

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 15, 2024

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at Strand Associates in Ames on November 15, 2024.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Lauren Michael at 10:04 am, with the following Executive Committee members present: Curt Kampman (Zoom), Mike Roth, Jason Loots, Lindsay Beaman, Darin Jacobs, Grant Reimers, Mark Jones, John Ringelestein, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were Jay Brady, (Zoom), Dan Miers, Seth Lamb (Zoom), Katie Greenstein, Jon Koch (Zoom), Paul Ebert (Zoom), Tim Runde (Zoom), Taylor Hopper, Jason Kenyon (Zoom), Charlie Stevens, and John Dunn.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Darin Jacobs and seconded by Mike Roth to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Darin Jacobs and seconded by Jim McElvogue to approve the minutes of September 20, 2024. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE JOINT COMMITTEE WITH IA-AWWA FOR UTILITY MANAGEMENT

Charlie Stevens and John Dunn spoke to the Board proposing a joint effort between IAWEA and IA-AWWA for a possible training program for utility management. John said that in the IA-AWWA's Leadership Institute there are similar tracks that overlap with the concept that Charlie is bringing to the Board. John reached out to the IA-AWWA Board and ask if there was general support to team with IAWEA for a joint committee and there was strong support in favor. John also talked to Craig Hennager of DMACC and Craig said he has been interested in a 30-hour certificate course on utility management.

ITEM V: TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, John Ringelestein presented his report to the Board as well as providing a written copy to those present. John also clarified the relationship between IAWEA and the Regions with the following narrative:

"The relationship between the IAWEA and the Regions was established over 40 years ago, at least before my time.

The Regions are autonomous as far as their financial matters. The IAWEA provides accounting services to the Regions and the Regions operate under the IAWEA liability insurance policy and the IAWEA federal tax exemption. The Regions contribute \$200 per year to the bond coverage of the Association.

If the Regions did not operate under the IAWEA federal tax exemption, each region would have to have their own federal tax exemption and would have to file 990 tax returns.

The Regions operating under the IAWEA Federal tax exemption does not add to the burden of preparing the 990-tax return since their financial records are already in our accounting system.

Likewise, the insurance premium is not affected by the Regions since the policy is for the IAWEA and is not based on the number of events, etc. the policy covers and if the Regions did not operate under the umbrella policy, each region would have to find liability insurance coverage for each region.

Bond coverage is also the same situation. The premium rate is not based on numbers covered. It is a blanket coverage bond and covers any IAWEA member who manages money for the Association.”

It was moved by Mark Jones and seconded by Darin Jacobs to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

ITEM VI: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

No report.

B. Annual Meeting

Jay Brady reported that Curt Kampman is working on planning for the 2025 Annual Conference. Jay is requesting ideas for a keynote speaker. Curt Kampman added that they plan to have the program ready by the end of February and that the call for abstracts has been sent to Jon Koch for newsletter publication and to Mark Jones to add to the website.

C. Awards

No report.

D. Biosolids

Dan Miers reported that the next committee meeting will be held on December 10, at the FFA Center to prepare for the upcoming Biosolids Conference.

E. Collection Systems

David Haugen emailed his report prior to the meeting. He reported that planning is still underway for the Collection Systems Conference, March 5th through March 7th at the Quality Inn in Ames, Iowa. Their next planning meeting will be December 5th at the site of the upcoming conference.

F. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

No report.

G. Education

Seth Lamb reported that the September Operator/Pretreatment Conference went well. He would like to send out some questions to groups to see what went well and what could be improved. Jim McElvogue recommended to Seth that Laboratory Practices could add to the Operator/Pretreatment Conference.

H. Exhibitors

No report.

I. Financial Review

No report.

J. Government Affairs

Katie Greenstein reported that the committee will be having a meeting on November 21st plan to draft another EO-10 public comment letter from IAWEA. December 19th meeting planning outreach to the Legislature to make them aware of the Association and its ability to speak on topics such as PFAS and biosolids.

K. Historian

No report.

L. Industrial Pretreatment

Paul Ebert reported that they will be having their next planning meeting near the end of 1st quarter in 2025.

M. Laboratory Practices

No report.

N. Maintenance

No report.

O. Membership

Jason Loots showed the Board a map showing all cities/regions membership. His next goal is to break down the census further into categories such as consultants, operators, etc.

