WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
SPRING MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday, April 17th, 2013

Participants: Paul Hindman, Chair
Eric Labelle
Deana Donohue
Bob Nowak
Mike Healy
Tom Hickmann

Julia Anastasio, Director of Sustainability
Nikki Guillot, Staff Liaison

Absent: Bill Spearman, At-Large Director

1. Call to Order – Paul Hindman
   - Called to order at 1:01 EST
   - Summary of March meeting was approved
   - Deana volunteered to post 3 bullet points in an infoNOW community forum summarizing the meeting.
     Tom will take next month and then a rotation will continue through Congress.

2. Congress in Chicago
   - Guaranteed sessions
     i. Water Conservation Through Meter Technology, Jason Bethke 8/25 8:30-9:45am
     ii. Green Alleys & Streets – How are they working? David Smith 8/25 3-4:50pm
   - Stormwater Summit 8/26-8/27 2-5pm
   - Committee meeting Monday 8/26 10am-1pm, Chapter Chairs are invited
   - 20 water related sessions in the schedule as well as:
     - Workshop Wednesday 8:30-10:45am- Water Infrastructure Sustainability Using Envision
     - Wednesday Tours 8am-10:45am Chicago’s Deep Tunnel or Jardine Water Treatment Plant

3. Workplan @ A Glance 2012-2013 (spreadsheet)
   - Stormwater Summit – Mike, Eric, Bob
     o Panel speakers confirmed from EPA, NACo, American Rivers and NACWA confirmed. Connie Bosma may be the EPA speaker but travel budget may be a limiting factor.
   - Click Listen & Learn- “Gaining Efficiencies Through Water Metering” April 18 -Mike
   - DCS Technical Specialty- Nikki
     o The stormwater path is still in development with an instructional designer. Applications are anticipated to be open at Congress in August.
   - Chapter & Technology Involvement- Nikki
     o Chapter Technical Committee Toolkit –pilot sites needed
     o Chapter website templates are being updated, several pilot sites now and full roll out at Congress

4. Strategic Planning Discussion
   - APWA Strategic Initiatives were reviewed and printed copies were provided for the committee.
   - Comments were made about redoing the mission statement for the committee to shorten it into key points that are more memorable. These points would tie to next year’s work plan goals and activities.
   - There is a need to differentiate APWA programs from AWWA programs, which are focused largely on technical standards and equipment information. A partnership could be beneficial for unifying the legislative messages to create a more clear impression with elected officials. This could also present an opportunity to market the public works profession as the wide range of functional groups and high level decision makers (dept directors) in APWA could be an asset to operators in AWWA. There was discussion about the “silos” of water and the need for a more cohesive approach.
   - Discussion on chapter relations and support including engaging technical committee chairs on quarterly calls and building stronger relationships with local chapters related back to APWA’s strategic plan.
A comparison table or decision matrix featuring AWWA, WEF and APWA could be developed to help our common audiences select their membership and compare programming.

The position and guidance statements could be summarized at the Congress business meeting to generate discussion of updates needed and to provide background to invited attendees from Chapters. Each member of the committee will give a summary of the statement they reviewed for the GAC meeting in April.

Comments were made about the advantages of meeting in Washington DC in the spring. Budget constraints may become a factor in future events.

5. Brainstorm hot topics for next year
   - Data and asset management were discussed as good topics that could move beyond the utility-based information available into more critical thinking about the tools and technology. There were comments made about the long-term thought process needed to engage this approach and how that could be a challenge to programming on the topic.
   - A criticality analysis is a great example of APWA value outside the niche of AWWA and WEF because it involves so many functional groups in public works and looks at management-level decision making.
   - Another topic discussed was collaboration between management and operation staff and the opportunities for APWA in that area because of the more generalist membership, many of whom are in management but came up through operational staff.
   - Articles in the Reporter on water operations and criticality analysis (Tom), lessons learned from audits (Eric), how to handle EPA violations (Paul) and the new stormwater rules would be good.
   - A Click, Listen & Learn on asset management and how to begin for operational staff
   - Contact the Ohio chapter to encourage them to submit presentations on water topics for the 2014 North American Snow Conference in Cincinnati.
   - Reach out to APWA regional delegates about the 2014 Congress in Toronto. Travel restrictions may limit attendance for some members. Region 1 meets in May and Eric will bring up the event. Paul also has a regional meeting he can attend and bring up the issue. Eric suggested the committee reach out to the Ontario Chapter because they are very active in water resources and have been welcoming to Region 1.
   - The Stormwater Summit in Toronto may be a challenge. Comments were made about going to a more “resources” focus with drinking water and waste water topics as well as stormwater. A half day of tours may be a highlight and the presentations should have a Canadian flair.
   - A suggestion was made to have an infrastructure summit to convey a common water need, similar to the success of transportation-related events. The ASCE report card on infrastructure includes drinking water (D), dams (D), levees (D-), inland waterways (D-), ports (C), wastewater (D).

6. Center for Sustainability & Legislative Update – Julia Anastasio
   - The Center has a new 3-year strategic plan with 6 primary initiatives, work plans are in development
   - The Sustainability in Public Works Conference will be in San Diego May 13-15. Early bird registration rates are available until April 13th
   - The Clean Water Act reauthorization discussion outline was distributed but there wasn’t time to dive into the details.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm EST