

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 12, 2021

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held online on March 12, 2021.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Ranson, at 10:03 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Steve Hoambrecker, Patrick Brown, Lance Greazel, Dan Miers, Matt Wildman, John Ringlestein, Lyle Kreuger, Darin Jacobs, Drew Lammers, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were Taylor Hopper, Ted Payseur, Greg Sindt, Mike Roth, Jason Loots, Matt Hawes, Adam Smith, Jay Brady, and Paul Ebert.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

One item was added to the agenda as Item 6F, CEU's for Taped Sessions. It was moved by Dan Miers, and seconded by Patrick Brown, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Steve Hoambrecker, and seconded by Patrick Brown, to approve the minutes of January 8, 2021. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

Nothing to report.

B. Annual Meeting

Jay Brady reported that the committee is working on the 2021 conference. The venue still has space restrictions but that is expected to change as the Covid vaccine becomes more available. The abstract submittal process has been set up in RegFox and is ready to go. More planning will occur during the spring and summer. There was some discussion about incorporating the Operators/Pretreatment Conference into the Annual Conference. The general consensus was that separate Operators and Pretreatment tracks would suffice to compensate for the cancellation of that conference. The Annual Conference has had a special operators' rate for quite a long time.

C. Awards

Matt Hawes reported that the Awards process has started with a Lab Analyst Award candidate identified. The Board was reminded that last year's subcommittees deliberated on candidates again this year due to the decision to hold last year's awards until they could be presented at a live Annual Conference.

D. Biosolids

Dan Miers reported that the Biosolids Conference will be held March 17th as a virtual meeting. The program is undergoing some last-minute changes as some of the taped presentation fell short in length and the Committee is working in filling some time gaps.

E. Collection Systems

Curt Kampman submitted a written report. Their conference will be held virtually over three afternoons in March. The training will be worth 0.4 CEU's for each session for a total of 1.2 CEU's. No PACP/MACP/LACP training or certification exams will be offered at this time. This is a renewal year for the Voluntary Collection Systems certification.

F. Education

Patrick Brown had nothing further to add about the Operators/Pretreatment Conference.

G. Exhibitors

No report.

H. Financial Review

No report.

I. Government Affairs

Ted Payseur mentioned again that it was time for our annual meeting with IDNR. This year's meeting will no doubt be held virtually. He is open to helping the IAWEA officers establish an agenda and discussing possible dates. Any infrastructure bill is likely to focus on transportation and broadband connectivity. Water and wastewater would receive only a minor portion of the funding.

J. Historian

John Ringlestein reported that he has only worked on financial history since the last meeting, specifically 2020.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

Paul Ebert reported that he would work with Jay and Patrick on adding a Pretreatment track to the Annual Conference.

L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

M. Maintenance

Bob Ranson reported that the 2021 conference had an attendance of about 100 and should net around \$2,500.

N. Membership

Jason Loots reported that some of the regions were hosting in-person meetings this spring and he planned to attend. He has also registered for the third WEFMAX meeting that is going to be discussing member recruitment and retention.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch could not attend but Matt Wildman reported that Jon is working on the next issue and requests newsletter articles from members.

P. Nominating

No report.

Q. Operator Certification

No report.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

No report.

S. Research

Mike Roth reported that the Committee is working on the RFP for the 2021 Grant Program.

T. Safety

No report.

U. Small Communities

Matt Wildman reported that the committee had hosted a series of virtual meetings this winter. They had about 40 attendees.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported that the committee was planning on hosting the golf outing at the Annual Conference. He asked if anyone had suggestions for a golf course in the Altoona area. Terrace Hill, the local municipal course, was mentioned.

W. Website

No report.

X. Young Professionals

YP's are meeting later today to plan a video for the virtual Children's Water Festival. He reported that he had sent invites to U of I and ISU about participating in the Central States design competition.

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

The Treasurer reported that IAWEA had a net increase of \$2,987.99 since the first of the year. This increase was mainly due to revenue from the 2021 Maintenance Conference. John also related that certain forms must be filed electronically to the IRS so he was going to have to find some software that would allow him to do that. It was moved by Steve Hoambrecker, and seconded by Patrick Brown, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that the new WEF membership database was delayed yet again. This new system will allow us to offer Iowa Only membership and WEF membership on the same website. This delay means that the new registration software has been pushed even further back. The best we can hope for is to use it for the Annual Conference, but it will depend on the timing.

C. Delegates' Report

Steve Hoambrecker reported that he has been attending some Zoom meetings. There is currently a Diversity survey for MA's. WEFTEC21 in Chicago is being planned as a live event.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Lyle Kreuger had nothing new to report.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that Region 2 hosted a live meeting last fall that was able to be attended virtually as well. Another such meeting is planned for April 8th.

Region 3: Mark Simms submitted a written report. Region 3 will host a meeting in Sioux City on March 18th. They have received more than \$1,000 in donations from vendors to keep registration costs low. Also, Mark reports that he has retired as of March 1st. Region 3 will be electing a new director at the meeting.

Region 4: No report.

Region 5: Lance Greazel reported that Region 5 would host a meeting on March 31st in Huxley.

Region 6: Drew Lammers reported that they will host a meeting on September 1st. Details are still being planned.

E: Correspondence

None.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. 2021 Budget

This item was added to the agenda to allow any other additions to the budget. Jay Brady mentioned that some funding might be necessary to help establish site specific chemical criteria.

B. 2021 Exec Board and Annual Business Meeting Dates

Jim McElvogue reported that he has researched the IAWEA Constitution and Bylaws and our Manual of Policies and Practices. Terms for officers are set as one year but those terms are extended from one Annual Meeting to the next. Therefore, it should be within their discretion for the Board to set the 2021 Business Meeting to coincide with the Annual Conference in September. There was tacit agreement to this plan. Jim also suggested that the June meeting be held at the site of the Annual Conference like the March meeting for a usual June conference. There was also tacit agreement to set this in-person meeting for 10am on June 18th at Prairie Meadows. Jay Brady will arrange a room with the venue.

C. IDNR DMR Web-based Reporting

Bob Ranson had an email from Lindsey Beaman of Snyder & Associates about IAWEA spearheading the effort to design a new reporting system. Some people expressed reservations about a live site in the case of reporting errors. The consensus was to find out more about what this plan entailed before committing. Bob will check with Tom Atkinson to determine what they were looking for.

D. IDNR Nutrient Removal Optimization Program

Matt Wildman reported that IDNR's purpose is to identify certain activated sludge plants under the 1.0 MGD limit for nutrient removal and advise them how to run their plants in such a way to achieve some nutrient reduction. Two or three communities have volunteered to participate in the program. IDNR and IAWEA will be working with Craig Just at the U of I using their research to implement individual plant

strategies. It is hoped that if this small beginning yields positive results the program can be presented at an Annual Conference and expand to more facilities.

E. Event Cancellation Insurance

John Ringelestein has received a proposal for event cancellation insurance for 2021. While the price was relatively minor it was felt that the chances of the Annual Conference being cancelled due to some reason were minor. As expected, the insurance is no longer valid for pandemics. The consensus was to pass on this insurance for this year.

F. CEU's for Taped Training Sessions

Jim McElvogue requested clarification of the rules for granting CEU's for taped training sessions. It was relayed that one taped session was approved for CEU's for the City of Cedar Rapids as they missed one of the days of the Maintenance Conference due to them having to respond to a snow emergency. The consensus was that future issues will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis but that this was not going to be a regular offering. It was suggested that any future taped sessions should be witnessed by an IAWEA member.

G. Other Items

None.

ITEM VII: CONCENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

The date for the June meeting was confirmed for June 18th at 10am at Prairie Meadows. Jay Brady will arrange for a room for this meeting. The annual Business Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference in September. Ted Payseur will work with IAWEA officers to set up a meeting with IDNR.

ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT

President Ranson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary