

Minutes
Southern Section A&WMA Conference Call
November 12, 2015

PRESENT: Dallas Baker, Eric Flowers (Guest), Chris Hurst, Pleas McNeel, Maya Rao, Rob Ashe (for Donald Sodersten), Katy Lusky (for Thomas Wideman), and Justice Manning

The meeting was called to order by Chris Hurst at 2:02 p.m. EST.

Consent Agenda: Not addressed (see attachment).

TREASURER’S REPORT

Total Funds	19,582.30
Investment CD at First Tennessee	\$10,368.96
Available Balance	9,213.34

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Section

Chris had no report other than what would be covered later in Old Business. However, he did express appreciation to those who called in.

AL Chapter

Justice reported that the University of AL Student chapter has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 at 6 p.m. on Industrial Environmental Affairs. It will be in room 123, Lloyd Hall on the university campus (Announcement on web site). Any one is welcome to attend and if in the Tuscaloosa area you are invited to attend.

GA Chapter

Katy: The GA Tech Student Chapter had their first meeting of the new school year in October. Shira had a meeting of the Young Professionals last week with a few (9 – 10) in attendance. The major issue for the Chapter right now is trying to recover money (credit card charged invoices) for the August Annual Meeting from a bank with an account in a former Treasurer's name. This person has made an attempt but with no success. Because of the bank's long wait time no one is able to hold for extended silent periods. Katy asked Justice to try to reach the former treasurer again and impress on him the importance of retrieving the money, even though he may need to be “on hold” for an extended period. He doesn't even receive the report from the bank because of an incorrect mailing address at the bank (his former address). Elections are wrapping up with ballots due by November 15th.

MS Chapter

Maya: The chapter sponsored a tour of Ingalls Shipbuilding on October 27. No report on the tour is available until a Chapter Board meeting during the week of November 16. Maya is having the first meeting of the planning committee for hosting next year's Section Annual Meeting tomorrow, November 13.

E TN Chapter (No report.)

W/M TN Chapter

Rob: Ballot for Chapter officers is due tomorrow, November 13. Results should be available next week. Sara Matthews has arranged for AMEC to host a chapter meeting at their facility on December 10. Don Haynes is trying to involve college students from Austin Peay college. Justice suggested that Joe Morgan, head of civil and environmental engineering at Lipscomb University, also be contacted as to whether they may want to have any students attend. Also, don't forget about Vanderbilt, where Andrea Gardiner is a Ph. D. student.

Education Committee

No Report.

Young Professionals

Chris mentioned that the S&CC encouraged involving YP in all local activities to the extent possible. He also mentioned that the YP Council has monthly conference calls and if any chapter would like to be involved to let him or Justice know so that the contact information could be provided to the appropriate person.

Membership

Justice: see Consent Agenda for the latest.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Annual meeting debriefing:** See GA Chapter report above.
- b. **Tax Exempt Status:** Southern Section, A&WMA, is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. However, GA does not accept organizations such as A&WMA as being eligible for tax exemption on purchased goods/services; it has more restrictive conditions on sales taxes for which only about six organizations are able to meet. By being a 501(c)(3) organization the Section and Chapter can accept tax exempt donations. Other states may allow tax exemption on sales. We still must meet certain deadlines and reporting requirements to maintain the exemption. Justice called the IRS and understands that filing for charitable and tax exempt organizations is due within 5 months of the end of the fiscal year, or by May of each year. The filing for those organizations who are tax exempt may be done electronically if their three previous years of income averaged < \$50,000.
- c. No one has stepped forward from TN to serve on the **Nominating Committee** or as a candidate for Section Vice Chair. Justice suggested Eric Flowers; he said that he would consider it and get with Don.
- d. **E TN Chapter:** nothing has changed since last month; no response from the members in that chapter with respect to taking a leadership role. Therefore, Chris is inclined to petition the Sections & Chapters Council (S&CC) to delist the E TN chapter. Not the preference but unless someone has a better suggestion that appears to be necessary. Dechartering would **NOT** affect individual membership.
- e. **Donation of Pass-through funds:** Chris gave a brief synopsis for the Board members present today and said that he would send out a ballot to reach a board decision as no quorum was available again today (as was the case last month).
- f. **Local Associates:** Because of limited time no decision was reached on this issue. Chris has contacted the FL and NY Sections, both of whom still support Local Associates.

- g. Chris updated the board on a request to our web master to provide a proposal and estimate for work needed to update the **Section web site**, which he has not done after repeated requests. Pleas noted that he has another contact who spends quite a bit of time in developing web sites. He is a friend of our current web master and Pleas his rates are unbelievably low. Chris asked Pleas to follow through and ask him to submit a proposal and estimate.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business!

The **next meeting** is scheduled **December 10, 2015 at 2 pm (EST)**. .

The meeting was **adjourned** at 3:03 p.m. EST.

Action Items:

1. Justice to provide the name and contact for the professor at Lipscomb University to notify them of December 10 meeting.
2. Justice to try to assist the GA Chapter with “unlocking” the bank account by contacting the former Treasurer again.
3. Board members are requested to give due consideration to the two outstanding issues of assisting International A&WMA with their cash flow problem (donating pass-through funds) and whether the Section would support continuing local Associates.
4. Chris to prepare an email to be used as a ballot for determining whether the Section and Chapters want to donate pass-through funds to A&WMA.

November 12, 2015

Consent Agenda
Southern Section AWMA

Item #1: Secretary’s Report and Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the October Meeting were sent to the web master on October 23 for posting.

Item #2: Treasurer's Report

Total Funds	19,582.30
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Available Balance	9,213.34

Item #3: Committee Reports

- a. [Section report by Chair]
- b. [Alabama Chapter]
- c. [GA Chapter report]
- d. [MS Chapter report]

- e. [E TN Chapter report]
- f. [W/M TN Chapter report]
- g. **Education/Scholarship:**
- h. **Young Professional:**
- i. **Membership report:** Data from HQ remain inconsistent. For example, at the end of September the Section had 247 members. For October, download from HQ shows 259 members but 9 memberships lapsed during October, which would result in 238 members (247-9). Furthermore, downloads show only 6 new members, bringing the total back to 244. Even if one adds the number of members renewing in October, 11, a total membership of 255 would result. Of course, at least some of those 11 (3 in our case) are shown in both months, which means that we have 7 extra members from somewhere. So from where do the extra 7 come? No one seems to be able to explain these inconsistencies.

Item #4: Old Business

- a. The GA Chapter will provide a status report on the finances from the **Annual Meeting** held in Callaway Gardens August 19-21.
- b. **Tax Exempt Status:** Each chapter is requested to report on whether they have any outstanding questions regarding applying for a not for profit status within their state. This apparently is necessary to obtain tax exempt status under the IRS umbrella. Justice to report of filing requirements for the Section to IRS.
- h. **Nominations:** One of the vacant positions on the Board for next year is a Vice Chair from TN. No one has been identified as a candidate. Chris wants to discuss with the Board the options for filling this upcoming vacancy.
- 1. **E TN:** No one has come forward with an interest in serving as Chair of this Chapter. We had one candidate who is willing to serve as Secretary but not as the leader. Should the Section request the Sections & Chapters Council to consider dechartering the chapter?
- e. Last month the Board was requested to be thinking of whether the Section should donate its **pass-through funds** to the International Organization. Some information was provided in the minutes for background. Hopefully, the board will be ready to decide this issue.
- f. The S&CC is pushing toward eliminating the local **Associates**. Information on this issue was also contained in the minutes. Chris has “taken a beating” at the two previous meetings and is ready to abandon the “fight” unless the Board exhibits strong support for his pursuit of this issue.
- g. Other?

Item #5: New Business

- a. Any?

Item #6: Next Meeting Date and Time

The next Board meeting will be a conference call on **December 10, 2015** at 2 p.m. EST (1 p.m. CST).