

**IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*June 08, 2023*

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at the Waterloo Convention Center in Waterloo on June 08, 2023.

**ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Curt Kampman, at 4:19 PM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Jon Koch, Eric Evans, Darin Jacobs, John Ringelestein, Drew Lammers, Lindsay Beaman, Mike Roth, and Mark Jones. Other members present were Jim McElvogue, Scott Wienands, Jay Brady, Keith Hobson, Tyler Ver Meer, David Haugen, Jason Loots, Jason Kenyon, Adib Amini, Daria Dilparic, and Katie Greenstein.

**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 Jon Koch, to approve the minutes of March 24, 2023. Motion carried.

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

**A. Aims & Objectives**

Jim McElvogue reported that the committee did an extensive re-work to include the Code of Conduct which was included in this conference's registration and will be attached to all future conferences as well. They are also looking into streamlining amendment of the Constitution and By-Laws with on-line election services.

**B. Annual Meeting**

Jay Brady reported that attendance was down this year from the 2022 Annual Conference. Next year's conference will be held in Iowa City. Jay is also planning to investigate possible changes to future awards dinners based on feedback about the event running long and make it more engaging for the membership.

**C. Awards**

No report.

**D. Biosolids**

No report.

**E. Collection Systems**

David Haugen reported the committee met today to start planning for next year's Collection System Conference with meetings in September and December, as well. Next year's event will be in Ames at the Quality Inn, March 5-7, 2024.

**F. Education**

Eric Evans reported that the Operator Conference is scheduled for September 6-7, 2024, at DMACC in Newton.

**G. Exhibitors**

Jim McElvogue reported that he talked to Jon Harger and Jon was very pleased with participation with the scavenger hunt. We had at least 50 booths, with a couple of them canceling at the last minute due to logistic issues.

**H. Financial Review**

Along with a verbal report, Keith Hobson submitted a written report containing a review of the 2022 Budget Year. The committee reported an increase of \$14,673.37 in cash holdings. And again, the committee commended the Treasurer for doing an outstanding job maintaining the Association's financial records.

**I. Government Affairs**

Jon Koch discussed the Water Advocate program to engage with our legislators for water issues. Eric Evans mentioned Executive Order 10 and emphasized the importance of communicating with legislators.

**J. Historian**

John Ringlestein reported that he has been sorting files. Most of the last 3 months' work has been with financial report and filing taxes.

**K. Industrial Pretreatment**

Eric Evans noted that Industrial Pretreatment is contributing a track at the Operator's Conference this year.

**L. Laboratory Practices**

No report.

**M. Maintenance**

Bob Ranson submitted a written report. The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Maintenance Conference was held January 24-25, 2023, in person with approximately 70 in attendance both days. There was no Wrencher Award presented this year. Net income for the conference was \$2,419.53. The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Maintenance Conference is tentatively scheduled for January 23-24, 2024, at DMACC in Ankeny.

**N. Membership**

Jason Loots reported that as of the end of May, Iowa Only membership is at 338. WEF membership at 377 for a total of 715.

**O. Newsletter**

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

**P. Nominating**

No report.

#### **Q. Operator Certification**

No report.

#### **R. Public Relations/Public Education**

No report.

#### **S. Research**

Mike Roth reported the committee changed the Research Grant Program to a 2-year award of \$20,000. The committee recommends two proposals to be awarded this year's grant funds with \$2,000 going to Iowa State University – Ikuma (Title: Control Optimization of Wastewater Treatment Facilities Using Reinforcement Learning for Improved Operation at Reduced Cost). \$18,000 going to Iowa State University – Liu (Title: Assessing the Resilience of Des Moines' Combined Sewer System to Wet Weather) There was discussion of whether to grant funds 100% up front or 50/50 split over the 2-year period.

Jon Koch moved to grant the funds 100% up front. Seconded by Lindsay Beaman. Motion carried. John Ringelestein moved to accept the award recommendations. Jon Koch seconded. Motion carried.

#### **T. Safety**

No report.

#### **U. Small Communities**

No report.

#### **V. Water for People**

No report.

#### **W. Website**

Mark Jones reported the website is going well. He thanked everyone for their input.

#### **X. Young Professionals**

Jason Kenyon reported that Iowa State University had two student groups compete in the Central States WEA design competition. One of those groups was selected to advance to compete at WEFTEC. He is encouraging more students to join the committee.

