Membership Council Minutes

July 19th, 2023

Attendance: Amy Vail, Frank Williams, Zach Hampton, Kyle Tryan, Hillary Caron, Stacey Kukkonen, Michelle Zdrodowski, Maggie Vaulman, Barbara Marczak

National Membership (Vail/Vaulman): No update since ACE. The association is 50,000 members strong. Summer workshop is in full swing. GLWA members have auto renewed.

Membership Challenge (Vail/Williams): Membership challenge remains unchanged, and we are on track to meet our goal. 2024 Membership Summit dates are to be announced in the next 30 days.

Member Engagement (Vail/Williams): New member coffee break was cancelled due to low attendance, which is typical for the summer edition. We will host the volunteer orientation and new member coffee break in the fall.

Diversity Committee (Garcia/Chappell): The DEI committee is hosting the workshop as we are meeting.

YP Committee (Tryan): Bean bag tournament went well with over twenty attendees. The group would like to make this an annual event, potentially benefiting a T.B.D. cause. Arianna Wade from FTC&H will be taking over as YP vice-chair at MI-ACE.

Industry Recruitment (Cox): MWEA outreach group had James Baker of Kalamazoo present on how the city does “Municipal Day” to interact with the local community. Carrie will present in November to the same group on what the WRC does. Hillary has volunteered to be vice-chair of the MWEA outreach group.

Youth Ed (Caron): The group will attend the Macatawa Water Festival on 8/12. Ernie and Buddy will be the volunteers hosting various games, models, posters, and speaking on the urban water cycle. The committee keeps growing and the next goal is to narrow down who the target audience is. At the end of each committee meeting, time permitting, the group has a round table on what various utilities are doing about youth education.

Volunteer Coordinator (Ignace): Hillary has been named YP of the Year and Kyle has been chosen for the Executive Director’s Award. Congrats to both Hillary and Kyle. Please reach out to Hillary or Stacey with any social media requests. New pull up banners with members from the section have arrived. Thank you to Michelle for funding those. The podcast “Talking on Water” is back, and a discussion was had regarding a call to membership at the end of each episode. The Fall UP conference will be in Harris 9/26 and 9/27. Hillary and Amy will attend to represent membership in addition to other commitments to the conference. Water Works News deadline is approaching. Youth Ed will write an article on “Imagine a Day Without Water” and possibly an event recap on the water festival. YP’s will write an article on the cornhole tournament.

Next Meeting: August 16th, 2023