

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 13, 2019

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at Fox Engineering, Ames, Iowa on September 13, 2019.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Wildman, at 10:01 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Jon Koch, Bob Ranson, Patrick Brown, Darin Jacobs, Jonathan Brown, Lance Greazel, John Ringelestein, Drew Lammers, Lyle Krueger, and Jim McElvogue. Also present were: Keith Hobson, Taylor Hopper, Ted Payseur, Justin Schroeder, Mark Jones, Jason Loots, Jay Brady, Dan Miers, and Paul Ebert.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Two changes were made to the agenda. The first was to note that the minutes to be approved were for the June 6, 2019 meeting. The other item was to present a plaque noting the Association's appreciation to Past President, Jon Koch. It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by John Ringelestein, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by John Ringelestein, and seconded by Bob Ranson, to approve the minutes of June 6, 2019. Motion carried.

ITEM IIIA: PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO JON KOCH

President Matt Wildman presented a plaque of appreciation to Past President Jon Koch for his service last year as president of the Association. Many others noted a job well done.

ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

Jim McElvogue noted that there was an action item later on the agenda.

B. Annual Meeting

Venues that have expressed an interest in hosting the conference in 2020 or 2021 are Cedar Falls, Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Davenport, Bettendorf, Ottumwa, Prairie Meadows, Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn, and two casinos in Council Bluffs. Ottumwa and Prairie Meadows will not host in 2020 due to the lack of an attached hotel in Ottumwa and Prairie Meadows being booked for that week. Jay and Exhibitor Committee Chair Jon Harger are recommending that Davenport be selected as the site for the 2020 conference based on pricing and strong local support. It was moved by Bob Ranson, and seconded by Jon Koch, to have the 2020 Annual Conference in Davenport. Motion carried. Lyle Krueger mentioned that there was a second venue in Cedar Falls that should be investigated. The general consensus was that Jay should check out this second venue and bring back a recommendation for the 2021 conference at the next meeting. Matt Wildman asked the members present about their preference for sites for future conferences. With a constant venue there are benefits of knowing where the conference will be every year and maximizing attendance. However, that leads to staleness for the tour, golf outing, motorcycle ride, and local arrangements burnout. Those present indicated a strong preference for moving the site around the state so as to provide variety and to allow communities to showcase their local attractions. Jon Koch reported that he will be scheduling Program Committee meetings this fall.

C. Awards

No report.

D. Biosolids

Planning meetings for the conference will be held about every month through the end of the year.

E. Collection System

Curt Kampman submitted a written report. The committee held a conference planning meeting last week. The conference will be held March 4-6, 2020 at Marshalltown. PACP training will once again be provided. Some special activities may be planned to recognize that this will be the 25th annual meeting.

F. Education

Patrick Brown reported that the new venue for the Operators/Pretreatment Conference received many compliments on the facilities and food. Jim McElvogue reported that expenses were down considerably compared to Marshalltown.

G. Exhibitors

No report.

H. Financial Review

No report.

I. Government Affairs

Ted Payseur reported that WOTUS appears to be headed for repeal. This may adversely affect the ability for IDNR to renew NPDES permits. Ten appropriation bills were passed by the House but none made it through the Senate so no federal money for infrastructure will be forthcoming. And as 2020 is an election year historically no major legislation is passed before the election.

J. Historian

No report.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

Paul Ebert reported that they participated in the Operators Conference again this year and seemed to have a good experience. Attendance at their sessions was up over last year. Paul also volunteered to explore conference apps to see if IAWEA might be able to find a suitable one for our conferences.

L. Laboratory Practices

Justin Schroeder, new chair of the Laboratory Practices Committee, reported that the committee last met at the Annual Conference where a lab track was reintroduced. While attendance was sparse at this conference they are hoping that it might build in years to come. The Committee is encouraging all committee members to join LinkedIn in order to facilitate better communication.

M. Maintenance

The 2020 IAWEA Maintenance Conference will be held on January 28-29, 2020 at DMACC in Ankeny.

N. Membership

Jason Loots asked about free WEF memberships that were offered last year. This topic is on the agenda to be discussed later. Jason also asked about a discounted rate for retired Iowa Only members. The general consensus was that \$20 was already pretty cheap and any discount would be hard to administer.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch reported that another issue should be out shortly. He would welcome ideas for stories as the contractor will write those for us.

P. Nominating

No report.

Q. Operator Certification

No report.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

A written report was submitted by Laurie Twitchell. The committee submitted the first of a planned series of articles for the newsletter. The first article contains information on the Cedar Rapids WPCF. The goal is to promote "A Day in the Life of a Wastewater Operator" in conjunction with profiling different treatment plants. The committee also interviewed the 2019 Stockholm Junior Water Prize winner Mya Batten from Van Buren High School and submitted an article about her project to the newsletter. They also remind members to post to the IAWEA Facebook page and Twitter account.

S. Research

Mike Roth submitted a written report that the 2019 Research Grant Program recipient had requested their grant.

T. Safety

No report.

U. Small Communities

Matt Wildman reported that six Small Community Workshops were scheduled but three were cancelled due to low registration numbers. The committee is going to focus on webinars to relate the pertinent information to city clerks, mayors, and council members.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported on the fundraising that took place at the Annual Conference. About \$5,400 was raised for Water for People through the auction and cup donations. The golf outing and motorcycle ride raised about \$5,800 for the Xicotepc projects. Taylor recently attended a Water for People workshop and learned about some best practice ideas. He also reminded everyone of Water for People events scheduled during WEFTEC.

W. Website

Mark Jones reported on the new website. People are encouraged to send him calendar events. Members will have to re-enroll for the Members Only section but that should just be a formality.

X. Young Professionals

Drew Lammers had some questions about how new people could get more involved. Committees are always looking for more volunteers so this would be a great place to start. Information on all of the committees and email addresses of the chairs can be found on the website.

ITEM V: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer submitted a written report with balances as of January 1, 2019 and September 12 5, 2019. The main difference was an increase of approximately \$29,000 in the Operations account due to recent conferences. \$100,000 was transferred from the Operations Money Market account to a CD to take advantage of a special incentive. It was moved by Jim McElvogue, and seconded by Bob Ranson, to accept the report of the Treasurer. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that he was one of the MA representatives working with WEF to design a new database. The concept is for WEF to use as a membership database and MA's can use for state membership. It would also have the ability to be used as a conference registration system. No details or costs are known at this time but it may be of some use to us in the future. The current RegFox program suits our present needs but lacks the ability to be sorted according to our needs and the report system leaves a lot to be desired. If the WEF system is affordable it looks like it

will fulfill a lot of our needs.

The Secretary also brought up the subject of tracking PDH's for engineers. Attendance of sessions is not really a problem but tracking presenters is pretty cumbersome. It was suggested that a form be developed for presenters who want to claim PDH's and provided at the registration desk. In this way the presenter can have proof of these credits and be responsible for their own record. Matt Wildman volunteered to come up with a draft form.

C. Delegates' Report

Jonathan Brown stated that he would be attending WEFTEC. He also distributed information about Water Palooza which is a day-long education fair hosted at a local Chicago elementary school on the Friday before WEFTEC. Jonathan also handed out information about the Professional Operator program which is a joint effort by AWWA, WEF, and ABC to promote recognition of certified operators. Keith Hobson will be relinquishing his House of Delegates Speaker position at WEFTEC but he has been nominated to be WEF Treasurer.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Lyle Krueger reported that the Region 1 meeting would be held October 2nd.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that the fall meeting on October 10th is their meeting for the Water side of the region.

Region 3: Region 3 had a fall meeting on September 12th in Sheldon that was attended by about 35 people. They toured the new SBR WWTP and DMACC did a presentation about educational opportunities.

Region 4: No report.

Region 5: Lance Greazel reported that the fall meeting will be October 30th in Newton.

Region 6: No report.

E: Correspondence

A letter was received from Briar Cliff thanking IAWEA for the research grant that was approved. Mark Poling sent Thank You cards to Jon Koch and our WEF Delegates.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. DNR Plant Optimization Program

No update.

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

Lauren O'Neil is working on a letter of support for this program.

C. Manual of Policies and Practices – Indemnity Language

Jim McElvogue distributed proposed language to be added to the IAWEA manual for indemnifying officers and volunteers. Some changes to the original language were recommended by WEF. Other recommended changes were adding the Delegate-elect to those approved to attend WEFTEC and increasing the reimbursement for attending a WEFMAX to \$1,250. A motion was made by John Ringlestein, and seconded by Jon Koch, to adopt the language as presented. Motion carried.

D. Free WEF Memberships Available until 11/30/19

Three more memberships are available this year and these were assigned to Regions 1, 4, and 5 due to Region 2 having a water meeting this fall, Region 3 already had their meeting, and Region 6 does not have a fall meeting.

E. Other Items

None.

ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT

President Wildman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary