MEETING MINUTES
AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee

March 23, 2016, noon - 1 p.m.
ADEQ 3rd floor Conference Room 3100B
1110 West Washington Street; Phoenix

Participants: Miguel Ayala, Doug Berschauer, Jesse Black, Nathan Ellis, Tyson Glock, Chuck Graf, Brian Hackethal, Kelly Hanzel, Bob Hollander, Andrea Kagie-Hay, Bill Kenning, Doug Kobrick, Dean Moulis, Noah Mundt, Dave Quinby, Manthou Tsiouris, Mike Weber, Gary Whitten, Joe Wolfer

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: April 27, 2016

1. Member news. The committee welcomed four new/recent members: Nathan Ellis of EPCOR, Noah Mundt of APS, Manthou Tsiouris of EIC Engineers, and Joe Wolfer of JBI. Nathan has moved with EPCOR from Bullhead City to the West Valley to get EPCOR’s pretreatment program going. Noah works with state and local governments on energy efficiency performance contracting. Manthou works on process control and energy engineering. Joe is a sales representative for water/wastewater equipment. Jesus Angulo of Hunter Contracting Co. It is great to have such a diverse group of professionals on this committee.

As of March 2016, the committee has 47 members. I believe that ties us with the Conference Program Task Force as the largest committee in AZ Water. Wow! We are on the drive for 50!

2. Review results of January meeting. Doug Kobrick reviewed major results from the February meeting; those activities continue to roll forward.

3. AZ Water overall update. Our Board liaison, Bob Hollander, reported on a number of initiatives and events with the overall AZ Water organization. “red balloon,” our social media consulting firm, has a few different initiatives underway. We will be rolling out a smartphone app at the conference. A video is going to be made at the Annual Conference. AZ Water leaders including Executive Director David Iwanski, took several elected officials on a tour of the City of Peoria Greenway WTP. We are trying to increase our profile as an association with elected and other members of the “authorizing public.”

4. 2015 Annual Report and 2016 Work Plan. Doug Kobrick is (still) working on these.

5. Operator training initiative update. Gary Whitten gave another update on the progress of the work being done by the subcommittee to create an L1/L2 operators training program.
The subcommittee has been working to flesh out the outline he had distributed previously. He offered to set up the next meeting of the subcommittee at Amec Foster Wheeler.

Doug Kobrick mentioned he has noticed that a number of other states’ local sections and member associations have this sort of training and we could probably learn a lot from those efforts as well as generate raw material to use in developing our program. He will do some research with the other states to see what they all have and what we can “borrow.”

Doug Berschauer, Noah Mundt, Miguel Ayala, and Bill Kenning volunteered to get involved in the training efforts.

6. Plant tours, math workshops update. The plant tours held at the 91st Avenue WWTP (February 25) and Gilbert Neely WRP + Riparian Preserve were very successful. We got a lot of great comments from the participants. The Gilbert tour was a joint effort with the Water Resources Committee. Thanks go to committee members Jessica Marlow and David Epperson for getting these events to happen.

At the time of the meeting, we had two additional tours scheduled:
   March 31: Chandler Airport WRF
   April 20: Cottonwood WWTP

Kelly has put together a flyer. In this one instance we will go back to including the ADEQ operators listserv in the distribution. We have stopped using it recently because it goes to a lot of non-AZ Water members and with limited spaces we have to prioritize paying members over non-members. Both also included operator math workshops. [They have now been held and also were very well-received. The math amigos continue to do great work helping operators progress in the profession].

We have now scheduled a tour at the Prescott Airport WRF for July 12, also to include math based on amigo availability. Kelly Hanzel has also committed Sedona for the fall. Yuma tour will also be in the fall.

7. Webinars update. Doug Kobrick is working on a few leads for webinar presenters.

8. Operators’ lunchtime forum – Southern Arizona. We had previously identified Nogales as the location for the next in this series. Chuck Graf reported that EPA is setting up a two-day bi-national operator forum to be held in southern Arizona and we could collaborate on that; perhaps that would be the venue for a lunchtime barbecue. That event may be held in Tucson at a Pima County plant. In that case, we might just go ahead and have the Nogales event as a separate undertaking. In any case, it would be great for us to get involved in the EPA event.

9. Annual Technical Seminar III. We need to get the planning going on this ASAP, time is passing. We are going to have an operators-focused theme.

Next meeting: April 27, 2016 – noon at ADEQ