MEETING MINUTES
AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee

January 21, 2015, 2014 Noon – 1 p.m.
ADEQ 5th floor conference room
1110 West Washington Street; Phoenix, AZ 85007

Participants: Doug Berschauer, Jesse Black, Tyson Glock, Chuck Graf, Bob Hollander, Shuang Huang, Bill Kenning, Doug Kobrick, Dean Moulis, Mary Parke, Juan Reyes, Paul Schuitt, Mike Weber, Gary Whitten, Luis Uribe

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: February 18, 2015

1. New member. Shuang Huang of the City of Glendale has joined our committee. Glendale has agreed to host a plant tour at the West Area WRF on February 25.

2. Results of the December 2014 meeting. The joint meeting held with the Energy and Sustainability Committee was very successful and resulted in several mutual projects for the committees to work on together. The energy-related webinars that the wastewater committee has been discussing off and on for a number of months were identified as an excellent vehicle for the two committees to work together. We need to follow up to keep the momentum going forward.

3. New website implementation. The new azwater.org website offers far more capabilities than the old site, but across the Association it is not being used to its full potential. In particular, the intent is for the website to become the principal vehicle for communications within the committee, but members need to be registered on the website to have access. As of the meeting, only about half of the committee members were registered on the new website. It was decided that Bill Kenning would register each of the remaining members on their behalf so that we can start making use of the site as intended.

There are a few members of the committee who are not current on their AZ Water memberships and need to get re-registered with the Association to be able to access the website.

4. Plant tours and workshops. At the time of this meeting, that Avondale plant tour and workshop was upcoming the following week (January 28). In addition, the West Area WRF tour is upcoming on February 25. We need to confirm who are math instructors are for the workshop.

5. Webinar. The committee, in conjunction with the Biosolids Committee and the Energy and Sustainability Committee was also preparing to hold a webinar on disaster recovery and energy
management implementation at the Bergen County Utilities Authority WWTP in New Jersey (scheduled for February 5). This is a key step in revitalizing our efforts to provide webinars.

6. **Annual conference update.** Doug Kobrick gave an update on the technical program. The format will be similar to last year. There are about 170 papers on the program (out of about 230 submissions). The final version of the program had not been distributed among the conference committee yet. Doug Berschauer is organizing the operator training track and has made a lot of progress in getting panel discussions among experienced operators lined up to go with the math training, practice exam and other aspects of the track. Tyson Glock is organizing the manufacturers’ track for information transfer about new and innovative products. Jesse Black has organized another Meter Mania competition which will be even bigger and better than last year’s successful event. Jesse gave us an update and reported that Aaron Skiles’ company S&H Manufacturing fabricated a beautiful new test bench that is going to be used for the competitions.

   Once again, our committee is making lots of contributions to the overall Association; well-done!

7. **Annual Report.** Doug Kobrick distributed an outline of what he proposing for an Annual Report of our committee’s accomplishments and plans for the coming (current) year. There was a good discussion of ideas for content in the plan. One goal for the report is to provide an example that other committees within the Association could follow in documenting their own progress. **Mike Weber** volunteered to help prepare the report.

8. **2015 technical seminar.** It is time to get going on planning for this year’s seminar.

   The following members present at the meeting volunteered to serve as our seminar planning subcommittee: **Mary Parke, Gary Whitten, Paul Schuitt, Shuang Huang, Bill Kenning, and Juan Reyes.** Anyone else who is interested in helping is more than welcome.

   The following topics were mentioned as possibilities: reuse, emerging contaminants, impact of reduced flows, continuous improvement and risk planning.

   The subcommittee will meet separately to get the planning work underway.

9. **Operator training class.** Jesse Black asked the group if anyone knew of a good training class available for Level 1 and 2 operators. Epcor has used the Ragsdale course, which is good, but is looking for alternatives. After some discussion during which it appeared that there were not any other alternatives that the group was familiar with, a consensus emerged that this would be a good project for our committee. There is a lack of high-quality, accessible training for all the operator categories and levels. We will start by developing a training class for Level 1 / 2 wastewater treatment operators. (If that is successful, perhaps it could expand to other levels and categories in the future).

   The following members volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to work on this: **Jesse Black, Doug Berschauer, Gary Whitten, Paul Schuitt, Shuang Huang, Dean Moulis, and Tyson Glock.** Any other committee members who were not present but would like to get involved
are more than welcome. One specific activity that was discussed as a first step was compiling the Q&A test questions from Ted Bailey that run in the *Kachina* newsletter. The training links assembled by William Li about a year ago would also be helpful resources.

This will be a significant long-term project for the committee over the next 6 to 12 months.

10. **Next meeting.** February 18, noon. at ADEQ.