MEETING MINUTES
AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee

December 16, 2015, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

ADEQ 3rd floor conference room
1110 West Washington Street; Phoenix

Participants: Chuck Graf, Brain Hackethal, Bob Hollander, Bill Kenning, Doug Kobrick, Mike Weber, Gary Whitten

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: January 27, 2016

1. **Holiday luncheon.** Those members in attendance enjoyed a holiday luncheon sponsored courtesy of your humble chairperson.

2. **AZ Water finances – event charges.** Doug Kobrick explained that the concept of charging a fee for more of our events has been broached again. Bob Hollander has faithfully reported the committee members’ concerns about this to his fellow AZ Water Board members. The underlying issue is that AZ Water has continued to improve and expand its offerings and efforts on behalf of our industry, including creating a second paid position, the Executive Director, David Ivanski. By all reports, David is off to a great start getting AZ Water’ profile increased among Arizona opinion leaders, etc. and getting our voice heard on water issues. That is a tremendous benefit for all of us, but it does come with a cost that must be covered in the budget somewhere. Right now, AZ Water is running at a modest deficit each month, so opportunities to expand our revenue are being looked at.

For a number of reasons that will not be recapped here, the committee consensus is against charging for our more-routine events such as plant tours and webinars. A poll was taken and the vote was 6-0 against charging for those sorts of events. The training program being developed by the committee could turn into a second paid event that would be a solid fundraiser for the Association.

3. **Work Plan – Unfinished business.** In general, the committee accomplished a tremendous amount in calendar year 2015. We do have some aspirations that were not met, but we can look forward to 2016 to continue to do more for our profession in AZ. Areas where we could do more include ensuring we deliver 6 plant tours, school outreach, rural outreach, and webinars.

Nonetheless, we overall had a tremendously successful year.
4. **Math workshops, webinars, plant tours.** The Avondale math workshop turned out to be a great success after a few logistical hiccups. Excellent turnout and thanks to EcoVerde for sponsoring the lunches. Miguel Ayala has become a fifth MAIT (math amigo in training).

Due to some scheduling issues, the Yuma and Cottonwood plant tours wound up getting postponed to dates TBA in 2016. There also was discussion about making additional efforts to get this training rolled out to other areas of the state beyond metro Phoenix in 2016.

5. **Webinars update.** No news reported on this front.

6. **Operator training initiative.** The subcommittee being led by Jesse Black has been making significant progress getting the concepts for this course defined. They have been having separate side meetings to work on this initiative.

   There was a general discussion about the need to get our operator efforts out there to “expand the pie” of people receiving training and benefits from AZ Water membership. One idea is looking into ways to leverage our efforts through the Tri-State Seminar.

7. **IT issues.** Bill Kenning offered some comments about the difficulties members have simply accessing the website once they forget their log-on credentials. This is an area that AZ Water as a whole needs to address. Bill indicated that he will be getting involved with the IT Committee, since he has become the de facto beta tester for many of the website’s features.

8. **Next meeting:** January 27, 2016