MEETING MINUTES

AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee

February 24, 2016, noon - 1 p.m.

ADEQ 3rd floor Conference Room 3100B
1110 West Washington Street; Phoenix

Participants: Jesus Angulo, Miguel Ayala, Tyson Glock, Brian Hackethal, Kelly Hanzel, Bob Hollander, Bill Kenning, Doug Kobrick, Jessica Marlow, Dean Moulis, Hector Ortiz, Mary Parke, John Pinkston, Mike Weber, Gary Whitten

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: March 21, 2016

1. Member news. The committee welcomed its newest member: Jesus Angulo of Hunter Contracting Co. Several committee members reported on school outreach efforts that have made personally in recent weeks. Hector Ortiz gave a presentation on the water/waste industry to seven classes at Carl Hayden High School, and also hosted a field trip by the CHHS recycling/environmental club to the Scottsdale Water Campus. John Pinkston had recently led a tour of the Chandler Airport WRF for a group from Mesa Westwood H.S. and Gary Whitten was among the group that volunteered for the AZ Water outreach effort with the Kyrene School District. Way to go fellow members!

As of March 2016, the committee has 45 members. Awesome! Thanks go to everyone for the time they invest in giving back to our profession. It is an honor to be part of such a dynamic group.

2. Review results of January meeting. Doug Kobrick reviewed major results from the January meeting. At that meeting, we all agreed to take on various projects and responsibilities this year, so please consult your meeting minutes for the summary of what everyone agreed to do.

3. 2015 Annual Report. Doug Kobrick is writing the Annual Report for last year. He has been unsuccessful in locating a co-author, but Gary Whitten, Mary Parke, Mike Weber, and Miguel Ayala offered to provide a review of the document. The Annual Report and the 2016 Work Plan (see next item) will include a review of the committee’s assigned tasks to execute the Association’ strategic business plan.

4. 2016 Work Plan. Doug Kobrick is also working to compile the Work Plan for this year (2016). Much of that will be based on the discussions and volunteers identified at the January committee meeting.
5. **Operator training initiative update.** Gary Whitten gave an update on the progress of the work being done by the subcommittee to create an L1/L2 operators training program. He distributed a proposed outline for review. The subcommittee working on the training is requesting review comments from the rest of the committee. It currently is envisioned that the training program could be a 3 to 4 day event, and a registration fee would be charged. Hopefully, this will become a second revenue stream for the Association from the committee. There was some discussion as to whether the training should get into management-related issues as well. Doug Kobrick cautioned against mission creep, noting that this training is aimed at junior-level operators and there is already a lot of work to be done to create the core of the program.

6. **Plant tours, math workshops update.** In January we laid out an ambitious program of possible plant tours for this year. So far, we have four scheduled:

   a. February 25: 91st Avenue WWTP (held, very successful)
   b. March 16: Gilbert Neely WRF and Riparian Preserve
   c. March 31: Chandler Airport WRF
   d. April 20: Cottonwood WWTP

   Chandler and Cottonwood will also include operator math workshops.

   We continue to work on getting the rest of the events set up. Yuma will be in the fall, Prescott in the summer. We also have Blaine Miller working to get us set up for a tour of the newly upgraded Northern Gila County Sanitary District WWTP in Payson sometime this summer.

7. **Webinars update.** Paul Schuitt’s schedule is too busy and requires too much out of town travel for him to continue as webinar champion. Doug Kobrick and others on the committee will work on getting our line-up filled out. Lacey James from Avondale will present a joint wastewater treatment- pretreatment committees webinar in June. We have several other possibilities as outlined in January. Den Moulis reminded that he has spoken with Tom Chapman from Brown and Caldwell about doing a webinar and another possibility would be to do a podcast of his presentation to Pima County currently scheduled for March 30.

8. **Webpage discussion forum.** Getting the forum up and running is a goal for this year. Jessica Marlow and Tyson Glock offered to moderate the forum ad we will probably need more volunteers as things get going.

9. **Operators’ lunchtime forum – Southern Arizona.** We are going to target Nogales as a location for the next in this series. Stantec has volunteered to sponsor that event.

10. **Annual Technical Seminar III.** We will be holding our third annual seminar this fall. Mary Parke, Bob Hollander, Gary Whitten, Jenny Lopez, Hector Ortiz, and Jesus Angulo offered to take on the planning for this event. Gary offered to host a meeting at Amec to get the planning going, to be scheduled sometime in March.
Possible themes for the seminar were discussed. The consensus was that an operators-oriented program would be good. Hector Ortiz mentioned the approach the City of Phoenix took viewing operations staff as “partners in design” with the engineers. This got a lot of favorable comment, so we will proceed with that theme as a starting point.

11. **Other information.** Mike Weber mentioned that Bill Mattingly, Peoria’s Public Works Director has retired and the City was advertising for the position. He encouraged members of the committee to spread the word about the opportunity.

Next meeting: March 23, 2016 – noon at ADEQ