Kathy thanking them for coming to discuss issues and that the process worked. Bob Beaurivage said it was a very unique situation because of Poland Springs being in Maine. Their opinions are very different and we need to be cognitive to their concerns. Craig agreed it was an excellent recommendation to write letters. They are dealing with a lot of issues. Reaching out to build strong relationships is important, and it will help the relationship. Chris Woodcock said he will draft a letter and send it on behalf of the NEWWA board.

Ted commented that we have had a unique collaborative model with MWUA for many years. We have 24 joint programs in Maine; 22 were under a state grant which was the work of MWUA. We can only make it better and don't want to lose where we are. The relationship is a collaborative model.

Ray said the discussion about e-mails was good. We need to keep in mind that articles in The Source and the Board column represent the association so they need to be written with caution. Mike asked if there is an editorial section where there could be open discussion that would be the opinion of the writer. Is this something we should think about adding? Matt Pearson said that after an earlier article on Poland Springs by the editor was published, the Publications Committee set up a policy on reviewing of articles before they were published. He is cautious with Currents and gave an example of an advertisement he used from a company's web site. There is a policy on articles but we don't have a review process. Matt suggested adding a disclaimer that the views expressed in the articles published were not necessarily those of the association.

Carol also thanked Pam for bringing up the e-mail question and said we all need to be aware of it. As a board we need to be cognizant of the fact that e-mails are public documents.

Item #3D - Site Selection Committee Memo. Mike Covellone said that the Site Selection Committee visited the Equinox Resort in Manchester Village, Vermont and made a recommendation that this be the site for the 2013 annual conference.

Dave Polcari motioned and Bob Beaurivage seconded to hold the 2013 Annual Conference at the Equinox Resort in Manchester Village, Vermont.

Chris noted that there is a special room rate for government employees and wanted everyone to know about it.

There were no other comments. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Item #4 - Treasurer's Report - Financial Update.

Item #4A - May 2010 Financial Report.

Dave Kane said the report had been distributed. Through the month of May there was a net profit of \$410,298, which included \$312,552 in operating income and \$97,746 in investment gains. This result is due mainly to stronger training and the SRF program. Training did very well. Conference net revenue is \$22,000 for the year. Revenues are better by \$10,000. Investment income is down by approximately \$15,000. Since May we lost another \$20,000. Year-to-date is roughly \$68,000 unaudited, which is less than earlier this year.

The treasurers met with Ray & Pam Amalfi to go over the report. Expenses are noted in the middle of page 3. Expenses through May are \$2,282,000 compared to the full year at \$2,752,000. June's

expenses were \$2,643,000 unaudited. We are under budget for full year with over \$3,000,000 in revenues for the full year, unaudited. We have over \$300,000 of projected net income. Dave Paris asked if that was after extra expenses. Dave Kane responded yes.

The last item was FDIC insurance. The government is allowing banks to opt out for certain accounts. Citizens is not renewing their participation in the program providing unlimited FDIC insurance. The decision was made by the treasurers and staff to transfer balances, a little over \$200,000, to DCU to make sure we are fully covered by FDIC insurance

The Investment Committee minutes are on page 4 of the report. The committee discussed investment performance and the employees' tax sheltered annuity plan. The Investment Committee will take over fiduciary responsibilities for the plan instead of just Ray and our advisor. The Board felt the Investment Committee should do that. The policy statement was reviewed. At the October 14th meeting they hope to adopt a policy statement and will meet with the investment advisor. Bob asked if we currently follow his opinions. Ray said yes.

Dave Russell reviewed the last item on page 3, the options for refinancing the office building and renewal of the letter of credit. The treasurers looked at 6 or 7 banks to take over loan. The best option is our current bank which is Citizens.

We need to decide about rolling over the letter of credit which is due to expire on September 5th. Citizens Bank had varied options, and Dave received package from them. We need to decide today. He passed out the various options from Citizens. The recommendation will only go out 5 years. The rates will be locked in a little over 5% which is right in line. The committee is recommending that we commit to 2 years rather than 1. The rate is about 5 basis points higher than the 1 year rate and is an administrative advantage. The rate is currently 2.9% but can vary. There is a 2 year renewal. The rate will follow the SIFMA variable rate. The committee is recommending the current plan but extending the term one year starting at 2.9%.

To minimize inflation risk, he said we will use part of the surplus to pay down some of the balance of the loan. He recommended approximately \$70,000 to \$100,000. Dave Kane said that the decision wouldn't be made until the auditor's report was issued. Bob asked how many years were left on the note. Ray said it was probably in the upper 20s. Dave Russell said the balance was about \$870,000. He said interest rates will likely go up. Bob agreed with the suggestion and thought it was a good idea.

The recommendation was made that the board approve the 2 year option with Citizens Bank. Chris Woodcock motioned and Pam Irwin seconded to **approve rolling over the letter of credit with a 2 year option with Citizens Bank. Pam Irwin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Craig asked if we would go with 2 years each time. Dave Russell said we would consider it again in two years.

Dave Harris motioned to accept the Treasurers' Report. Dave Paris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris thanked the staff for helping to make the year successful financially.

Item #5 – AWWA Director's Report

Pat Connelly began by saying it was an honor to be the AWWA Director and that he had just gotten back from orientation in Denver. His main focus is to increase value and usefulness between NEWWA and AWWA.

AWWA is currently developing a program analysis process to evaluate and identify programs that are no longer effective. He will keep the board posted on the progress. The program tries to measure how programs impact members and how much participation there is. Programs in the bottom 3rd will get reconsidered. Chris asked if he had a feel for what programs might change. Jim Marvel answered administrative programs and some specialty conferences but it was tough to kill some programs.

Pat added that there was a presentation at June meeting on recruiting and developing young professionals.

There are two president-elect candidates - Charlie Anderson from the Texas Section and Dean Fritzke from the Pacific Northwest.

AWWA is also seeking committee members, officers, etc. and Pat said that if anyone was interested to see him or Ray.

Pat also commented on an issue that MWUA over the years has been getting one issue Opflow and distributing it. AWWA shifted their policy and let them down. Jeff McNelly wrote a letter and the outcome was that AWWA offered MWUA a free membership. Pat was supportive that the outcome was positive.

He reported that at the June meeting NEWWA was presented with a plaque from Water Buffalos for our support. Pat passed the plaque around for all to see. He reminded everyone of how passionate the group is about supporting Water for People.

Pat reported that AWWA dues will stay the same as 2009 on a national level. They are considering moving organization renewal dates from the join date to one date during the year.

Affiliation agreements are all signed. Chris asked if Georgia had signed and Pat said yes. Pat also met the new executive director, David LaFrance, and said he is very forward and engaging.

Lastly, Pat announced that he will be changing positions at Weston & Sampson. They have acquired firms in Florida and South Carolina and Pat will spend more time in the southeast. His role as AWWA Director will not change and New England will still be his primary section. He will be moving his residence to South Carolina sometime in October. His Weston & Sampson address will remain the same.

Craig Douglas motioned to approve the AWWA Director's Report. Pam Irwin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Russell asked if AWWA had a position on bottled water. Pat said he hadn't seen anything, Chris said he had several conversations with David LaFrance about it. There's no official policy or position although there are 278 pages on AWWA's web site and none of them are positive. The board will discuss some form of policy position. Bob asked about whether a percentage of bottled water is from public water. The answer is 40%. Pam said there is an expanded bottle bill for Massachusetts and it will occur in a lot of states as well.

Item #6 – Executive Director and Staff Reports – June 1st to July 20th, 2010

Ray said there were three key highlights to report. Registrations are coming in for the conference and we have about 50 to date. He reminded everyone they must make their hotel reservations. Iseult can work with the hotel but you must register.

Public Policy

The Massachusetts Board of Certification is moving forward with a draft regulation. One day there will be a course required before you can move to take a Grade II or higher license exam.

Facilities

The facility plans are moving forward. The new HVAC equipment took a month before we could order because of the rebate. It has been ordered and will be installed. We were able to save approximately \$5,000 with the rebate.

New shelving has been installed in the library and all work is moving forward. Books are being inventoried. Photos have been framed and have been hung in various places showing a good history of past conferences. The garden has been finished with one strip. Benches are in place and will be engraved in the next few weeks. An arbor has been put in place. The garden is in good shape.

Computers

The computer conversion has gone well. We went live on July 20th. The certification program is not ready but will be in place in about a month. The new web site is in process but we want to make sure the new computer system is working properly to avoid any problems. With Kirsten out, we are waiting for her to return. John DiPietro is also working on the web site.

Pam brought up a facility issue. There were comments made at the Planning Session about cleanliness of the building. She suggested we have professional cleaners come in before another big meeting. Chris agreed there were comments about stains on the carpet. Pam suggested we use some of the excess money for cleaning.

Training

Ted gave some highlights of training and said that a full report was included in Ray's report. Staff worked well around the computer conversion.

July has four sessions of Drinking Water Operator Exam Review Courses with about 80 people registered; fifty are registered for Monday morning's class. Overall, summer programs have run well. The cross connection program has been very active in New York and New Jersey.

Work will begin on the Spring Water Quality Symposium. The content will return to the technical side. The committee has agreed to move in that direction. The Laboratory Operations Committee is working on their symposium and planning for the October Water Resources Symposium is underway.

Contract training is heavy for the fall. Contract training includes Confined Space Training, Safety programs, and equipment training. Partnerships with Green Mountain Water Environment Association, CT Section AWWA, and Maine Water Utilities Association are all strong.

Grants

In Rhode Island a contract has been signed and includes four one-day and four half-day offerings. This is the 2nd year of New Hampshire training in Franklin on a state grant.

Carol asked about training in other states, particularly training in Maine last year. Ted said there were about 25 classes. No scheduling is done without partnering with the MWUA Education Committee. There is no competition. All courses are under Maine's ERG grant for Maine operators only. Carol asked where they are held. Ted responded they are in all counties except for cross connection. Craig said ERG requires that they be scattered. Ted added that they usually end with classes at the Nixon center. The goal is to reach everyone.

Ray said the MCSSA state contract was approved and now in place for 2 years. He announced that Allison Armstrong, formerly of Andover Water, will come on board as instructor and coordinator as of August 16th. Dave Harris commented that she would be a great addition to the staff. Ray agreed

she will be a very strong addition to staff. Carol asked about MCSSA and issues of all of the partners to fill obligations and sessions being shifted. Ray said it was mainly on the site visit and there were no issues. All the work got completed.

Other

Ray wanted to give an update on a new issue and wanted to ask members if there was interest in getting involved. A local Massachusetts private water company was going to be filing Chapter 11 and was going to fold. The State wants to keep the system running until a long term alternative is in place. Would we be willing to help to keep the operation in place for 3-4 months? Pat said there's a potential conflict of interest with him. Whitewater is the contract operator. The plan is to have the 60 homeowners drill their own wells. It was agreed that there could be many potential problems for customers. We would be indemnified by the state but could have potential issues.

As a background, the water company is Bob Maynard's old firm. R.H. White bought it years ago upon Bob's recommendation. He tried to make it work. Weston & Sampson designed the membrane plant. The water system is not sustainable. Chris felt it would be nice to be involved since it was Bob Maynard.

Dave Kane asked if this would violate our tax exempt status. Ray said there is already an attorney involved but the law firm also represents R.H. White. Carol said we need to be cautious about legalities and public perception. Jim Marvel commented that we are not a utility management organization in his opinion. Chris asked if we would be setting a precedent? Carol agreed that Jim was right and that it does not fit with NEWWA's mission. Dave Kane asked about timing. Ray would need to have everything in writing. The state is still brainstorming. The DEP regions have different opinions and Carol asked what the Central Region's opinion was. Ray was not sure. They may have MEPA step in and take over. DEP will not run it as they are the regulating agency.

Matt Pearson suggested the president take an unofficial vote to see if there is any interest in pursuing this. Then Ray can contact DEP with an opinion. Chris said that no matter what is voted now it would have to be discussed and voted in a special meeting and all the board would have to be present.

Chris asked for a show of hands for those who did not want to get involved. Dave Harris said we would need more facts. Most of the members indicated that they did not want to get involved. Carol said it could be a huge liability with legal concerns, etc. and that it was not in line with our Mission. Ray agreed the initial feedback from the board is that we prefer not to be involved.

Matt Pearson motioned that we should not be involved in this issue as it is not in line with NEWWA's mission. Bob Beurivage seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Craig commented he agreed with what everyone said.

Matt said he had heard some further details and the situation was very complicated. The issue should be the state's concern but they are looking outside the box for a solution.

Dave Paris commented that it was brought forward because of Bob Maynard's business and the fact that he was a past president. The board should be aware of why it was brought to the board for discussion.

Dave Kane and Dave Paris are opposed. Pat Connelly abstained from voting. The motion passed that we have no interest in becoming involved.

Dave Paris motioned and Pat Connelly seconded to accept Executive Director's Report. The motion passed.

Item #8 – Council Director Updates on Committee Actions – Council Directors.

Chris told council chairs to have their written reports available for the September meeting at the Samoset.

The next council meeting will be on November 5th.

Chris asked Mike for any comments on yesterday's planning session. Mike said it went well and thanked the facilitators. He said more details will come out of it and there will possibly be budgetary requests.

Item #9 – Committee Reports. Ken Booth commented on the Sustainability Congress in June. He said it went well overall. There was good participation with about 110 attendees. The feedback was varied. The committee tried to keep the fee down but consequently there were objections on the quality of lunch and the snacks at break time. The committee will address these issues next year. Ken said they hope to make it an annual event.

Chris asked if there was any other business. There was none.

Item #10 – Other by Members. Pat Connelly announced some award nominations. Robert Varney, formerly of EPA, will receive the John Chaffee Distinguished Service Award and Massachusetts Senator Stephen Brewer will receive the NEWWA Legislator of the Year Award.

Dave Paris motioned and Craig Douglas seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Raymond J. Raposa
New England Water Works Association
Executive Director and Corporate Clerk