

NEWARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOV. 4, 2015 @ YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER, KEARNEY

Chairman Watts called the meeting to order. Since there was no quorum present no official action was voted on. Those present Board of Directors Dennis Watts, Tom Menke and Ken Swanson. Darrell Eggli, Adam Darbro and past chairman Rick Melcher all from the City of Aurora attended the meeting. Also Laura Hardesty was a guest at the meeting.

Guest Laura Hardesty was introduced and she informed the Board that she was offering her services to help in certain capacities where needed. The Board graciously accepted her offer.

Chairman Watts then presented the meeting agenda and previous minutes. Since a quorum was not present, these items will be approved at the next meeting along with the September 10, 2015 meeting agenda and minutes.

Dennis gave a short treasurer's report since Don Christen was unable to attend. As far as he knew there had been no activity and the balances were the same as last meetings. Rick Melcher commented that we needed to again request support from AWWA . If we receive this donation it should be designated to be used first to make sure the funds are used and not have to be returned. This amount has been \$750 in the past. Rick Melcher stated that if we have not spent any funds from AWWA this year we should use those next year to pay the \$300.00 website hosting fee from BPRO in 2016.

Dennis gave a website report. From September 9 until October 28 our website had 73 visits. He next updated the number of member communities and it still was 176 members.

Dennis then gave a report on the WARN national chairs meeting. He commented that for our population we would be roughly in the top 10 nation wide for percentage of memberships. He said some states are boosting their memberships by letting private systems join and some are even considering letting vendors be members. It was the general consensus of the board that at this point we would only let public water, waste and storm water systems become members. Dennis said that he would give a more detailed report on this meeting at our next meeting.

Rick asked the board's opinion on trying to host a workshop promoting NEWARN sometime at the conclusion of one of our regular board meetings. The feeling was it would be worth a try if we could get approval for re-certification hours to go along with this. Dennis said he would check with Mike Wentink to see if hours could be given and if so maybe try to get something set up in the April- May 2016 time frame. He would also talk with Rob Pierce to get his opinion on a good meeting site. Dennis said that one good topic would be to have a lap top computer available to assist systems who have not completed their resources on the website. Another one would be to assist potential members filling out the application form.

Darrell Eggli has offered to fill Rick's vacancy spot on the board, so as soon as we can have a meeting with a quorum we will vote him on to the board.

Dennis asked the board's opinion on which logo that NEWARN wanted to use. We currently use two, one on the website and the other on letter heads that includes symbols from our supporting organizations. Everyone agreed to keep things as they are and still use two logos.

It was discussed doing a NEWARN presentation at the NeRWA Spring Convention. Dennis would check into a time slot for this session.

Laura Hardesty offered some suggestions that would help keep our members more informed. One was it is important to let our membership know when assistance occurs and this could be done by a simple one line e-mail blast to all of the members and posting it on the website every quarter. Dennis also suggested doing blast e-mails with helpful reminders to operators like " winter is near time to check fire hydrants to see if all are draining down." Dennis said he would try to get something set up on this and asked the board to send him any other helpful suggestions they could think of.

Laura also suggested that the board set a couple of goals for the year no matter how big or small, like trying to increase membership by at least 3 members. Dennis said that this was a good idea and it would be on the next meeting agenda to discuss this.

The next meeting is tentatively set for January 26 at 10:00 am in Aurora.