

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 22, 2024

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at The Graduate in Iowa City on March 22, 2024.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mike Roth at 10:09 am. The following Executive Committee members were present: Dan Miers, Lauren O'Neil, Lindsay Beaman, Darin Jacobs, Drew Lammers, Mark Jones, John Ringelestein, Eric Evans, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were Tyler Ver Meer, Matt Hawes, David Haugen, Jon Koch, Paul Ebert, Jason Loots, Tim Runde, Taylor Hopper, Jason Kenyon, Katie Greenstein, Tim Wilkey, Craig Just, and Steve Blake. President Curt Kampman joined at 11:55 am.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by John Ringelestein and seconded by Jim McElvogue to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Darin Jacobs and seconded by John Ringelestein to approve the minutes of January 5, 2024. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

John Ringelestein presented the financial report as of March 30, 2024. He noted that the Research Projects account has been set up and \$10,000 added for this year and next year another \$10,000 will be added for a total of \$20,000 for the two-year cycle. The 2023 financial report has been completed and delivered to the Financial Review committee. Four new laptops have been purchased for conference use and Cindy's new laptop should arrive soon. John requested the Executive Committee's approval to set up accounts to fund purchases of new laptops to upgrade conference laptops and the ones used by Cindy, the Treasurer, and Secretary on a three-year cycle.

Mark Jones moved, and Jim McElvogue seconded the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Darin Jacob moved, and Eric Evans seconded the motion to approve the request by John Ringelestein to set up funding for regular replacement of technology equipment on a maximum three-year cycle or as needed on a staggered basis, specifying the conference computers as one unit. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

Mark Jones reported he has been working on upcoming event registrations on RegFox.

C. Delegates' Reports

Eric Evans reported on the progress of the Delegate At Large workgroup. A survey was conducted to evaluate the adequacy of having Delegates At Large seats to cover different constituencies.

Jim McElvogue added that there is proposed language in the manual to fund an IAWEA member who is a Delegates At Large, although there is no provision for adding them to the IAWEA Board. Jim also reported that of his two workgroups that he is a part of, the New Member Onboarding workgroup has completed their work. They will be producing a one-page document to provide to new WEF Delegates. The Workforce Development group has not started yet.

D. Regional Directors

- i. **Region 1:** Lindsay Beaman reported that the Region 1 committee will start planning in April for their fall meeting in October.
- ii. **Region 2:** Darin Jacobs reported that the Region 2 Spring Meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2024, at NIACC.
- iii. **Region 3:** No report.
- iv. **Region 4:** No report. John Ringelestein did report that Tim Snyder is stepping down as Region 4 Treasurer. John is unsure who is taking over the role.
- v. **Region 5:** No report. Mark Jones did report that the Region 5 Spring Meeting is on March 27, 2024, in Newton.
- vi. **Region 6:** Drew Lammers reported that the Region 6 Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2024, in Iowa City. There will be an IAWEA Annual Conference registration give-away prize for an IAWEA member who has not attended an Annual Conference. Also, a WEF membership give-away prize for anyone who has not been a WEF member.

E. Correspondence

None this meeting.

ITEM V: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion and approval of forming Operations Challenge Committee

Tim Runde described the goals of the Operations Challenge committee. Tim Runde also agreed to chair the committee. Lauren O'Neil suggested a future "mini ops challenge" at the Annual Conference as a demonstration of what an ops challenge looks like and how it functions. Eric Evans moved, and Lauren O'Neil seconded the motion approving establishing an Operations Challenge committee. Motion passed.

B. Discussion and approval of forming Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Tyler Ver Meer spoke to the new language in the Policies and Practices Manual regarding the goals of the DEI committee. John Ringelestein moved, and Jim McElvogue seconded the motion to approving establishing a DEI committee. Motion passed.

C. Discussion and approval of proposed changes to Constitution and Bylaws to then present to the membership at the June 6, 2024, Business Meeting

Tyler Ver Meer explained that the major change will allow IAWEA to email a link to the membership for online voting to make the member-wide voting process more efficient. There was also some language cleaned up in other parts of the document.

Dan Miers moved, and Mark Jones seconded the motion to approve the proposed changes being presented to the membership for a vote. Motion passed.

D. Discussion and approval of proposed changes to Policies and Practices Manual

Tyler Ver Meer discussed the two largest changes were the addition of Operations Challenge and Diversion, Equity, and Inclusion committees. Also adding the reimbursement of expenses for an At Large WEF Delegate. Jay Brady suggested adding the Annual Conference Program Committee to the sentence referencing “related committees” for the DEI Committee.

Jim McElvogue moved, and Lauren O’Neil seconded the motion to approve the proposed changes to the Policies and Practices Manual. Motion passed.

ITEM VI: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

Information was discussed in previous votes. Nothing else to report.

B. Annual Meeting

Jay Brady reported that planning for this year’s event is continuing. There was discussion about Adib Amini’s plan to have a poster presentation or competition starting this year at the event. It is unknown currently where this plan is in its development. Mike Roth said he could work with Adib and the YP program to try and evolve it into a competition in the future.

C. Awards

Matt Hawes reported that all the sub committees have turned in their nominations to the committee for approval and will be going forward to WEF within the next couple of weeks. There are nominees for all three WEF awards this year.

D. Biosolids

Dan Miers reported that the 32nd Biosolids Conference was on March 20, 2024, with 74 attendees. Several surveys were collected with a lot of good comments.

E. Collection Systems

David Haugen reported that the 27th Annual Collection Systems Conference was held March 6-8, 2024, in Ames with over 200 people in attendance including vendors. 57 people took the ABC Collection System exam. 10 people in the PACP/MACP/LACP session. Surveys showed good reviews from attendees. The committee has a meeting scheduled for April 25, 2024, to go over this year’s conference and start plans for the 2025 conference.

F. Education

Mark Jones and Mike Roth shared that there was a planning meeting for the Operator Conference on March 18, 2024. Getting speakers in line for the event, which will be held September 4-5, 2024, at the DMACC Newton Center.

G. Exhibitors

No report.

H. Financial Review

No report.

I. Government Affairs

Eric Evans reported that the committee met on March 21, 2024, and discussed EO-10, with their focus being on wastewater design standards. They will be meeting with Adam Schneiders and others from the IDNR to talk through specific focus areas that they would like to see adjusted in their proposed standards. The committee is also starting to revisit the previous CBOD vs. BOD discussion with IDNR. Greg Sindt is leading this discussion.

J. Historian

John Ringlestein is sorting through materials deciding what to keep.

K. Industrial Pretreatment

Paul Ebert reiterated the progress on the Operator Conference in September.

L. Laboratory Practices

No report.

M. Maintenance

No report.

N. Membership

Jason Loots reported that we had a booth at the IRWA Annual Conference and had some interest. Swag giveaways were popular, so we may need to order some more of the more popular items.

O. Newsletter

Jon Koch reported that items are being gathered for the Annual Conference edition. Jon requested the deadline for submissions be posted on the website.

P. Nominating

No report. Dan Miers requested ideas for nominees for Vice President.

Q. Operator Certification

No report.

R. Public Relations/Public Education

Laurie Twitchell had emailed asking about adding an Instagram account. There was no need for a vote.

S. Research

Mike Roth said he will reach out to Adib Amini regarding the poster competition discussed earlier in the meeting.

T. Safety

Tim Runde said he is working on coming up with topics for Patrick Brown for an upcoming conference.

U. Small Communities

No report.

V. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported on the planning for distribution of monies from fundraisers at the upcoming Annual Conference.

W. Website

No report.

X. Young Professionals

Jason Kenyon reported there are three Young Professionals networking luncheons in the Des Moines, Ames, and Cedar Rapids areas. There are other social events being planned with attendance being open to anyone, not just Young Professionals.

ITEM VII: OTHER

Craig Just requested a donation of up to \$15,000 to support funding for Grant Weaver to come to Iowa for a week-long wastewater tour in October. The discussion will be added to the June 6, 2024, Board meeting.

ITEM VIII: CONCENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

None this meeting.

ITEM IX: ADJOURNMENT

President Curt Kampman adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark C. Jones, IAWEA Secretary