

# ***IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION***

## ***EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING***

***November 13, 2020***

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held online on November 13, 2020.

### **ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Ranson, at 10:01 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Steve Hoambrecker, Patrick Brown, Lance Greazel, Dan Miers, Kris Erickson, Matt Wildman, Mark Simms, Lyle Krueger, John Ringelestein, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were: Taylor Hopper, Ted Payseur, Greg Sindt, Mike Roth, and Paul Ebert.

### **ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Matt Wildman, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to approve the minutes of September 25, 2020. Motion carried.

### **ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS**

#### **A. Aims & Objectives**

Nothing to report.

#### **B. Annual Meeting**

Jay Brady submitted a written report. The last module of the Virtual Wastewater CEU training is next Thursday. By all accounts we have achieved our objectives and have received in general good feedback from over 100 attendees for each module. It appears we will have a nice net for this training. That wasn't our primary goal as we were just trying to provide necessary education in a safe manner without costing the association a lot of money. The committee will not pivot to planning the 2021 Annual Conference which is planned to be held in person at Prairie Meadows. IAWEA has received approximately \$18,000 through our event insurance for the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Conference.

#### **C. Awards**

Matt Hawes submitted a written report. He still has the 2020 awards and requests direction from the Board on whether to arrange their presentations or hold them for the 2021 conference. The consensus of the Board was to hold them until the 2021 conference. Matt had suggested that he contact the previous three years' award winners that form the selection subcommittees to also choose 2021 recipients. The Board agreed with this plan.

**D. Biosolids**

Dan Miers reported that the planning for next year's conference had begun. They are attempting to recruit the same speakers scheduled for the 2020 conference that was cancelled. They are also working with DMACC on planning for a probable virtual meeting.

**E. Collection Systems**

Curt Kampman submitted a written report. A subcommittee recommended a virtual conference for 2021 and the full committee concurred. This virtual meeting will not be designated as the 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting to properly recognize this event at an in-person conference. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2020 as a virtual meeting.

**F. Education**

No report.

**G. Exhibitors**

No report.

**H. Financial Review**

No report.

**I. Government Affairs**

Greg Sindt reported that the Watershed Planning Committee has recommended that the Iowa legislature consider requiring collaboration with the Army Corp of Engineers in planning water quality enhancements to public projects. They also want IDNR and IDALS to survey surrounding states on how projects can be improved. At a recent WEF Government Affairs Committee meeting it was noted that the CDC Water Disease Prevention branch was sampling and testing some sewage streams for the COVID-19 virus. It is hoped that further research may be able to identify potential hot spots for the infection. EPA plans to finalize Lead and Copper rules soon. EPA has also released its draft Financial Affordability rules. EPA will also be looking to update the Biosolids rules. Ted Payseur reported that any large infrastructure bill was probably going to have to wait until at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of next year while the pandemic is being dealt with.

**J. Historian**

John Ringelestein reported that he hoped to have more time to work on updating the history as he will not be traveling for the foreseeable future.

**K. Industrial Pretreatment**

No report.

**L. Laboratory Practices**

No report.

**M. Maintenance**

Bob Ranson reported that next year's conference will be held virtually. There will be 2-hour sessions on the morning and afternoon of January 26<sup>th</sup> and the morning of January 27<sup>th</sup> for a total of 0.6 CEU's.

**N. Membership**

No report.

**O. Newsletter**

No report.

**P. Nominating**

No report.

**Q. Operator Certification**

No report.

**R. Public Relations/Public Education**

No report.

**S. Research**

Mike Roth reported that 2019 Research Grant Program recipient Craig Just with the University of Iowa presented their research during the 2020 IAWEA Virtual Wastewater CEU Series on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The other 2019 recipient didn't get a chance to present but the committee will work to get both research information into our library. The committee will also begin work on planning for the 2021 Grant Program.

**T. Safety**

No report.

**U. Small Communities**

Matt Wildman reported that the committee will be hosting some webinars and is exploring options and dates.

**V. Water for People**

Taylor Hopper reported that \$5,284 was raised for Water for People recently for a total of over \$8,000 for the year. Unfortunately, donations for Xicotepc were down considerably due to the cancellation of the annual conference.

**W. Website**

Mark Jones submitted a written report that everything was working fine and to let him know if anything needed to be added or changed.

**X. Young Professionals**

No report.

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

John Ringlestein reported that the total assets are fairly steady with only minor variations in the accounts. The only major changes were in the region accounts and the research grant program. Insurance settlements have been received for the Biosolids, Annual, and Operators conferences. New regulations provide that banks do not have to honor checks more than 6 months old so this is something all conferences and regions should be aware of. It was moved by Dan Miers, and seconded by Matt Wildman, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

## **B. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that he had received information from RegFox that they were now offering online hosting for virtual meetings. It remains to be seen if this would be a viable option for us.

## **C. Delegates' Report**

Steve Hoambrecker reported that participated in the HOD annual meeting via Zoom. Brave Blue World is now available on Netflix. Jon Koch submitted a written report. He has been assigned to the Government Affairs group and will be meeting with the HOD virtually in December.

## **D: Regional Directors**

**Region 1:** Lyle Krueger reported they had selected and awarded their Operator of the Year recently. While the winner was not recognized at their regional meeting as it was cancelled the information has appeared in the latest issue of the newsletter. Awards for the winner and the runner-up were presented to them at one of their City Council meetings.

**Region 2:** Darin Jacobs submitted a written report. Region 2 held their conference on October 8<sup>th</sup> at NIACC. They had approximately 75 in attendance in person and another 35 or so participated virtually. The site at NIACC provided ample room to conduct training and serve lunch safely. They would be happy to provide information about their experiences with virtual training to any other conferences or regions.

**Region 3:** Mark Simms reported that they will hold a planning meeting in January for their April meeting. No meeting was held this fall due to the pandemic.

**Region 4:** Kris Erickson reported that they were encouraging everyone to attend the virtual training. They will hold a planning meeting in December to discuss the possibility of an April meeting.

**Region 5:** Lance Greazel reported that no fall meeting was held but they would be meeting soon to discuss the possibility of a spring meeting.

**Region 6:** No report.

## **E: Correspondence**

None.

## **ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Email Service**

Jim McElvogue reported that he has been exploring the possibility of adding another email address to our website for mass email purposes. Mass emails would not be able to be sent from this address, but it would be listed as the respond to email for mass emails. It is hoped that a non-internet-based email address would help get past the many spam protectors that intercept our mass emails. More research is needed on this and the Board should expect some test emails in the near future.

### **B. Other Items**

None.

**ITEM VII: CONCENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS**

The date for the January meeting was confirmed for January 8<sup>th</sup>. John Ringelestein thanked the Association for the flowers sent for his mother's funeral.

**ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT**

President Ranson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary