MEETING MINUTES
AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee
May 25, 2016, noon - 1 p.m.
ADEQ Conference Room 5100
1110 West Washington Street; Phoenix

Participants: Jeremy Abbott, Doug Berschauer, Jesse Black, Chuck Graf, Nathan Ellis, Brian Hackethal, Kelly Hanzel, Bill Kenning, Andrea Kagie-Hay, Doug Kobrick, Jessica Marlow, Blaine Miller, Noah Mundt, Dave Quinby, Mike Weber, Gary Whitten

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: May 30, 2016 REVISED June 6, 2016 (added items 13 and 14)

1. **Member news.** We have two new members on the committee, who joined at the AZ Water conference: Jeremy Abbott from Lake Havasu City, and Jaime Rivera from Pima County Wastewater. At the conference, our committee member Jenny Lopez was honored with the Kenneth J. Miller award for her tremendous work on behalf of Water for People. Way to go Jenny!

2. **Results of AZ Water annual conference.** As discussed in last month’s minutes, the committee was very well-represented on the program at the conference, with 8 moderators, 5 papers, the operator training track, and Meter Mania all led and provided by members of the committee. Total registration for the conference set another record at over 1600, according to Jesse Black. The conference has outgrown the Glendale facility and will be in downtown Phoenix at the Phoenix Convention Center next year. The larger space opens up additional opportunities for activities and offerings on the program, which could provide additional avenues for the committee to be involved.

3. **Annual Technical Seminar III.** The Pera Club has been booked for the seminar on October 25. The subcommittee planning the seminar will be meeting in the next couple of weeks, with the goal of having the agenda set by the end of June. There is quite a bit of work to be done.

4. **Operator training initiative update.** This effort is continuing, although there is a lot of work to be done. Dave Quinby mentioned that the City of Surprise is building a training center for water/wastewater operations, and Gateway Community College will be offering some of its classes there. Three may be opportunities to work together on these initiatives.

5. **Plant tours, math workshops update.** Upcoming plant tours are scheduled for the Chandler Ocotillo WRF on June 23 and Prescott Airport WRP on July 12. The Ocotillo tour will be a joint effort with the construction committee; a major plant expansion is under construction. Charles McDowell of our committee is manager of the Ocotillo plant and has made the arrangements for the tour and sponsors. It will be held in the early morning 7 –
10 a.m. The Prescott tour will include a math workshop, several of the math amigos have already volunteered to provide the training.

6. **Webinars update.** We have two webinars scheduled and a third pending selection of a date:

   - June 15: Digester mixing – Tom Chapman, Brown and Caldwell (live from Pima County)
   - July 28: Pretreatment: POTW Police – Lacey James, City of Avondale
   - August (date TBD): Advances in Activated Sludge – Ron Latimer, Hazen and Sawyer

7. **Operators’ lunchtime forum – Southern Arizona.** A tour plus BBQ is tentatively planned for Pima County’ Agua Nueva WRP in January 2017. We still need to find locations for a couple of lunchtime BBQs this year.

   We had previously identified Nogales as the location for the next in this series. Chuck Graf will find out the current status on the bi-national training at Pima County involving US EPA and Mexican agencies.

8. **2015 Annual Report and 2016 Work Plan.** Doug Kobrick is (still) working on these.

9. **School outreach.** Doug Kobrick brought up the idea of another initiative for the committee: organized outreach to schools. This needs to be fleshed out into a real plan, but some of the ideas discussed included:
   - Identifying a few classes or school groups, connecting them with a mentor (or better term yet to be identified) from the committee, and work with them over the course of the year to educate them on water/wastewater topics
   - Make in-school presentations on water/wastewater topics
   - Facilitate visits by student groups to next year’s annual conference for the exhibition and possibly while the job fair is underway. Could include bringing the group into the luncheon for a round of applause from the group, etc.
   - Field trips, transportation would need to be arranged by the schools.
   - We need to coordinate with other educational initiatives already underway such as Project WET, TAP Into Quality, etc.

   Doug Berschauer, Nathan Ellis, Jesse Black, BrianHackethal, and Gary Whitten all expressed interest in participating.

10. **Mentor bank.** During the wastewater operator panel discussion at the conference, moderated by Doug Kobrick, there was lengthy discussion about careers paths into water/wastewater operations and the value of mentoring. That sparked the idea of a “Mentor Bank,” which would be a group of experienced operators who would be willing to share their experience and hard-earned wisdom with interested members the next generation, possibly over an extended period of time. This would be a simple thing to set up, assuming we had a pool of willing mentors.

11. **Surplus equipment directory/exchange.** Another suggestion from the conference operators’ panel discussion was creating a mechanism for utilities to donate or acquire used but
functional equipment. This could perhaps be housed within our discussion forum once it becomes functional.

12. **Webpage discussion forum.** Bill Kenning has set up several draft forums on the website, but not activated them. He is going to consult with Patrick Goodfellow (IT committee) about how to arrange for easy access beyond just the committee member permissions that are currently in place. Pretreatment committee has an active forum intended to be just for use by their members; our goal is to have an open discussion, nothing confidential, so the arrangements are somewhat different but mostly the same. Gary Whitten, Jesse Black, and Andrea Kagie-Hay all volunteered to serve as moderators for the forums, and we have had other volunteers in the past.

13. **Meeting location.** Chuck Graf has advised us that ADEQ and other state agencies are consolidating space in the 1110 West Washington building with the result that conference room space is no longer available for the committee to meet. We have had four great years at ADEQ, every month without fail, and we owe Chuck and ADEQ a debt of gratitude. We are looking for a new location. Key criteria are: (1) availability of teleconferencing; (2) reliably available on the scheduled dates each month; (3) free parking; (4) central location preferred. Some members of the committee offered up the possible use of their facilities potentially on a rotating basis, but a “permanent” full-time location is preferred. One of the strengths of our committee has been our consistency in meeting each month without fail.

Since the meeting, a couple of possibilities that might cover each of the criteria have emerged, but they are not definite yet, so we continue to be very open for suggestions.

14. **Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals.** Brian Hackethal brought up this organization, in which he is active as AZ membership chair. Central Arizona Project, among other organizations, is active in SMRP. There could be some opportunities for joint efforts between our two groups. A copy of a brochure that Brian provided is attached. We should discuss further at our next meeting.

Next meeting: June 22, 2016 – noon at ADEQ
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