

**AWMA Mother Lode Chapter  
Board Meeting – Draft Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Location: Sierra Research

Attendees:

- a. Gary Rubenstein, Sierra Research
  - b. Joel Reisman, Joel Reisman Consulting
  - c. Larry Greene, Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD
  - d. Pat Sullivan, SCS Engineers
  - e. Gwen Pelletier, CDM Smith
  - f. Joshua Cunningham, ARB
  - h. Todd Sax, ARB
  - i. Paul Miller, RCH Group
  - j. Crystal Reul-Chen, CalRecycle
- (Was Paul Hensleigh in attendance?)

1. Review and Approve Previous Minutes

*The minutes of the September 4, 2013 Board meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. Larry noted the impressive nature of the number of events we hosted last year (see #2 as well).*

2. Review of Fall Meetings

- a. 9/26/13 – West Village Tour (30 attendees)
- b. 10/17/13 – Solano Wind Farm Tour (12 attendees)
- c. 11/6/13 – Panel Discussion on Project Level Assessment (47 attendees)
- d. 11/20/13 – Discussion with Sara Head

*The number of attendees for the various events was discussed, and Larry offered good photos for the website, if we want them. Todd summarized the Sara Head Mtg. He shared with her our funding issues in terms of costs and member retention and she hoped to charge more for our events.*

*A discussion ensued on our mission as a chapter. General consensus was we are focusing on getting people in the door with the idea that membership and money will follow. Our focus needs to be on developing membership with smaller events that cost less and bring more involvement from the membership in comparison to other chapters that offer big events that then require charging a large fee to attend.*

3. Proposed Plan for 2014

*Todd's proposal was to focus our efforts on adding breath and depth to our understanding on a certain topic while growing our membership. We created two groups to focus on creating events that are at the intersection of energy and waste (see action items).*

- a. Need to decide on schedule of events and assignments for who will organize each one.

*Ideas for waste management tours are:*

- *Keifer Landfill*
- *Western Placer's Waste Management Authority's MRF that also has a landfill-to-energy plant, and composting facility onsite. (late February/early March)*
- *Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (and wetlands tour of the Bufferlands)*
- *Clean World partners in Davis and Sac for AD*

*Ideas for energy speakers:*

- *Someone who can explain and offer up calculators*
- *People who can actually reduce emissions (solar PV, loan providers, etc.) and give loans*
- *Also connect up with UC Davis folks*

*In addition to waste/energy events, organize one technical skills event.*

#### 4. Update on YP Efforts

*We are by far one of the most active YP chapters. Gwen will mix in mixers throughout the year.*

#### 5. Education Grants (Pat)

- a. Need to vote on grant applications

*Pat put out applications to all major school districts in Sacramento area and got to grant coordinators to post on local websites. This is a revolving application, meaning applications can be submitted at any time as there is no single annual competition. We give a maximum contribution of \$1000 per school year, per project. Two applications were submitted: one from Sheldon for laptops and the other from Mira Loma for \$1000 composting bins. The Board decided to deny the application from Sheldon. After discussing the merits of the application from Mira Loma (see attached), we asked if they could provide a final report on their compost program. The teacher in charge said they would be glad to do it. The Board members suggested making it more scientific by designing a few experiments surrounding the use of the compost, such as using compost from two bins in different parts of their garden, creating a You Tube video and inviting the school to an AWMA meeting to present their results. Larry moved to support the application. Todd seconded. The Board unanimously decided to approve the full amount of the project \$1288.68.*

6. Election Results (Gary)

*The Board was elected (see attached Board Member list for 2014 term).*

7. Treasurer Update (Paul)

*We started and ended with about \$20,000. Paul spoke with Doug Wolf about tax return issues, and since we submit our finances as part of the annual report to the national organization, this should cover us for tax purposes. Doug recommended not having more than \$25,000 in our account (see attached).*

*At next Golden West Board meeting we will figure out where the co-sponsorship is for sending a student to ACE in Long Beach for the cost of \$1000.*

8. Membership Report (Joel)

*We have 54 members currently. We lost 20 members and gained 10 last year. One issue is people may not be getting renewal notices from nationals. HQ changed the website, and may not be reporting properly. Stats for membership: 34 reported organizations (16 govt., 5 industry, others consultants), 8 YP, 3 students. Others are individuals. 184 people are on the mailing list.*

*The question arose, should we go rogue? The idea was perhaps we should lower dues for a short time period after making a membership push over the next six months, and see why people aren't joining. Other organizations, such as the Urban Land Institute are doing well, but they are focusing on sustainability issues. Perhaps we need to focus our efforts on more timely issues as well.*

*What are the benefits of membership? - Get AWMA magazine.*

9. Timing for Next Meeting

*August-September 2014*

10. I will need to file annual report

*Todd will file the report.*

*Action items:*

- *Group 1: Pat, Paul, and Crystal will put together 2-3 events focused on waste management, may include a speaker/dinner, facility tour, or combination thereof.*

- *Group 2: Larry, Todd and Joshua would like to work on the household energy use and GHG emissions issues*
- *Advertise events internally in CalRecycle, Sac Met AQMD, and other organizations represented by the Board.*
- *Report back to Board decisions on what events we will have pursue. We would like to meet again the third week in February to plan out events through April 2014. Get report back to Board on what we've decided to do next week. Would like a meeting third week in February. Plan out to April 2014.*
- *In addition to YP mixers, Gwen will organize a technical meeting.*
- *Should make a membership pitch at next week's mixer.*
- *Email to ask individuals if they meant to drop their membership, and if so, why?*