Meeting held in Greensboro at Water Resources Operations Center beginning at 10:00 AM. Minutes taken by Dell Harney.

ATTENDING IN PERSON: Bob Fritts, Casey Ellis, Wendy Banks, Andy Taylor, Ken Galloway, Dell Harney

ATTENDING BY PHONE: Kelton Chapman, Erin Bowers, Scott Oliver, Brandon Garner, Mark Wessel

• Minutes from previous meeting read by Dell Harney. Motion made to accept minutes as read (Harney), seconded (Fritts), and passed by the body.

• SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS
  o CAREER LADDERS - MARK WESSELL

Mark reported that there had been a July 19th workshop in Greensboro where subcommittee had further refined the curriculum for new Maintenance Tech Academy courses that are being developed. Scott Oliver asked for a copy of progress from that meeting and Mark is forwarding it to Brandon for disbursement.

There was a teleconference with Steve Shoaf on development of new Academy courses for Maintenance Technologist, Water Treatment Operator & Waste Water Treatment Operator. Mark reported that the MT course had made the most progress to date. The goal set by the Board is to roll out one new Academy course for 2017 and that the MT course has been chosen as the one. This means that classes need to be developed and taught next year. A request was made by the Board and academy champions to have two training sessions from MT level one ready to present for review on the Friday following the western MT certification school in Morganton next year (June 16th, 2017). The full academy course would then be offered later in 2017.

There was concern expressed that this schedule was unrealistic because of the work the committee has to do for the two MT certification schools that take place in April and June. Mark reminded the committee that many of the classes for a MT Academy are identical to ones developed for the Distribution/Collection Operator Academy which has already been rolled-out. We will just need to focus on the classes that are unique to our academy.

  o COMMUNICATIONS - JOHN RUTLEDGE

No report. Brandon asked Dell Harney for a copy of Certification Corner questions which had been developed for NC Currents magazine.
MAINTENANCE TECH SCHOOL - CASEY ELLIS

Casey reported that testing had been completed for 2016 class IV candidates. 26 tests were scheduled with 22 candidates being tested. Pass rate was 50%. Pass rate for 2015 was 33% with 12 being tested. The four candidates who did not test were all from the same utility and it appears that they did not self-schedule with the testing contractor as required.

The Schools workshop that was set for October 12th in Burlington is being rescheduled.

AWARDS - WENDY BANKS

Jamie Chandler, who works for the town of Marshal, has been selected as Maintenance Technologist of the year. The town mayor presented the award to Jamie who will also be at Annual conference in Raleigh for official presentation.

Mark Wessel, who works for Raleigh, has been selected to receive the Donald Francisco educator of the year award.

SPRING CONFERENCE - BOB FRITTS

Bob nominated Ken Galloway as our new Spring Conference subcommittee chair. Brandon will pass this on to the Association SC Committee chair, Mary Knosby.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS COMMITTEE - KELTON CHAPMAN

Kelton announced the dates for 2017 Maintenance Tech schools: April 24-27 in Raleigh and June 12-16 in Morganton. She asked for the POM decision on which classes would be held at each school and Casey told her that this was to be decided at the upcoming school's workshop. Scott Oliver expressed that the dates for the 2017 schools was also supposed to be discussed during the workshop and Kelton told him that the decision for 2017 dates had to be made due to contracts but that the 2018 dates were open for discussion. This led to some discussion about how the dates were causing hardships; Bob Fritts noting that the April date is too close to Spring Conference, Casey Ellis noting that only six weeks between schools makes it hard on volunteers teaching/coordinating and Mark Wessel noting that this schedule puts two schools into the same budget year for most employers. The committee asked that a request for future revision of MT school dates be entered into these minutes.

Kelton reported that there have been questions raised by the board about qualification & quality of instructors during the 2016 Western maintenance tech certification school in Morganton. Wendy Banks asked for clarification and also requested that the committee be given access to the student feedback from both schools so that it can be included in the upcoming schools workshop. Casey asked that this information be forwarded to him and Christy as soon as possible.
• NEW BUSINESS
  o There was discussion about which MT classes should be held at each school next year. Bob Fritts commented that not offering a level of training at a school will always serve to limit the growth of the program. Dell Harney commented that analysis of the number of certification holders at each level was always a part of this decision because it helped to predict demand for classes at each school. Casey Ellis suggested that all of this would be part of the upcoming schools workshop.
  
o There was discussion about the fact that several instructors had to be replaced at the last minute for the Morganton school this year and that was probably where the questions about quality had come from. Some ideas for planning backup of instructors were presented and talked through. Casey said that he would put them on the agenda for the schools workshop.
  
o Dell Harney asked that the committee revisit an earlier decision to base the committee membership list on the results of a pole of members who were "on the books". Brandon related that the list of committee members had been reduced from 120 to 44 after receiving 45 responses from 116 inquiries. Several members expressed concern about the perception of reduced committee member involvement over the last couple of years. Wendy Banks volunteered to pen a letter to committee members, past and present, listing specific reasons we needed their help. She will give the letter to Brandon, Casey and Scott for their input and review.

• Motion to adjourn (Casey Ellis), seconded (Bob Fritts), and approved by the body.