

**IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*November 9, 2018*

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at FOX Engineering, Ames, Iowa on November 9, 2018.

**ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Jon Koch, at 10:04 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Matt Wildman, Bob Ranson, Eric Evans, Darin Jacobs, Jonathan Brown, Steve Hoambrecker, John Ringlestein, Jim Utter, Lance Greazel, Mark Simms, Kris Erickson, and Jim McElvogue. Also present were: Jason Loots, Greg Sindt, Taylor Hopper, Adam Smith, and Mark Jones.

**ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Steve Hoambrecker, and seconded by Jonathan Brown, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Once a couple of clarifications were made it was moved by Bob Ranson, and seconded by Eric Evans, to approve the minutes of September 14, 2018, as amended. Motion carried.

**ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer submitted a written report with balances as of January 1, 2018 and November 7, 2018. The main difference was an increase of approximately \$32,000 in the Association Share account in order to comply with the new reserves policy. It was moved by Jim McElvogue, and seconded by Darin Jacobs, to accept the report of the treasurer. Motion carried.

**B. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported on the Iowa Only renewal process. A series of emails was discussed. It was decided that Eric Evans would send out an email to members as a call for abstracts for the Annual Conference as soon as possible. The Secretary will send out an email for renewal of Iowa Only membership around the end of November. The Secretary will send out a save the date reminder and a general call for abstracts for the Annual Conference to everyone in Cvent right after Christmas.

**C. Delegates' Report**

Jonathan Brown reported that he attended a WEFTEC breakfast where the MA's reported their needs from WEF. Not surprisingly most MA's wanted to attract more members and wanted services from WEF to achieve this. WEF established three workgroups; MA Resources, Operators, and Membership. Jonathan joined the MA Resources group while Jim Utter opted for the Operators group. The goal of the MA Resources group is to compile a list of WEF resources available for MA's. Jonathan also had the privilege of placing into nomination the name of Keith Hobson for the office of Speaker of the House. Jim just recently attended the first meeting of the Operators group during which a large tri-state operator training meeting in Las Vegas was discussed. This group is also involved with the Living Wage initiative to inform employers on operator pay. Training manuals are another goal of this group.

## **D: Regional Directors**

**Region 1:** Steve Hoambrecker reported that the Region 1 meeting was held on October 3, 2018 with 180 people in attendance. Expenses were higher than normal this year as the planning committee wanted to give out a high visibility hat to every attendee. The new Region Director in June will be Lyle Krueger of Cedar Falls. Their operator award went to Chad Schroyer of Garnavillo.

**Region 2:** Darin Jacobs reported that the fall meeting was held on October 11th at NIACC with 109 attendees and focused on water related topics. They will meet next week to start planning for the spring wastewater meeting.

**Region 3:** Mark Simms reported that they held a meeting on October 31 at Cherokee with 54 in attendance. He has been able to put together a group of volunteers to plan future meetings.

**Region 4:** Kris Erickson of Atlantic has taken over for Zeb McFarland who started a new job. The fall meeting was held on October 5, 2018 in Atlantic with 66 in attendance. Region 4 netted about \$358 for the meeting.

**Region 5:** Lance Greazel reported that the fall meeting was held on October 31<sup>st</sup> at DMACC Southside with approximately 50 people in attendance. The spring meeting will return to Newton and be held on March 27.

**Region 6:** No report.

## **E: Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

## **ITEM V: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. IAWEA Email Blast Service**

Eric Evans reported that this service is ready for use as it has been populated with email addresses from WEF. Some Cvent addresses were added as well from users who indicated they were willing to be contacted about other issues. Permission to use Cvent email addresses will expand as this question is added to all conference registration processes.

### **B. 2019 Draft Budget**

The Treasurer distributed copies of the proposed 2019 budget. Several minor changes were recommended and the Treasurer will make those edits and bring it back to the January meeting for final action.