### **ITEM V: OFFICERS' REPORTS**

#### **A. Treasurer's Report**

John Ringelestein reported that the operations account is up to about \$17,000 mainly due to receipts from the Annual Conference. Region checking is down a little bit, but he is unsure if all receipts have been submitted from region meetings yet. At this point, pending submission of all receipts, Annual meeting income was about \$71,451, expenses at \$54,616, with a net of \$16,832.44.

Mike Roth moved to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Eric Evans. Motion carried.

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

No report.

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

Jon Koch reported they are trying to get more people involved in the Federal advocacy. Eric Evans reported he is involved in a group that is working on improving communication between MA's and the

House of Delegates. Keith Hobson also mentioned that WEF membership is up about 3% from the first of the year. An effort is being made to re-institute membership lost during COVID.

#### **D. Regional Directors**

##### **Region 1**

Lindsay Beaman introduced herself as the new Region 1 Director and reported that they have their fall meeting scheduled for October 25, 2023. They are doing operator awards for grades 3 & 4 at this year's meeting.

##### **Region 2**

Darin Jacobs reported that Region 2 had a wastewater meeting at NIACC on April 13, 2023, with 101 in attendance. There was a planning meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> for the AWWA affiliated meeting at NIACC set for October 12, 2023.

##### **Region 3**

No report.

##### **Region 4**

No report.

##### **Region 5**

Jason Loots reported for Grant Reimers that Region 5 will have their planning meeting in late July or early August for the fall meeting set for October 25, 2023, in Huxley with a tour of the Gross-Wen Technology in Slater.

##### **Region 6**

Drew Lammers reported that they held their meeting on May 3, 2023, in Iowa City with 56 attendees. They donated \$500 to Kirkwood Community College and \$1,000 to DMACC. Bill Stukey from Iowa City was the winner of the Annual Conference registration. Net proceeds after donations for the meeting was just over \$1,000.

#### **E. Correspondence**

John Ringlestein received a thank you from an ISU group for donation to a summer program.

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

##### **A. Treasurer Duties and Replacement Ad hoc Committee Report**

Patrick Brown was unable to attend this meeting, but he has an RFP drafted that he plans to bring to the Board at the next meeting. He has sent copies to John Ringlestein, Jim McElvogue, and Keith Hobson for review. John will pass along some other comments he has as well as confirming due dates for some of the tasks.

##### **B. DEI Ad hoc Committee**

Adib Amini reported on the Women in Water networking event held after the Banquet on Wednesday night. There were approximately 25 people in attendance. They would like to have it in the program for next year's conference. Co-chair, Daria Dilparic said they are thinking about creating a survey to get members' feedback on how the committee can best support them. The DEI Ad hoc Committee met at the Committee Breakfast this morning and discussed the Freshwater event for high school students, planned for the week of July 10.

Adib shared feedback from the committee regarding the banquet, stating there was some content thought to be inappropriate that should be corrected, noting some new female attendees were uncomfortable with some of the traditions of the proceedings, referencing the 5-S segment of the banquet.

Adib requested reimbursement for the Women in Water event of just under \$500 and an operating budget of \$1,000. Jon Koch moved to approve, and Lindsay Beaman seconded to reimburse the ~\$500 for the Women in Water event. After further discussion, Jon Koch then amended his motion to include the \$1,000 budget, as well. The amendment was seconded by Lindsay Beaman. Motion carried.

### **C. Other**

1. Scott Wienands spoke about the upcoming Shrimp & Bingo scheduled for Saturday, August 26, 2023, at the FFA Enrichment Center at the Ankeny DMACC. He shared that to date, Shrimp & Bingo has raised \$106,000.00 for scholarships and have funded \$90,048.00. This year they are expecting 64 students enrolled in the Water Environment Technology program at DMACC. Scott is requesting a donation of \$30,000 from IAWEA for the Shrimp & Bingo DMACC Scholarship Foundation.

Jon Koch moved to make a one-time donation to the Foundation of \$30,000. Seconded by John Ringelestein. Motion carried.

2. Jay Brady shared information from the discussion about Executive Order 10 and Chapter 61 with IDNR. It was suggested that IAWEA send a letter to the Governor's office supporting the preservation of Chapter 61.
3. Adib shared information about a training program through the University of Wisconsin that could use a code for IAWEA members to get a discount on training with a portion of the discount going back to IAWEA.
4. Jason Loots reported on his experience at WEFMAX in Charlottetown, PE, Canada, and thanked the Board for allowing him to attend.

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

1. Government Affairs is to draft a letter to the Governor's office regarding Executive Order 10.
2. Adib Amini is to send the Board a memorandum of understanding for the DEI committee.

### **ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT**

President Kampman adjourned the meeting at 6:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Jones, IAWEA Secretary