

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 9, 2022

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at RiverCenter in Davenport on March 25, 2022.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Elect Curt Kampman, at 3:50 PM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Darin Jacobs, Patrick Brown, Steve Hoambrecker, Lyle Krueger, Tim Gessert, Laren O'Neil, John Ringlestein, and Jim McElvogue. Dan Miers joined the meeting later. Other members present were Taylor Hopper, Mark Jones, Jason Loots, Jay Brady, Adam Smith, and Dave Haugen.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by Patrick Brown, to approve the minutes of March 25, 2022. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

Jim McElvogue stated that he had nothing to report at this time but there were items to discuss later on the agenda.

B. Annual Meeting

Jay Brady expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by the City of Davenport for this year's conference. He will be issuing an RFP from various other venues for the 2023 and 2024 conferences with responses due by early fall.

C. Awards

No report.

D. Biosolids

No report.

E. Collection Systems

Dave Haugen reported that the Collection Systems Conference will be moving to the Quality Inn and Suites in Ames in 2023. This decision was made due to substantial price increases despite ongoing problems with the former venue.

F. Education

Patrick Brown reported that a planning meeting for the Operators/Pretreatment Conference in September 2022 has been held. He is working on the agenda and another meeting will be held soon to confirm details with the venue.

G. Exhibitors

No report.

H. Financial Review

Keith Hobson submitted a written report containing a review of the 2021 Budget Year. The committee reported a small increase of just under \$3,000 for that year. Both reserve accounts are funded well above the recommended levels. The committee once again thanks the Treasurer for his excellent service to the Association.

I. Government Affairs

Jay Brady reported that the committee met this morning over breakfast. The committee has had some contact from IDNR concerning the Design Standards. IAWEA has sought for the standards to be more guidance than the current review by IDNR. IDNR has resisted that change but still desires IAWEA's input on the standards. The committee decided to review the standards once again with the goal of compartmentalizing the rules for better guidance. The BOD/CBOD issue seems to be dead at this time as IDNR has refused to accept the expert advice and change their misguided position. The committee continues to monitor the PFAS issue, but no action is being taken at this time. Also, the co-chairs of the committee have indicated their desire to step down from their leadership positions. A replacement is being sought from among the other members of the committee.

J. Historian

John Ringelestein reported that he continues to sort through past records in order to separate them into categories.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

No report.

L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

M. Maintenance

Bob Ranson submitted a written report. The 25th Annual Maintenance Conference was held January 25-26, 2022, with 60 attending the first day and 45 the second day. Net income for the conference was approximately \$2,600. Planning for the 2023 conference will begin in a few months.

N. Membership

Jason Loots reported a total of 717 members with 393 WEF Members and 324 Iowa Only members. The Iowa Only membership has rebounded nicely from the 2 years of virtual meetings when no member discounts were offered.

O. Newsletter

Various people commented on the conference program being in the newsletter instead of being printed separately. The consensus was that this seemed to work OK except that the conference sponsors were not able to be listed due to the earlier printing deadline. However, the sponsors are to be listed in the next newsletter.

P. Nominating

Patrick Brown assumes the chair of this committee and was informed that Vice-President and Federation Delegate nominees were needed for next year.

(At this point Dan Miers took over as Chair of the meeting.)

Q. Operator Certification

Jim Utter submitted a written report. Committee members are Rick Graves, Mark Jones, Jason Loots, and Jim Utter. Upcoming topics for the committee are the 5 year strategic plan, wastewater operator certification Grade W for On-site/Septic license, revisiting/updating Affidavit Operator Program and an Operator code of ethics.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

No report.

S. Research

Mike Roth submitted a written report and summarized it at the meeting. There were no grant applicants for 2022. The 2020 award recipient presented at the 2022 conference, but the final report is needed. The 2021 award recipient will present at the 2023 conference and the final report is needed. The committee is exploring whether to make the grant bi-annual and increase it to \$20,000 (remaining \$10,000 per year). The committee will also develop formal vetting and nomination procedures for the Morgan and Camp Awards.

T. Safety

This committee has been inactive for several years. The current chair has indicated that he no longer considers himself as the chair of the committee. The President will seek a new chair.

