

# ***IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION***

## ***EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING***

***January 7, 2022***

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at Fox Engineering in Ames on January 7, 2022.

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

The meeting was called to order by President Patrick Brown, at 10:02 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Bob Ranson, Dan Miers, Lyle Krueger, Steve Hoambrecker, Curt Kampman, Darin Jacobs, Shannon Hazelton, Jon Koch, John Ringelestein, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were Taylor Hopper, Greg Sindt, Mark Jones, Jason Loots, and Ted Payseur.

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

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

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

Taylor Hopper brought up a couple of corrections to his report at the last meeting. It was moved by Steve Hoambrecker, and seconded by Dan Miers, to approve the minutes of November 19, 2021 as amended. Motion carried.

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

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

Nothing to report.

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

Jay Brady submitted a written report with the following comments:

1. Annual Conference planning is well underway.
2. Presentation Abstracts are due January 10th.
3. Local Arrangements has met and is actively working to build on the original 2020 planning.

Discussion was held on the location of the March meeting. As there were some questions about local logistics it was decided to have the meeting at the Davenport venue with the possibility of having a remote meeting alternative.

#### **C. Awards**

Matt Hawes will soon be contacting the Awards subcommittees to get them started on the selection process.

#### **D. Biosolids**

Dan Miers reported that they will have a planning meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The conference will take place on March 16, 2022, at the FFA Center at DMACC in Ankeny. The committee has ordered knives to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conference.

### **E. Collection Systems**

Curt Kampman reported that they held a planning meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The conference will take place March 2-4, 2022, at the Best Western in Marshalltown. PACP training, the collection systems exam and the regular conference will all be offered. With Curt Kampman moving on into the IAWEA officer rotation Dave Haugen will be the new chair of the committee.

### **F. Education**

Patrick Brown mentioned that the Operators/Pretreatment Conference was planned for September 2022 at DMACC in Newton. He will arrange a conference planning meeting in the next few weeks.

### **G. Exhibitors**

No report.

### **H. Financial Review**

No report.

### **I. Government Affairs**

Patrick Brown reported that he had received a letter from IDNR stating that they would not change from using BOD to calculate treatment facility design and monitoring raw wastewater. This decision contradicts a multitude of scientific data and recommendations from WEF, IAWEA, and numerous research experts. This decision will also require Iowa municipalities and industries to build treatment facilities with excess capacity thus costing millions of dollars for ratepayers and consumers. IDNR stated that their data from only four sites are sufficient for them to opine that the effort to change the current practice is not worthwhile.

Greg Sindt reported that the 4-state EPA meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2022, in Kansas City. Greg provided an outline of the agenda and advised there was plenty of room if others want to attend. Greg went through the agenda and discussed plans for each item. There was then some general discussion of PFAS with the consensus being that opinions on this matter range from no big deal to catastrophic effects.

### **J. Historian**

No report.

### **K. Industrial Pretreatment**

No report.

### **L. Laboratory Practices**

No report.

### **M. Maintenance**

Bob Ranson reported that the conference will be held January 25-26, 2022 at DMACC in Ankeny. The committee decided to conduct raffle drawings rather than a gift at the door. They also raised prices \$20 per day as that has not changed in years and costs for food and refreshments is rising.

### **N. Membership**

No report.

**O. Newsletter**

Jon Koch reported that they got all the issues published last year but the schedule changed somewhat due to the timing of the Annual Conference. The next issue should be out next week. He brought extra copies with him for people to take back with them for distribution at conferences or workplaces.

**P. Nominating**

No report.

**Q. Operator Certification**

No report.

**R. Public Relations/Public Education**

No report.

**S. Research**

Mike Roth emailed a report:

- Committee meeting planned for January 14<sup>th</sup>
- Will be working on 2022 Research Grant Program RFP
- Looking to issue RGP RFP in February with submittal deadline in May 2022 for award in June 2022

**T. Safety**

No report.

**U. Small Communities**

No report.

**V. Water for People**

Taylor Hopper reported that about \$14,700 was raised in 2021. They may add an online auction ahead of the conferences to allow other people to bid. This would have to be with the understanding that online bids could be overbid at the conferences.

**W. Website**

Mark Jones reported that everything seemed to be running smoothly.

**X. Young Professionals**

Adam Smith submitted a written report stating that the committee was still promoting student participation in the 2022 Midwest Student Design Competition.

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

The Treasurer reported that funds have been shifted around to maximize the interest received from the credit union. He has also zeroed out the Water Projects, Library Share, and Newsletter accounts and transferred those funds into the Money Market account. Financials for 2021 will end up being a small deficit.

