

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 9, 2022

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at Fox Strand in Ames on September 9, 2022.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Miers, at 10:02 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Curt Kampman, Darin Jacobs, Steve Hoambrecker, Lyle Krueger, Lauren O'Neil, Jon Koch, John Ringelestein, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were Taylor Hopper, Mark Jones, Jason Loots, Eric Evans, Keith Hobson, Matt Wildman, and Paul Ebert.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by John Ringelestein, and seconded by Lyle Krueger, to approve the minutes of June 9, 2022. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

Nothing to report.

B. Annual Meeting

Jay Brady sent an email reporting that the RFP process for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 conferences has started and results will be available to the Board in early October.

C. Awards

No report.

D. Biosolids

Dan Miers reported that they will hold a conference planning meeting in October. The Secretary requested that the Biosolids Committee, and all specialty conferences, send their CEU and PDH reports to the Secretary so he could respond to questions about CEU's and PDH's earned through IAWEA.

E. Collection Systems

Lauren O'Neil 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. The conference will be held March 8-10, 2023.

F. Education

Jim McElvogue reported that the Operators/Pretreatment Conference was held September 7-8, 2023 at DMACC in Newton. There were 102 people registered compared to 110 the last time the conference was held in 2019. About 20 people signed up to take the IAWEA Voluntary Collection Systems exam.

G. Exhibitors

No report.

H. Financial Review

Keith Hobson reported that they wouldn't have anything for the Board until after the end of the year. The reserves are in good shape.

I. Government Affairs

Greg Sindt has indicated his desire to step down from his co-chair position. A replacement is being sought from among the other members of the committee. President Miers will check with Ted Paseur to see if he wishes to continue as c-chair. Once that is known Eric Evans and Jon Koch volunteered to serve as co-chairs if both are needed.

J. Historian

John Ringelestein reported that he continues to sort through past records in order to separate them into categories. He is consolidating old financial records from about 30 pages down to 2 pages. A question was raised about how the former Historian was doing. John reported that he has mostly recovered from his fall last year and that he would be celebrating his 100th birthday on November 12, 2022. A surprise Open House for this event was discussed and suggested to take place after the November 18th Board meeting. Mark Jones will contact the Ames Water Plant about possibly hosting such an event. It was moved by Jim McElvogue, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, that IAWEA would pay for any costs associated with the Open House. Motion carried.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

Paul Ebert reported that the Pretreatment portion of the Operators Conference went well with an increase in attendance from 8-10 to about 14-16 this year. He also complimented the new location of the conference.

L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

M. Maintenance

No report.

N. Membership

Jason Loots reported that he has been discussing with Craig Hennager of DMACC about producing a short video outlining the advantages of IAWEA membership and the labor needs of the wastewater industry. A discussion was held about sending info about IAWEA (or newsletters) to Iowa cities and towns. Mark Jones will explore obtaining city addresses through the IDNR website. It was also suggested that the newsletter could run a column every issue with IAWEA members (veterans and YP's) explaining how membership has helped them succeed in their careers. Steve Hoambrecker will contact Scott Wienands to see if he would write the first one.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch reported that the next issue will be out soon. John Ringlestein reported that he had received a check for approximately \$127 for revenue from the last issue. We will continue to receive these checks whenever the publisher sells a certain amount of ad space in our newsletter.

P. Nominating

No report.

Q. Operator Certification

No report.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

No report.

S. Research

Mike Roth submitted a written report. The Research Committee granted a one-year extension to the 2021 grant recipient (ISU Biosolids/PFAS Study) as the LC/MS system needed for PFAS measurements was not available. This study is expected to conclude in June of 2023. The committee will be meeting in Late September or early October.

T. Safety

President Miers continues to search for a new chair for this committee.

U. Small Communities

Matt Wildman reported that the committee has been inactive this past year or so due to COVID but does plan to resume in the next few months.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported that efforts are underway for the fundraising at the water conference in October. WFP is also hosting a virtual tour of their efforts in India. Details on a virtual 6K run or 60K bicycle ride are available on their website. \$5,000 was raised for Water for People and about \$3,300 for the Xicotepc project at our Annual Conference.

W. Website

Mark Jones reported that he encourages everyone to send him updates to the website.

X. Young Professionals

No report.

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

The Treasurer reported that the Operations account increased about \$21,700 since the June report. The Annual Conference has about \$14,000 in net income pending any outstanding invoices. It was moved by Jim McElvogue, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that now that the Operators/Pretreatment Conference was over he would have more time to investigate using the new WEF membership database. It remains to be seen if the database will save time and work until the new conference registration system becomes available. The Secretary

also reported that the gift for the WEF rep was mailed but was returned a month later as undeliverable. Discussion was held regarding this tradition and the consensus was that it may be time to eliminate it. Most reps fly to the conference and between TSA regs and luggage fees it is getting more and more difficult to find appropriate gifts.

C. Delegates' Report

Steve Hoambrecker reported that he participated in the last HOD conference call. The main topic was WEFTEC in New Orleans and safety while attending. The advice given was to stay in populated areas, especially at night avoiding alleys and dark streets. There will be a Delegates meeting at 8am on Saturday. He encouraged Eric Evans to get involved with one of the Delegate committees and to discuss those options with WEF staff. Jon Koch encouraged those who are on social media and are attending WEFTEC to post pictures and comments to reach out to younger people.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Lyle Krueger reported that Region 1 had a planning meeting for their fall conference on July 21st. Region officers will begin plant inspections next week for their Operator of the Year Award.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that Region 2 held a planning meeting in June for their fall water-focused conference. They are having trouble getting speakers to confirm their attendance, so the agenda is not yet set. The meeting is scheduled for October 13th at NIACC.

Region 3: No report.

Region 4: No report.

Region 5: No report from Grant Reimers. Jason Loots stated that they had a planning meeting last week. The meeting will be held October 26th at the new Indianola plant.

Region 6: No report.

E: Correspondence

None.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. MA Code of Conduct

The Secretary reported again that this would be a winter project for the A&O Committee.

B. Constitution & Bylaws Amendments

The Secretary reported again that this would be a winter project for the A&O Committee. The Secretary stated that changing the method of amending the C&B could be a super majority vote of the Exec Board or be expanded to be a majority vote of the Board and the Committee Chairs present at a regular Board meeting. Other options discussed were members voting online by email or a survey service. These options do have security issues because of the need to confirm the identity of the member submitting a vote. While a few of those present preferred a direct vote by members, the majority acknowledged that this method presented numerous logistic issues and needed to be updated somehow. The A&O Committee will meet and bring a recommendation to the Board.

C. Treasurer Duties and Replacement Ad hoc Committee Report

The Secretary reported that John Ringlestein has assembled a list of duties of the Treasurer. The list is divided into two subgroups; those that he would be willing to continue to perform and those that he

recommends be contracted out to an outside provider. Patrick Brown will use the latter subgroup to formulate an RFP to be sent to possible providers.

D. WEF or IAWEA Memberships for Regions 1, 3, and 5

The Secretary advised the Board that 3 free WEF memberships were available. As directors of regions 1 and 2 were present he recommended that these two regions be offered 2 of these memberships. The other membership would be available on a first come, first served basis. There was a consensus to follow this plan.

E. Other

Lauren O'Neil reported that she had applied for a WEF grant to fund the intern program, but it was not approved in the latest round of grants. She will reapply in the next round.

ITEM VII: CONCENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

Dan Miers will continue to seek a new chair for the Safety Committee. Mark Jones will investigate options for conducting a secure online vote. Patrick Brown will formulate and issue an RFP for an outside provider to conduct certain Treasurer duties.

ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary