MEETING MINUTES
AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee

May 27, 2015, Noon – 1 p.m.
ADEQ 5th floor conference room
1110 West Washington Street; Phoenix, AZ 85007

Participants: Noah Adams, Doug Berschauer, Jesse Black, Chuck Graf, Brian Hackethal, Bob Hollander, Doug Kobrick, Jessica Marlow, Chris McDonald, Pete Mirocke, Dean Moulis, Hector Ortiz, Luis Uribe, Mike Weber, Gary Whitten

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: June 24, 2015

1. **Member updates.** Chuck Graf has moved to Tucson, but will continue to be involved. Noah Adams of ADEQ assisted with the arrangements for the meeting and sat in for the discussions.

2. **AZSCE infrastructure report card.** The report card was released to the public on May 13. Mike Worlton was the chairperson for the effort. AZ Water was a supporting sponsor of this effort to raise awareness among the public about the need for investment in our infrastructure systems. We have gotten very good feedback from AZ Water leadership about the excellent quality of the wastewater section of the report card which was prepared by our committee. (Overall grade: C). Mike Worlton has told me that there has been a lot of media attention to the report card and it is succeeding in drawing attention to the issues.

3. **Annual conference.** The annual conference was a tremendous success, with record-breaking attendance of 1500, breaking the previous high by 25%. Jesse Black’s Meter Mania was bigger and better than ever with 30% more participation and exciting competitions worked into the conference program. Team Peoria put up a very strong performance in this year’s event. Special recognition also goes to Aaron Skiles of SH Manufacturing for fabricating and providing an excellent permanent test bench for the meter competition. The operator track led by Dou Berschauer was very successful with very strong math training workshops, interesting panel discussions, test prep and a mock exam which was taken by 40 people and graded by the members of our committee. Tyson Glock put together the session on emerging new technologies for operators with a very solid program, which needs more publicity next year.

4. **Math workshops, webinars, plant tours.** The math amigos are scheduling a math workshop for Epcor and other northeast Valley utilities to be held July 22. Plant tours are scheduled as follows:

    Prescott, July 1 - postponed due to staff changes at plant
Webinars continue to be a weak point; we need to get some on the schedule.

5. **Math workshop survey.** Jessica Marlow volunteered to lead an effort to survey past participants in our math workshops to find out how they later did on their certification exams, with the goal being to (hopefully) identify if the workshops are effective in helping improve test results. We will use the AZ Water survey monkey program.

6. **2015 technical seminar.** Doug Kobrick briefed the committee on the status of planning for the seminar. Program is still evolving. Potential topics brought up by the group include: big-data mining; use of hand-held devices for real-time process control at Pima County; optimizing solar power to match plant energy needs at Neely WRP; Jeff Moser; Ed McCormack from WEF; flushables and their impact on treatment loads (as well as the collection system); innovative approaches to biosolids management being considered by Peoria in conjunction with U of A. We still need some more topics.

7. **Operator training initiative.** This is a great opportunity for the committee to make a significant contribution but it will take a significant investment of time by several persons. We need a new champion to lead this effort if it is to become a reality. The group at the meeting was polled and no one volunteered to take the lead on this, so it will be tabled until someone steps forward to push it along.

8. **Committee webpage.** A meeting will be set up for Bill Kenning, Mike Weber, and Doug Kobrick to discuss how to start making more use of our website and webpage.

9. **ADEQ training program.** Noah Adams provided the group some information on what training programs ADEQ offers. Most of the funding for training comes from EPA’s drinking water office, so the training is focused on drinking water topics, not wastewater. Many of the sessions they offer are reviews of the regulations in various areas and the various regulatory programs that ADEQ administers.

10. **Meeting schedule.** The group agreed that shifting the meeting to the fourth Wednesday of the month is not a problem and in fact is more convenient for several of the members.

11. **Next meeting.** June 24, 2015.