MEETING MINUTES

AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee

July 22, 2015, Noon – 1 p.m.

ADEQ 5th floor conference room
1110 West Washington Street; Phoenix

Participants:  Doug Berschauer, Jesse Black, David Epperson, Chuck Graf, Brian Hackethal, Kelly Hanzel, Jenny Lopez, Bill Kenning, Doug Kobrick, Jessica Marlow, Frank Milam, Pete Mirocke, Dean Moulis, Hector Ortiz, Paul Schuitt, Mike Weber

Recorded:  Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued:  August 24, 2015

1. Member updates.  Frank Milam from the City of Avondale attended the meeting and is thinking of joining the committee.

Mike Weber reported that the City of Peoria’s Butler Water Reclamation Facility is included in a program on the National Geographic channel entitled ”Breakthrough” (which does not refer to membrane performance).  The program spotlights innovative technologies changing the world we live in.

There was a discussion on the topic of member retention and issues that members are having that are discouraging.  Several members of the committee have noted that they wind up paying local section/association dues more than once if they are members of both WEF and AWWA.  This appears to be a double-dip for AZ Water membership fees.  Doug Kobrick said he would bring this up at the upcoming leadership meeting later that week.

Bill Kenning expressed some frustration with the use of the new website; it is not all intuitive and there is no “user manual.”  Passwords and sign-ins can be cumbersome, and the lack of instruction provided to the rank and file members means that it is difficult for them to make use of the site’s capabilities.  He suggested that a PDF of basic instructions on how to use the site could be posted on the website homepage so that new users would have some guidance on the use of the site.

2. Math workshops, webinars, plant tours.  Jesse Black had presented a math workshop earlier in the week for Epcor East Valley personnel.  There were 14 attendees and the training was very well-received.  He later advised that Epcor management is now interested in offering this training to operators throughout their organization.

Plant tours currently are scheduled as follows:
Scottsdale Water Campus – September 10
Yuma Desert Dunes WRF – October 29

Cottonwood has also agreed to participate, date TBD at the time of the meeting [now scheduled for October 7].

Each of these three sites has agreed to also host a math workshop after the tour is over. We have at least one math amigo who is willing to present at all three (Mr. Berschauer).

David Epperson has raised the idea of a 91st Ave WWTP biosolids facility tour internally at the City of Phoenix, no decision yet if they will participate.

Webinars continue to be a weak point; we need to get some on the schedule. Paul Schuitt has volunteered to be our “webinar champion” and push these forward. Thank you Paul!

3. **2015 technical seminar.** Doug Kobrick briefed the committee on the status of planning for the seminar. The logistical arrangements are moving along well, but we are still in need of some speakers, and need to recruit sponsors. Several sponsors have stepped forward. We are nearing a full slate of speakers, still need to confirm some of the details.

4. **Operator training initiative.** Jesse Black is leading this effort; we all understand this is a long-term project. The format needs to be thought through—on-line vs. classroom vs. “textbook” or some combination. Doug Kobrick offered to take the L1 WWTP operator exam so we can get the flavor of the current exam on behalf of the group, without anyone with an active license taking the risk of not passing.

5. **Committee webpage.** Mike Weber and Jenny Lopez will be assisting Bill Kenning in populating the webpage with content. Mike assisted with getting the meeting minutes current and Jenny will be working on the member bios page. We have made some progress in understanding how to set up and administer discussion forums, now need to generate some content and get the word out so that people start visiting the forum. We need to get the fall Seminar featured on the webpage (Doug Kobrick now has it entered on the events calendar). Lacey James and Gretchen Baumgardner had a meeting to discuss the webpage and how to tap its capabilities. Lacey and Gretchen have been working on discussion forums for their committees and had some good advice to offer. Bill, Mike (and Jenny Lopez has also offered to help) will continue to work on this.

6. **Upcoming leadership retreat.** Doug Kobrick as committee chair will be attending the upcoming AZ Water leadership meeting in Flagstaff. He reviewed the agenda for the meeting with the group and solicited input to be brought forward at the meeting (see member news, above). He mentioned the hiring of David Iwanski as Executive Director of the Association and that the meeting is an opportunity for David and the Association members to get to know each other and start getting a direction on how they are going to work together.

7. **Next meeting:** August 26, 2015