

Colorado Water Utility Council Meeting  
June 3, 2011

Call to order @ 10:05

**Legislative Committee – Bud O’hara & Paul Fanning**

- Legislative session has come to a close
- Two Bills passed that will have an impact on water utilities (1 good, 1 not so good)
  - Construction retainage bill passed (HB11-1115)
  - Historic ditches bill passed, but was modified so we are off the hook (HB11-1289)
- Water Resources Review Board - interim committee that will be active this summer
- Colorado Water Congress Summer Conference (August 23 – 25) – Nutrients will be a big topic of discussion at this year’s conference

**General Business - All**

By-laws:

Operating Procedures –

- Originally had one year terms for Officers.
- Current commitment is 7 years if go through the progression of Secretary → Vice Chair → Chair → Past Chair. (Note: I don’t believe the current by-laws require automatic progression from Sec → Vice Chair)
- Vice Chair → Chair → Past Chair is still a long commitment at 5 years under current structure
- Good idea to not have people locked in to the progression
- One year term would likely increase the likelihood of people volunteering
- Still need to pass this by the section to see if they would be willing to allow this to change. Their by-laws currently state 2 year terms for officers
- Section believes they need that long term commitment to fully understand how the ins and outs of the section work, but since we function differently, may not be necessary
- Need to pass by the AWWA Section to get their approval and then draft language for the August meeting.

Voting Procedures –

- If announce vote prior to meeting, those present equate to a quorum and thus the vote of those present would be sufficient to pass a majority vote.
- Since those present aren’t always comfortable voting without assurance of their utility, we need to come up with a way to cast a vote following the meeting
- Should explore voting by demand with the use of internet or other means. (Doodle or survey monkey)
- Email could be considered a written (letter) ballot.
  - Need to look to be sure these by-laws are clear in who can vote and how the vote would be cast. Such that those present at the meeting are those that could cast a vote.

- Need to provide time frame for when the vote would need to be returned.
- It was suggested we should consider allowing those not present to vote
- Someone else raised that voting should be for active members because they are more often the individuals that understand the issues
- Tom Mountfort offered to put together a draft that he will send around before our next meeting.
- Sean Lieske– suggested Tom, Lois and I meet to discuss changes and to propose draft language to hand out before the next meeting

#### Board of Directors –

- Do we know who these individuals are and what their purpose is?
- It was mentioned the Board was in place to deal with issues that needed a prompt response outside routine meetings. Furthermore, they were to recruit new members and officers.....utilized as a nominating committee
- Some believe the executive committee still has a role in dealing with issues needing an immediate response
- A suggestions was made that the executive committee could also be used to help draft letters - don't want entire council commenting or could inhibit the process
- Executive Committee – Ray Reling, Jim McCarthy, Tim Lambert and Joe Pershin

(Note: Our by-laws conflict with RMSAWWA regarding # of Directors. We say 4, they suggest 6)

There was sentiment that we need to better define role of committees and committee chairs. May want to talk with Vic about what he did when he amended the by-laws.

There was a suggestion to consider requiring designation of a primary and a back-up for proxy purposes.

Suggestion to move the date for the next meeting. Tom will put out a Doodle to see availability for July 29, Aug 5 or Aug 12 (Note: Send doodle to Bob Clement as well since he was to present at August meeting)

#### Division Update – Ron Falco

- The Division survived the general fund grab, but will have a 1% cut of the general fund this year.
- Health side will likely see a dramatic cut. Their funding feeds through CDC and they are likely to see a significant cut in their budget so it will, in turn, be felt by the states.
- Funding from SRF will likely be cut. It is anticipated they will return it back to the same levels we experienced in 2008, which is a significant cut due to recent funding hikes in past several years.
- EPA cutting \$15 Million of Capitalization Grant that has been used to fund small system assistance (CO share would be approx \$260,000). Unsure if this is a final funding cut or is a proposal.

- EPA still deciding how they will move forward with perchlorate, fluoride, Chrom-6 and chlorinated VOCs.
- State been working on an issue with a storage tank in Lamar where its exterior had been painted with lead-based paint and the ramifications associated with the paint being eaten by cows in an adjoining field.
- Waste Impoundment issue – level of DBPs in solid sludge and/or water in waste impoundment due to pre-chlorination.
  - Comment that the modeling will be an important aspect of this effort.
  - Pilot I report is out and Ron’s conclusions were that they recognize the substantial gaps in data that are present, which was the impetus behind the Pilot II study.
- June 13 ---- Presentation before the Commission – Division will start around 9:30 and will have about 1:15 for presentation and comments. WUC will have approximately 45 minutes for presentation and comments.
- Department will be undergoing a major change to the website so the Division’s webpage will also be changing.
- Independent reporter (Kristin Jones) been working for months on an article associated with cross-connections, but it has been more focused on private homes. However, the article will likely include information on cross-connection programs of many utilities per results of sanitary surveys. Not sure where, when or if the story will be picked up.
- Eric Brown has submitted an email requesting data from laboratories associated with drinking water wells. Ron will look into this and will provide more information about the purpose of this data request.  
 (Note: A follow-up email was issued by Eric Brown regarding the purpose of the data request)

#### **Waste Impoundments - Jim Miller**

- HMWMD just sent out a revision to their Pilot II sampling plan.
- Cost/benefit analysis seems a bit lacking
- Future large group meetings are scheduled for July 18 and Aug 22.
- New definition of sludge that talks about point of generation as opposed to point of disposal.
- Concern about the meeting announcement being so close to the date of the meeting.
- Need to submit comments on the current draft to HMWMD.

#### **Water Conservation – No one present – Report will be proc**

No new issues

#### **Water Quality and Policy – Jim Miller**

- Need to correct the minutes from last month pertaining to WIN Colorado. They are flying the banner of RMS AWWA. We need to be sure the section has given their consent to do this.
- Policy 4 – would like to know when the guidance associated with this is complete

- Section 8 of solid waste regs dealing with recycling of materials and how this pertains to the stockpiling and reusing of aggregate.....depending upon how we operate, this could have potential to affect water utilities.
- Revised stormwater construction rules are forthcoming at the federal level.

#### **Wastewater – Al Baker**

- Discussion associated with the Division’s spill policy and how this is interpreted. Division is aware of some of the issues and will be working to correct how these reports are handled.
- Concern about a potential fee bill
- Regular discussions associated with nutrients

#### **Memberships – Greg Moore**

- Any corrections on contact information needs to be provided to Greg Moore
- What organizations are individuals associated with? Greg would like to have this information so we can track what national organizations members are associated with.