

# MLICA General Membership Meeting

## Cedar Creek Resort - Columbia, MO

### July 28, 2018

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Lawlor at 11:40 am.

#### WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Tom Lawlor welcomed everyone to the 2018 Summer Meeting. He recognized and congratulated Chris Brauer as the new Region IV Vice President.

#### ROLL CALL

District #1	4	District #4	0
District #2	4	District #5	4
District #3	0	District #6	0

Chairman of the Board: Mont Gilbert - present  
President: Tom Lawlor - present  
Vice President: Rob Liles - present  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jake Gingerich - present  
Ladies Auxiliary President: Susan Liles - present  
Associates Chairman: Vacant  
Executive Director: Deb Dickens - present

#### MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Mont Gilbert and seconded by Chris Brauer to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2017 Membership Meeting. The motion carried.

#### NATIONAL REPORT - Chris Brauer, Region IV Vice President

Chris reported that the National LICA Summer Meeting, which was held in Grand Rapids earlier in the month, was a great success. The tours and classes were very good. As of June 30, National LICA's contractor membership was 2,692, with Region IV's contractor membership being 1,192. Chris also updated the membership on the reasons behind a possible dues increase being proposed by National LICA. Jerry Biuso, National LICA CEO, and John Peterson, National LICA Governmental Liaison, are getting ready to retire and it is expected that their replacements will cost more than the current contracts. It is also possible that Jerry Biuso will continue in his role as CEO, but National may hire someone to handle the travel aspects of the position.

Chris also described the introduction of a new health benefit. This benefit will be launched this fall and a representative will be on hand at our Winter Convention to review the details for our members.

Chris said he is looking forward to visiting the Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota LICA activities during his term and thanked our members for supporting him as Region IV Vice President.

#### PRESIDENT REPORT

Tom Lawlor reported the following, as of July 2:

Two weeks after the February National LICA Winter Convention, a cross-section of Missouri LICA members met in Columbia, MO for a two-day strategic planning session. Amber Bosma, with Prins Insurance, was our talented moderator for the event and, with her guidance, we were able to develop specific goals for the next three to five years.

Increasing the number of formats we use to distribute information to our members was a key point of the strategic plan. To that end, we have established a presence on Facebook with the help of Mariah Lance, one of our member's daughters; used electronic and printed formats to distribute "Save-the-Date" messages; and are wrapping up the design work for a rack card to be used by our Associates and contractors when approaching a prospective member.

Another component of the Strategic Plan was the need to not only continue signing up new members, but make a concerted effort to retain current members. Since February, we have signed up one new supporting member, nine new contractor members and renewed another six contractor members.

To develop a strong educational component, we surveyed our contractor members in order to determine when and where they wanted the training, as well as the topics they'd like to see covered. We are currently planning 13 education sessions across the state scheduled for this fall and next spring. The topics include Competent Person, 1st Aid/AED/CPR, and 10-Hour OSHA training, as well as courses on better business practices and employment law. We're working with United Fire Group to develop a prospect list which we will use to invite non-members to these training sessions.

On May 11, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the appointment of Richard Fordyce to serve as Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). Richard is a contractor member of Missouri LICA and previously served as Director of Missouri's Department of Agriculture. We are also very fortunate to have another Missouri LICA contractor, Jeff Lance, serving as one of only six commissioners on the Soil and Water Commission, which oversees our state cost-share program.

In 2017, Missouri LICA partnered with the University of Missouri's Greenley Research Center and the NRCS to install the first phase of one of the country's only "Holistic, Conservation-Based Farm Management" projects. We are currently putting the finishing touches on a video which documents that first phase. The plan is to finish the project in July, 2019 with the installation of a 13-acre retention, recycling pond. We applied for a USDA-NRCS EQIP grant and just recently learned that we won that award. We will be setting the exact dates for the Conservation Showcase during our 2018 Summer Membership Meeting and then begin working with our contractors and Associates to make it happen.

In addition, we are waiting word on whether or not Greenley Research Center has been awarded a grant to host another Drainage Workshop in the spring of 2019. Greenley Research Center and NRCS will, once again, partner with Missouri LICA to host this workshop.

Our 5th Annual Golf Outing and Fun-Raiser will be held at the Cameron Veteran's Memorial Golf Club on Friday, September 14. Last year's Golf Outing and Fun-Raiser raised over \$1,800 for our LICA Memorial Scholarship Fund.

On December 5 & 6, Missouri LICA will be a Platinum Sponsor for the 2018 Damage Prevention which will be held in Springfield, MO. During this event, we will, for the 7th year, host the Equipment Rodeo. This is the largest Damage Prevention Summit held in the country, with over 1,600 participants annually.

Our 2019 Winter Convention will take place January 17-19, 2019 at the Inn at Grand Glaize in Ozark, MO. During that Convention, we're planning on hosting a "Benefit Fair" to give our members the chance to learn about their benefit package and, hopefully, increase the use of those benefits.

We are continuing our work with the Missouri Department of Transportation to establish a blanket over-weight permit for our Land Improvement Contractor license tag. MoDOT has been designing a new permitting system for the last five years and, although the pace to finish the program's development and required testing seems to be exceptionally slow, we've been assured by MoDOT that it is still planning on developing the blanket over-weight permit for our Land Improvement Contractor tag.

## **TREASURER/SECRETARY REPORT**

Jake Gingerich reviewed the financial statements for FY 2017-18 and the membership report. A motion was made by Chris Brauer and seconded by Mont Gilbert to accept the Secretary/Treasurer's report. The motion carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Budget/By-Laws Committee:** The committee did not meet. No report.

**Convention/Education:** Plans for the Winter Convention and fall/spring educational courses were discussed. It is hoped that a final agenda will be ready for the October Board Meeting.

**Field Day:** Dam Sub-Committee Chair Jeff Lance reported on the current status of the field day and grant application. In order to keep track of our members' in-kind contributions, the Executive Director will design a form and distribute it to Jeff. The membership selected the dates of July 19, 2019 through July 26, 2019 as the dates for the field day. Jeff Lance, Charles Krumpelman and Jim Bledsoe will review the proposed MOU with the University to make sure we can sign it before the field day takes place.

It was suggested that a Safety Committee be established to coordinate safety standards, training, and personal protection items during the field day.

**Government Relations:** Co-Chair Jeff Lance reported that DNR and NRCS have been addressing the severe drought conditions in the state with a variety of programs and that we can expect to see more, unless the weather changes. Jeff also reported that during FY18, the state cost-share program spent \$41 million on practices which impact our membership, the largest amount of cost-share dollars applied since the program's inception. DNR will be asking for additional funds for FY19. In addition, Jeff reported that DNR has hired two more engineers to help with the backlog of projects. They also are continuing work on the development of a stream bank stabilization program.

MoDOT continues its work on establishing a blanket over-weight permit for the LIC license tag. They are expected to upload their new computer system this weekend, after which they will need to "work out the bugs" and then get started on testing the site for the permit. The passage of new law regarding the transportation of cranes and over-weight permits should help speed up the process for the LIC blanket over-weight permit.

**Legislation:** Neither Co-Chairs were present, so no report was given.

**Membership:** The committee did not meet. No report was given.

A motion was made by Mont Gilbert and seconded by Ken Balkenbusch to accept the committee reports. The motion passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

- A. **2019 Drainage Workshop** - The Executive Director reported that Greenley Research Center did not get the grant for the Drainage Workshop. Dr. Kelly Nelson asked that LICA concentrate its efforts on the 2019 Field Day for now. He will apply for any grants available for a 2020 Drainage Workshop.
- B. **Blanket Over-Weight Permit Progress** - See the Government Relations Committee Report.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. **New Contractor Benefit** - The Executive Director reported that a new health benefit was proposed at the National LICA Summer Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. This benefit is expected to be rolled out in the next few months and a representative of the company will be on hand at our 2019 Winter Convention to explain the benefit and answer questions.
- B. **Drainage History Book** - National LICA is producing a book on the history of drainage and LICA's role in its development. The publication will be available in two formats, a perfect-bound booklet and a full leather-bound book. Individual contractors, Associates, and State Chapters are being encouraged to become sponsors of this effort. A motion was made by Jake Gingerich and seconded by Mont Gilbert for Missouri LICA to become a Bronze Sponsor by donating \$1,000 to the project. The motion carried.
- C. **2018 Damage Prevention Summit Support** - The 2018 Damage Prevention Summit will be held in Springfield, MO on December 4 & 5 and Missouri LICA will be a Platinum Sponsor. Larry LaFollette has agreed to coordinate

Missouri LICA's Equipment Rodeo. Ken Balkenbusch will contact Larry LaFollette about developing new rodeo games for the Summit. Attendees were asked to help with the Summit set-up, manning the LICA booth, judging the Rodeo, and tearing down the Summit.

- D. **2019 Educational Workshops** - After the 2018 Strategic Planning Session, the contractor membership was surveyed about what month, day of the week, and time of day they would like to have the Educational Workshops presented, as well as a list of proposed topics. This information was reviewed with each District President and the State Office is in the process of establishing these workshops for each District.
- E. **2019 Field Day** - See the Field Day Committee Report.
- F. **New LICA Banners** - National LICA has provided Missouri LICA with four promotional banners to use whenever we host a booth. These banners were on display during this Summer Meeting.
- G. **Website Security, Blog, Membership Directory** - The Executive Director reported on the progress made to date regarding establishing a new format for the membership directory listing, as well as a blog for contractor-to-contractor support on the website. In addition, the security of the "Members Only" site was discussed. A motion was made by Mont Gilbert and seconded by Scott Whalen to use the membership number as the security password for the MLICA Web Site's "Members' Only" pages. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Dickens  
Executive Director