



the
**Wisconsin Wastewater
Operators' Association**

**North Central Region
Steering Committee Meeting
Mosinee, WI
November 16th, 2017**

Andy Ott called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM.

Steering Committee Members Ken Bloom, Eric Donaldson, Travis Dulek, Chris Helgestad, Andy Ott, and Diane Thoun were present. Outgoing Steering Committee Members Katie Gruber and Joe Gehin were also present.

Discussion occurred on the Officer's positions. Andy agreed to remain as Chairperson and Travis agreed to remain as Vice-Chairperson. Ken agreed to remain as Treasurer and Chris will remain as Secretary.

Ken Bloom presented the Treasurer's report. As of the date of the meeting, the Region had a checking account balance of \$4395.77 and an escrow account balance of \$679.01. There has been no new activity since the last report was given.

Discussion occurred about our 2018 meetings. The committee agreed that work needs to be done getting meetings scheduled in advance. The consensus was that meeting dates and venues should be picked earlier in the process, allowing more time to work on the details. Everyone felt it important to have meetings in the north, central and south part of the region each year if possible and that using the technical colleges as venues could make planning easier.

The first meeting will tentatively be scheduled for the beginning of March. Travis will make contact with Domtar in Rothschild about hosting this meeting at North Central Technical College in Wausau. The second meeting will tentatively be scheduled for the second week in June. Ken will contact NCL about hosting this meeting. The third meeting will tentatively be scheduled for the third week in September in Rhinelander. Joe will contact Expera about hosting.

Discussion occurred on a list of potential presentation topics. A laboratory theme for the NCL meeting is a natural fit. Ken will ask Mike at NCL for ideas. Including the recent NR 149 revisions, with involvement by Rick Mealy and George Bowman, is also a possibility. Travis suggested inviting a DNR wastewater engineer to talk about compliance inspections. He also offered to talk with Domtar about topics that would interest industrial operators.

Discussion occurred about potential 2019 meeting sites. Potential sites included the Operating Engineers Training Center in Coloma, and the wastewater plants in Wisconsin Rapids and Spencer.

Discussion occurred about the Operator's Competition at the annual conference. Everyone agreed the team needed more support, on the day of the competition and in practice before hand. Travis agreed to be team leader this year.

Discussion occurred about hosting a training session for new operators focusing on the basics, possibly associated with certification exam preparation. Andy will contact Greg Paul about us sponsoring a training session in the region.

Chris reported on the Regional Officer's meeting at the Annual Conference. There was nothing new presented by the State WWOA this year.

Discussion occurred about the potential for the organization to change its name from Wisconsin Wastewater Operators Association to Wisconsin Resource Recovery Specialists. A motion by Joe Gehin to create a committee to consider a name change at the business meeting at the Annual Conference was rejected by the Board of Directors. It was the consensus of the Steering Committee that a name change be given further thought with inclusion of the membership in the decision process.

Discussion occurred about the 50th anniversary of the Playboy Bunny Club at the Grand Geneva Resort, the site of our 2018 Annual Conference, and the appropriateness of using the Playboy Bunny logo and/or theme in association with the Conference. It was the consensus of the Steering Committee that such use would be inappropriate for a professional and diverse organization such as ours.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Submitted by Chris Helgestad, NCR Secretary