

**New England Chapter APWA**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting – March 17, 2021**  
**Zoom Conference Call**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by President Garro. Roll was called. Guests/Committee Co-Chairs included King/Nason/Marinaccio/Whitehouse.

**2. Concerns, etc.** – None.

**3. Consent Agenda.**

**a. Approval of minutes** – February 17, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved.

**b. Treasurer Report** – Connors said monthly bills were paid and an APWA rebate check in the amount of \$4940.39, was deposited to the checking account.

**c. Finance Committee** – Mattscheck said he had forwarded dates to the Committee for next week and will review for the best option available to all.

**d. Delegate's Report** – Benevento said there was a Council of Chapters meeting last week and National is still planning on having PWX 8/29-9/1/2021. Hoping for a final decision late March or early April. They are expecting 65% capacity of what they usually get and some of the presentations will be virtual. He said the Task Force Focus Group is still looking for ideas. Some examples would be “Covid 19, what have we learned” and “How to implement succession learning at the Chapter level”. Shepperd said although the meeting was on-line, it was great talking to others from around the country and finding out what others have been doing in light of Covid. How to be better prepared for future pandemics. Benevento said moving forward the winter meeting stipend will be covered but there will be no stipend for PWX. Garro asked what other chapters are doing and they are having virtual meetings, others planning golf tournaments... been a mixed bag. Sheppard added NEC has done a super job and continues to excel.

**e. Education** – Garro said Goober unavailable but the April Chapter Connects is on schedule for next week.

**f. Awards** – Benevento said it was a sprint to the finish line but there are 20 submissions, one not sponsored by the Chapter. It was submitted by MassDOT. NEC is also eligible for the PACE Award. National Committee will meet in April to determine winning awards. Bechard said he would reach out to MassDOT and talk to them re: endorsing their submission.

**g. Membership** – Roy reported good news! The numbers are starting to rebound. 915 members last month vs. 932 this month. Had meeting with Bechard to discuss sharing the roster with the membership. Garro said he is working on a base portal and working with PWAC re: mailing out lapel pins. Yanulis said the lapel pin is not going to go far and asked if there was any way we could have an APWA backdrop sent to everyone to be used during our meetings. Benevento said he will add to PWAC agenda.

**h. Sponsors** – Yanulis said not much has changed. He asked Connors if she wanted to discuss NPWW luncheon now since it involved the sponsors. Connors suggested having a luncheon of 150 invited guests (the number mandated by the state of MA for outside dining. It would consist of EC Board members, award winners, scholarship winners and sponsors. Due to the limited number sponsors would be limited to two invitees. She wanted to know if NPWWL sponsor money could be used to pay for the small cocktail reception, or not use sponsor money and the NEC could foot the bill. A cost of approximately \$8000 +/- . Yanulis said the sponsors want to invite their clients and socialize. Blomquist said in NH the 50 and over group will not be signing up until late April for vaccination. A discussion ensued. It was suggested that the awards be moved to the “Summer Conference”. A zoom call plus a gift card could go to the scholarship winners. It was decided NOT to have a luncheon of any kind this May. Connors will contact Granite Links re: event for next year. Benevento mentioned the 15-minute infomercial re: sponsors that was brought up. He said the “NEC Connects” is not a Sponsor event. At the beginning of each meeting, he does a little spiel on sponsors and their logos are included. Hackett agreed that one hour was plenty and to add another 15 minutes at the end is too long and most folks would probably hang up.

- i. Newsletter** –Garro said send anything important or news worthy for next *Chatter* to Myers.
- j. Government Affairs** – Riccio had no report at this time. Bechard mentioned an email from APWA urging everyone to contact senators and representatives urging them to support public works and their priorities. Garro said one discussion is how will the money be spent and will it reach the municipal level.
- k. Summer Conference** – King said “Save the Date” was distributed and posted on website. People have already started to book their rooms. Meeting will be scheduled for next month. Stinson has been in touch with National re: President and/or V.P. attending. Since there will be no NPWWL, Awards Ceremony will be moved to the “SC”. Benevento would like to co-ordinate with King and the committee re: the program.
- l. NPWWL – Event cancelled.** See above discussion under **(h.) Sponsors**. Connors will contact Granite Links to cancel and reserve date for 2022.
- m. Fall S&I/Snowplow Roadeo** - Mattscheck said committee had a small meeting and with Summer Conference being moved to October they would like to have a stand-alone event late July, early August, possibly at the new Worcester ballpark parking lot. Just a snow plow roadeo with a bring your own truck. Money for 2020 is still in the budget. Connors asked if 2021 winners would be going to National Roadeo in Denver as well as the 2019 winners. Mattscheck needed to check and get back to the FinCom/EC Board.
- n. PWX Chapter Dinner** – Everything is on hold. Waiting for official announcement from APWA.
- o. PWAC** – Benevento said here is a meeting tomorrow and they will be discussing March session, (with a dry run happening next week), planning for NPWW, PWAC initiatives, and lapel pins.
- p. Website and Social Media** – Ciancarelli reported he updated requests and sent completed form to APWA requesting a website update and training date for same. Posted NEC Connects to the website and has added links for anyone who missed any of the sessions.
- q. Young Professionals Report** –Marinaccio said they had a meeting last week and put together a virtual even. It is a social event first then a panel discussion. Working on membership initiatives and student outreach. Added three more schools to the list. Garro asked Mattscheck if there was a potential for YP’s to assist at the FS&I Roadeo. He said yes.
- r. Professional Development and Knowledge Management** – Blomquist said not too much from last meeting. Working with Norwich re: a program for those leaving the military by providing education for various positions. A discussion ensued and Blomquist mentioned that it would be a program for professionals, managers, water system operators, etc.
- s. Diversity Committee** – Whitehouse reported she has been communicating via email to National for information. She is working on a presentation with a group of women from Girl’s, Inc. re: picking PW as a profession and how to get involved. To help educate people about PW. Hoping to get more folks involved from the western part of the state. Benevento asked if she had connected with the woman from National. She did, but they tried to lead her in a direction that wasn’t very helpful.
- t. Mechanics Workshop** – Collins is working with Ford Motor Co. on a one-hour virtual class mid to late April.
- u. Past Presidents Advisory Council** – Barrett said Otero collected and put together applications for the Chapter Administrator. She sent info to Committee who will be getting together with recommendations.
- v. Scholarship Committee** – Severence thanked the FinCom for the additional money and said the info has been forwarded to membership and is posted on the website. Without a 2021 NPWWL, Yanulis recommended 2020 winners along with the 2021 winners be congratulated via a Zoom virtual meeting and gifted a Grub Hub gift card.

**w. Spring Conference** – Webb said there will be no Spring Conference. Committee thought maybe they would do a virtual but did not want to interfere with the NEC Connects program.

**x. Holiday Board Meeting** – All set. Heading up to NH in June for a meeting. Benevento asked why we weren't going to the outgoing President's state of RI. Garro said we were committed to the contract in NH and he didn't mind. We'll go back to RI when Mattscheck steps down.

**y. Approval of Consent Items.**

Above consent items were approved on a motion by Bechard/Webb

**4. Action on items removed from the Consent Agenda.**

Garro said Weissberg and Daring are anxious to set up a Sustainability Committee. Both are highly motivated for this committee. Lawlor added they will have a meeting with Courtney Lindberg, Deputy Director/PW, Manchester, CT the last week of March and Weissberg will be the driving force.

Finally, Garro wanted to give a shout out to and congratulate Past President Chip Barrett on his upcoming retirement at the end of the month. Barrett thanked everyone and said he had worked in the Town of Westford for 44 years and now wanted to spend more time with his family.

**5. Other Business and Correspondence**

**6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Merson/Lawlor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaqui Connors  
Secretary-Treasurer

Courtney Lindberg,  
Deputy Director of Public Works  
Town of Manchester