



Outstate Development Committee

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

12p.m. – 1p.m. (Virtual/Zoom)

Meeting URL: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 280 842 810 452
Passcode: tpq3cs

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions – **Chair Sandy called the meeting to order. Those in attendance are listed below.**

In attendance: Jake Buscho, Brad DeWolf, Troy Nemmers, Kent Exner, Lauren Pierce, Jupe Hale, Jay Owens, Paul Sandy

Not in attendance: Jeremy Mathiasen, John Olson, Scott Jensen, Joe Jurewicz, Kevin Kruger, Justin Black, Matt York

2. **Approve from 01/23/2024 Outstate Committee Meeting Minutes (motion required) Motion by Exner, Second by Dewolf to approve the 01/23/2024 Outstate Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with ayes all.**
3. Committee Updates and Discussion
 - a. APWA-MN Membership Map.

Chair Sandy updated the group on the status of the membership map update. No further updates at this time. DeWolf mentioned that his team will be able to update the map as soon as information is available. Hale asked the committee to provide the contract information with whom the committee has been working with at APWA National in order to help support the cause.

- b. Meeting with MRWA and Takeaways – The primary focus of their organization is credentialing for wastewater operators.
 - i. Scheduled Events for MWOA – July Conference in Grand Rapids – Opportunities for Booth/Vendor setup.
 - ii. MWOA Sectional Meetings
 1. Northwest Region – Chair: Vacant
 2. Northeast Region – Chair: Nathan Parr, WLSSD
 3. Central Region – Chair: Mark Stone, HR Green
 4. Southwest Region – Scott Truedson, Marshall
 5. Southeast Region – Brandon Huston, Albert Lea
 - iii. Website information sharing
 - iv. Education and Training – Opportunities to share training pertinent to Wastewater Operations (must meet guidelines set forth by MPCA attached) – Asset Management, Management/Leadership, Employee Recruitment/Retention

- v. E & T, Public Awareness, and Asset Management Committee Assistance
- vi. Discussion

The committee discussed opportunities for partnerships with MWOA. Discussion revolved around what would be the easier items to coordinate for 2024 and what may be put on the back burner for future potential coordination opportunities. The committee discussed a symbiotic relationship with this organization moving forward, with returning the favor through the APWA network and offerings. Those items of pursuit in 2024 are:

- 1. Attend MWOA Conference (held at AmericInn of Grand Rapids July 24-26). Chair Sandy and Director Exner to coordinate booth with Lydia Ener (Communications Committee) and giveaways with Chuck Schwartz (Public Awareness Committee) on booth needs/swag.**
- 2. Coordinate website sharing and materials with Mary Detloff.**

Future Items of Interest (2025 and beyond)

- 1. Coordinate with MWOA Sectional Chairs and Leadership on joint trainings. Work with E & T Committee on potential cross-over training opportunities for each organization.**
- c. Meeting with MRWA and Takeaways – Primary focus of their organization is providing technical assistance and training to water/wastewater operators for large and small communities. Also administer help in administration of MnWARN.
- i. Schedule Events for MRWA – Annual Technical Conference and Exhibit Show held in St. Cloud in March.
 1. 60-70 trainings held statewide (training calendar on website)
 - a. Look for areas of overlap (asset management, recruitment/retention, and emergency management)
 - b. Would be willing to allow us to participate if we identify specific trainings in advance with specific credentialing for their membership.
 - ii. Magazine – Published 4 times/year. Would be willing to allow APWA a publication/article in any or all their publications. Reach of about 2,650 people/organizations.
 - iii. E&T, Public Awareness, and Asset Management Committee Assistance
 - iv. Website information sharing
 - v. Discussion

The committee discussed opportunities for partnerships with MRW. Discussion revolved around what would be the easier items to coordinate for 2024 and what may be put on the back burner for future potential coordination opportunities. The committee discussed a symbiotic relationship with this organization moving forward, with returning the favor through the APWA network and offerings. Those items of pursuit in 2024 are:

- 1. Attend MRW Conference in 2025 (held at St. Cloud Convention Center). Chair Sandy and Director Exner to coordinate booth with Lydia Ener (Communications**

- Committee) and giveaways with Chuck Schwartz (Public Awareness Committee) on booth needs/swag.**
- 2. Coordinate website sharing opportunities with MRW and Mary Detloff.**
- 3. Provide publication materials for magazine to MRW and coordinate with their leadership.**

Future Items of Interest (2025 and beyond)

- 1. Coordinate with MRW leadership on joint trainings. Work with E & T Committee on potential cross-over training opportunities for each organization.**

d. 2024 Snow Operator and Supervisor Training

i. Held in Rochester on October 23rd.

- 1. E & T Committee is working on a 5-year plan that cycles Snow Operator and Supervisor Certificate to Outstate and Metro areas. They request the assistance of Outstate Committee to help in identifying venues for future training opportunities in outate regions.**
 - a. The Committee recommended that we update the membership map and look for areas of APWA membership where we may draw larger registrations for these events (100 mile radius).**

ii. E & T circling back after discussions

- 1. Other E & T requests – E & T Committee requests that Outstate Committee use it's network in assisting in advertisement of the lodging stipend for the Leadership Academy. More information to come at the next Outstate Committee meeting.**

e. Maintenance Expo – Coordination with Public Awareness Committee and LTAP – Booth

- 1. Staff booth for 2024 Maintenance Expo (held at St. Cloud Public Works Facility). Chair Sandy and Director Exner to coordinate booth with Lydia Ener (Communications Committee) and giveaways with Chuck Schwartz (Public Awareness Committee) on booth needs/swag.**

4. Establish 2024 Outstate Committee Priorities

- a. MWOA Partnership Opportunities – Sectional Meetings, MWOA Conference, Website Sharing, etc...
- b. MRWA Partnership Opportunities – Training Events, MRWA Conference, Website Sharing, etc...

5. Adjourn – **Jay Owens will be leaving the Outstate Committee and is working on a replacement from the City of Red Wing.**

Committee Membership

Chair: Paul Sandy

Members: Troy Nemmers, Brad DeWolf, Jeremy Mathiasen, John Olson, Scott Jensen, Joe Jurewicz, Kevin Kruger, Jay Owens, Justin Black, Jake Busho, Lauren Pierce, Matt York

EC Liaison: Kent Exner

Purpose

The Outstate Development Committee creates educational opportunities and professional relationships for existing members and promotes membership benefits to prospective members in the non-metro (outstate) area of the state.