



The EffluentLine

Volume 51 | Number 3

Highlights

Presidents Letter, Pg. 3

Federation Director's Report, Pg. 4

Fall Conference, Pg. 10



23rd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing held at the Iron Horse Golf Course on Monday, August 17, 2020



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Conference Dates 2020	
Fall Conference	November 4-6

Board Meetings Dates 2020
TBA

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Submit news articles, organization-related correspondence, or letters to the Effluent Line:

Marc Rosso (mrosso@lincoln.ne.gov) or **Jim Mahony** (jmahony@HobasPipe.com)

The Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) is a member association of the Water Environment Federation, a not-for-profit technical and educational organization that was founded in 1928. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the global water environment. Federation members are 41,000 water quality specialists from around the world, including environmental, civil and chemical engineers, biologists, government officials, treatment plant managers and operators, laboratory technicians, college professors, students, and equipment manufacturers and distributors.



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Letter from the President

Dear NWEA Members,

It has been a challenging year to say the least. Given the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic we are still watching and waiting guidance from local and state entities. Due to this situation the NWEA has had to cancel numerous events, conferences and trainings. I want to assure you that these decisions are incredibly difficult from many perspectives. I am grateful to all of the committees and volunteers as I am sure they would have put together tremendous events as always. I also would like to thank all of the sponsors and exhibitors for these events as they provide a great service to the NWEA.

I want to assure you that NWEA remains committed to creating new and innovative ways for wastewater and water professionals to obtain the networking and training needed to keep up in this ever-changing field. We are currently still assessing ways to bring training and other association activities to our members in a virtual format. As you all know, the NWOD Heartland and Annual conferences have been canceled due to the directives put in place in response to this pandemic. Currently, there are plans to hold the Annual conference virtually so please watch for more information on this event as it gets closer. Still, as I have said in my last letter to all of you if there is a need for training CEU's; the WEF website is a great resource to fulfill this need in an online format. We are still currently working on other avenues similar to this to provide the training necessary for our members. Please give us time to sort out unknowns as the situation seems to change on a frequent basis.

Lastly I would like to thank our members for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president this year. As this will be the last time I write to all of you in this capacity. I would like to thank Lucas Billesbach and the planning committee for going above and beyond to provide the annual conference in a virtual setting. This is something that is important to our members and our board to ensure that the NWEA can still provide a level of service to our professionals and community during these unprecedented times. We still do not know what the new normal will look like moving forward and our members and volunteers are doing everything they can to ensure the goals of our organization are accomplished; while keeping our members safe and

healthy. Time and time again I have seen the no nonsense grind it out and get it done work ethic that all Nebraskans have. In devastating floods that affected us or people we know or tornado outbreaks that ripped across our State we have prevailed. With this same attitude and work ethic we will all get through this pandemic as well. Thank you all again for your support, friendship, and the privilege to serve as your president.

Stay safe and healthy.

DAVID SYKORA
President




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Federation Director's Report

The COVID virus continues to not only affect our local area, but has also continued to affect how we complete work at the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

On July 23, the House of Delegates (HOD) completed another video meeting via Zoom. This meeting provided updates on a number of groups that are working on a variety of items. It is amazing how much you can cram into a 2-hour meeting. Below is a summary of the reports and other items from the meeting.

Jackie Jarrell, current WEF President, welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an update of several items that are occurring at the WEF level. Here are some of the key items:

- WEF has develop a Blue Ribbon Panel to address Biological Hazards and Wastewater Worker Safety. This panel of wastewater and public health experts has determined that the occupational risk of COVID-19 infection for wastewater workers is low. The panel also found that standard wastewater treatment processes

inactivate the virus, and additional research should be conducted to further increase understanding of hazards and protections for personnel. The complete report is available at WEF.org.

- WEF in association with Xylem has hired Dr. Andrew Sanderson, MD, MPH as Chief Medical Officer to Protect Health and Safety of Wastewater Workforce. Dr. Sanderson, of Howard University, will guide and assist WEF in providing reliable medical information to wastewater utility managers and workers, as well as conduct research and serve as a spokesperson on medical issues for the sector. The CMO position was created in a collaboration between WEF and global water technology company Xylem, which has provided foundational funding.

Nikita Lingenfelter, Speaker-elect of the House of Delegates updated the HOD on the work being completed by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task force.

Federation Director's Report (Cont.)

- Through this Task Force, WEF has requested proposals for a Diversity Equality and Inclusion (DE&I) consultant. The Board wants to make sure DE&I is addressed at all levels with WEF. The goal is to have a consultant selected in August. The Board has also developed a sub-committee to address this.

Lynn Broadas, President-elect of WEF updated the HOD on the Corona Virus Relief program for Membership Associations.

- WEF has developed a COVID Relief Program for Membership Associations (MA) (like the Nebraska Water Environment Association) to provide funds to assist MA to address financial issues. There are a number of MA's that may be applying for funds to keep their organization going.

Jenny Hartfelder, Vice Chair of the WEF bylaws subcommittee provided an update on the current Bylaw changes.

- The proposed bylaw changes have been approved by the membership. This is great news. The changes allow the Bylaws to be:

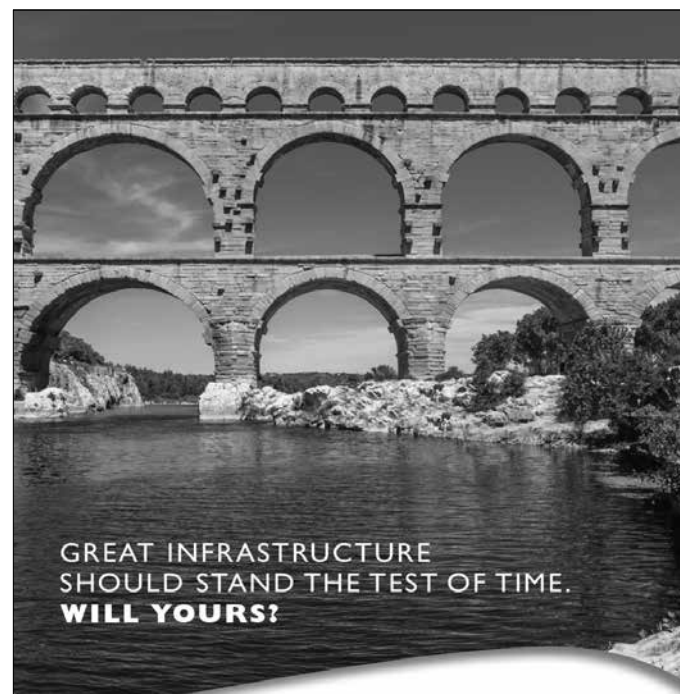
- More nimble and flexible
- Allow for more a modernized approach, including electronic voting and teleconferences.
- The new changes may affect the MA's bylaws to they have a developed a committee to review current MAs bylaws.

An update was then provided by WEF regarding WEFTEC Connect. As you are aware the annual WEFTEC event will be virtual this year. This new format is bring some exciting changes and challenges.

The meeting was then directed to providing updates from the various HOD Workgroups. Here is a summary.

Public Education/Brave Blue World (BBW) –

Work is moving forward with MAs to hold at least one screening of the movie to an external audience. This has been hampered with the virus but is moving forward slowly. Scott Aurit is helping lead this workgroup.



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Federation Director's Report (Cont.)

Side Note - A committee within NWEA has been formed to organize local screenings. There will be more information coming out shortly regarding the screenings in Nebraska.

NGICP/IGICP Stormwater

This workgroup was set up to assist the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP) with a marketing program and to seek out a list of prospective people to receive information about the program. Work continues to move forward on this.

Water Utility Workforce of the Future

The workgroup has two project teams. Team 1 worked to get a survey completed by the MAs to show the current programs they have for Workforce Development. The survey includes what works and what doesn't along with ways WEF can assist. The survey work has been completed. The team is working to is now working to compile results along with providing common themes. I am currently serving on Team 1 in the workgroup.

Team 2 is taking this information and developing ways (power point and articles) to promote the industry as a career. This information will then be distrusted back to the MAs.

The standing Committee Reports were then completed.

Nominating Committee

The work for this committee is in high gear. The group has provided information outlining what committee positions are available for the next year along with developing Frequently Asked Questions document about the nominating process. The application process has just closed and they are working on recommendations for the upcoming year.

WEFMAX Committee

An update was provided regarding the 3 virtual meetings that occurred in May and June. Overall the attendance at these events was up. The 2021 WEFMAX meetings are planned for:

- WEA of Utah in Springdale UT, April 7 – 9
- Pennsylvania WEA in Pittsburgh PA, April 21 – 23
- Pacific Northwest CWA in Boise ID May 5 – 7

- Atlantic Canada WWA in Charlottetown, PE, May 26 – 28

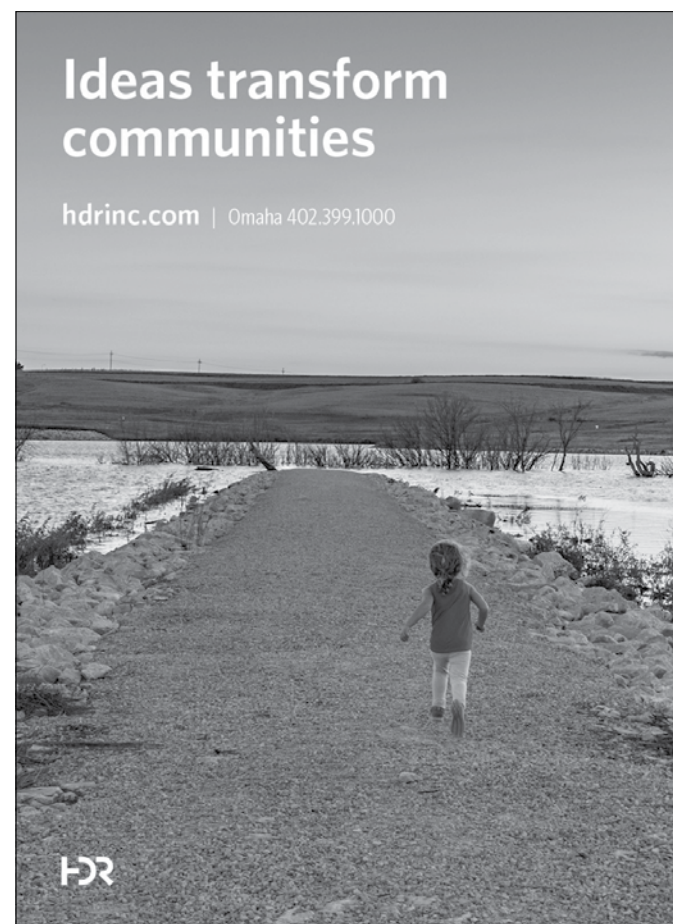
As previously noted, the host of the 2020 canceled WEFMAXs have been asked if they want to go in 2022 and the majority will be hosting in 2022. The planned Nebraska WEFMAX is now scheduled for 2024. I am currently serving as the Vice Chair for this committee.

Budget Committee

No significant changes to report. As previously noted, the second round of grants this year have been postponed due to concerns about the WEF Budget.

Outreach Committee

Work continues on this committee to communicate HOD activities, progress and work products to the MAs. The committee continues to work on the development of WEFCOM Overview Webinar, evaluating video conference platforms for WEF meetings and evaluating document



Federation Director's Report (Cont.)

sharing systems. The group is also working on HOD nomination guidance and training document and a WEF career support / skills development graphic. Scott Aurit is serving on this committee.

After the committee reports, Nikita Lingenfelter, Speaker-elect of the House of Delegates provided a preview of the proposed HOD Workgroups for 2021. The proposed workgroups include:

- Diversity Equity and Inclusion (New)
- Public Education / Brave Blue Work (Continued)
- Financial Diversification for MAs (New)
- Federal Advocacy (New)
- Conference Resources (New)

The meeting ended with a discussion on some of the work being completed around the nation at Wastewater Treatment Facilities associated with COVID Testing on the influent to the facilities.

As you can see there is still a lot of activities that continue to move forward at WEF. The current COVID issues have slowed some of the areas, but everyone is pushing forward. The change to a virtual WEFMAX (WEFMAX Connect) will be a large change but should allow for more participation due to lower cost and no travel being required. I am looking forward to new delivery method.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent the NWEA in the HOD and am looking forward to the outcomes of the work completed by the Workgroups and Committees. As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

MIKE MILIUS

NWEA Delegate

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Editor's Column

COVID19 2020.

A socially distant dumpster fire of a year so far. Lincoln high schools can play football but the Huskers cannot. Protesters and riots/looting. Working from home. Gambling on the ballot. If you happen to go back to the future do not plug 2020 into the transport vehicle. It has been weird. There have been some good things like moving a lot of paper processes to digital in a real hurry because we had to. Saving some trees and cutting some needs for paper storage files. Marc's diet is much better since he eats at home.

Put a note on your calendars for November 4 to November 6, 2020 and plan to attend the virtual Fall Conference from the comfort of your office, pickup, tree stand or home. What usually is planned by one person has been planned by many NWEA members. This joint NWEA/AWWA/APWA event continues to grow and offers great content, training, and fun activities.

Outgoing President Dave Sykora has done excellent work and we thank him for his efforts as President. Dave made significant contributions to NWEA and probably the top of them was leading the NWEA through this COVID19 pandemic conference planning. Incoming President Lucas Billesbach has been working on the Fall Conference setup so thank him when you see him. Ask him about his social distance. We look forward to his input for the upcoming Effluent Line editions.

See you in Kearney!

Respectfully,

MARC ROSSO AND JIM MAHONY

Publications Co-Chairs

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Fall Conference Agenda

The NEBRASKA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION, NEBRASKA AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION and NEBRASKA AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION invites you to sign up for our Fall 2020 Virtual JOINT CONFERENCE scheduled from November 4th to 6th, 2020. The conference will be held virtually on all three days with concurrent sessions from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Participants will receive continuing education credits or professional development hours. Detailed agenda/schedule will be sent out in a few days. Some schedule details below:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Opening General Session
10:00 AM to 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM to Noon	APWA/AWWA/NWEA – concurrent sessions (3 presentations each)
Noon to 1:00 PM	APWA Lunch/Awards
5:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Zoom happy hour and Social Event

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	APWA/AWWA/NWEA – concurrent sessions (2 presentations each)
10:00 AM to 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM to Noon	APWA/AWWA/NWEA – concurrent sessions (3 presentations each)
Noon to 1:00 PM	NWEA Lunch/Awards

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	AWWA/NWEA – concurrent sessions (2 presentations each)
10:00 AM to 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM to Noon	AWWA/NWEA – concurrent sessions (3 presentations each)
Noon to 1:00 PM	AWWA Lunch/Awards

Additional Details

- All presentations will be 30 min duration
- Details on the virtual platform being used for the conference will be available soon
- Cost of the conference - \$75 (for all presentations/sessions)

- All presentations will be live. Registrants will have the opportunity to view the recordings later
- Up to 20 hours of programming and 34 presentations
- Conference Sponsorships/Vendor commercials are Available – Sponsorships details are being finalized and will be available soon



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Brave Blue World Film Event

The Nebraska Water Environment Association and Water Environment Federation will be hosting a screening of the film “Brave Blue World,” through a virtual platform September 28th, 2020 from 6-8 pm. This documentary details the importance of the journey towards innovating and pioneering technologies for the future of water and sanitation, and reveals optimism for the future of our most precious resource. As part of the screening, we will have a panelist of local and national speakers including Dr. Eileen O’Neill, Former Executive Director of WEF, and three reclaimed industry professionals to detail and answer questions about ways in which we are facing these challenges and taking steps towards the future nationally, and locally in Nebraska.

There will be no costs for the event; however, RSVPs are requested through the NWEA website at www.nebwea.org. The NDEE has also authorized 2.0 WW continuing education hours for attending this event.

www.wef.org/resources/for-the-public/brave-blue-world/

If you have any questions pertaining to this event, please contact: Kylie Wilmes, Lucas Billesbach, George Hunt, Edie Spencer, Scott Aurit, and members of the NWEA Student Chapters: Matt Thompson, Katie Brodersen, and Sussan Moussavi.



Special MA Registration Rate

WEF is offering the \$299 Super Saver WEFTEC Connect registration rate, without time restrictions, to MA Leaders! This special rate gives you full access to WEFTEC Connect. MA Leaders can register with this special offer now. **Last day to save is October 9, 2020.**

The following members qualify:

- House of Delegates
- MA Presidents/ President-Elects

- MA Secretaries/ Treasurers
- MA Professional Staff (Executive Director or equivalent role)
- Program Committee

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23rd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

Monday, August 17, 2020 Iron Horse Golf

The golf outing was a little different this year, but just being able to see good friends again and spend some quality time together was a welcome change to what has been a challenging 2020. This was the first NWEA event since the Snowball Conference in January. Thanks to all of you that participated this year, Daryl Kottwitz (photography), Kathleen Alexander, Brian Kuta and the Iron Horse staff and last but not least, Scott Bundy!

We had a few less teams this year but still had a good time and we had beautiful day to play! We missed having UNL students at the event and the elimination of the Split the Pot money hole also the Double Your Money hole. We also eliminated the flag prizes and went with a tee time approach versus a shotgun start to minimize the larger gatherings.

Thank you to The “Big Hitters” that contributed this year:

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Congratulations to the teams that won in each flight.



First flight, 1st place team: Blake Miller, Tom Miller, Taylor Musselman, Keith Kontor (Electric Pump)

Also thank you to those of you that donated prizes for the raffles!

After all expenses were paid, a total of \$1,313.52 was donated to the NWEA Scholarship fund. With the money holes eliminated and a few less teams this year, just holding the event was a success.

Last but not least, thank you to Scott Bundy and Kathleen Alexander for helping coordinate and execute this event. I appreciate it so much!

Thank you again to all who participated and I hope to see you in a non-pandemic world in 2021!

SCOTT AURIT

More Annual Scholarship Golf Outing photos can be found here: daryl.kottwitzphoto.smugmug.com/Events/NWEA-Scholarship-Golf-Outing-2020/



First flight, 2nd place team: Amit Shrivastava, Tim Papstein, Adam Wilmes, Scott Aurit (HDR)

23rd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing (Cont.)



Second flight, 1st place team: Brannon Borchers, Jeff Saltzman, Jake Smeby, Noah Peters (Electric Pump - MO River)



Second flight, 2nd place team: Darren Jack, Matt Stryson, Brent Peterson, Dave Beyersdorf (HDR)



Third flight, 1st place team: Hayden Delay, Scott Seelhoff, Steve Hanna, and Jake Hansen (HDR)



Third flight, 2nd place team: Nate Taylor, Travis Schafer, Derek Olson, Matt Wilson (PeopleService, Inc.)



Team 1 - HDR: Tony Bilek, Steve Crisler, Ron Sova, Glenn Dostal



Team 2 - HDR: Sean Skudler, Ray Hutzell, Jon Riede, Steve Marks

23rd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing (Cont.)



Team 3 - Engineered Equipment Solutions: Adam Darbro, Brittany Travers, Aaron Dressel, Dillon Devitt



Team 4 - HDR: Kylie Wilmes, Alex Evans, Masa Niiya, Vince Genco



Team 6 - HDR: Mike Arends, Brian Bakke, Ann Williams (Dave Sykora not pictured)



Team 8 - HDR: Jacob Nusser, Sean Bell, Keegan Bell



Team 8 - JEO: Tim Adams, Craig Aldridge, Jeff Vogt, Dane Simonsen



Team 10 - JEO: Dane Gittenger, Blake Birkel, Lucas Billesbach, Kris Farris

23rd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing (Cont.)



Team 13 - Vulcan Industries: Todd Bade, Andrew Synhorst, Kyle Wilhelm, Tim Miller



Team 14 - Olsson: Joel Jirak, Dean Kelch, Jeremy Walker, Steve Kelley



Team 15 - Olsson: Brittnei Yates, Jeremiah Birdsall, Justin Stark, Jennifer Morales



Team 16 - Johnson Service Company: Bret Melson, Nick Martin, Monte Dakan, Graham Fisher



2020 Joint Fall Virtual Conference

AWWA/NWEA/APWA Virtual Exhibitor Registration Information

TO: Manufacturers, Representatives, Engineering Firms, & Suppliers:

On behalf of the 2020 Joint Fall Virtual Conference Vendor Engagement Committee, I invite you to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the 2020 Joint Fall Virtual Conference. The Conference will be held **November 4-6, 2020**. Your company's products and services will gain valuable marketing exposure by participating in the Joint Fall Virtual conference.

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

<https://nebwea.org/meetinginfo.php?id=35&ts=1600115588>

- **\$100.00 Exhibitor registration:** Exhibitors will be given an online Ad page to promote their company on the Conference Website. You can post company information, product information or product related video.
- **\$200.00 Manufacturers, Representatives, Engineers, & Suppliers Live Virtual Presentations:** You can register to do a 1:00 to 2:00 minute live virtual presentation about your company or a specific product. These presentations will occur at the beginning of each technical session. You can request which group session you want your presentation to be a part of. Each presentation spot will be \$200.00. There is a total of 34 presentation spots available and Vendors are limited to a maximum of two (2) for the entire conference.
- **\$50 Live Interactive Sessions:** As part of your exhibitor registration, you can register to do, Live interactive sessions with conference attendees that can be scheduled during the morning breaks and in the afternoon when no training session are scheduled. You can use this time to present product demos, answer questions or just have a fun interaction with customers you want to invite to attend. For \$50.00 per session, you can have these live interactive sessions advertised in the overall conference agenda so that attendees can more easily identify when you are available to speak. You can register for as many Live Interactive sessions as you would like.
- **\$250.00 Sponsorships:** For companies who do not traditionally set up exhibits but want to provide support

to the Fall Conference. You will get name recognition as a sponsor on the Conference Website and use of your logo and name on advertising.

- **Register as soon as possible.** There are 34 spaces for Manufacturers, Representatives, Engineers, & Suppliers Virtual presentation spots available, all virtual presentation spots will be scheduled on a first come-first serve basis. You will be limit to a maximum of two presentation spots for the entire conference. Please specify which group AWWA, NWEA or APWA you would like your presentation to be scheduled during. **The deadline for registration is October 5, 2020.**

Note the above line items are "Ala Carte" you will need to register for each line item you wish to participate in.

To Register as an Exhibitor or Sponsor please fill out the electronic form on the NWEA Website:

- NWEA website www.nebwea.org to go to the 2020 Fall Conference registration tab and payment page. All registration must be done online.
- You will have the option to pay by credit card (preferred method handled though Pay pal) OR You can mail in your payment to:

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

NWEA (Nebraska Water Environment Association)

REMIT PAYMENT:

The address for sending in checks will be on the website.

Online registration will shut off when we are full. Please contact Lee to inquire about a late registration or if you have any question. Lee@bgagurney.com

The EffluentLine

Nebraska Water Environment Association

Office of the Secretary

Brittany Travers

Clocktower Village

643 N 98th St, MB 145

Omaha, NE 68114

www.nebwea.org

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Permit #1055

Omaha, NE

The Effluent Line September 2020

Quote

*"We are not all in
the same boat. We
are all in the same
storm."*

– Damian Barr

