

Northern Territories Water and Waste Association
Board Meeting by Conference Call
Monday, November 10, 2003

MINUTES

Attending:

Kojo Kumi, Paul Guy, Ken Johnson, Kriss Sarson, Mark Cronk, Kim Philip, Pearl Benyk (staff).

1. Kojo **called the meeting to order**, identified who was in on the call, and thanked everyone for participating.

2. **Increasing number of conference registrants:** Pearl gave an update on the number of people now registered (28 as of Nov 7), which is lower than in previous years for this time. Board discussed various options to encourage people to attend. Points raised:
 - a) communities now have to pay for their employees to attend and this is big cost for them, as well as difficult for them to replace staff while they are away;
 - b) government cutbacks are affecting registrations;
 - c) option of video conferencing not possible because necessary bandwidth not available in Nunavut communities.
 - d) All hamlets in both NWT and Nunavut are aware of the conference.
 - e) Kriss Sarson will be checking with Govt. Nunavut to see if NTWWA conference participants could attend GN operator training (taking place in Iqaluit before and after conference) – how many spaces are available and could they be free to

- NTWA conference delegates? (as a way of encouraging attendance). Point was made that this training will be very rudimentary and a lot will be done in Inuktitut.
- f) Board members will phone around and talk to government department re: sending their staff to the conference.
 - g) Pearl to contact Association of Municipalities (now called NWT Association of Communities) re: sponsorship of some portion of the conference and promoting attendance as they are the principal generators of water and waste and are responsible for operation and maintenance of water and waste facilities.

3. **Fund raising for conference:** Ideas:

- a) Iqaluit Chamber of Commerce membership should be asked (in person or by fax) to provide sponsorships of conference because of the benefits the conference will bring to Iqaluit businesses. Ken suggests they should be sent program information to solicit interest. and businesses in Iqaluit should be solicited for financial support with a hierarchy of sponsorship eg. Gold - \$500 (only one sponsor) 1 complimentary delegate package to conference; recognition at beginning of all sessions; company info sheet (8 1/2 x 11 b+w) in delegate package; company name and logo at top of conference signage; other marketing material set out at conference; opportunity to address delegates. Silver - \$250 recognition at beginning of each conference day, and at end of conference; company name in delegate package (1/2 page of 8 1/2 x 11 shared with other silver sponsors); company name and logo on conference signage. Bronze - \$100 recognition at beginning and end of conference; company name in delegate package (list on 8 1/2 x 11 with other bronze sponsors); company name on conference signage.
- b) Kriss Sarson will get list of names.(and fax numbers?) of businesses .Who to do faxing- Pearl could do it but would incur long distance charges.
- c) Pearl will get agenda (to date) from Michelle and send to board members to use for promoting conference.

4. Planning/actions for **NTWWA's future role**, discussion included:
 - a) Important value of NTWWA now is once a year all players in water and sanitation are together in one room
 - b) NTWWA needs to do something now to replace its former role doing training – loss of this role has left association and its members demoralized
 - c) NTWWA should lobby for money to get studies done which will benefit members (other comments on this included idea that this is role of consultants)
 - d) bylaws should perhaps be changed to reflect change in role of NTWWA
 - e) committee should be struck at the AGM to look at potential changes to bylaws
 - f) Future of NTWWA, because of geography, may lie in using internet to improve communications
 - g) Website could be used for providing contacts on studies, operators, chat room, though issue of cost needs to be dealt with

The future role of NTWWA will be discussed in the Visioning exercise at the conference and decisions made during the AGM in Iqaluit.

5. Nominations for **three board positions which will become vacant as of AGM:**
Nominations will be accepted from the floor during the AGM, at which time voting will take place. Members will be made aware of these vacancies before the AGM.
6. **Ron Kent stepping down from Executive Director position** – Ron will be presented with a gift, which will be presented by Ken Johnson. Pearl to collect information for Ken's presentation speech and get the gift. Ken will put together a humorous plaque or framed certificate.

Kojo suggested that Ken should take over the ED position on an interim basis until a replacement can be found, but Ken declined this as he doesn't have the resources

to do the role justice. Various suggestions/comments were made re: filling the position, including:

- a) advertise the position to the members and solicit applications
- b) board to fill role of ED until someone is appointed to replace Ron Kent
- c) someone on the board, who lives in YK, fill the position until new ED found
- d) decision re: what to do with position should be decided at AGM- people could submit their names and be elected at AGM
- e) ED does not have to be someone from the board
- f) Pearl to do mailing to members, giving them news of Ron stepping down and soliciting volunteers for position of ED. The decision on filling this position will be made at the AGM and if no one volunteers/is chosen, the board will be the de facto Executive Director.

7. **Honouring Dave Parker**, retiring this year.

Ken Johnson moved, Seconded by Kriss Sarson, that Dave Parker be made an honorary life member of NTWWA and be given a framed certificate. Unanimously carried. Pearl will make up the certificate and Ron Kent will be asked to make the presentation at the conference.

8. **Thanking volunteer Michelle McChristie**, Iqaluit coordinator of this year's conference. Michelle will be thanked at the conference and be nominated to sit on the NTWWA board. As she is expected to give birth in early December, she will be given a gift of a baby shirt embroidered with the NTWWA logo. Pearl to get the gift. Kim will make the presentation at the conference.

9. Other Business

Paul Guy told board that he is leaving his position with GNWT's PWS and moving to Dept of Transportation so he is prepared to step down as VP of NTWWA, though he will stay if no suitable candidate is found to replace him as VP.

10. Adjournment .