

NEWARN minutes

The NEWARN meeting was held, Friday, December 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., at Nebraska Rural Water Office located at 3390 Ponderosa Drive, Wahoo, Ne.

Present were Rich Koenig, Ken Swanson, Harold Reynolds, Eric Melcher, Dennis Watts, Bob Smith, Chuck Schmidt and Doug Pollack.

First item of business was to adopt the agenda dated December 10, 2010. Motion made by Chuck Schmidt to approve the agenda, seconded by Bob Smith, approved by all.

Next item, motion to approve the October 5, 2010 minutes. Motion made by Ken Swanson and approved by Bob Smith, approved by all.

Chuck Schmidt gave the treasurer's report. Chuck said we have a total of \$2,100.00 in the account; \$100.00 was donated by Sergeant Irrigation. Motion made to approve the report by Dennis Watts, seconded by Ken Swanson, approved by all.

Next item was to consider invoices for payment. Dennis Watts said we will be getting a bill from BPro. They are the company that host the NEWARN web site; we have a current three year contract with them. Bob Smith made a motion to approve the three year contract with BPro with an annual payment of \$300.00 a year, seconded by Chuck Schmidt, approved by all. This contract will expire on December 31, 2013.

Next item of business was consideration for distributing an annual newsletter. It was felt that we could mail out as many as 700 to 800 newsletters to systems. Rich will look at the cost of printing, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000 newsletters, he will get back to the board with cost of printing the newsletters. Motion made to do an annual newsletter with the mailing date to be determined by the board. This motion made by Dennis Watts, seconded by Doug Pollack, approved by all.

A committee was formed to do the initial first look at the letter; this is a three person committee which is made up of Ken Swanson, Eric Melcher and Dennis Watts. Once the letter is put together this will be sent out to board members and also Rich Koenig and Harold Reynolds.

Next item of business was an update on how many visits we've had to the NEWARN web site. From 1-1-2010 through 11-21-2010 we had 117 hits, for the month October 4, 2010 through November 4, 2010 we had a total of 48 hits. This will be on each future agenda as far as the number of hits to the website, to make sure we visit this item each meeting.

It was also brought up by Bob Smith the example of 20" valve that was borrowed from Grand Island to Schuler. This is an example of a situation where NEWARN could have been

used. Also Ken Swanson brought up that Auburn offered their assistance to Nemaha Co, RRW Dist, #2 to loan an operator if needed until they hired a new operator or until the new operator obtained his proper license if necessary.

Next item was the AWWA budget. It was talked about what expenses could be coming up. After discussion by the board a motion made by Chuck Schmidt and seconded by Ken Swanson to ask the same dollar amount as last year, which is \$750.00 from AWWA, this was approved by all.

Dennis Watts stated he was contacted by Ryan Chapman with NDEQ about the potential of a Title 319 grant. This could bring in \$1,000.00 a year with a 40% match from the NEWARN committee. This would be good for two years. It was suggested by all that Dennis do a write up what he feels could potentially have costs associated with such as the newsletter, etc., and forward this onto Ryan Chapman who would be able to write the grant up for the NEWARN board. A motion made by Chuck Schmidt to get the information together to give to Ryan Chapman to pursue the Title 319 grant, seconded by Doug Pollack, approved by all.

Looking at the vendor/sponsor/contributions update. Eric Melcher will send out the list of which board members will talk to which vendors, this will be revisited in the near future.

New members – we currently have approximately 153 members, Dennis Watts will be updating the membership list on the web site.

Liability insurance coverage. This has been on the agenda for quite some time. We have been awaiting the outcome of a lawsuit that involved Nebraska City. Lash Chaffin has been reviewing this, it was felt by the board that until the lawsuit is settled that we should look at getting insurance to protect the board members. The motion made by Ken Swanson and seconded by Chuck Schmidt for Eric Melcher to enter into agreement with League of Municipalities to purchase insurance for the board members, approved by all.

Snowball conference will be held January 26-27, 2011 in Kearney, Nebraska. Board members will be present to give the update on NEWARN and walk through the web site. All members are encouraged to attend and assist if they are able to make it.

It was also brought up that the League of Municipalities conference held in January would be a good conference to give an update on NEWARN. It was felt that many elected officials come to this meeting and this would be a good group to talk to about the NEWARN. Eric Melcher will check into this next year.

Eric Melcher also stated he would talk to Rural Water to see if we could have a thirty minute presentation at the Rural Water Conference in Columbus this year.

It was decided that the next meeting will be held March 23, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at Columbus, Nebraska at the New World Inn.

Motion made by Chuck Schmidt to adjourn and seconded by Doug Pollack, approved by all.

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