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Massachusetts Association of Onsite Wastewater Professionals

Protect  
Educate  
Promote

**Board of Directors  
Massachusetts Association of Onsite Wastewater Professionals  
Meeting Minutes - January 28, 2014**

**Meeting Attendance:**

Russ Martin, John Murphy, Lauren Usilton, Mike Moreau, Dave Clark (call in)

Quorum Established.

December 18 Meeting Minutes approved without additions or changes.

**Financials:**

- \$20,345.06 in Bank
- 22 renewals or new members
- All payments approved at the last meeting have been processed

**Discussion on Leadership:**

Russ Martin asked that that we discuss the President and Vice President positions. Russ indicated that he would not be able to serve next year and that Dan has also indicated he will not be able take on the President's role. Given that one of the most significant roles of the Vice President was to transition into the President's role, it was agreed that we would need to fill both positions. Lauren and Dave both indicated that they would not be interested in the role but would continue as directors and offer support wherever they could.

John asked if the Bylaws mention anything about running without a President or Vice President. Russ said that he was pretty certain it did not. In an effort to define a leader, we agreed that a strong, aggressive leader is needed to feed off the momentum that has been established this year.

In the absence of any potential candidates, the group agreed to table the discussion on position of President and Vice President until the next meeting.

The ballots mailed to the membership were counted and the following members were elected to the Board of Directors:

- Richard Bachelder – 1-year term
- Lauren Usilton – 1-year term
- Russell Martin – 1-year term

- Stephen Nelson – 3-year term
- Alyssa Rusiecki – 3-year term
- James Tyrrell – 3-year term

There were seven new members nominated for the Board of Directors:

- Phil Spath
- William Blakemore
- Jennifer Sullivan
- Dave Ferris
- Steve Nelson
- Alyssa Rusiecki
- James Tyrrell

**NOWRA Update** – Russ Martin reported on:

- NOWRA is in the process of hiring a PR Firm to lobby the Federal Government for additional funding
- 2014 Conference will be held in November in the Denver, CO area
- WEF is no longer going to allow NOWRA (or any other groups) to have office space in their Alexandria facility

**Other Business:**

- **Installer Exam** –
  - Discussion about the Installers exam and our presentation at the MHOA meeting. MEHA meeting cancelation and possible next steps.
  - The general consensus was that it be a state exam and we would have to administer it.
  - Dave said that he thought that we should try to keep it going but we would probably need to enlist help from other sources including DEP.
- **Meeting Schedule** - The group agreed to move forward with a meeting schedule of the second Thursday of each month at 10 AM.
- **Outreach** - John Murphy started a discussion on MAOWP merging with the MWPCA. John and Mike Moreau had spoken prior to the meeting and John brought the board to speed on that discussion. The group agreed that there were numerous pros and cons to this type of a relationship. Some items discussed will follow:
  - Would we still need to continue to have NEWEA perform administrative responsibilities or would that transition to MWPCA? The group thought that one of the benefits of this relationship would be the utilization of the MWPWCA administration.
  - Would MAOWP become part of MWPCA? It was unclear how the relationship would work but that options could be explored.
  - Would the relationship be permanent or would there be an opportunity for MOAWP to move out on their own after a solid foundation had been built? Mike

Moreau expressed that he envisioned the group eventually pulling away to become its own independent entity once a solid foundation had been established.

- Would we need membership approval? The group agreed that per the bylaws, we would need to get a two-thirds vote from the membership to do this and, based on prior response this would likely prove difficult to do.
- What would the costs of this type of transition be? The group agreed there would be some costs, perhaps a few thousand dollars in legal fees.
- This would serve as a model for other MAs to consider – allowing each state to potentially build up a group dedicated to onsite that could eventually either become part of a regional group or a State Association that could stand on its own.

The discussion was tabled for future meeting when more directors/members could be present.

A motion was made to Adjourn by John Murphy and seconded by Mike Moreau.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6.