

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 10, 2020

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at Fox Engineering, Ames, Iowa on January 10, 2020.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Wildman, at 10:00 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Jon Koch, Jim Utter, Steve Hoambrecker, Darin Jacobs, Lance Greazel, Lyle Krueger, Patrick Brown, Drew Lammers, Bob Ranson, John Ringelestein, and Jim McElvogue. Also present were: Keith Hobson, Jason Loots, Dan Miers, Taylor Hopper, Shannon Hazelton, Lauren O'Neil, Bob Watson, and Adam Smith.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Matt Wildman asked that Item 6B be moved to Item 4 and all other items moved down the list. It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Jon Koch, and seconded by Lyle Krueger, to approve the minutes of November 15, 2019. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: DRINKING WATER TREATMENT & DISTRIBUTION/WASTEWATER COLLECTION & TREATMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Lauren O'Neil presented a request from a coalition representing several organizations to fund a program to hire high school students as summer help in water and wastewater facilities in Iowa. It is anticipated that \$30,000 would be the initial level of funding necessary to secure a grant to continue this program in the future. Other organizations/associations have promised in kind contributions for the administration of the program. Once grants are obtained this level of funding would not be necessary. Several people mentioned that this initial level of funding was not sustainable for IAWEA and outside funding is a necessity. WEF was also mentioned as a source of funding through their MA grant program. Lauren assured the group that outside funding would be pursued and that they would not ask for the money until it was needed. It was moved by Bob Ranson, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, that IAWEA make up to \$30,000 available for this program for the initial year. Motion carried.

ITEM V: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

Nothing to report.

B. Annual Meeting

Jon Koch reported that the abstract submittal was minimal so far. Seth Lamb will be asked to send out another mass email. Dan Miers reported that a Local Arrangements Committee has been formed. Dan reported that the local water utility offered a tour of their facility. The consensus of the Board was that the wastewater plant and compost facility would more than take up the time allotted.

C. Awards

No report.

D. Biosolids

Dan Miers reported that the committee has met for their final planning meeting before the conference that will be held on March 18th. He requested Board approval for certain committee expenses including soil testing, conference gifts and prizes, and the publication of an updated Biosolids Application Guide. He was advised that Board approval was not necessary for normal committee activities.

E. Collection Systems

No report.

F. Education

Patrick Brown reported that the dates for the 2020 IAWEA Operators/Pretreatment Conference has been set for September 9-10, 2020. The conference will again take place at DMACC in Newton.

G. Exhibitors

No report.

H. Financial Review

No report.

I. Government Affairs

Greg Sindt reported that Matt Wildman, Ted Payseur, and he met with the new IDNR Director earlier this week. They updated her on the history of cooperation between IDNR and IAWEA as to IAWEA providing technical expertise for establishing new rules and limits. The Nutrient Reduction Exchange and Water Quality Trading Program were discussed. Peer review of CBOD issue has been completed and all comments were supportive of IAWEA's position. The proposed elimination of the post high school education requirement for Grade III wastewater certification seems to be a dead issue but the legislator proposing this has still not responded to IAWEA's email and phone call.

J. Historian

No report.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

No report.

L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

M. Maintenance

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

N. Membership

Jason Loots reported that he had nothing new at this time but that some free memberships would be discussed later on the agenda.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch reported that he always welcomes stories or even just ideas as the contractor will write those for us.

P. Nominating

No report.

Q. Operator Certification

Jim Utter reported that a meeting was held December 12th and new officers were elected. Jim Utter is the new Chair, Dale Acheson is Vice-Chair, and Craig Hennager is Secretary. He reported that IDNR believes that the Grade III Wastewater education change will not move forward.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

No report.

S. Research

Patrick Brown reported that a conference call will be held shortly to discuss ongoing projects and the RFP for this year. Mike Roth requested via email that the normal \$10,000 funding for research projects be included in the 2020 budget.

T. Safety

No report.

U. Small Communities

Matt Wildman reported that five or six Small Community Webinars are being planned to relate pertinent information to city clerks, mayors, and council members. DMACC has agreed to host an initial trial webinar free of charge. If it is decided to hold more sessions DMACC would do so for a \$10 per attendee charge.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper report that he would be volunteering at the Xicotepec project this summer.

W. Website

No report.

X. Young Professionals

Adam Smith reported that he would be attending the national YP conference.

ITEM V: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer submitted a written report with balances as of January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. The main difference was an increase of approximately \$19,000 in the Operations account due to recent conferences. The Treasurer also provided some general information on funds available for new or

additional programs. A large portion of funds is tied up in reserve and region accounts leaving only about \$100,000 available for new uses and 30% of that was just committed to the high school intern program. It was moved by Jim Utter, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to accept the report of the Treasurer. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that he would be attending a meeting of MA representatives who are assisting WEF with the design of their new membership database system. WEF is funding the cost for attendance in Alexandria, VA in February. It is hoped that the new system will allow us to maintain records of both WEF and Iowa Only members.

C. Delegates' Report

Steve Hoambrecker reported that he asked to have the new documentary called *Brave Blue World* to the agenda later as WEF has a presentation scheduled today. Jim Utter relayed that Steve and he would be attending the WEFMAX in Hawaii this year.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Lyle Krueger had nothing to report.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that the agenda for their spring meeting has been set but that the date has to be confirmed yet.

Region 3: Shannon Hazelton, Region 3 Secretary, reported that their spring meeting is set for April 9th in Orange City.

Region 4: Region 4 will be meeting later this month to begin planning their spring meeting.

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

Region 6: Drew Lammers reported that the planning committee meets next week. The training will be held the first week of May and they are exploring a new location.

E: Correspondence

None.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. DNR Plant Optimization Program

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

B. Free WEF Memberships (3) Available until 11/30/20

Free WEF memberships are available for Regions 2, 3, and 6 until November 30th. Those regions were reminded that eligibility for these memberships is restricted to people who have never been WEF members before.

C. Webinar Hosting Services Purchase

Matt Wildman reported that this may be an issue that comes up in the future for the Small Communities Committee for their proposed webinars. No action is needed at this time.

D. 2020 Budget

The Treasurer had emailed copies of the proposed budget to the Board. Several changes were made including the \$30,000 for the high school intern program, \$10,000 for Research Committee project(s), and several other smaller items. It was moved by Jon Koch, and seconded by Bob Ranson, to approve the 2020 budget with the noted changes. Motion carried.

E. Committee Liaison Appointments

Matt Wildman distributed copies of the committee liaison appointments. If liaisons desire to change assigned committees they are encouraged to contact Matt.

F. Brave New World update and Potential Showings

Steve Hoambrecker provided more background on this new documentary that describes the worldwide crisis concerning clean drinking water and sanitation facilities. It was decided to forego viewing this presentation today due to the inclement weather building this afternoon.

G. WEFMAX

It was moved by Jon Koch, and seconded by Patrick Brown, to approve sending Jason Loots to WEFMAX this year. Motion carried. It was moved by Jon Koch, and seconded by Patrick Brown, to approve sending Jason Loots to WEFMAX this year. Motion carried. It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to approve sending Jon Koch and Dan Miers to WEFMAX this year. Motion carried.

H. Other Items

It was moved by Bob Ranson, and seconded by Jim Utter, to approve sending Jon Koch and Jay Brady to the D.C. fly-in that WEF is hosting again this year. Motion carried.

ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT

President Wildman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary