

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 4, 2011

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at the Ames WPC Plant in Ames, Iowa on February 4, 2011.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President, Jay Brady, at 10:00 AM, with the following Executive Committee members present: Jay Brady, Jim McElvogue, Tim Snyder, Kam Reeves, Jim Rasmussen, Dan Riney, Murat Akyurek, Gary Schellhorn, and Mike Tripp. Also present were: Ted Payseur, Laurie Twitchell, Jim Utter, Larry Hare and Lance Aldrich.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Gary Schellhorn, and seconded by Murat Akyurek, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Kam Reeves, and seconded by Murat Akyurek, to approve the minutes of October 29, 2010, as printed. Motion carried. It was moved by Tim Snyder, and seconded by Murat Akyurek, to approve the minutes of January 7, 2011, as printed. Motion carried. Gary Schellhorn commented that he thought the conference call for the budget worked very well.

ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Jay Brady reviewed the written report submitted by the Secretary/Treasurer. Assets of the Association increased by \$16,256.30 for fiscal year 2010. The Operations Account decreased by \$5,559.27 due to a transfer to the Association Reserve Account to bring the reserve account to the required level. The Region checking account decreased by \$3,646.26, due to Region 6 making some large donations to several causes. The newsletter account is in very good shape with an increase of \$7,346.33 and did publish four issues during the year. For 2011 income totaled \$11,777 mainly due to maintenance and collection systems conference and WEF member rebates. We did receive a check for the fall 2010 short course, which has not yet been deposited. The donation to the Water Festival has been made according to the budget. It was moved by Gary Schellhorn, and seconded by Murat Akyurek, to approve the report of the Secretary/Treasurer as presented. Motion carried.

B. Delegates' Report

Gary Schellhorn reported that the WEF has a new Executive Director, Jeff Eger. He has been participating in conference calls for several work groups. Preregistration for WEFTEC will be available in a couple of months. Tim Snyder reported he has been participating in the work group that has been involved with operator stuff. The group is looking into a national certification program. They are also considering an operator training survey. Tim was impressed by the apparent concern for members at the operation level. Tim noted the state contract with ABC for certification exams expired at the end of December and has not been renewed.

C: Regional Directors

Region 6: Kam Reeves reported they had a meeting on January 26th to discuss and finalize the spring meeting which will be held in May. They discussed the possibility of donating to the DMACC wastewater scholarship fund. An email from Taylor Hopper concerning IAWEA's involvement in Project AWARE was discussed. The spring cleanup for AWARE will be on the Turkey River on July 10-11. Region 6 will have a hospitality booth at the annual meeting in Coralville and will host the welcome reception on Tuesday evening.

Region 5: Jim McElvogue reported the spring meeting will be on March 30th in Newton.

Region 4: Mike Tripp reported their spring meeting will be on April 1st in Carson. The afternoon session will be a split session with a segment on advanced wastewater and a segment on basic treatment.

Region 3: No report.

Region 2: No report.

Region 1: No report.

D: Correspondence

a. WEF Stockholm Hosting Opportunity

A proposal was received from WEF to submit a request to host the national Stockholm Jr. Water Prize meeting in 2013. This topic will be discussed later under the PR/PE Committee report.

b. WEF MA Display

This item will also be discussed during the PR/PE Committee report.

c. IDNR Watershed Book

The latest IDNR Watershed Book has been received.

d. Children's Water Festival Request

Donation for 2011 Water Festival has been made.

ITEM V: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Approved Budget

Jay Brady reported he will be sending out a copy of the approved budget to the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs by email.

B. Government Affairs Issue Paper

The Government Affairs Committee has developed an issues paper. Ted Payseur reported it has already been used on one occasion.

C. 2012 Annual Conference Des Moines Update

Murat Akyurek reported we have a contract with the hotel with the same schedule as will be used in Coralville this year. Meeting will be June 5-8, 2012.

D. CVENT Iowa Only Membership Renewal

Jim McElvogue reported the Iowa Only membership can now be renewed or signed up on the CVENT website.

E. Farm Bureau Anti-degradation Lawsuit

Jay Brady updated the group on the lawsuit. An intervener has petitioned to be included and the judge is

in the process of making a decision on allowing the petition.

F. IA League Wet Weather Lawsuit

Jay Brady reported this is an on again and now off again situation. There has been discussion of EPA not using information provided by John Hall and others in the wet weather rules.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. WEFMAX 2011 Iowa Venue Update

Gary Schellhorn reported the welcome reception will be a Night at the Museum at the Putnam Museum. As it turns out, the Titanic traveling exhibit will be there at that time. WEF pays \$5,000 based on 45 attendees. The format is changing from previous years. We need to designate a speaker for the MA presentation. After discussion, Jay Brady “volunteered”. Attendance at other WEFMAX meetings was discussed.

B. 2011 Annual Conference Coralville – Preliminary Budget/Program

Jay Brady reported he will be working on the budget with the hotel next week. Jim McElvogue reviewed the format. The golf outing and motorcycle ride will be on Tuesday. The welcome reception will be at the Antique Car Museum and will be hosted by Region 6. Vendors will be on Wednesday and the banquet will be on Wednesday night. Business meeting will be on Thursday and the executive committee meeting will be Thursday night. Friday will be the planning and goal setting for the executive committee and committee chairs.

C. Short Course Update

Jay Brady reported we do have a signed contract for 2011. A group composed of Lyle Hammes, Jim McElvogue and Eric Evans will tour the DMACC facility on February 24th and work up a white paper on the pros and cons of the location. Some of the issues with AWWA were discussed as was the DMACC facility.

D. A&O-Constitution and Bylaws Update

Jim McElvogue reported the committee had met a couple of months ago. WEF has certain requirements for the constitution and he has been incorporating those requirements. Jim discussed some of the proposed changes. A ballot will be included in the next newsletter about changing the way mail votes can be conducted. A copy of the constitution and bylaws that tracks the changes proposed will be emailed to the executive committee. Jim Utter discussed award committee changes and problems.

E. Farm Bureau Letter of Support

Ted Payseur discussed the pending farm bill in Congress. The last time a farm bill was passed the Iowa delegation tried to get some water quality funding included without success. Renewal is coming up and a letter of support may help in getting water shed issues included in the farm bill. After discussion, it was moved by Gary Schellhorn, and seconded by Tim Snyder, to sign on with the Farm Bureau coalition letter in support of water quality issues.

F. Letter-Nov. 12, 2010 EPA Memo on Storm water

Ted Payseur discussed the 2010 EPA memo on storm water. EPA is now setting numerical limits on storm water discharges. After discussion, Jay Brady will draft a letter to EPA concerning storm water limits.

G. Other Items

The committee discussed attendance at the NACWA meeting in March and the WEF meeting in Washington, DC in April. Gary Schellhorn volunteered to attend the NACWA meeting and Jay Brady will make arrangements for someone to attend the WEF meeting.

Kam Reeves updated the report on personalized license plates for the Association. The Association would need to get 500 people signed up and paid before we could proceed.

The meeting recessed for lunch and then reconvened.

Committee Action/Direction Requests

Awards Committee: Jim Utter said the committee will be notifying the sub-committees that the WEF awards will be on Wednesday night and the IAWEA awards will be on Thursday at the annual meeting. Award selection is in progress.

Aims and Objectives Committee: Jim McElvogue discussed the clause in the bylaws concerning regional director terms, the language is confusing. After discussion, the consensus was to state the ideals and allow for flexibility.

Biosolids Committee: The committee has finalized the Biosolids Field Guide and it will be published at considerable less cost than anticipated. It will be available by the Biosolids Conference. The 20th Annual Biosolids Conference is ready to go.

Pretreatment Committee: Larry Hare reported the combined Industrial Pretreatment/Laboratory meeting is set up and ready to at the DMACC FFA facility. It is being sponsored by the IAWEA and AWWA, mostly IAWEA. Vendors will be setting up outside the conference. The University Hygienic Lab has turned a cold shoulder to laboratory personnel and the IAWEA. The group discussed the various specialty conference schedules.

Maintenance Committee: Jim Rasmussen reported the Maintenance Conference had been moved from February 1 & 2 to February 22 & 23 due to snow storms. One advantage is it is now at the FFA facility. Registration is about 30% higher than previous years. Speaker conflicts due to the change in schedule are being resolved and an updated conference will be posted online.

Nominating Committee: Jim McElvogue reported a full slate of officers is ready to go. Jim commented that Julie Erickson has been doing a lot of work for the Association and asked if it would be appropriate to provide a token of appreciation on office management day. It was moved by Gary Schellhorn, and seconded by Murat Akyurek, to authorize up to \$100 for a token of appreciation for Julie Erickson. Motion carried.

Young Professionals: Jay Brady reviewed the written report by Patrick Brown. The committee has met once and will be meeting again in the near future. The committee will be participating in the Water Festival, meeting with the University water quality club and setting up a social event at the annual meeting.

Public Relations/Public Education Committee: Laurie Twitchell discussed the letterhead development and distributed the final four designs. After discussion, it was moved by Dan Riney, and seconded by Gary Schellhorn, to accept option "A" as the letterhead design. Motion carried on a 5-4 vote. Laurie reported the name has been changed on the IAWEA display and work is continuing on display items. An invitation to present a proposal to host the annual Stockholm Jr. Water Prize competition was received from WEF. The committee is going to meet to discuss this proposal. Laurie discussed the event schedule and requirements. After discussion, the committee was asked to submit a budget on what it would cost to attend the next Stockholm Jr. Water Prize competition to see what was involved in hosting the event. The Children's Water Festival will be on May 12th and the committee will be providing two wastewater demonstration rooms. Judges will be provided for the Science Fairs this spring. Laurie will also submit the material for the WEF display.

Program Committee: Jim McElvogue reported everything is progressing well on the program. Ephraim

King from the EPA will be on the program.

Web Page Committee: Lance Aldrich reported they are in the process of developing an RFP for a new website design. He discussed some of the criteria to be included in the proposal. It was suggested that any potential vendors provide links to websites they have developed. Lance requested that executive committee members look at other MA web sites and see what features they would like to see included in our web site.

Newsletter Committee: Jay Brady reported the editors are struggling to get articles for the newsletter. The next issue will be on March 1. Kris and Eric are also exploring out sourcing the newsletter like some other MAs do.

Research Committee: Ed Askew has been doing some survey work on research projects. The committee is working on a poster session for the annual meeting. Ed is also trying to recruit university staff to serve on the committee. Larry Hare commented that Ed has done a great job on getting the pretreatment conference going.

Membership Committee: Dan Riney reported the committee met a week ago. They will be staffing a booth at the rural water meeting next week and we will provide a booth at our meeting for rural water in exchange. The committee is drafting a member recruitment letter to send to every certified wastewater operator in the state. The committee is also planning to approach the 50 largest facilities in the state to recruit Iowa only members. Work is continuing on developing a retention strategy. The committee is still trying to develop a mentoring program. Kam Reeves discussed a membership drive competition for the regions.

DMACC curriculum: Bob Watson reported the program may be on the way by fall. DMACC is working on accreditation right now and may offer some courses this fall.

Operator Certification: Jim Utter reported the joint committee has been meeting.

Government Affairs Committee: Ted Payseur discussed several issues including DNR setting nutrient standards for lakes, Kansas lawsuit has not been brought yet, and discussion on E-coli issues. Members of the committee have met with the Republican caucus. There is a lot of uncertainty about rule making and the costs involved. What do we want to do? Need to define affordability, develop a 5-10 year program, funding for IDNR and the rule making should not be a political party issue. They are going to try to set up a meeting with the Governor and his staff. Triennial review of water quality has started. IDNR has produced a report on affordability issues in Iowa – it was developed by an internal committee. The Government Affairs Committee met in January. Ted stressed the need to get people involved. Talking points for various issues are needed. The legislature is talking about separating responsibilities for water quality programs and limiting the EPC. IDNR funding was discussed. Construction review area of IDNR has problems. There are lots of changes coming nationally.

ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT

President Brady declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Ringelestein, Secretary/Treasurer