### **C. Other Item(s)**

1. Eric Evans reported that he had been approached by Des Moines WRA about the possibility of them competing in the Operations Challenge at WEFTEC. They are requesting that IAWEA pay the \$1,000 entry fee but that they would cover their own transportation, lodging, and meals. The general consensus was that IAWEA would be receptive to that proposal with the caveat that some level of support might change if another utility becomes interested in participating.
2. Jon Koch brought up the subject of attending the Iowa Rural Water Association annual meeting. It was agreed that we would request a free booth once again and several members who were already committed to attend would assist in working the booth.

## ITEM VI: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

### A. Aims & Objectives

No report.

### B. Annual Meeting

Eric Evans reported that an initial Program planning meeting was held in Grinnell on October 30<sup>th</sup>. A request for abstracts will go out to members very soon and a Save the Date and request for abstracts will be sent out to everyone in Cvent in late December. The next planning meeting will be January 23<sup>rd</sup> in Grinnell.

### C. Awards

No report.

### D. Biosolids

No report.

### E. Collection Systems

No report.

### F. Education

No report.

### G. Exhibitors

No report.

### H. Financial Review

No report

### I. Government Affairs

Greg Sindt reported on the Region 7 EPA 4-state meeting. Missouri and Nebraska went through a red tape reduction program ordered by their governors. In their respective design standards many of the instances of must and shall were replaced with may and could.

Much of EPA's presentation was just business as usual except they want to focus more on drinking water non-compliance. It seems that EPA has a hard time grasping the challenges faced by small communities as they want to group everyone under 50,000 in population into the Small Community group.

It might be possible that EPA will issue a draft blending guideline based on the Iowa League of Cities case finding calling it Peak Flow Management. EPA is also encouraging states to assume responsibility for the wetlands permitting program.

Eric Evans reported that the TAC will be reviewing Water Quality Design Standards.

### J. Historian

No report.

### K. Industrial Pretreatment

No report.

### L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

**M. Maintenance**

Bob Ranson reported that next year's conference is scheduled for January 29-30, 2019. There will be a pump class with a minimal extra charge.

**N. Membership**

Jason Loots reported that the committee will be looking at possible ways to increase membership with the reduced Iowa Only rate. They hope to add sample test questions and answers and new certifications to the newsletter. The committee also may try to put together a membership benefit card or flyer that outlines reasons for joining IAWEA.

**O. Newsletter**

Jon Koch reported that Marci Whitaker has reluctantly resigned the Chair of the Newsletter Committee due to major family commitments. Jon will assume the Chair and is seeking additional committee members. The deadline for the spring issue is March 27<sup>th</sup> at which time all of the information for the Annual Conference should be complete for its inclusion in that issue.

**P. Nominating**

It was verified that the committee will need a WEF Delegate nominee this year.

**Q. Operator Certification**

Jim Utter had nothing to report.

**R. Public Relations/Public Education**

No report.

**S. Research**

Eric Evans gave a very brief update on the research project at Indianola. It is in operation and data is being collected. The committee is preparing to issue another call for research proposals for next year.

**T. Safety**

Steve Hoambrecker reported that he had talked with Bruce Jensen and Bruce relayed to him that he really did not have the time to continue as the Chair. Bruce is seeking his own replacement and Steve will keep in touch with him. Goals for the committee are to submit safety articles to the newsletter and to try to include at least one safety topic at each IAWEA conference and region meeting.

**U. Small Communities**

Matt Wildman reported that planning has begun for next year's Small Community Workshops. doubled from last year. Lauren O'Neil continues to work to try to establish a high school intern program where a student can job shadow an operator in a small community to get an idea of what the job is like.

**V. Water for People**

Taylor Hopper will be working with Jim Utter and Jon Harger on setting up the golf outing at the Annual Conference.

**W. Website**

Mark Jones reported that he had set up a few one-click email buttons to send messages to the President, Secretary and the webmaster.

**X. Young Professionals**

Adam Smith with HDR is the new YP Committee Chair. He discussed with the Board about sponsorship of student groups to compete in the Global Water Design Competition. At this time no money from IAWEA would be requested but he will see how it goes this first year.

**ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT**

President Koch declared the meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary