

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Date: January 23, 2014, 1:00 PM

Location: AL Center for Commerce – Montgomery, Alabama

Attendees

Todd Boatman (President), Sam Fowler (President Elect), Amanda Fleming (Treasurer)

- **Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting**

The group approved the meeting notes that Amanda distributed on September 10, 2013.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- The PayPal Account is now linked to the Wells Fargo account. Donations made via PayPal on the AWRA website can be directly transferred into the Wells Fargo account.
- The Available balance in checking \$6, 800.58. The total expenses since October 28, 2013 are \$2,364.11. The total savings are \$3,096.84. See banking statement.
- Amanda will contact George about PayPal fees, using credit cards, and email account.

- **2013 Conference Recap**

- The total expenses were \$20,162.94. The total revenues were \$19,796.95. The net loss was \$365.99.
- There were 293 people registered for conference and 281 people attended. 231 people registered for both the conference and symposium and 238 people attended the symposium.
- Todd will contact John Morris to be sure he will be responsible for sponsorship collection this year.
- During the review of expenses, it was noted that the Flora Bama changed ownership and the expense increase was not expected. Todd will contact John Morris about obtaining an estimate for this year's social.
- The Executive Committee discussed increasing registration amount by \$5 to cover the cost of expenses next year. In addition, Todd will talk to John Morris about possibly looking at other possibilities to host event- LuLus and the Gulf.

- **Old Business**

- **National meeting update**

Amanda introduced the following concepts from the national meeting.

- **Conference App**- an app that contained the following information:

1. Detailed schedule with ability to create personal notifications
2. Create your profile.
3. Twitter Feed
4. Connect and post to Social Media (LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook)
5. Speakers list with detailed info
6. Map

Amanda will find out more information about the app: what company put the app together and if it can be replicated. Sam will look into posting the agenda online for people to access on phones during the conference.

- **Field trip**- offered for conference participants

- The group discussed the different trips of interest (Tour of Alabama Port Authority in Mobile, Gulf Shores State Park, Dolphin Island Sea Lab, Deep Sea Fishing, and Mobile

Bay Estuary) and the possibility of Friday afternoon or Wednesday morning trip. An additional fee would be charged for the event and pre-registration would be required.

- Todd and Sam will discuss with the conference planning committee. In addition, this year we may add questions about the trip to the conference survey.
- **Group run**- free 5k fun run available one morning during the conference
This would be a low cost, networking and socializing option if a member wanted to organize a beach run.
- **Ask me about**
- Conference attendees wear “Ask Me About...” ribbons on their nametags. Attendees were encouraged to begin a conversation with anyone wearing “Ask Me About...” ribbons.
- The group discussed the possibility of adding ribbons to the registration packet, may initiate program this year for the Thursday evening reception. Sam and Todd will discuss this with the conference planning committee.
- **Speed networking**-
Students are paired with a professional member to meet each other and to talk about their interests and career goals. Students were rotated every few minutes until they have had the opportunity to meet several professionals.
- Todd and Sam will discuss the possibility (maybe during breakfast) with the conference planning committee.
- **Other**
Amanda transferred the historic files to Sam.
- **2014 Symposium Planning**
- **Overall Theme**
Sam is exploring the theme of water and energy nexus.
- **Potential Speakers**
- Alabama Power Company, Tennessee Valley Authority, Alabama Coal Association, Geological Survey Association, United States Army Corps of Engineer
- Sam will begin to put together a perspective list. These organizations should discuss the relationship between electrical energy and water, projections for water use now and in the future, and what they do as stewards of the water.
- **Other Business**
- **Tax status**
- Amanda will contact, Mike Catt (AWRA accountant) and ask when he plans to file taxes this year and how often an audit should be conducted. Mike Catt charges \$250 for the filing.
- The Executive Committee will add information about the accountants and audit to the bylaws.
- **Website**
- Amanda will ask George how many views the website has and the fee for website hosting.
- This year will include a survey item asking participants if they use the website and what improvements to the website should be made.
- **Banking**

- Amanda will find whose names are still on account to notify and set up time to remove. Only the names of the current President, President Elect and Treasurer will be kept on the account.
- **Awards Program**
- The outstanding state section criteria are: the contribution of the section to an understanding of the state's water resources issues through regularly scheduled meetings with significant participation by the membership and other resources professionals, and through publication of other related activities; size of the Section's membership, the increase in membership, and the number of national members in the section; other meritorious activities, such as presentation of awards to outstanding individuals for contributions concerned with water resources, provision of scholarship for students, especially those active in AWRA student chapters; the impact of the section on the examination of state water resource issues through cooperation with other organizations in water resources.
- Amanda will find out with national how many members are from Alabama.
- The group will also create awards within chapter for people who have outstanding water related service to the state of Alabama. The group discussed the possibility of creating a sub-committee dedicated to discussing criteria, what the award would be, how to solicit nominations, sponsor for award, and whom to name award after.
- Todd and Sam will discuss with the conference planning committee. The award may be a lifetime achievement based on service to water related resources and/or outstanding member. The award will likely be plaques and the presentation will likely be made at the luncheon.
- **Review of Assignments/Action Items**
- Todd will call John Morris about sponsorships and Flora Bama costs and other possible sites.
- Amanda will call Georg Maradois about PayPal fees, PayPal email, credit cards, and website use.
- Sam will verify costs and breakout for symposium.
- Sam will check on mobile website for conference and symposium agenda.
- Todd and Sam will talk with conference committee regarding field visit, awards, ask me about and speed networking.
- Amanda will check on tax filing and audits.
- Amanda will check on bank and set up to get names removed/added to account.
- Amanda will check on national membership and AWRA app.
- Todd will set up the next meeting in March.