

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 18, 2022

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at Fox Strand in Ames on November 18, 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, Lyle Krueger, Lauren O'Neil, Jon Koch, John Ringelestein, Grant Reimers, Tim Gessert, Patrick Brown, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were Taylor Hopper, Mark Jones, Jason Loots, Adib Amini, Jay Brady, Scott Wienands, and Paul Ebert.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by John Ringelestein, 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 reported that proposals had been received from several venues for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 conferences. The viable options appear to be Council Bluffs, Des Moines (3 venues), Davenport, Dubuque, Iowa City, Ottumwa, Sioux City, and Waterloo. Due to various reasons Jay has identified Council Bluffs, Des Moines (Iowa Event Center), Dubuque, Ottumwa, Sioux City, and Waterloo as finalists for the 2023 conference. Taking into account hotel room, venue, and food costs Jay recommends that the Board should choose Waterloo for 2023. Scott Wienands then made a short presentation on the merits of selecting Waterloo including support from Nutri-Ject, the City of Waterloo, and the visitors' bureau. It was moved by John Ringelestein, and seconded by Darin Jacobs, to select Waterloo as the site for the 2023 Annual Conference. Motion carried. Patrick Brown reported that the Program Committee met November 15th to discuss tracks, topics, and keynote speakers. At that time it was decided to solicit abstracts with a due date of January 13, 2023. Jim McElvogue will send last year's submittal form to Lauren O'Neil and Patrick Brown who will update it for posting with the online registration. Lauren O'Neil reported that a mentorship program for the Annual Conference was also discussed.

C. Awards

No report.

D. Biosolids

Dan Miers reported that they will hold a conference planning meeting on December 13th. 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

Curt Kampman reported that they will hold their next planning meeting on December 1st. The Collection Systems Conference will be moving to the Quality Inn and Suites in Ames in 2023. The conference will be held March 8-10, 2023.

F. Education

Patrick Brown reported that the Operators/Pretreatment Conference was held September 7-8, 2022, 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

No report.

I. Government Affairs

Eric Evans and Jon Koch have been appointed as the new co-chairs of the committee. Jon reported that the 4-state meeting would be held shortly and there were still spots open if others wanted to participate.

J. Historian

Nothing new to report.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

No report.

L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

M. Maintenance

No report.

N. Membership

No report.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch requested articles be submitted and letters from the officers as well.

P. Nominating

Patrick Brown was reminded that he will need nominees for Vice President, WEF Delegate, and Secretary. The current Secretary related that Mark Jones was receptive to being nominated as Secretary and that the City of Ames has indicated their continued support.

Q. Operator Certification

No report.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

No report.

S. Research

Adib Amini reported that no one applied for a research grant this year. The committee has been in contact with some ISU professors about a week-long environmental engineering summer program for high school students. The goal would be to increase awareness of and interest in environmental engineering, specifically in water and wastewater fields. The committee is requesting \$7,000 to partially fund the program in 2023. A motion was made by Jon Koch, and seconded by Lauren O'Neil, to provide \$7,000 for this program. Motion carried. These funds will be funneled through the Research Committee who is also charged with providing a report on the specific outcomes of the program with a goal of providing a presentation or update at the Annual Conference. Adib also asked about the possibility of establishing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. The Board was receptive to this idea and the Secretary recommended that a definition of the makeup, purpose, and goals of such a committee be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

T. Safety

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

U. Small Communities

No report.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported that fundraising at the water conference in October raised about \$7,000.

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 \$16,600 since the first of the year. The Annual Conference has about \$9,000 in net income pending any outstanding invoices. The Operators/Pretreatment Conference has a net income of about \$11,000 as of today. The Treasurer will be transferring a substantial sum from the Money Market account to special CD's. The Money Market is currently earning 1.5% interest while the CD's will earn 3.8%. It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by Jon Koch, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that Steve Hoambrecker is requesting approval of \$2,375.37 for expenses to attend WEFTEC. Steve either has to pay for airfare out of Waterloo or drive a considerable distance in order to get cheaper tickets. It was moved by Jon Koch, and seconded by John Ringlestein, to approve paying Steve's expenses. Motion carried.

C. Delegates' Report

Jon Koch reported that WEF has a new strategic plan, and it is posted online. WEF continues to emphasize the DEI initiative. Eric Evans submitted a written report detailing much of the same information.

D: Regional Directors

Region 1: Lyle Krueger reported that Region 1 held their annual meeting on October 26th in Manchester with about 155 in attendance. Matt Bullerman of Calmar was selected as the Operator of the year. Honorable Mention was given to Erik Sauerbry of Strawberry Point. Details of these awards will be in the Winter issue of the newsletter. The new Region Director who will assume this position next June is Lindsay Beaman. She leads the Business Unit for the Snyder & Associates office in Cedar Rapids.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that Region 2 held their fall water-focused conference on October 13th at NIACC. There were about 105 in attendance.

Region 3: No report.

Region 4: Tim Gessert reported that they held their fall meeting in Harlan with about 75 in attendance.

Region 5: Grant Reimers reported that they held their fall meeting on October 26th at the new Indianola plant. There were about 45 in attendance.

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.

C. Treasurer Duties and Replacement Ad hoc Committee Report

Patrick Brown reported that he is working on an RFP for an outside provider to provide certain duties of the Treasurer. The current treasurer is willing to continue to serve if some of the major time-consuming tasks are contracted out.

D. Draft Budget

The Treasurer distributed copies of the draft budget which was reviewed line by line. Slight modifications, additions, and deletions were suggested and mostly adopted. The result was a minor increase of about \$7,000 in the annual budget for the environmental engineering summer program. The Treasurer will make the changes and bring them to the next meeting for final approval.

E. Other

Dan Miers reported that WEF's new biosolids commercial will air Sunday evening. He will pass along times and dates as soon as he hears more details. Lauren O'Neil reported that the summer intern program was going very well. They are thinking about filming a video on the program to get more exposure and involvement.

ITEM VII: CONCENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

Jay Brady will nail down details on where to host the 2024, 2025, and possibly the 2026 Annual Conferences. Adib Amini will put together language for the formation of a DEI Committee. Patrick Brown will finish the RFP for outside treasurer duties. The Treasurer will update the changes to the draft budget and bring to the next meeting for adoption.

ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT

President Miers declared the meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary