

Alabama Water Resource Association

Minutes of Meeting

Executive Committee Meeting

Date: March 30, 2011

Location: CH2M HILL – Montgomery, Alabama

Attendees: Ashley McVicar, Stan Cook, Sabra Sutton, George Marodis, Mike Kensler

- **Approval of Minutes from January 12th 2011 Meeting**
 - Several corrections were made and a motion was made to approve the minutes with corrections. The minutes were approved with corrections. **Ashley** will send out revised minutes

- **Treasurer's Report**
 - We started 2011 with \$9,681.68. With bank fees and Sabra's reimbursement for going to the National AWRA meeting we are currently at \$8478.90. This is generally where we are at this time of year even without a couple of sponsorships coming in.
 - Wells Fargo is charging us \$2 / month for photo copies of checks. It was decided this was acceptable to the Board for this service.
 - George and Stan spent considerable time at the bank trying to get Stan's name added to the account. The same issue we have had in the past about the type of account it is came up. It was set up as a personal account with a SSN rather than a nonprofit business account. The bank will have to do some research to see what needs to be done. The Board decided it might be more prudent to close the account and set up a new nonprofit business account (the bank doesn't care if it is nonprofit with the IRS or not) especially now that Dennis is no longer at Auburn. **Stan** will work with the bank to set up the new account if that is also what the bank suggests.

- **Old Business**
 - **PayPal set up** – Auburn University can now accept credit cards and they are also checking to see if sponsors can also contribute online. The Board agreed this would be a good idea. We need to determine levels of giving (\$250, \$500, \$750, \$1000). **Mike** will try to come up with some catchy names to assign to the levels of giving.
 - **Liability insurance** – Directors & Officers Insurance is different from liability. Liability is less and is more likely to be what we would need. There may be event specific liability coverage as well. We could fall under an umbrella from national but that has yet to be determined and we would have to be a nonprofit 501(c)(3) status

for that to apply. **Sabra** has a contact that she will ask to give us a quote and also may ask to conference in to one of our next meetings.

- **501(c)(3) status** – It has been determined that if we ever had 501(c)(3) status that we no longer do. The tax id number we distribute with our sponsorship letter is not identifiable. We do not use this number for sponsors to get write-offs. We are okay due to our size and cash flow to not be a nonprofit, however it was agreed that we should try to gain that status. This will allow the sponsorship to be taken as a tax deduction and makes us an “entity” rather than a group of individuals. Also for insurance purposes they would need an organization to insure. **Ashley** will begin work on this process.
- **Sponsorship of AWRA Board Members to become National Members** – The AWRA dues are \$165 for a 1 yr subscription. It was mentioned that it is in our Bylaws that we are to be members. There was a suggestion to at least pay for the President to be a member. **Ashley** will continue to forward any pertinent information to the group and participate on state section conference calls.
- **New Business**
 - **AWRA Student Chapters** - There was discussion about helping aid the startup of AWRA student chapters. After discussion it was determined that the best chance of success was if there was a champion such as a professor at the University. This is beyond the scope of the board, but it did further conversation about having students involved in the conference.
 - **Student sponsorship to National AWRA meeting** - National AWRA has offered a free registration to the national meeting to a student from each state. We discussed offering this to the winner of the student competition and possibly helping with transportation in years when a Board member would not be attending the national meeting. We will continue to give this some thought. (Additional note by Ashley: On going back through my notes I have that we would need to let National know mid May if we would need a time slot, the student would need to present. I am not sure how we would know this unless we offered it to the previous year’s winner. I suggest if this is something we want to pursue we wait till next year to implement it.)
- **2011 Symposium Planning**
 - **Overall Theme** – Complexities of Water Management with Drought emphasis
 - **Potential Speakers** – Included Representative Greg Canfield, Ex Senator Benefield, AWRA National President (offered to travel to speak during conference call), Lori Fowler (GA), Richard Hamman (FL), Eve Brantley, Matt Lembke, Steve Mathies (LA Dept. of Coastal Restoration and Protection), Dr. George Crozier (Dauphin Island), Dr. Robert Twilley (LSU), ADEM herbicide application potential regulations. We will all continue to think of other potential speakers and forward names to George. **George** will compile a list of potential speakers and distribute it. The group can add

to it with what the person's area of focus would be. George will use this list to help him identify which speakers would best fit with the overall theme.

- **Sponsorships** – **Sabra** will talk to John Morris about sponsorships and tweaking the letters to the sponsors.
- **Coordination with Conference Committee** – **Stan, Todd, Sabra** will attend the next conference planning committee meeting and will update them on the Symposium Theme.
- **CEH credits** – Once the agenda for the conference is set it can be faxed to ADEM to get pre-approval for CEH's to be obtained for water operators. ADEM does not pre-approve training for wastewater operators.
- **Perdido** – Dennis is no longer with Auburn. All conference and Symposium planning will go thru Kay Stone and Sam Fowler at Auburn. The Perdido contact this year is Amy Kohn. We may need some closer coordination this year with Kay since Dennis has been available in the past to take care of arrangements.
- **Student Housing Coordination** – **Mike** spoke with Milt and will handle the student housing this year.
- **Ashley will send out the meeting minutes**
- **Mike will only be able to serve 1 term as he has accepted a new position at Auburn. The Board will need to nominate two new Board Members in September.**
- **Next meeting set for May 18th 10am at the CH2MHill office in Montgomery.**
- **Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am**