MEETING MINUTES
AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee

October 28, 2015, Noon – 1 p.m.
ADEQ
1110 West Washington Street; Phoenix

Participants: Miguel Ayala, Doug Berschauer, Jesse Black, Doug Kobrick, Dean Moulis, Kim Neill, John Pinkston, Kevin Roach, Paul Schuitt, Luis Uribe, Gary Whitten

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: January 28, 2016

1. Member updates. Each of the members in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Annual Technical Seminar Results. Doug Kobrick gave a report on the results of the annual technical seminar held the previous week. This year’s event was again a great success with a total attendance of about 95 persons. The presentations were excellent and the utility leader panel discussion was especially well-received. Logistics came off without a hitch. Thanks go to the organizing committee, including Mary Parke, Gary Whitten, Bill Kenning, Doug Berschauer, and Dean Moulis; and to Miguel Ayala for arranging for the wall posters listing our sponsors; to Chuck Graf for assisting with the PowerPoint presentations on the fly at the seminar: and a special thanks to Jenny Lopez for her hours of hard work helping to put together the proceedings notebooks. Truly a team effort that demonstrates the power of the WWTC!

3. Math workshops, webinars, plant tours. The plant tour to the Yuma Desert Dunes WRP has been postponed, apparently indefinitely while the City and our lunch sponsor Carollo try to find a date that works for them. The Cottonwood tour has also been postponed as it was to follow Yuma. With the weather getting colder, Cottonwood may need to wait until next year.

Miguel Ayala offered to host a math training workshop at the City of Avondale. The date was set for December 1. EcoVerde and Victaulic have both offered to sponsor these sorts of events so we will pick one of them for this event and take a rain check from the other for the next one.

John Pinkston offered to arrange for a tour of a City of Chandler WWTP, either the Airport WRF or the Ocotillo plant which is undergoing a rehab plus expansion. Peoria and Surprise are other potential sites for operator math training.

4. Remaining tasks from work plan. With the end of the year approaching, there were still some items remaining from our work plan that had not been completed. Overall, we had a
very successful year and completed most of what was a very ambitious plan. Items we need to redouble our efforts in 2016 include rural outreach, webinars, and student outreach. We fell short on our plant tours due to the scheduling issues that cropped up and derailed our plan.

5. **Operator training initiative.** Jesse Black and Gary Whitten discussed the status of these efforts. Discussion included other states which have created operator training programs that we probably can borrow from, such as SW Ohio, North Carolina, etc. It was agreed that we should do some outreach to other states to see what materials we could “borrow” for our use here in AZ. There was discussion the WEF has established an “operators of the future” initiative that could be a source of information. There has been an initiative to possibly create a “P.O.” license, analogous to the P.E., for registered Professional Operators who have achieved a high level of proficiency. Gary Whitten also discussed a pre-conference training session he attended at a conference in the Pacific Northwest on the subject of leadership in the wastewater industry… how to motivate and lead personnel, etc. that he said was very informative. We discussed setting up a location on the website where we could begin to deposit training materials from elsewhere that we collect. [The chairman wishes to just add a cautionary note that we have to be vigilant about not infringing any copyrights in our work on this matter.]

The chairman indicated that his unpaid web developer (i.e., son) may still be available to assist in developing a math practice test app, but he has a lot of homework.

6. **Webinars.** Paul Schuitt is leading this effort, to get a series of webinars happening. He developed some general guidelines and will work to secure speakers.

7. **Next meeting:** November 18, 2015