



APWA-MN Conference Planning Committee

2020 Fall Conference

8/18/20

Minutes

1. Review Fall Conference Survey Results

Results indicate members are interested in attending virtual sessions this fall

(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-FKDNWBRB7/>).

a. Conference Fee?

- *Since speaker fees will not be incurred for the virtual sessions planned, the only costs the Chapter would incur would be for Pat's time to coordinate; U of M Continuing Education staff will not be involved. Charging a fee will require much more effort than not.*
- *There was agreement that sessions provide value to membership, especially the session on ethics because it fulfills continuing education requirements for licensure. If a fee is charged, there was agreement that the fee should be nominal; \$5-35 per session is supported based on survey results.*
- *Officers will discuss on their next call September 4th.*

2. Virtual Conference Sessions

a. Session Topics – sub-committee

- *It was decided that planning efforts would continue for the top four session topics from the survey. The following sessions were selected; notes, sub-committee members, and action items are indicated:*

Ethics presentation by Josh Root, MnDOT Office of Chief Council – April C. to contact Josh to see if he can cover a two-hour session, what his availability is for September/early October, and if he can incorporate real-life examples in his presentation. There was consensus that a break in the middle of the session is desirable.

Minnesota's Changing Climate: What to Expect & Plan for in the Future by Ken Blumenfeld from the State Office of Climatology – Bev F. to contact Ken regarding length of session and availability in October.

Local panel discussion on practices/policies implemented to increase Racial Equity – Jessa T., Anna B., Bev F., and Beth E. to explore topic further to identify focus and speakers.

COVID-19: Catalyst for Innovation – Brad H. obtained several ideas from the City of Minneapolis and University of Minnesota on how COVID has forced the use of innovative practices, some using technology, to do work more efficiently and effectively. Beth E. will reach out to CEAM as this was a potential topic for their upcoming conference. Other potential ideas include changes in community

engagement, transit operations/practices. It would be good to identify changes in the private sector. Brad H., Nina S., and Chris P. to identify speakers.

- *Another session topic was discussed focused on the outcome of the November election. Potential speakers include Ann Johnson, Civil Engineer and U of M professor running for Minnesota Senate; Margaret Donahoe, Executive Director of Minnesota Transportation Alliance; and Anne Finn, Lobbyist with the League of Minnesota Cities.*

b. Video Platform to use – Zoom, GoTo, other?

We will utilize the Chapter's Zoom account and the sessions will be live.

c. Schedule – monthly, every other month?

- *There was agreement to begin with the Ethics session and ideally hold one session in late September, two in October, and one in November before the holidays.*
- *We will attempt to avoid the week of 9/14 due to the MSES Fall Outing and future AWWA virtual sessions dates (9/29, 10/1, 10/6).*
- *Session time will depend on speaker availability; however, we will aim for mid-to-late morning or over the lunch hour based on survey results. We also will try to hold the sessions on Thursdays or Fridays to avoid Council/Board meeting days. If the sessions are well-received, we could start up again in the spring and tackle more topics on the list.*

3. Need for another meeting?

Beth E. will create and send out a Doodle poll for another committee meeting in early September that will hopefully only need to be one hour.

4. Other

- *Survey results indicate a preference for an in-person, outdoors networking event. The Membership/Special Events Committee was nominated to coordinate an event with a 'contactless' activity, potentially at a park with a shelter.*
- *The Young Professionals Committee discussed holding a virtual trivia night that would be open to all Chapter members.*
- *Given that there have been limited opportunities for sponsor exposure this year, we discussed adding sponsor logos to the virtual session correspondence that goes out to the membership. This will be discussed further with the Officers on September 4th.*

Attendees: *Matt Saam, Beth Engum, Bev Farraher, Jessa Trboyevich, Anna Bessel, April Crockett, Chris LaBounty, Chris Petree, John Mazzitello, Mike Marti, Nina Stanley, Eric Nelson, Sara Flagstad, Jon Horn, Bridget Rief, Tom Thompson, Brad Henry.*