

Michigan Section AWWA Water Utility Committee Minutes

November 8, 2006
Constitution Hall, Lansing

- A. A. Committee Chair Terry Biederman called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
- B. B. Present: Terry Biederman, Dennis Benoit, Don Link, Bill Maier, Bill Kelly, Chuck VanDerKolk, Pam Turner, Janice Skadsen, Dave Koch, Ken Zarzecki, Mike Quinnell, Ed Haapala, Bill Fritz, Joe Fivas (MML). (Bob Babcock & Jim Cleland jointed at 10:45)
1. 1. Terry Biederman introduced himself as the new chairman of the Water Utility Committee.
 2. 2. Terry introduced new members, Pam Turner, DWSB, Ed Haapala, West Bloomfield Township and Bill Fritz, Waterford Township.
 3. 3. Terry appointed Don Link to record the minutes
 4. 4. The chair will compile a current membership roster and distribute.
- C. C. It was moved by Chuck VanDerKolk and seconded by Bill Maier to approve the minutes from the last meeting- Motion Passed
- D.
1. 1. Jim Cleland has submitted the following people to be considered to serve on the Water Withdrawal Legislation Baseline Capacity Stakeholders User Group:
 1. 1. Tom Newhof
 2. 2. Bill Maier
 3. 3. Larry Sanford
 4. 4. Mike Quinnell
 5. 5. John O'Brien
 6. 6. John VanUffelen
 7. 7. Don Link
 2. 2. Ken Zarzecki reported that the SOS (Stop Over Spending) Constitutional Amendment proposal was not placed on the ballot, however he expects it to be back. There has been an opinion that this amendment would apply to water rates and fees not just taxes. Ken distributed a draft of a resolution opposing this amendment that is being considered by the Michigan Utility Directors Group.

2a. Don Link commented on the large increase in the MDEQ fees to Utilities as an example of substantial cost increases beyond the control of the Utilities. It was reported that these fees have increased 15-18% this past year as well as over the past several years. Also that the fine print indicates only 75% of the unused funds would be returned to the Utilities. The issue of what happens to the other 25% was raised.

Chuck VanDerKolk will pull the file on the MDEQ fee agreement with the Utilities and provide a copy to the Committee. We want to build bridges rather than burn them however we would like to point out any discrepancies from the original intent of this Agreement.

Jim Cleland discussed the MDEQ fee increases. In the early years the Department had Federal Grants, "set-asides" which are no longer available to help offset some of the costs. There has been no legislative increase in the fee structure, however the credits to the fund have declined to almost nothing. The 25% retained by the MDEQ is left in the fund and used in the next year's calculation.

Jim will try to put together some fundamental MDEQ budget information for the Utility Committee.

3. 3. REG Track. The Michigan Section has provided the Utility Committee with a budget of \$1200.00 to run a test program with the National REG Track newsletter. Randy Roost with the Sections Information and Technology Committee will be asked to e-mail the membership an offer to provide a daily copy of this newsletter via e-mail. Bill Maier agreed to put together the notice of the newsletters availability. Eric Way will be asked to include the notice in Waterworks news.
4. 4. AWWA is working towards formally appointing three people to represent AWWA on the Council of Great Lakes Governors Annex Advisory. There are currently three representatives however we believe they do not represent AWWA's interests. The Michigan Section may get its own representative.
5. 5. A bill has been passed by a House Committee, which would require DB as an additive in Anti-Freeze. DB does not break down and is harmful if in potable water. (DB is a bittering agent, which would prevent children and pets from drinking Anti-Freeze). AWWA opposes its use.
6. 6. It was reported that Water Utilities are exempted from requirements in the Chemical Security bill being considered since we are already have Vulnerability Assessments.

E. New Business

- 1/2. Ken Zarzecki recommended forming a Joint or Overlapping committee between WUC and Government Affairs Committee to critique the recent legislative luncheon. He is concerned that Mary Jane from Wyoming handled this almost singlehandedly. Pam Turner, Bill Fritz agreed to set on this Committee and help next year. Ken Zarzecki will get people from MWEA.
3. 3. Moved by Terry Biederman and seconded by Don Link to set the Utility Committee meetings for the second Tuesday in February, May, August and November. Motion Carried.
4. 4. Janice Skadsen mentioned that another State invites a member of the Legislature to their Utility Committee meetings. Jim Cleland suggested inviting someone from the Service Bureau or the House Committee on Environmental Affairs Chair. Jim will get Chairperson Biederman get a name from the Service Bureau of someone to contact and invite to attend.
5. 5. Jim Cleland reported on the Great Lakes Water Conservation and Efficiency Initiative--- Staff Draft dated 10/5/06. Representatives of 8 States and 2 Canadian Provinces put this draft together. Jim Cleland asked for comments on this draft.
6. 6. The creation of a Michigan Section AWWA team to attend the upcoming Mutual Aid Response Networks for Water and Wastewater Utilities (WARN) seminar was discussed. The seminar is planned in 2007 in the Midwest area probably in Cleveland either the week of March 5th or 12th. They would like 15 people to represent Michigan. These 15 people would then take the lead in Michigan to get a framework for a Michigan Network. These are envisioned as State based networks. Bob Babcock & Dave Koch will probably be representing MDEQ & the Michigan Section. They are looking for Water Utility representatives as well as Wastewater representatives. We are asked to submit names of 3 people. Members of the Committee are asked to e-mail Terry if they are interested.

F. 2007 AWWA Washington Fly In is scheduled for April 17 & 18th. Chuck VanDerKolk volunteered to attend. Terry will ask either Jerry or Dave to go as the veteran member of the team.

G. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM

Notes D. Link

MEETING MINUTES ITEMS ADDRESSED

Email sent to Renee Arntz to set WUC meeting dates on 2/13/2007, 5/8/2007, 8/14/2007 and 11/13/2007.

Email sent to Jim Cleland asking for contact information for a Service Bureau or House Committee on Environmental Affairs representative to attend WUC meetings in the future.

Email sent out asking Utility members to submit names if they are interested in being on the Michigan group of representatives for the WARN Workshop. Have received 1 response to date.

Terry Biederman