MEETING MINUTES
AZ Water Association Wastewater Treatment Committee
September 28, 2016, noon - 1 p.m.
Maricopa County Environmental Services Department Room 200
1001 North Central Avenue; Phoenix

Participants: Doug Berschauer, Nathan Ellis, Karla Guerra, Bob Hollander, Kelly Hanzel, Bill Kenning, Doug Kobrick, Dean Moulis, Blaine Miller, Noah Mundt, Mary Parke, John Pinkston, Mike Weber, Gary Whitten

Recorded: Doug Kobrick, committee chair

Issued: January 8, 2017

1. Member news. We have a new member, Karla Guerra from the City of Glendale. Karla is in charge of Glendale. Welcome aboard Karla!

Bill Kenning shared the very unfortunate news that Ken James has died. Many of us knew Ken from his time at MCESD and he also had a long career on the consulting side including international work and employment at Carollo and Parsons. He will be missed.

2. Annual Technical Seminar III. At the time of this meeting, the seminar was upcoming, and registrations were lagging and a couple of speakers were still needed. Gary Whitten, Nathan Ellis, Blaine Miller, and Mary Parke volunteered to be assistant moderators. Mary had all the arrangements with the Pera Club in place. [We subsequently rallied and wound up with very solid attendance, a strong program, and good results].

3. AZ Water calendar. Related to the Annual Seminar, there was a discussion of the AZ Water calendar during the time period of the seminar. There are a number of other events happening in the same time period, including the Tri-State seminar at the end of September, the national WEFTEC conference, WestCAS on October 26-28 and WestCAPS on October 5. There also is a national algae biofuels specialty conference in Glendale the week before our seminar.

Matt Tsiouris suggested that we develop an AZ Water master calendar so that all of the committees can coordinate their events. Doug Kobrick will bring this to the Board for discussion.

4. Plant tours, math workshops update. Plant tours with math workshops are scheduled as follows:

   Sedona: October 12           Yuma: November 17

We have sponsors lined up: Sedona – Currier Construction; Yuma – Carollo Engineers.
Thank you to committee members Kelly Hanzel and Andrew Gilmore for setting these up.

5. Committee member engagement. Doug Kobrick discussed the need for us to keep our momentum strong. We have the most dynamic technical committee in AZ Water and it is all thanks to the hard work of the committee members. We have continued to grow our membership, which is tremendous. Over time, some longstanding members have become less active and a core group of the most-involved members has developed. The biggest benefit of AZ Water membership is the opportunity to work on committees, network, and develop skills and knowledge, so all members of the WWTC are encouraged to take part in at least one of our various efforts!

6. Operator training initiative. This initiative has stalled out and we need to get it re-energized. A number of members have offered to participate, it is time to get this moving forward. Gary Whitten will organize a meeting among those who have offered to participate.

7. School outreach program. Doug Kobrick gave an update on this effort. Karla Guerra mentioned that she has been involved in a biology class for several years at Estrella Community College that includes plant tours. John Pinkston reported that he gave a tour to a group from Chandler High School and used Hector Ortiz’ presentation.

8. Webpage discussion forum. Bill Kenning has all the arrangements in place for us to have a discussion forum on the AZ Water website. We need to publicize this. The forum is not that easy to find on our webpage as the user has to navigate to the committee page and through the resources screen to finally get to the forum. There was a discussion that this could ultimately spread to all of the committees. The chair’s comment on this is we need to prove out the concept by getting ours up and active first.

9. Mentor Bank. We have had a good response from senior operators interested in serving on the operator Mentor Bank. The Mentor Bank was to be publicized at the upcoming Technical Seminar.

10. Kachina News. The members were reminded that the Kachina News is always looking for content and it is a great opportunity to get an article published if one has a good topic.

Next meeting: October 26, 2016 – noon at MCESD