

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 22, 2019

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at Prairie Meadows, Altoona, Iowa on March 22, 2019.

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, Eric Evans, Darin Jacobs, Jonathan Brown, Steve Hoambrecker, Lance Greazel, Jim Utter, John Ringlestein, Mark Simms, and Jim McElvogue. Also present were: Jason Loots, Greg Sindt, Ted Payseur, Jay Brady, Adam Smith, Taylor Hopper, Jon Harger, Dan Miers, Mike Roth, Curt Kampman, and Paul Ebert.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by John Ringlestein, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mark Simms, and seconded by Jonathan Brown, to approve the minutes of January 11, 2019. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer submitted a written report with balances as of January 1, 2019 and March 21, 2019. The main difference was an increase of approximately \$22,000 in the Operations account due to recent conferences. It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to accept the report of the Treasurer. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

1. The Secretary reported on the WEF and MA Partnership Workshop which was held on February 20-22, 2019. Several items of information were passed along including specific WEF contacts for IAWEA (Kelsey Hurst) and the Design Competition (Megan Livak). WEF also recommended event cancellation insurance for conferences as the price seems reasonable. WEF recommended that MA's insert an indemnification clause for officers in their rules. The A&O Committee will work on adding this language to the Manual of Policies and Procedures.
2. The Secretary also reported that Cvent has proposed a 44% increase in fees for the next contract period. The Secretary has located another provider that would reduce current costs by about 35% and asked for the Board to approve the switch. It was moved by Matt Wildman, and seconded by Eric Evans, to have the Secretary pursue a new registration software provider. Motion carried.

C. Delegates' Report

Jonathan Brown reported that the WEF work group he has joined is MA Resources and they are going to focus on MA training and events, awards and ceremony, staffing, and financial planning. Jonathan also received a request from Kelsey Hurst for two IAWEA pins. One is to be used for a retirement gift for Diane Crilley and the other will be kept by WEF for posterity. Jon Koch added that those have been sent. Jim Utter reported that he will be attending the WEFMAX in Arizona.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Steve Hoambrecker reported that there wasn't much going on in the region at this time of year. He also reported that he is not having much luck on people reporting news from the region but that he would continue to try.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that the spring meeting will be held on April 11th at NIACC and this meeting will be focused on wastewater training.

Region 3: Region 3 will have a spring meeting on April 3rd in Sioux Center. They are considering awarding free memberships or registration to the Annual Conference.

Region 4: No report.

Region 5: Lance Greazel reported that the spring meeting will return to Newton and be held on March 27th.

Region 6: Jon Koch reported that the region meeting will be held May 1st in Iowa City. They will be awarding a free Annual Conference registration and a gift card for the WEF Bookstore.

E: Correspondence

Nothing to report.

ITEM V: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. WEFMAX Meetings

A general discussion on who was attending and where was held.

B. Video Production

Jon Koch brought up the subject of having conferences video-taped for use in conference promotion or member recruitment. He will check around to see if he can at least find a volunteer to video the opening session.

C. DNR Plant Optimization Program

Adam Schnieders from IDNR has approached IAWEA about establishing a mentor program to assist smaller facilities with technologic advice on how to reduce nutrients in plants even in some that perhaps weren't specifically designed to do so. The intent would be to establish a planning committee to develop the concept. There would be a cost share involved but it is uncertain at this time of an amount. The general consensus was to participate to see where it leads. Mike Roth volunteered to contact Adam about getting things moving. Matt Wildman will reach out to Iowa Rural Water to see if they have an interest in getting involved.

D. Drinking Water Treatment & Distribution/Wastewater Collection & Treatment Internship Program

Matt Wildman distributed a basic outline of a proposed program to provide training to people interested in water environment careers. The outline, put together by Lauren O'Neil, Laurie Sharp, and Bob Watson, is intended to start an intern program for high school students to gain experience in the field and hopefully attract more workers. Matt Wildman will draft a letter of support for the Exec Board to review.

E. Other Items

Several people reported that a State legislator has approached DNR and stated that he would introduce legislation to eliminate wastewater licensing in Iowa if DNR did not make changes to the requirements for Grade III wastewater certification. In effect nothing higher than a high school diploma would be required to allow a person to take the Grade III exam. The DNR is rumored to be coming up with language to make this change but it has an uncertain future. This item was referred to the Joint Operator Certification Committee for investigation.

After lunch the Board toured Prairie Meadows to get inspect the logistics of the conference.

ITEM VI: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

The committee will work on language to indemnify IAWEA officers.

B. Annual Meeting

It was decided to have the Welcome Reception all the way up in the Track Clubhouse. Prairie Meadows wants to distribute player membership coupons and we agreed to allow those to be available at the registration desk but that we would not pass them out.

C. Awards

A question was raised about the Operator Advancement Award. Everyone was reminded that this is up to the regions to select and nominate someone for this award. The schedule for these awards is listed in our Manual of Policies and Procedures which is posted on the A&O Committee page on our website.

D. Biosolids

The conference was held March 20, 2019 at the FFA Enrichment Center on the DMACC Ankeny campus.

E. Collection Systems

The Collection Systems Conference was held March 6-8, 2019 in Marshalltown. Attendance was pretty normal except that a record 38 people registered to take the collection systems exam. The Thursday afternoon social was moved into the vendor area. The exhibitors were offered the choice of exhibiting on Thursday only or Thursday and Friday morning.

F. Education

A new venue has been reserved in Newton. The old Maytag conference center has been taken over by DMACC and we will be working with them on catering.

G. Exhibitors

We need the Exhibit Hall to be in the 55-60 booth range.

H. Financial Review

No report.

I. Government Affairs

Greg Sindt reported that a large core group of IDNR employees had left due to various reasons. There will likely be some degree of re-education for their replacements on the status of several issues. We had built some relationships with some of the people who have left and now it seems like we have to start all over again. It just doesn't seem like IDNR knows what they want or what to do right now. Hopefully we can establish new connections and be able to assist and advise them on some important issues that need addressed. In the meantime, members should contact the committee if they witness some decisions that are contrary to past policy so that they can be brought to IDNR's attention. Eric Evans reported no progress has been made on Design Standards as IDNR doesn't seem to want to discuss it. Greg mentioned the work by several people on trying to change IDNR's stance on the BOD/CBOD issue for raw wastewater sampling and rating plant design capacity.

J. Historian

No report.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

Paul Ebert reported that the committee would be participating in the Operators Conference again this year.

L. Laboratory Practices

There will be a laboratory track at the Annual Conference this year.

M. Maintenance

No report.

N. Membership

Jason Loots reported that a new flyer has been produced and will be distributed to the regions.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch put out another call for volunteers for the committee and for members to submit articles. The deadline for the spring issue is March 27th at which time all of the information for the Annual Conference should be complete for its inclusion in that issue.

P. Nominating

Eric Evans reported that the committee has met and nominations are ready.

Q. Operator Certification

Jim Utter will bring the Grade III wastewater certification topic to the committee.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

No report.

S. Research

Mike Roth reported that both of last year's grant recipients will present their findings at the Annual Conference. The 2019 RFP has been issued and is available on the website. Mike offered to write a letter of support for funding the National Priorities Research Program. He will do so and submit to Jon Koch for the Board's approval.

T. Safety

No report.

U. Small Communities

Matt Wildman reported that six Small Community Workshops are scheduled beginning next week.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported he worked with the IA-AWWA Treasurer to clear a backlog of contributions from 2017 and 2018.

W. Website

Mark Jones submitted two quotes for updating the website. One quote for approximately \$2,900 is for one version of a new website with the bare minimum updates. The other for \$3,601.00 is for several options and all of the updates. It was moved by Steve Hoambrecker, and seconded by Eric Evans, to authorize Mark to approve the more expensive quote in order to get what we wanted. Motion carried.

X. Young Professionals

Adam Smith reported that a YP outing was held at a Des Moines Bucs game.

ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT

President Koch declared the meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary