

Meeting Minutes

MI-AWWA RESEARCH & TECHNICAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE 2006-07

Date: Friday, September 29, 2006, 9:30 am

Location: Iverson Hall, MDEQ-Constitution Hall, Lansing, MI

Attendees: Khalil Atasi, Bruce Bartley, Lori Cipparone (Board Liaison), Holly Dougherty, Robert Green, Paul Reinsch, Bethel Skinker, David Timm, Vinod Korategere (writer)

1. Meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Chair Atasi.
2. The Committee Roster was distributed to make corrections. Atasi introduced the two new members. Paul Reinsch is the Saginaw WTP Manager and an adjunct faculty at Delta College. Bethel Skinker is a district engineer in the MDEQ Jackson office, in-charge of Washtenaw, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties. Meeting minutes from the June 2, 2006 meeting had been approved previously by the members via email. Dougherty has accepted the RTP Committee's vice-chair position for this year. Atasi will continue to be a member of the RTP Committee when he becomes the MI-AWWA Section's Chair next year.
3. Dougherty said that Ann Arbor won the 2006 RTP Award for its submission titled "Optimized Distribution System Water Quality Monitoring System". She said that the process is a two-step process (nomination form followed by an abstract). Green said that we should give more time to utilities to submit the nomination form since some tend to procrastinate. Skinker suggested that the nomination forms be given out at the MI-AWWA Annual Conference, at the Joint Expo and at the Fall RTP seminar. Reinsch suggested that the form be available on the MI-AWWA website and in the MI Water Works News. Dougherty said that they are also trying to advertise through the MDEQ district offices. Atasi asked members to advertise through word of mouth. Skinker asked if there is a time limit for the work submitted for this work; Dougherty thought it was 2 years but she will check (*post meeting note: The research or technical practice must be completed or in progress within two years of the date the award is given*). Reinsch said that these awards are good for utilities to show their City Council the good work they have been doing and to get additional funding for more work of this type. Dougherty indicated that her sub-committee has 6 members; Green indicated that he would like to join this sub-committee.
4. Atasi indicated that the Committee budget will be prepared by end of October/early November and presented to the Board in January. The RTP fellowship now gives full AWWA membership (active, not student) for one year for the two student awardees.
5. **a.** Yavich did not attend, but Atasi recognized the good work being done by Yavich. The fellowship has been a success so far. Yavich had sent the 2007 fellowship advertisement for the members' review by email. Atasi noted that the graduate awardee is an automatic speaker at the MI-AWWA annual conference while the undergrad awardee gets to present a poster. Both are given a one-day registration to the conference. Atasi to ask in next year and future budgets to provide for one-night hotel stay for both awardees (\$400). Atasi noted that earlier we have lots of professors attending the conference; now their numbers are very low. Bartley noted that there has been lot of turnover at universities.

b. Cipparone said we should invite professors to talk at the Spring RTP seminar. Atasi noted that the tentative date for the spring seminar is May 15, 2007. Dougherty and Korategere suggested that we have a variety of topics instead of a single theme. Some of the topics suggested were arsenic compliance and waste disposal from arsenic removal plants, residuals management for WTPs, distribution system water quality, source water protection, corrosion control, LT2 and S2DBPR. Atasi indicated that the EPA is considering regulating WTP waste disposal under the CWA. Atasi indicated that there is a Joint AWWA/WEF residuals conference in Denver from April 15-17, 2007.

c. The Fall RTP seminar this year is on October 24th and is titled “Finished Water Storage Practices”. In preparation for the Fall (October) 2007 seminar Atasi solicited ideas for potential topics to be considered by the subcommittee. Suggested topics: water quality management in distribution system; partnership for safe drinking water (suggested to be co-sponsored with the Water Treatment Practices Committee).

6. Bartley has submitted an article for the November 2006 Water Works News. Atasi also submitted an article for the November issue. Green will submit an article for the Feb 2007 Water Works News and Korategere will submit an article for the Aug 2007 Water Works News. Atasi is looking for other members to volunteer as well. Atasi suggested that “Decentralized Treatment Facilities” would be an interesting topic.
7. Timm provided a regulatory update. He said that the MDEQ Water Bureau programs are fee-supported and they are not collecting enough fees in some areas. There are more and more regulations in drinking water, but the fees from the industries are not covering all these expenses. MDEQ is not involved in S2 and LT2 since state regulations are not in place; he expects primacy in about 2+ years.
8. Reinsch asked if AWWA can be a clearing house for reports published by universities. Timm and Atasi suggested that this can be a special project. Atasi indicated that a member can submit a special project abstract to the committee chair, and he can in turn present it to the Board.
9. Atasi reviewed the “dates to remember” for submitting Water Works News articles and for the fall regional meetings.
10. The upcoming meeting dates are Dec 15, 2006; Mar 16, 2007 and June 8, 2007. Atasi has asked Bartley if we can hold one of the meetings at the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) office in Ann Arbor and also to visit their lab facilities. Bartley will check and inform Atasi about availability.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon by Chair Atasi.