

Meeting Minutes – Draft

RESEARCH & TECHNICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE 2006-2007 MICHIGAN SECTION – AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by: Holly Dougherty

Meeting No. 2

Date: Friday, December 15, 2006
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: NSF International Facility, Ann Arbor
Attendance: Khalil Atasi, Bruce Bartley, Jerry Caron, Holly Dougherty, Bob Green, Vinod Korategere, Dave Love, Bill Maier, Jesse Van De Creek, Alex Yavich, Lori Cipparone (board liaison), Pete Greiner (guest, NSF)

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Atasi at 10:05 A.M. Committee member introductions were made for the benefit of the meeting guest, Pete Grenier from NSF. The agenda was informally approved as written.

2. Meeting 1 (September 2006) Minutes – Final

Meeting minutes of September 29, 2006 were previously approved via email and have been posted on the MI-AWWA website.

3. Committee Goals/Objectives for 2006-2007

The Committee Goals and Objectives document was submitted to the Section chair prior to its December 1, 2006 due date. The committee goal that was specially noted to fulfill an “action item” from the Section’s strategic plan is training in new technologies for MDEQ district engineers. An example of this is Gary Logsdon’s sand filter training provided for district engineers last year. Caron indicated that the Council of Past Officers was also working toward this goal, and hosted a workshop for MDEQ staff at the Wyoming WTP. Additional training is planned at other locations around the state, and is training from a “utility perspective” so could compliment technical training that could be provided by the RTP committee.

Cipparone reported that the MDEQ plans to start a technology committee focused on keeping staff informed of new technologies. The committee is headed by Pat Cook. Bartley reported that NSF participated with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) that used to hold a technical training conference every other year, so he has a background of technical training experience that could be drawn from for RTP committee activities.

4. RTP Committee Proposed Budget (Atasi)

The committee budget was submitted to the section board prior to the December 1, 2006 deadline. Committee budgets are reviewed and approved at the January board meeting.

5. RTP Award Subcommittee for 2007: Status update (Dougherty)

The RTP award timeline has been adjusted from the last two years to allow more time for the utility to complete the finalist application. Award nominations will be solicited January through April with advertising on the MI-AWWA website (www.mi-water.org), in the February issue of Water Works News, at Joint Expo, and at the spring regional meetings. The nomination form and award information will also be provided for each committee member to personally forward electronically. Dougherty will prepare a PowerPoint slide for the AWWA update portion of the regional meeting.

6. Subcommittee Activities

a. Fellowship 2007: Status Update (Yavich)

The two 2006 fellowships are still in progress. The graduate fellowship student from U of M should have his final report ready in January 2007, and the undergraduate fellowship student from Hope College should be complete in March. Yavich reported that both students have demonstrated good progress, and had presentations/posters at the Annual Conference. Progress reports are available from Yavich if any committee members would like to read them.

Three fellowship applications were received for 2007; an undergraduate application from MSU, a graduate application from MSU, and a graduate application from U of M. The two graduate applications were resubmittals from last year. The two MSU proposals were for similar work (membrane filtration) under the same professor. Based on fellowship application reviews Yavich has seen to date, the graduate fellowship will likely go to the student from U of M for work with biologically active carbon filters.

Yavich reminded committee members that research and report expectations should not be as high for undergraduate students as for graduate. Undergraduate fellowships are awarded at the same monetary amount as graduate fellowships in part to encourage participation of smaller colleges and universities.

b. Spring (Technical) Seminar Planning: Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Current subcommittee members include Atasi, Korategere, and John Wierenga. Bartley volunteered to join the subcommittee. Contact Atasi if other committee members are interested in joining. The spring seminar will focus on several topics of interest to the water industry. A draft program consisting of 7-8 topics will be available in January. Possible topics include distribution systems, nitrification, lead and corrosion, NDMA, EDCs, arsenic, UV (focus on LT2 Rule suggested by Bartley). Bartley has two abstracts that were approved for use by ACE, one regarding the LT2 Rule and one on mobile drinking water systems for emergency response. Greiner spoke on lead at ACE last year, and has submitted an article for the AWWA Journal regarding perchlorate formation.

c. Fall (Practice) Seminar: October 24, 2006 (Logsdon/Maier/Caron/Van De Creek)

There were 103 registrants for the fall seminar, resulting in approximately \$3,000 profit for the section. Positive feedback was reported from the seminar, which

focused on water storage (maintenance and operation). CDs of the PowerPoint presentations were made available by request. Maier reported that about 12 people requested copies.

Planning for October 2007 Fall Seminar

Bartley suggested having "satellite" seminar locations via webcast so that the training was available in more areas of the state. Dougherty reminded that the locations would need to be moderated if attendees wanted CECs.

Send suggested topics for the fall seminar to Maier. Suggested topics to date include distribution system compliance testing and distribution system rehabilitation.

7. AwwaRF Reports Review: see deadline below

Bartley prepared an article for the November issue of Water Works News. Green is preparing one for the February issue regarding chlorine and chloramine. He will have a draft available for peer review prior to the December 30 deadline.

8. Regulatory Update

Elgar Brown was not in attendance, but reported that he will provide an update of the groundwater rule impact on Michigan at the next meeting.

Atasi reported that the EPA is issuing effluent guidelines under the Clean Water Act, and is stating that treatment plant effluent falls under effluent discharge standards and should be treated similar to industrial waste categorical standard. Some utilities should expect to receive letters from EPA in January. A response to these letters is required under the Clean Water Act. AWWA has a position statement regarding the effluent guidelines on its website (www.awwa.org). Atasi prepared an article for the November Water Works News regarding the rule. Further he reported that as the Chair of the AWWA (national) Water Treatment Plants Residual Management, this committee is preparing a 20-minute informational presentation on DVD to utilities and to be sent free of charge to about 1000 utilities. Love reported that there is a circulating copy of the questionnaire that the utilities will be receiving from the EPA.

9. Special Project Funding: Ideas for Funding in 2007

The section board reviews the section finances during the January board meeting and makes funding available to members of the section for special projects. The amount available is typically around \$60,000. Special projects must be supported by a committee. Application information is available on the section website, and must be submitted by the end of June. Provide special project ideas and/or applications to Atasi.

10. Spring Regional Meetings: speakers from RTP committee (All)

The Education Committee requested a speaker for the spring regional meetings. Dougherty suggested the emergency response mobile drinking water systems that Bartley mentioned previously.

11. AWWA Education Award Application (Atasi)
Atasi is preparing a nomination for the RTP Committee for the national AWWA Education Award. The award application deadline is December 29, 2006 to the MI Section Education Committee.
12. New Business: New Ideas/Projects (All)
Atasi indicated that the committee is open to new ideas for committee activities. Maier will check with Randy Roost to see what the requirements would be for webcasting RTP seminars. Other committee members agreed to follow up with their company's IT department to collect information regarding webcasting. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.
13. Dates to Remember
 - a. Articles for Water Works News: February 2007, May 2007, August 2007
Deadlines for Water Works News articles are December 30, 2006 (February issue), March 30, 2007 (May issue), and June 30, 2007 (August issue).
 - b. MI AWWA Annual Conference Abstract Deadline: January 31, 2007
The section web page contains information about annual conference presentations.
 - c. Spring 2007 Regional Meeting (April 10, 11, 17, 18)
 - d. Joint Expo 2007, Lansing (February 6-7)
14. Next Meetings
The next meetings will be held March 16, 2007 and June 8, 2007. Both meetings will be held at the MDEQ office in Lansing.
15. Adjourn the Meeting and Tour of the NSF Facilities/Labs
Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm. Special thanks to Bruce, Pete, and the rest of the NSF staff for a great, informative tour of the NSF facilities.