MEETING MINUTES

AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee

August 26, 2015, Noon – 1 p.m.

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

Participants: Miguel Ayala, Jesse Black, Andrew Gilmore, Chuck Graf, Brian Hackethal, Bob Hollander, Andrea Kagie-Hay, Jenny Lopez, Bill Kenning, Doug Kobrick, Jessica Marlow, Dean Moulis, Mike Weber, Gary Whitten

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: September 26, 2015

1. Member updates. Miguel Ayala from the City of Avondale and Andrea Kagie-Hay of Amec Foster Wheeler attended the meeting; booth are thinking of joining the committee.

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
    Cottonwood- October 7 [now being rescheduled to November]
    Yuma Desert Dunes WRF – October 29

Registration has been brisk for Scottsdale and the event was on the way to filling to capacity. Each tour will be followed by an operator math workshop. Jesse Black and Gary Whitten confirmed they can attend the Cottonwood and Yuma events; Doug Berschauer has already indicated he can participate in all three of the math workshops scheduled for this fall so far. We still are in need of sponsors for the lunches at these events. Bill Kenning asked to be copied on the details for the tours and trainings, so he can get them correctly onto the webpage. No further update on the potential 91st Ave WWTP biosolids facility tour.

3. 2015 technical seminar. Doug Kobrick briefed the committee on the status of planning for the seminar. The line-up of speakers is almost set, and we have sponsors so far in the amount of about $3,000. Logistical arrangements need to be reconfirmed with the PERA Club.
4. **Webinars update.** Paul Schuitt could not attend the meeting but sent along his proposed plan for getting our webinars program going, in conjunction with the energy/sustainability and biosolids committees. Next step will be to recruit specific speakers with defined topics to offer. Bill Kenning has the “Go To Webinar” routine under control, and basically anyone with a good Powerpoint presentation to can be a webinar presenter.

5. **AZ Water Association strategic plan.** Doug Kobrick had attended the AZ Water Board/committee chairs meeting (as did Jesse Black and Bob Hollander as well). He offered some information and observations from the meeting, along with an overview of the AZ Water “business plan” developed earlier this year as a means of going about implementing our new strategic objectives as an Association. The strategic plan includes nearly 100 individual tasks that have been selected by the Association leadership as the means to accomplish the vision. Many of the tasks have been assigned to the responsibility of various committees. Doug presented a list of the tasks that apply to the wastewater treatment committee. Many of these are already in our work plan, some are additional items. A copy of the list is attached. There was a lengthy discussion among the committee members about the various tasks and the Association’s efforts to communicate external to the Association.

6. **Operator training initiative.** Jesse Black is leading this effort; Paul Schuitt and Gary Whitten have also offered to get involved, and some preliminary discussions have been held. The current plan is offer this as a live training session with a standard PowerPoint presentation offered in support. There has been a great deal of interest at EPCOR in offering the math training throughout their organization. There has also been talk about developing a smartphone app to allow operators to work practice problems and quizzes for the math aspect.

7. **Committee webpage.** Bill Kenning discussed issues that have emerged as he/we have delved farther in to the new website’s capabilities. He believes there is a need for IT support. The new contract website person being hired by AZ Water may help. Specific issues include the need for a “how to” pdf document that could be accessed from the homepage. Other issues include access permissions, administrator rights, and access for non-members to the website. Also a need for clarifying what the scope is for the “operator resources” section of the homepage.

8. **Future guests.** Doug Kobrick mentioned that Association Executive Manager Debbie Muse and Executive Director David Iwanski would each be invited to a future committee meeting. Debbie will be attending the September meeting.

9. **Next meeting:** September 30, 2015