

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 11, 2020

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at RiverCenter, Davenport, Iowa on March 11, 2020.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President-Elect Bob Ranson, at 10:02 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Jon Koch, Jim Utter, Steve Hoambrecker, Darin Jacobs, Lyle Krueger, Drew Lammers, and Jim McElvogue. Matt Wildman joined the meeting in progress. Also present were: Jason Loots, Dan Miers, Jay Brady, and Cory Sonner. Joan Kranovich, Director of Sales with Visit Quad Cities, also attended. The meeting began with Committee Reports in order to await the arrival of Matt Wildman and/or a quorum for items requiring a vote. These minutes will reflect the original order of the agenda.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Bob Ranson, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to approve the minutes of January 10, 2020. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

Nothing to report.

B. Annual Meeting

Jon Koch reported that the program is close to being set. There was some discussion concerning number of tracks on Thursday afternoon. It was decided to leave it at four tracks for now. One of the proposed keynote speakers is requesting a \$5,000 fee. The consensus of the Board was that this was excessive and that we should not pursue this individual any further. Steve Hoambrecker suggested that we show Brave Blue World in place of the other keynote speaker. This seemed to be a popular suggestion so Steve will check to see how we can obtain a copy that would not have to be streamed over the internet. Joan Kranovich described how her organization would help with the conference by providing welcome bags, arranging local transportation, and coordinating events. An option to have the banquet on the Celebration Belle riverboat was discussed and received approval even though it will mean a slight adjustment in the conference schedule.

C. Awards

Matt Hawes submitted a written report that nominees have been identified for the Bedell, Hatfield, and Lab Analyst awards. He will report those to WEF soon.

D. Biosolids

Dan Miers reported that the conference is ready to go for next week.

E. Collection Systems

Jim McElvogue reported that the conference had a particularly good turnout but had one incident. The hotel failed to secure the rooms overnight and one of our projectors was stolen. The hotel has indicated that they will replace the unit.

F. Education

No report.

G. Exhibitors

No report.

H. Financial Review

No report.

I. Government Affairs

No report.

J. Historian

No report.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

Jon Koch reported that he intends to participate in the D.C. Fly-in if it is held.

L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

M. Maintenance

No report.

N. Membership

Jason Loots reported that he had met with Laurie Twitchell, PR/PE Chair, about producing a brochure that outlines membership benefits. They will likely try to base it on the one WEF uses.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch requested ELT officer reports and a recap of the Maintenance Conference by March 15th. He also requested from any IAWEA sponsored event and a picture from Davenport to grace the cover of the next issue.

P. Nominating

No report.

Q. Operator Certification

Jim Utter reported that Harris Seidel is retiring from the committee and a replacement needs to be found. He has the names of a few people who have expressed interest. Jim will forward those names to the Secretary to confirm membership and then Matt can choose from those members. Jim reported that IDNR believes that the Grade III Wastewater education change will not move forward. A general discussion ensued about how the certification rules are interpreted. It appears to some people that wide

allowances for experience are sometimes granted with no basis in the rules. The committee is encouraged to request IDNR to establish written guidelines for future reference.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

No report.

S. Research

Mike Roth submitted a written report outlining the following items. The 2020 Research Grant Program Call for Proposals has been developed. The deadline to submit proposals is May 20, 2020 by 11AM. A request has been sent to the IAWEA Webmaster to post the RFP on the News section of the website. A request has been sent to the IAWEA Newsletter Chair to publish the RFP in the upcoming issue of *Clean Waters*. The committee will review proposals received and present a recommendation for award(s) to the Executive Board at the June Board meeting at the Annual Conference. Jay Brady added that it appears that the Wastewater Research Park will be funded by the University of Iowa.

T. Safety

No report.

U. Small Communities

Matt Wildman reported that webinars are still being planned to relate pertinent information to city clerks, mayors, and council members.

V. Water for People

No report.

W. Website

No report.

X. Young Professionals

No report.

ITEM V: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer submitted a written report with balances as of January 1, 2020 and March 11, 2020. The main difference was an increase of approximately \$34,000 in the Operations account due to recent conferences. Collection Systems Conference expenses not yet deducted are about \$11,500 for the hotel and \$15,000 for PACP training. It was moved by Bob Ranson, and seconded by Jon Koch, to accept the report of the Treasurer. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that he attended a meeting of MA representatives who are assisting WEF with the design of their new membership database system. WEF has established some rules for interaction with contacts including that all contacts must opt-in to receive emails and approve release of their contact info. For now, that means we cannot provide attendee lists of our conferences. MA's will have to follow WEF's data security policies. MA's are also encouraged to adopt a social media policy, discontinue paper membership applications, and use links for email contacts on their website rather than publishing actual addresses. While the new WEF database will allow for membership recruitment and renewal and

conference registration, no provision is being made to add an internal email service. MA's will have to export membership data to their own email service.

On another note Bob Main has requested that the Board find a replacement for him as CEU Administrator or consider doing away with the position entirely. This position was established many years ago to avoid the cost of CEU recording provided by some Iowa educational institutions. IDNR has since taken over this duty so this position is no longer necessary. The Board expressed their desire to abolish the position. The A&O Committee will make a recommendation on how to amend the Manual of Policies and Procedures to accomplish this.

C. Delegates' Report

Steve Hoambrecker reported that WEF has plans to share the new documentary called *Brave Blue World* with a wide audience in order to attract attention to the worldwide water crisis. Jim Utter has been trying to sit in on the House of Delegates focus group he is a part of. He had also found the names of those interested in becoming a member of the Joint Operator Certification Committee. Jim will submit those names to the Secretary to verify membership and that information will be forwarded to Matt Wildman for his evaluation.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Lyle Krueger had nothing to report at this time. Their annual meeting is held in the fall.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that their spring meeting will be held April 15th at NIACC.

Region 3: No report but their spring meeting is set for April 9th in Orange City.

Region 4: No report.

Region 5: Bob Ranson reported that their spring meeting will be held March 25th in Newton.

Region 6: Drew Lammers reported that their annual meeting is May 6th in Iowa City but at a different site.

E: Correspondence

The normal request for our contribution to the Children's Water Festival was received and processed.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Venue Tour

A break in the meeting was taken in order to tour the conference venue. There will be some challenges with logistics but nothing that cannot be overcome.

B. DNR Plant Optimization Program

Matt Wildman gave a little background on this program. IDNR is wanting to recruit volunteers to visit certain smaller plants to identify non-economic improvements to maximize treatment for nutrients. This program is still in its initial planning stage.

C. WEFMAX Travel Allowance

Jim McElvogue reported that he had inadvertently stated at the last meeting that the WEFMAX travel allowance was \$1,500. It is only \$1,250. However, he recommended raising it to \$1,500 as that is closer to the expenses we are currently seeing. It was moved by Jon Koch, and seconded by Darin Jacobs, to approve raising the limit to \$1,500. Motion carried.

D. Other Items

A WEF survey on MA training efforts was discussed. Matt Wildman will arrange a teleconference call with Delegates Utter and Hoambrecker to complete the survey.

ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT

President Wildman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary