

NEWARN Board of Directors Meeting, March 17,2015 @ Younes Conference Center, Kearney, Nebraska

Board members present were Rick Melcher, Dennis Watts, Don Christen, Tom Menke, Jim Green, Doug Pollack and Ken Swanson. Advisory committee member Rob Pierce was also present.

Chairman Melcher called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

He then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Being none Jim Green made a motion to approve the agenda. Don Christen 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Melcher then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January 28, 2015 meeting minutes prepared by Dennis Watts due to Secretary Swanson not being able to attend the meeting. Don Christen made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Jim Green 2nd. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was next reported by Chairman Melcher. As far as he knew there had been no activity other than the payment to B-Pro for the annual domain fee of \$320 which leaves a balance of \$586.63 from the beginning fund balance of \$906.63. Rob called Shirley at the LNM to confirm this balance and she reported that she showed a balance of \$276.63. It was discussed and agreed that we need to obtain the records from Chuck Schmid to see if we can figure out where the discrepancy may be. Don Christen offered to contact Chuck to see about obtaining these records. Discussion was also held if there is a need for a treasurer since the League is handling our finances. It was the general consensus that there still is a need for someone to work with Shirley at the League so we can have a report at meetings and to keep track of where donations, bills, etc. come from. Don Christen volunteered to fill the treasurer's vacancy. Chairman Melcher appointed him to be interim treasurer to fill the vacancy until the next officer election is held. Jim Green made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Don Christen 2nd. Motion carried.

The web-site was discussed next. The Pilger tornado has not been added to the web-site. Rich Koenig has not been able to get ahold of Channel 9 news to get their okay to put video on the website. Don reported that he was having trouble being able to enter Burwell's inventory list. Dennis said that he would get with him and see if they could figure the problem out. Dennis had no report on activity on the web-site. Also when DHHS completes a sanitary survey they are suggesting NEWARN membership.

An update on member communities was given next. It was reported that there now are 176 member communities.

Dennis next showed the Board the emergency assistance award plaque that was to be presented at the banquet later. He wanted the Board's opinion if the plaque looked ok and if this is similar to what we want to award in the future. All agreed it looked fine.

Election for Board of Directors was talked about next. There is some confusion as to who is due for re-election. Rick asked Ken to check back on previous meeting minutes to determine who would be due to be re-elected. This was then tabled until the next meeting so information could be gathered and a ballot made up. It was also suggested to have possible candidates reported to Rick so they could be included on the ballot.

Election of Officers was tabled until after the Board of Directors election was held, with Don Christen filling in the treasurer's vacancy until then. Dennis said that he would put a notice on the web-site that we are seeking nominees for the election and he would also list current board members at that time.

In miscellaneous discussion the news letter was brought up. Rob Pierce suggested that we take advantage of using the League's, NeRWA's and AWWA's news letters to put WARN articles in since the cost of doing our own separate news letter is a big expense for us. The general thought was that this would be a useful means of getting information out with no cost to us. Rob confirmed that the League would be agreeable to let us do this. Rick said he would check with AWWA to get their approval and Don said he would check with Rural Water for their approval.

Next on miscellaneous the WARN presentation at this conference was talked about. Rick and Dennis were asking for suggestions on what topics should be covered. Don suggested talking about how to look up assets and put assets on the web-site and explain the importance of using and reviewing this information. Also mention that the board meeting agenda and minutes are available on the web-site.

The last miscellaneous topic was the need to track the sponsorship terms to see whose terms have expired and need to be contacted to see if they want to continue their support. We have neglected keeping track of this and we need to do a better job tracking and also recruiting sponsors.

Don offered to host the next meeting in Burwell in June on the same day that certification and calibration of mosquito and vector equipment is held. He was going to confirm the date this is held and let Rick know. The next meeting was tentatively set to be in Burwell and would be confirmed when enough information is gathered. There is also a possibility that a meeting may be held at the NeRWA Fall Western Conference in Gering.

Being no other business Don made a motion to adjourn and Jim 2nd the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Ken Swanson, NEWARN Secretary