

Minutes of the Board Meeting, Alabama Section of AWRA July 25th, 2008

Prepared by: Ashley McVicar

The meeting was held at Alabama Power Corporate Headquarters in Birmingham, AL. Attending were Marlon Cook, Milt Ward, George Marodis, Sabra Sutton, John Morris and Ashley McVicar. Brian Atkins attended by teleconference.

Minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the May 20th meeting were handed out and reviewed. They were approved as they were.

Financial Report

Sabra handed out the Financial Report for the Reporting period 8/1/2007 through 7/24/2008. The balance ending 7/24/2008 is \$6874.10. Sabra has not yet put together a budget of the expected expenses the rest of the year due to not knowing what the Thursday night Business Meeting projected cost is or the cost of the Seafood Festival. She has tried to contact Tina Newton at the Perdido and Tina has not followed up. John Morris mentioned that he had told Tina to do the same thing as last year for the Thursday night Business Meeting. Last year's cost was \$1345 however we have not received a cost estimate for this year. In addition, John has asked Cheryl at the FloraBama to make the same arrangements this year as last for the Seafood Festival. Last year's Seafood Festival cost was \$4,333.83. We do not have a projected cost for this year's event.

Sponsorships

Marlon made several contacts and received a new sponsorship of \$1000 from ALFA this year. Jimmy Carlisle is the contact for ALFA. He wants to get their name out so we need to get them added to the sponsor list that goes on the back of the brochures and the signage at the conference. Also John suggested that Marlon ask them if they would like to have some display space at the conference.

John gave an update on the sponsorships for this year's Symposium. He has sent letters to all the potential sponsors except Sabra and Malcom Pirnie. He gave Sabra her letter before the end of the meeting. He feels that all of the previous sponsors will continue at the \$500 level. Alabama Power has upped their contribution to \$1000. John did mention that it is possible that the Alabama State Port Authority would not want to be a sponsor this year. Additional sponsors that were identified were AMEC & Drummond Coal. Randy Kerr is the contact for AMEC.

Per John, he will get all the sponsors names in to Dennis by the August 13th (?) cutoff date in order for them to be listed on the conference brochure. Additionally, John agreed to do the sponsorship signage for display at the conference.

Marlon will talk with Dennis at the conference to confirm that AWRA is getting \$35 per registrant of the Symposium as per the contract with AUEI. We need to keep count of the symposium registrants this year.

Symposium Planning

Milt has lined up the speakers for this year's Symposium. They are as follows:

Robert Twilley
Julia Cherry
Mike Moxley
John Shill
Chris Metcalf

Milt suggested moving Robert Twilley to the first timeslot and the Board agreed. It was discussed that there is a 30 minute Q&A session at the end of the Symposium that could be used if any presenters went over time or as a panel discussion.

John suggested handing out a sheet to ask people what they would be interested in seeing as the topic of next years symposium. This could appear on the same sheet as the ballot for next year's officers.

The draft Symposium agenda does not have a title for the Symposium. Sabra suggested that one be added. Milt agreed.

Student Housing

It was suggested to reserve 8 rooms for student housing at the Perdido. At approximately \$100 a night and with 2 nights covered this should be about \$1600. Sabra will send a check to the Perdido in order to hold the rooms. She will make sure they will refund if there is a problem. Once at the conference she will pay the remainder by check. The requirements for the room that were stated by Milt were that they be same sex rooms with no families or spouses and 2 persons to a room. Currently there is a request for rooms by 6 students. In addition, Milt stated that the Center for Fresh Water Studies at UA may provide support for students from UA to get to the conference.

In addition to reserving 8 rooms for students we need to reserve 2 extra. One for Jane Rowan, AWRA national president which we will not be responsible for paying and one for Robert Twilley who we will offer to pay for.

In addition to reserving a room for Jane Rowan, Marlon stated he had told her he could pick her up from the airport and bring her to the conference. He also suggested the Board take her to dinner maybe Thursday night after the Business Meeting.

Membership and Ballot

George will get with Kay on participants in order to print out AWRA membership certificates. George will also print out ballots to hand out at the Business Meeting. The Ballots will have Marlon as Past President
Milt as President
Sabra as President –Elect
Ashley as Treasurer
George as Secretary
Ken Odom as Membership Chair

Brian agreed to contact Ken and ask if he would come on the AWRA Board. If he does not accept another option was Todd Boatman at COE.

Other Section Issues

John will get George an AWRA shirt before the conference so that he can wear it for the Symposium.

The possible merger with the Mississippi conference seems to not be an issue anymore.

AWRA brochures were mentioned where we highlight a sponsor/agency/etc. each year. In addition the sponsors are listed on the back. Marlon will look to see if GSA would like to be highlighted this year. He will also look into the printing. If not Brian mentioned OWR might have something fairly readily available.

Ashley will not be able to attend this year's conference. George has agreed to take care of the ballots and Sabra agreed to take the Business meeting minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.