

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 3, 2020

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held online on June 3, 2020.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Wildman, at 1:26 PM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Jim Utter, Steve Hoambrecker, Darin Jacobs, Lyle Krueger, Bob Ranson, John Ringlestein, Patrick Brown, Mark Simms, Lance Greazel, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were: Jason Loots, Jon Koch, Jay Brady, Seth Lamb, Taylor Hopper, Mike Kuntz, Laurie Twitchell, Mike Roth, Tom Atkinson, Adam Smith, Kim Fensterman, Curt Kampman, Jason Kenyon, Paul Ebert, Matt Hawes, Adam Schneiders, Keith Hobson, Eric Evans, Craig Just, Heath Draeger and Dan Olson. Brendon Lee sat in as the intern for IDNR's Plant Optimization Program.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Bob Ranson, and seconded by Darin Jacobs, to approve the minutes of March 11, 2020. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

Jim McElvogue reported that several changes were made to the Manual of Policies and Procedures including increasing the travel allowance for WEFMAX. Another change to be considered is eliminating the CEU Administrator position. Proposed language will be presented at the next Board meeting.

B. Annual Meeting

Jay Brady advised everyone of the current status of the Annual Conference. The conference is scheduled for August 18-20 in Davenport but serious consideration is being given to switching to a virtual conference. The committee feels that a decision on having an onsite conference, a virtual conference, or cancelling everything cannot be made at this time. Previous discussions indicated that a decision must be made by the first week of July. The plan is to analyze the situation at that time so an intelligent decision can be made based on the latest facts.

C. Awards

Matt Hawes reported that he has received the award plaques from WEF. It remains to be seen if they will be presented at the conference in August or at another public meeting.

D. Biosolids

No report except for the fact that the Biosolids Conference was cancelled this year.

E. Collection Systems

Curt Kampman reported that their conference had a particularly good turnout. The committee selected four inductees into the Golden Manhole Society, Paul Davis, Jim Lund, Scott Obernolte, and Kevin Sylvester. Kevin Moler has led the Voluntary Collection Systems Certification program for several years. However, he has had to relinquish those duties with his new job with IDNR. Adam Smith with the City of Des Moines will be taking over for Kevin. The 2021 conference will be the 25th annual and the committee is planning to celebrate it accordingly.

F. Education

No report.

G. Exhibitors

No report.

H. Financial Review

Keith Hobson reported that the committee has reviewed the books for 2019 and recommended a few changes. There were some problems with unexpected deposits to the Association's credit union account. John R. has tracked down the problem and steps are being taken to correct the mistakes. The reserve accounts are a trifle underfunded at this time and the committee is recommending that those accounts receive additional funding.

I. Government Affairs

No report.

J. Historian

No report.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

Paul Ebert reported that the Operators/Pretreatment Conference would likely be cancelled this year but that the committee will be planning for next year.

L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

M. Maintenance

Bob Ranson reported the conference was held in January with Lee Dunn, Craig Hennager, Tysen Streeter, and Tyler Ver Meer receiving Wrencher Awards.

N. Membership

Jason Loots reported that membership has been stable over the past year.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch reported that the deadline for the next newsletter should be after any decision on the Annual Conference so that issue will inform all of the members about that. He requested that people submit articles to him for publication.

P. Nominating

No report.

Q. Operator Certification

Jim Utter reported that he would be trying to schedule a committee meeting with the various educational entities to discuss any upcoming training.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

Laurie Twitchell reported that all of the science fairs and the Children's Water Festival were cancelled. However, a State SJWP winner was selected through the normal research paper submittal process. She will participate in the national SJWP competition via a virtual meeting. The committee maintains a Facebook page and Twitter account and they submitted two newsletter articles this past year.

S. Research

Mike Roth reported that the committee had received two responses to its call for proposals. One was from the Des Moines Water Reclamation Facility to study the comparison of Peracetic Acid vs. Chlorine in the reduction of multiple indicator organisms. This proposal requests \$10,000. The other proposal is to create bio-crude and hydro-char from sludges for energy recovery. This proposal came from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and also requested \$10,000. The committee has determined that the Des Moines research has a high potential to benefit Midwest utilities along with funding research by an ISU student. The UM-L research does not have much potential to benefit local utilities. Therefore, the committee recommends funding Des Moines in the amount of \$10,000 and not funding UN-L. It was moved by Jim McElvogue (JK), and seconded by John Ringlestein, to fund the Des Moines project in the amount of \$10,000. Motion carried.

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. With the current lack of available training the committee will try to include training for operators thus making CEU's available.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported that fundraising for 2019 totaled about \$19,000 during IAWEA activities and about \$20,000 for AWWA.

W. Website

No report.

X. Young Professionals

Adam Smith reported that a virtual event for YP's was being considered. What format or time frame that might happen is undecided at this time. The committee is also looking to update its mailing list.

ITEM V: OFFICERS' REPORTS**A. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer submitted a written report with balances as of January 1, 2020 and June 1, 2020. The balance on June 1st was approximately \$369,000 which is down about \$25,000 from the first of the year. This is mainly due to the \$30,000 we contributed to the high school intern program. The Collection

Systems Conference netted over \$9,000 this year but Biosolids lost about \$500 due to its cancellation. It was moved by Bob Ranson, and seconded by Lyle Krueger, to accept the report of the Treasurer. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that he will continue to work with the WEF/MA focus group to design the new member database. It is WEF's intention to have the database in operation by the end of the year and then the event registration system will be concentrated on.

C. Delegates' Report

Jim Utter reported that he continues to sit in on the House of Delegates Workforce Development focus group he is a part of.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Lyle Krueger reported that the plans for their annual meeting are still up in the air. They may cancel their meeting and promote a virtual Annual Conference if it takes place.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that their spring wastewater meeting was cancelled. They may have a combined Water/Wastewater meeting this fall.

Region 3: Mark Simms reported that their spring meeting was cancelled. Plans for a fall meeting are still undecided.

Region 4: No report.

Region 5: Lance Greazel reported that their spring meeting was cancelled. Plans for a fall meeting are still undecided.

Region 6: Jon Koch reported that their annual meeting has been postponed and a decision will be made by June 24th on whether to hold the meeting.

At this point Matt Wildman yielded the gavel to Bob Ranson.

E: Correspondence

Matt Wildman brought up the letter sent to congressional representatives asking that water and wastewater projects be included in the next stimulus legislation.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. DNR Plant Optimization Program

Adam Schneiders reported on the background and purpose of this proposed program. The idea is 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 but Brendon Lee has been hired as an intern to start organizing the effort.

B. Other Items

None.

ITEM VII: CONSENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

The Annual Conference Committee will continue to investigate options for the Annual Conference and make a recommendation to the Executive Board by July 1st.

ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT

President Ranson declared the meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary