

# Perspective from a Small MA: North Dakota WEA

---

WEFMAX | FARGO, ND | JUNE 3, 2022

# Welcome to North Dakota!

---

**A tornado warning already tonight and light snow is possible by Friday morning. It must be North Dakota**

by: [Tom Schrader](#)

Posted: May 17, 2022 / 09:36 PM CDT

Updated: May 17, 2022 / 09:36 PM CDT

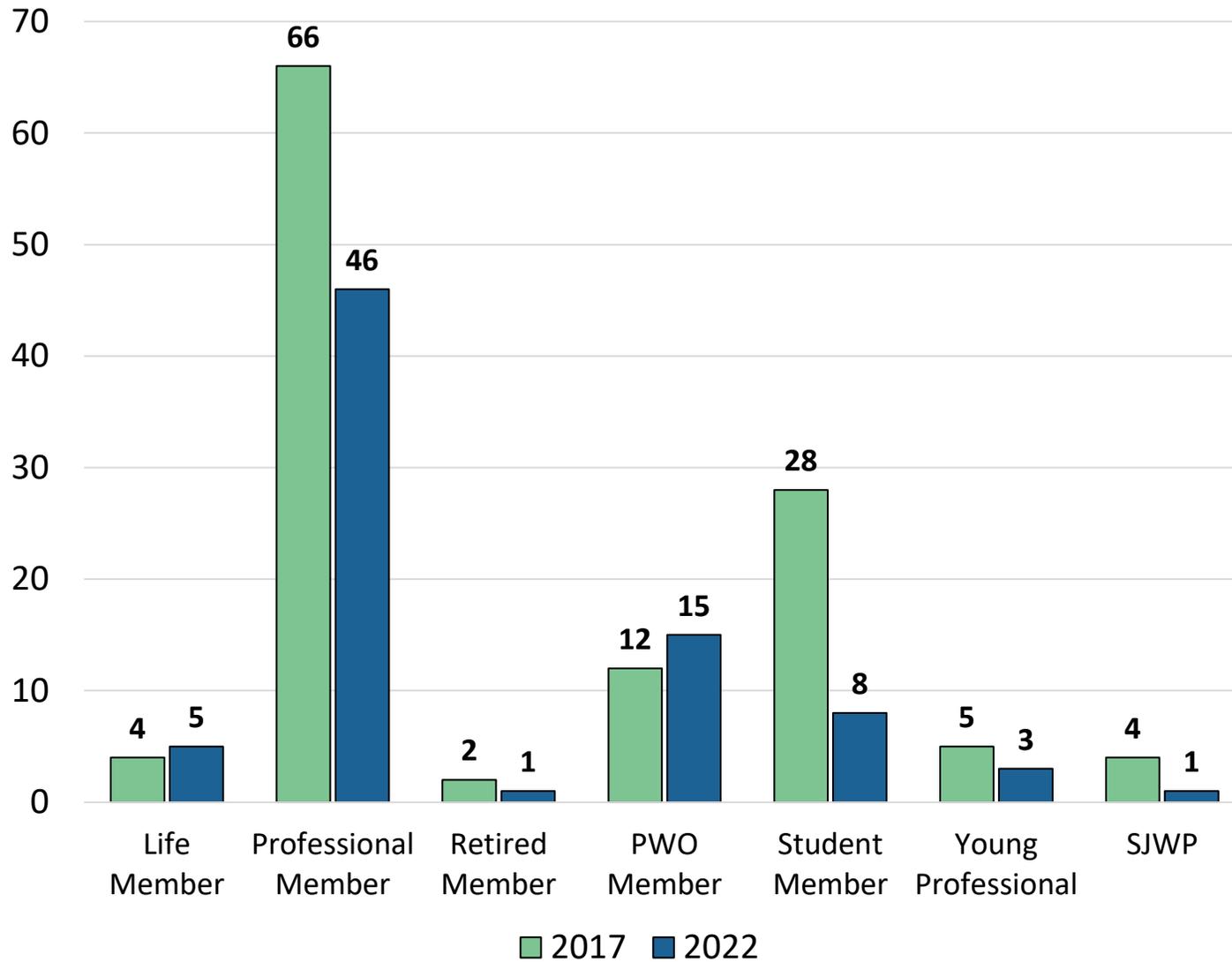
## Rounding Up the Snow from the ND Blizzard of April 2022

NORTH DAKOTA SNOW REPORTS	
GLENBURN	30.5"
MINOT	30.0"
BURLINGTON	26.0"
SHERWOOD	23.0"
DICKINSON	18.4"
BISMARCK	17.5"

BLIZZARD , METEOROLOGY , SNOW , WEATHER  
15 APR 2022, 4:50 PM

2017 – 121 Members

2022 – 79 Members



# Membership

## BY THE NUMBERS

---

# NDWEA – MA Aspects & Challenges

---

- Diversity of Members
- Strategic Planning
- Board Personnel Changes
- Operator Training
  - Spring Training and Annual Conference
- Joint Participation in Annual Conference – Governed by North Dakota Water Pollution and Control (NDWPCC) Board
  - NDWEA
  - AWWA
  - APWA
  - NASECA



# Student Organization

- AWWA and WEF Student Organizations at North Dakota State University (NDSU)
  - Proud Home of Nine (9) FCS Championships over the past 11 years!
- Over the last decade, student membership ranged from 20 – 30 members
- Membership fees are subsidized by local MA
  - \$5 to join WEF & \$5 to join AWWA
- **Success of the Student Chapter hinges on strong faculty leadership (and free pizza)**

**AWWA/WEF  
December Meeting**

**FREE PIZZA!**

**WHEN: DECEMBER 3, 2014 → 6:30 PM**  
**WHERE: CIE 205**

**PRESENTER: MICHAEL QUAMME**  
**TOPIC: COMBINED NUTRIENT, ODOR, AND CORROSION CONTROL**

 American Water Works Association

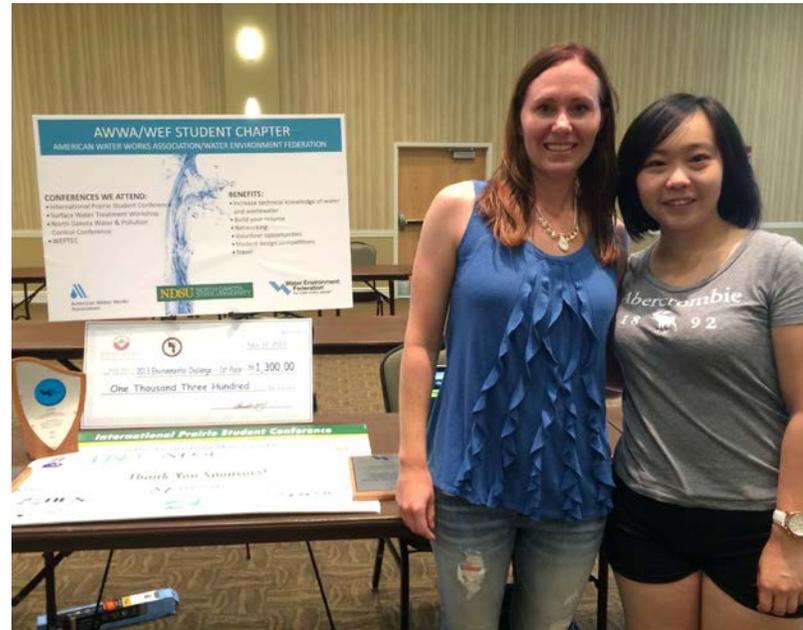
 Water Environment Federation  
Preserving & Enhancing the Global Water Environment

# Strong Faculty Leadership and MA Support

- The Student AWWA/WEF Chapter has historically relied on **strong faculty leadership** and **support from NDWEA**, including Consultants, State Regulators, and Utility staff.
- Monthly guest speaker presentations to discuss real-world projects, issues, and opportunities
- Leadership supported student volunteer opportunities, poster and design competitions, career opportunities, sponsored events, etc.



# Student Chapter Opportunities + Successes



# NDWEA Goals Moving Forward

---

- Put Strategic Plan into Action
- Support and Enhance Ongoing Training and Continuing Education
- Add Interim Meetings to Accomplish Specific Strategic Planning Items
- Re-engagement with Student Chapters
- Increase Membership

# WEFMAX Sponsors

---

## NORTH DAKOTA NICE



ENGINEERING, REIMAGINED



## WOODCHIPPER SUPPLIES





# Thank You!

---

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR  
TIME IN FARGO, ND - COME  
BACK ANYTIME!



# New Conference Attendee Orientation

MWEA – DE&I Committee  
17<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meeting 2022





# Agenda

- Background
- Goals and Objectives
- Conference Presentation

# BACKGROUND

- During MWEA's 2021 annual 5S meeting, the idea of a new conference attendee orientation was born
- Our newly formed DE&I committee felt this was a great opportunity to engage new attendees and promote stewardship
- Program planning began for the March 2022 Joint Annual Meeting engaging both MWEA and AWWA
- A successful new conference attendee orientation was implemented!

## JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

March 27 – 30, 2022  
Tan-Tar-A/Margaritaville Lake Resort  
Osage Beach, Missouri



&





# Goals & Objectives

- Establish Conference Ambassadors for both MWEA and AWWA
- Provide two introduction sessions to new conference attendees at the annual conference
- Implement Orientation



# Conference Presentation

# MWEA

- President – Rebecca Coyle



- President-Elect – Amanda Johnson



- Website for Current Officers  
<https://mwea.org/board.php>

- Our Mission

- Dedicated to protecting and improving Missouri's water environment. The Missouri Water Environment is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of water quality and water resources, and the relationship of these resources to the total environment. The Association advances the information, increases public understanding and promotes sound policy. MWEA strives to be Missouri's premier organization for water resources.
- Diversity & Inclusion Statement <https://mwea.org/about.php>



# MO-AWWA

- Chair – Mike Klender



- Chair-Elect – Jenny Doyle



- Website for Current Officers
  - <https://awwa-mo.org/about/board.html>
- Mission
  - The Missouri Section of the American Water Works Association (MO-AWWA) is dedicated to the promotion of public health and welfare by assuring drinking water of unquestionable quality and sufficient quantity. AWWA, as a leader for the public drinking water profession, works to advance the technology, science, and governmental policies relative to the public drinking water profession's role in stewardship of water resources. The Section takes an active role in working with regulatory and legislative bodies to advocate public policy consistent with achieving these goals.
- Strategic Plan - <https://awwa-mo.org/about/about-mo-awwa.html>



**Missouri**  
**Section**

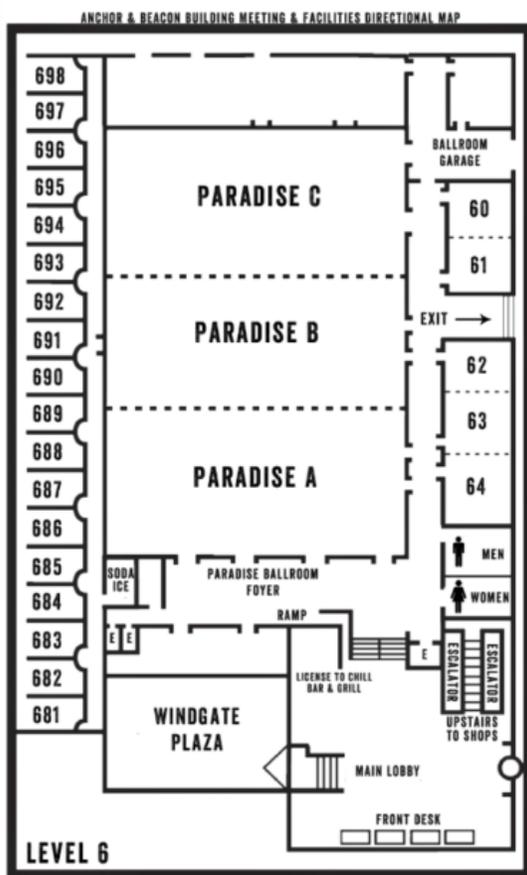
American Water Works Association

# Conference Resources

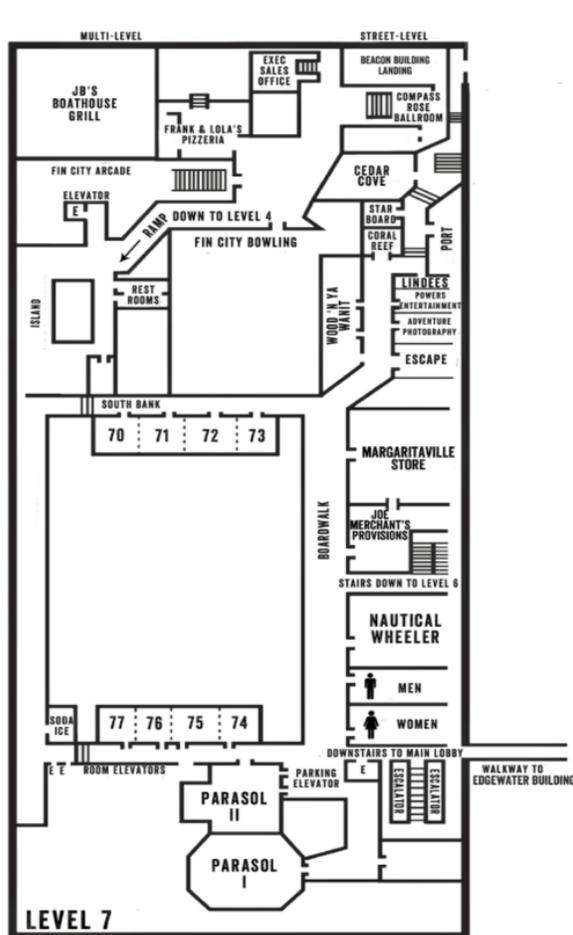
---

- Conference booklet
  - One page map
- Conference App (Cvent)
- Look Around
  - Golden shovel
  - DEI Pins
  - Committee Ribbons
- Registration desk
- Ask your Conference Ambassador!





Beacon Building Meeting Rooms



LEVEL 7



# Hotel/Facility Map

# What's WFP?

- “Charity of Choice”
- Water for Everyone, Everywhere
- Currently active in 9 countries where the focus truly is to reach everyone and develop sustainable infrastructure, so the communities are not reliant on NGOs in the future.
- All fundraising efforts during JAM are for WFP.



water for people  
EVERYONE • FOREVER



Get Involved!!

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED AT THE CONFERENCE

- Sunday Golf and Workshops
- Sunday Young Professional (YP) and Plant Operator (PO) social in Parasol rooms.
- Monday Keynote speaker at Breakfast and hear from national leaders.
- Exhibitor Hall
- Monday WFP Social
- Tuesday Banquet and Entertainment
- WFP Silent Auctions



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED AFTER THE CONFERENCE

- Join MWEA / MO-AWWA
- Read the newsletter (online or mailed if you're a member)
  - Write an article!
- Join a committee
- Follow us on social media
- Attend events
  - Fall Technical Conference (MWEA)
  - Plant Tours
  - Workshops
- Nominate someone for an award

Check out our websites!

[mwea.org](http://mwea.org)

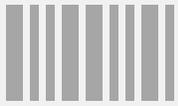
[awwa-mo.org](http://awwa-mo.org)



**Missouri  
Section**  
American Water Works Association



PDH credits – use scanners



CEU / Operator credit – sign form  
at registration desk



Meal tickets – use scanners

How to get  
credit for your  
Continuing  
Education

# Staying Involved- Something for Everyone

## MWEA Committees

- Audit
- Biosolids Management
- Collection System
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Education
- Government Affairs
- Historian
- Industrial Wastewater
- Laboratory Practices
- Local Arrangements
- Newsletter
- Nominating
- Plant Managers
- Plant Operators
- Program
- Public Relations
- Registration
- Safety, Security & Occupational Health
- Small Flows
- SSSSS
- Stormwater & Watershed Management
- Student Activities
- Tellers
- Water for People
- Website
- Young Professionals

## Mo-AWWA Committees

- Annual Conference Management
- Audit
- Awards
- Budget
- Bylaws & Procedures
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Drinking Water Week
- Education
- Exhibits
- Fuller Award
- J. Robert Popalisky Scholarship
- Landmarks
- Magazine
- Manufacturers / Associates Council
- Membership Engagement
- Nominating
- Nominations (Association)
- Philanthropy
- Public Information
- Registration
- Research
- Retired Members
- Safety / Emergency Planning
- Site Selection
- Small Systems
- Strategic Planning
- Student Activities
- Sustainability Initiatives Coordination
- Technical Program
- Water Industry Coordination Council
- Water Utility Council
- Webmaster
- Young Professionals

Tag Us on  
Social  
Media!!  
#JAM2022



# Conference Ambassador Introductions

Where do you work?

What do you do?

How long have you been involved with MWEA/Mo-AWWA?

What roles have you held within MWEA/Mo-AWWA?

What do you love about the organizations or how has it enhanced your career?

Find your  
Conference  
Ambassador!



# Ice Breakers and Conference Questions

What is your favorite hobby?

Favorite sporting team

College Alma Mater

How long have you been in the industry?

What is your goal for attending the conference?

What presentations are you going to attend?

What committees are you interested in?



**FARGO WEFMAX**

**June 1-3, 2022**

# **COVID – What has Stuck Around OWEA Besides the Virus**

Presenter: Elizabeth Wick, OWEA WEF DELEGATE



# OWEA Background

- Founded in 1926
- Over 2,000 members
- Divided into four sections, each with their own governing structure
- Office based in Columbus, Ohio with 3 F/T staff
- In 2021 more than 92 contact hours were offered for operators between the state and sections



# OWEA Background - Conference

- Currently OWEA has a joint conference with OAWWA - One Water
  - 2014
  - 2018
  - 2021
  - 2022 and beyond
- In 2020, OWEA was scheduled to have their own conference and due to COVID-19 it was cancelled with very few financial repercussions



# OWEA Background - PPP

- OWEA received two rounds of Paycheck Protection Program funding.
- This funding aided in covering staff salaries.
- Both rounds of funding were fully forgiven.



# Summary of COVID Changes

- Cancelling/Delay of in person classes
  - Ohio was shut down concerning meetings for part of 2020 and various infection control protocol was implemented by venues per state/local orders.
- Addition of online learning options
  - Ohio has some of the stricter EPA contact hours rules.
  - Go To Webinar is what is used for “live” webinars and requires a polling element and attendance tracking.
- In 2021, the One Water conference was in person and had an online presence
  - Conference Tracker is used for “on demand” conference.
- Online meetings – ZOOM has become our standard vs. conference calls



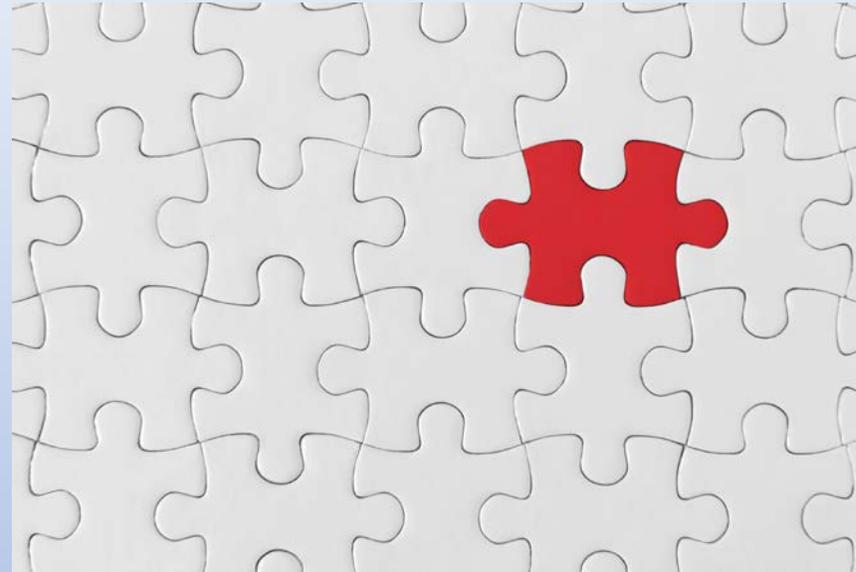
# Evaluation of Changes

- Virtual
  - After trial and error, we settled on that no event or meeting will last more than 2.5 hours.
  - This meant EC meetings needed modified.
  - We became very strategic in what was offered virtually from a CHs standpoint.
  - Virtual content isn't the same as in person.



# What “Stuck”

- Flexibility
- Online Learning
- Communication
- Partnerships
- Financial
- Contract Review



# Flexibility



- Our staff and Executive Committee became very comfortable with the unknown.
- We all learned to pivot.
- We learned to trust each other more.
- We discovered it's okay to modify things while they are in motion.

# Online Learning

- OWEA is now in it's second year of monthly webinars with plans to continue.
- These are offered at a very low cost (\$15 each for members).
- We also offered package options which were appealing to municipalities.
  - Bulk discount
  - 6 month
  - 12 month
- Great opportunity to engage sponsors as presenters.
- Profitable
- Makes OWEA more competitive



# Communication

- No full EC discussion is done via conference call any longer. Zoom is now used for a better and more productive experience.
- We have had positive feedback from volunteers and EC members on moving shorter meetings to a virtual option and eliminating travel time.
- We continue to communicate with attendees as needed. We provide COVID protocols as requested.



# Partnerships

- Due to COVID OWEA developed much stronger partnerships.
  - Ohio EPA
    - The Ohio EPA leaned on OWEA for communications to members and for information.
    - OWEA also surveyed members at OEPA's request.
  - Governor's Office
    - Worked together on COVID surveillance.
  - OAWWA
    - Shared best practices on virtual learning.
  - Vendors
    - Business is given to those who worked with us.



# Financial

- COVID made the need for a large reserve VERY OBVIOUS.
  - This resulted in hard conversations and decisions concerning the budget.
- For the first time in recent history the budget team produced a balanced budget for 2022.



# Contract Review

- While we have always carefully reviewed contracts, we now require a COVID clause that allows for a transfer of deposits and liabilities to a future date
- A long standing partnership with a conference center that was used for workshops was ended due to lack of flexibility concerning COVID rescheduling



# Summary

- COVID created many challenges for MAs, but also opportunities.
- We are much better prepared when there is another COVID like event
- OWEA is actually in a better place financially than Pre-COVID.