P. Newsletter

Jon Koch reported that the winter issue of the newsletter will be going out mid-December. He noted that there were no letters for the executive team this issue and requested more submissions.

Q. Nominating

Curt Kampman reported that the committee has had some preliminary discussions, but no solid decision has been made, with plenty of time before the next Annual Conference.

R. Operation Challenge

Tim Runde reported that the committee is preparing to restart fundraising for 2025. They hope to have a second team representing Iowa this year. This year's competition at WEFTEC, the Iowa team, The Reclaimers, ranked 6th overall out of 27 teams.

S. Operator Certification

Lauren Michael reported that comprehensive planning is ongoing with IDNR.

T. Public Relations/Public Education

No report.

U. Research

No report.

V. Safety

No Report.

W. Small Communities

No report.

X. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported that at the IA-AWWA conference about \$7,400 was raised. Bob Main was just in Xicotepec, Mexico and the new municipal president is supportive of the project that will add flushing points on water mains. The next regular committee meeting will be January 2, 2025.

Y. Website

No report.

Z. Young Professionals

No report.

ITEM VII: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Secretary's Report

No report.

B. Delegates' Reports

Jim McElvogue attended WEFTEC in October. They have new workgroups available, and he signed up for "Recruitment Tools for Operators" workgroup from April – September. He sat in on the November MA Spotlight and noted that one of the speakers reported that they rotate the committee chair role annually within committees. This encouraged him to suggest that IAWEA committees be more active in getting more people involved to keep a fresher rotation of roles.

C. Regional Directors

i. Region 1

Lindsay Beaman reported that the Region 1 Meeting was well attended, and she was elected to serve as Regional Director for another two years.

ii. Region 2

Darin Jacobs reported that Region 2 held their Fall Meeting which is more AWWA affiliated on October 10, and they had about 100 people in attendance. They are meeting on December 19, to plan for the Spring Meeting which is more IAWEA affiliated.

iii. Region 3

No report.

- iv. **Region 4**
No report.
- v. **Region 5**
Grant Reimers reported that Region 5 had their Fall Meeting the last week of October with 39 in attendance. The Director position will be up for vote at the Spring Meeting.
- vi. **Region 6**
Drew Lammers emailed his report ahead of the meeting reporting that Region 6 committee will be having their Spring Conference planning meeting in December or January.

D. Correspondence

None.

ITEM VIII: FOLLOW-UP ON CONSENSUS AND ASSIGNMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2024, BOARD MEETING.

A. FORM AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

Lauren Michael reported that this is still in progress.

B. PRESIDENT LAUREN MICHAEL WILL TALK WITH BOB WATSON AND CRAIG HENNAGER AND GIVE THEM AN UPDATE ON HOW IAWEA IS PLANNING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DONATIONS.

Lauren Michael reported that this is still in progress.

After some discussion, Jim McElvogue moved to set a closing date at the end of December to accept requests for the funding that was allotted at the June Board meeting for the annual \$1,500 to the DMACC Student Chapter as well as a one-time funding of \$2,500 if they were to go to WEFTEC. Once that deadline passes, then allocate the \$4,000 as a donation to the DMACC scholarship fund. Mark Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. PRESIDENT LAUREN MICHAEL WILL FORM AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REFINE IAWEA'S CURRENT MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES.

Lauren Michael reported that this is still in progress.

D. JAY BRADY WILL FORM AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO HELP DEVELOP AN ONBOARDING PROGRAM FOR NEW OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS.

Jay had already left the meeting. No report.

E. FOLLOW UP ON PROGRESS TO FIND A REPLACEMENT TREASURER.

Jason Loots is hoping to have something in place by the Annual Conference. Jason Kenyon offered to help with the position with his experience as Treasurer for a different group.

ITEM IX: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

ITEM X: CONCENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Lauren Michael will set up a meeting to discuss a Utility Management Committee in cooperation with IA-AWWA.

B. Lauren Michael will follow up with previous assignments held over (in progress) from the September 20, 2024, Board Meeting.

C. Lauren Michael will reach out to Jay Brady to follow up on the onboarding program.

ITEM XI: ADJOURNMENT

President Lauren Michael adjourned the meeting at 11:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Jones, IAWEA Secretary