U. Small Communities

The Secretary reported that Matt Wildman gave him an oral report. The committee has been inactive this past year due to COVID but does plan to resume in the next few months.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported that the Water for People efforts raised \$5,000 and the Xicotepec project will receive about \$3,300.

W. Website

Mark Jones reported that he would like every Committee Chair to review their respective pages to identify old information and let him know what changes are needed. He has gone through the entire website to eliminate listed emails and replaced them with contact buttons. This should reduce any phishing programs that gather email addresses for spam.

X. Young Professionals

Adam Smith reported that he wanted regions to think about how to involve YP's locally. Established members are encouraged to mix with YP members as much as possible to make them feel more welcome.

ITEM V: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that accounts increased about \$33,000 since the March report mainly due to receipts from the Annual Conference. The Collection Systems Conference netted about \$9,000 this year pending any late invoices. It was moved by Dan Miers, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

No report.

C. Delegates' Report

Steve Hoambrecker reported that he attended the WEFMAX in Hawaii. The main topic was the new MA Code of Conduct. Some MA's are rebranding in order to clarify their mission referencing clean water rather than water environment. The next MA Grant deadline is June 24, 2022. Steve has also submitted his expense report for WEFMAX. The Secretary explained that Hawaii was expensive to attend, and Steve spent more than the \$1,500 WEFMAX travel allowance. It was moved by Jim McElvogue, and seconded by John Ringlestein, to approve paying Steve's expenses of \$1,882.03. Motion carried.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Lyle Krueger reported that Region 1 will have a planning meeting next month in preparation for their fall meeting.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that their wastewater conference was held at NIACC on April 14th. There were approximately 105 people in attendance. They held a planning meeting for their fall water conference last week.

Region 3: No report.

Region 4: Tim Gessert with the City of Harlan introduced himself as the new Region 4 Director. He reported that 80-90 people attended their spring meeting.

Region 5: No report from Grant Reimers. Jason Loots stated that their spring meeting attendance was approximately 45. They will have a planning meeting for their fall meeting next month and will be exploring the possibility of touring the new Indianola plant at that time.

Region 6: No report.

E: Correspondence

None.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. MA Code of Conduct

The Secretary reported that he had not had time to work on this project.

B. Constitution & Bylaws Amendments

The Secretary reported that he had not had time to work on this project.

C. Treasurer Duties and Replacement Ad hoc Committee Report

Patrick Brown reported that Keith Hobson, John Ringelestein, Jim McElvogue, and he met virtually to discuss this topic. Keith has spoke with several other MA's and there is not a clear consensus on how these duties can be handled. John stated that he would be available to continue as Treasurer if certain duties requiring extended labor would be contracted out. After discussion amongst the group these are the next steps that have been identified:

1. Continue a voluntary Treasurer position with some additional paid work through an accounting firm that works with non-profits.
2. John will tabulate his duties as Treasurer so this could be divided between the voluntary role and the hired accountant.
3. The Ad hoc Committee will research accounting firms that would be suitable for this work and RFP's will be provided to interested firms for selection by the Board.

John will complete his list and forward it to Patrick. Patrick will then work toward putting together an RFP.

D. Meeting with Iowa Water Associations

Patrick Brown reported that he and Curt Kampman met with several water associations last month. The meeting seemed to be just a get together to meet with the leaders of the various groups. Common goals were identified, and legislative issues were discussed. A training schedule was presented for the first few months of next year and training seemed to be widely available. Government Affairs involvement varied from group to group but it seemed that the water associations concentrated on the Iowa Legislature while we tend to work more with IDNR. There did not appear to be a clear idea of whether any future meeting might be of use.

E. Other

Lauren O'Neil asked if an Ad hoc Committee could be formed to assist in applying for an MA Grant to help fund the internship program. President Miers agreed to establish the committee and Lauren will forward him the names of the members. At this time the working title of the committee is the Ad hoc Water in Progress Committee.

ITEM VII: CONSENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

John Ringelestein will complete his list of Treasurer duties and forward to Patrick Brown. Patrick will work on an RFP for limited paid accounting duties. will contact Keith Hobson about getting the new Ad hoc committee to meet to discuss Treasurer options. Lauren O'Neil will forward a list of potential Ad hoc Water in Progress committee members to Dan Miers and try to apply for an MA Grant by the June 24th deadline.

ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT

President Miers declared the meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary