MEETING MINUTES

AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee

September 30, 2015, Noon – 1 p.m.

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

Participants: Miguel Ayala, Chuck Graf, Andrea Kagie-Hay, Jenny Lopez, Bill Kenning, Doug Kobrick, Dean Moulis, Mary Parke, Hector Ortiz, Mike Weber

Special Guest: Debbie Muse

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: October 27, 2015

1. Member updates. Each of the members in attendance introduced themselves so Debbie could get a picture of the composition of our group.

2. Debbie Muse discussion. Debbie Muse, Executive Manager of AZ Water, was in attendance as a special invited guest. Doug Kobrick introduced Debbie to the group and gave a synopsis of the many contributions Debbie has made over her 15+ years with the Association, essentially taking to the level it operates at today, with greatly improved member service, professional administration, an excellent newsletter, an annual conference that breaks its own records each year, and many other enhancements.

Debbie gave a presentation on the state of AZ Water, membership numbers, etc. She explained the organizational structure of AZ Water as a combination of the local AWWA section, WEF member association, and AZ Water itself as a stand-alone local organization. She explained how the local dues are established for members of AZ Water who also belong to the national organizations. There is a push coming from AWWA national to operate autonomously from WEF at the section level. In fact, Arizona is one of only about 5 states where the local sections are combined. With Arizona’s integrated approach to water management, this sort of thinking was alien to a number of committee members, but it apparently is a significant issue at the national level that may have local repercussions within AZ Water. The committee reviewed some of its ongoing activities for Debbie’s benefit.

3. Math workshops, webinars, plant tours. The plant tour at the Scottsdale Water Campus was a great success, with a capacity crowd and excellent tours led by City staff. There were a number of people who were turned away from registering because the event was “sold out.”

Plant tours currently are scheduled as follows:
Cottonwood -- October 7 [now being rescheduled to November]
Yuma Desert Dunes WRF – October 29 [will need to be rescheduled pending sponsor availability]

Each tour will be followed by an operator math workshop. Doug Berschauer, Jesse Black and Gary Whitten confirmed they can attend the Cottonwood and Yuma events. We have secured sponsors for the lunches at these events. No further update on the potential 91st Ave WWTP biosolids facility tour.

4. **2015 technical seminar.** Doug Kobrick briefed the committee on the status of planning for the seminar. The line-up of speakers and sponsors is set, and arrangements are in place with the Pera Club. Registrations have picked up somewhat but it is important to get the word out [ultimately the seminar filled to capacity].

5. **Webinars update.** Lacey James from Avondale has expressed interest in offering a pretreatment-related webinar that could be a joint effort between our committee and the pretreatment committee. We still need 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.

6. **Operator training initiative.** Jesse Black could not attend the meeting. There was discussion about software tolls that could be used to advance this effort. Jesse and his subcommittee members have worked out a basic outline for the training.

7. **Social media.** Jenny Lopez offered to get involved in looking at ways for the committee to expand its efforts through social media, this can be coordinated with AZ Water’ larger efforts in that arena and our consulting firm “red balloon” that is assisting in this mode.

8. **IT issues.** Debbie Muse confirmed that our new contract IT consultant is available upon request to help us with any issues we encounter working with the new website.

9. **Future guest.** Doug Kobrick mentioned that Association Executive Director David Iwanski would also be invited to a future committee meeting.

10. **Next meeting:** October 28, 2015