A general discussion was held regarding the future of the Treasurer position. The Treasurer indicated that he will be looking to step down in another year. The amount of work involved will probably preclude being able to find someone to handle the entire workload. Patrick Brown will contact the Financial Review Committee Chair to have them explore the costs of hiring an outside firm to handle the accounting and tax details. The Nominating Committee was encouraged to try to identify someone to understudy the Treasurer this next year and assume the daily duties in 2023.

It was moved by Jon Koch, and seconded by Darin Jacobs, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

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

The Secretary reported that RegFox had auto-renewed those Iowa Only members who had selected that option. The people who had paid by credit card were merely charged to the credit card on file. Those that had paid by check were also renewed but with no payment. Each of these people also received an email stating that they had been renewed. He had to contact all of these people to let them know that they would, in fact, not be renewed and would have to do so manually. The auto-renew feature has been deactivated.

### **C. Delegates' Report**

Jon Koch distributed a written report outlining WEF's efforts in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Water Advocates, and their Mentorship program. Everyone was urged to take advantage of this information and participate in everything that struck their interest. Steve Hoambrecker added that WEF had a DEI starter kit available for MA's. Steve also reported that all MA's were going to be required to adopt WEF's Code of Conduct into their rules (whether Bylaws or Policy Manual is yet to be determined). He also mentioned that the WEF grant program was available again.

### **D: Regional Directors**

**Region 1:** Lyle Krueger had nothing new to report.

**Region 2:** Darin Jacobs reported that their conference would be held at NIACC on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Region 3:** Shannon Hazelton had nothing to report at this time.

**Region 4:** No report.

**Region 5:** No report.

**Region 6:** Drew Lammers submitted a written report:

Region 6 has a committee planning meeting on Jan. 20 for our spring conference. Region 6 would like to request approval for giving away a free admission to the annual conference as a prize at our regional conference. This goes to any current IAWEA member who has not previously attended an annual conference. The recipient is responsible for travel and lodging expenses. This prize has been well received in the past and we wish to continue to offer it.

### **E: WEF/Iowa Only Membership Drawings Clarification**

The Secretary wanted to remind the Regions about the membership drawings that have been approved by the Board. Occasionally IAWEA is allowed free WEF memberships, and these may be allocated to the regions on a case-by-case basis. Generally, odd numbered regions will be awarded these in odd numbered years and even numbered regions in even numbered years. Again, this practice will be subject

to availability and will not be awarded unless specifically approved by the Board. WEF requires that these free memberships must be limited to people who have never belonged to WEF before. Since these WEF memberships are not always available it was moved by Jim McElvogue, and seconded by John Ringelestein, to allow each region to offer one free Iowa Only membership per year. These memberships are to be awarded only to people who are not current members. Since these memberships are based on the calendar year these should be awarded at the region's first meeting of the year. These memberships are to be awarded only to people who are not current members. Furthermore, since the above mentioned WEF memberships include IAWEA membership regions will not be allowed to give away an Iowa Only membership in years when they award a WEF membership. Motion carried.

Each region is also allowed to give away a registration to the IAWEA Annual Conference to a current paid member who has not previously attended this conference. All travel and lodging costs must be paid by the region or the attendee.

#### **F: Correspondence**

None.

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

#### **A. 2022 Budget**

The Treasurer submitted a draft budget for discussion. Several changes and additions were suggested with a consensus agreed to on each item. It was brought up that some of the 2021 allocated funds in Special Projects was not yet spent but was committed to be spent. It was moved by Dan Miers, and seconded by Jon Koch, to transfer the 2021 funds to the 2022 budget. Motion carried. After considerable deliberations it was moved by Dan Miers, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to approve the 2022 budget as amended. Motion carried.

#### **B. WEFMAX Attendance**

This discussion item was to identify which meetings were going to be attended by IAWEA representatives. This is to assure that we spread people out among different sites to maximize networking opportunities. There were also two applications from committee chairs to attend a WEFMAX. It was moved by Dan Miers, and seconded by Darin Jacobs, to approve both applications. Motion carried.

#### **C. Other Items**

Patrick Brown reported that he has been contacted by Lyle Hammes of IA-AWWA about setting up a meeting with the major sponsors of water and/or wastewater education in Iowa. He stated that he would attend the meeting and invited anyone else who was interested to attend as well. No date has been set yet but he would let people know.

Ted Payseur asked if the Board was interested in setting up a Leadership meeting with IDNR. It was generally agreed to have such a meeting with details to be worked out later.

### **ITEM VII: CONCENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS**

Patrick Brown will contact the Financial Review Committee Chair about exploring outside accounting services.

### **ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT**

President Brown declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary