

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 10, 2025

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at Strand Associates in Ames on January 10, 2025.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Lauren Michael at 10:06 am, with the following Executive Committee members present: Curt Kampman (via Zoom), Lauren Michael, Mike Roth, Jason Loots, Darin Jacobs, Travis Hanson, Mark Jones, Eric Evans, Jim McElvogue (via Zoom). Other members present were Jay Brady (via Zoom), Adib Amini, Keith Hobson, Jon Koch (via Zoom), Paul Ebert (via Zoom), Tim Runde (via Zoom), Daria Dilparic, Taylor Hopper, and Jason Kenyon.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

One correction was presented with the review of the previous meetings minutes where item #7 sub item B that the monetary value given was incorrect. It was moved by Darin Jacobs and seconded by Mike Roth to approve the corrected minutes of November 15, 2024. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

No report.

B. Annual Meeting

Jay Brady reported that planning is underway with abstracts due January 15th. The team is still looking for a keynote speaker.

Curt Kampman reported on the Planning Committee's progress. There was a lengthy discussion on what Wednesday evening would look like regarding the awards banquet. It was ultimately decided that there would be a survey sent to the membership to poll the popularity of the banquet.

Jay reported that he is working with John Lloyd regarding local arrangements and things are progressing.

C. Awards

No report.

D. Biosolids

Taylor Hopper reported for Dan Miers that the next planning meeting is January 14th. The Biosolids Conference is March 19th at the FFA Center at DMACC.

E. Collection Systems

David Haugen reported via email that the committee is deep into planning for the March 5-7 conference.

F. Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

Adib Amini reported that Women in Water lunches are successful. They are being held in three different locations across the state. He also reported that the Fresh Water program last summer was a success as well.

G. Education

No report.

H. Exhibitors

No report.

I. Financial Review

No report.

J. Government Affairs

Jon Koch reported that the committee has been working on the EO10 letter. He reported that the fly-in will be discussed at the March meeting.

K. Historian

No report.

L. Industrial Pretreatment

Paul Ebert reported that the committee will be meeting in the spring to discuss the next conference.

M. Laboratory Practices

Lauren Michael reported that Drew Campbell is busy recruiting committee members. She has discussed with him coming up with ideas for presentations at the Annual Conference.

N. Maintenance

No report.

O. Membership

Jason Loots reported that there are still nine committee chairs that have not submitted a description of their respective committees' duties.

P. Newsletter

No report.

Q. Nominating

Curt Kampman reported that there is a list of possible candidates for vice president nominations.

R. Operations Challenge

Tim Runde reported that the Des Moines team gave a demonstration at the Annual Conference and was well received. It appears that there will be a second Iowa team formed in Cedar Rapids.

S. Operator Certification

No report.

T. Public Relations/Public Education

Daria Dilparic reported that the committee will be getting ready to judge the State Science Fair. They are also working on putting together a "Day in the Life of a Wastewater Operator" video. She asked for assistance from anyone who knows someone with video equipment to do some recording at the Annual Conference for the video.

U. Research

Mike Roth reported that they have a draft RFP for this year's bi-annual grant.

V. Safety

No report.

W. Small Communities

No report.

X. Water For People

Taylor Hopper reported that the Xicotepec, Mexico trip will be March 15-23. Bob Main and Keith Hobson are going. The golf outing and motorcycle ride are being organized for the Annual Conference. Taylor is looking at making some modifications to how money is collected at the silent auction at the Annual Conference. Total 2024 contributions for Water For People between IAWEA and AWWA was \$14,800 and \$3,800 for Xicotepec. The 2024 volleyball tournament for Fresh Water was around \$2,100. There was discussion about changing the Water For People Committee to Philanthropy Committee.

Y. Website

No report.

Z. Young Professionals

No report.

ITEM V: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

Mark Jones presented the Treasurer's report for John Ringelestein. Lauren Michael announced that Jason Kenyon will be working with John Ringelestein to take over Treasurer duties. Keith Hobson said he knows of a CPA firm in Des Moines that does non-profit tax work and will reach out for information.

It was moved by Darin Jacobs and seconded by Jason Loots to accept the report. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

No report.

C. Delegates' Reports

Eric Evans reported that the HOD met for their quarterly meeting on December 11, 2024. 2025 WEFMAX information was presented at this meeting. Locations will be Palm Springs, California, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Salem, Massachusetts. There is now a Blue World video available.

Jim McElvogue reported his work group will not start until April. It will address how to attract and retain water and wastewater operators. He reminded the committee that it is time to decide which location those who are going to WEFMAX plan to attend.

Keith Hobson as a WEF representative reported that this year's YP Summit is being held jointly with AWWA in Dallas, Texas in February. He also reported that the WEF building in Alexandria, Virginia, has a purchase offer and that it is being evaluated at this time. If the building is sold, WEF would probably rent space in the building.

During this time, Jay Brady asked for input for an onboarding plan for new committee and board members.

D. Regional Directors

- i. **Region 1:** Lindsay Beaman reported via email. There were no updates at this time.
- ii. **Region 2:** Darin Jacobs reported that the spring meeting will be April 10 at NIACC.
- iii. **Region 3:** No report.
- iv. **Region 4:** Travis Hanson reported that the fall meeting had about 60 in attendance.
- v. **Region 5:** Jason Loots reported for Grant Reimers that there will be a planning meeting next week.
- vi. **Region 6:** Drew Lammers reported via email that they will be having a planning meeting on January 24.

E. Correspondence

Eric Evans reported that a Nebraska Delegate reached out to him inviting IAWEA to have a joint meeting with the Nebraska Member Association to come together to meet similarly to the 4-States group. Eric asked the group if there would be interest in doing this as a virtual meeting.

ITEM VI: FOLLOW-UP OF CONSENSUS AND ASSIGNMENTS FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2024, MEETING.

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

Lauren Michael reported there will be a management track at the Ankeny Water Conference. This meeting is the first step in organizing a joint management committee. There are still discussions in the future to narrow down the goals of this committee.

- B. Lauren Michael will follow up with previous assignments held over (in progress) from the September 20, 2024, Board Meeting.**
- i. Form ad hoc committee to develop recommendations for educational contributions.**
Lauren has a list of interested people to be on the committee. She will organize virtual meetings for the discussion of philanthropic giving. This will be tied in with the revised Water For People committee (Philanthropy Committee).
 - ii. Talk with Bob Watson and Craig Hennager and give them an update on how IAWEA is planning to move forward with donations.**
Lauren has not yet had a chance to speak to either of them regarding this subject. She will make it a point to reach out in the near future.
 - iii. Form an ad hoc committee to refine IAWEA's current mission, vision, and values.**
The ad hoc committee will have the first meeting on Monday, January 20. The ad hoc committee will develop new/updated mission, vision, and values and bring that to the Board for approval.
- C. Jay Brady will form an ad hoc committee to help develop an onboarding program for new officers and committee chairs.**
The ad hoc committee had met and discussed the possibility of having a two-day training session. The first half of the training would be best practices and goal setting training. The second session would be focused more on leadership development such as communication, motivating, etc.

ITEM VII: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. EO10 Comment Letter to Iowa DNR (public comment ends Jan. 24th)**
Eric Evans reported that now is the time to send IAWEA's official public comments to the IDNR regarding the EO10 standards as well as commenting on the CBOD₅ topic. This has been presented to the Board via email from Katie Greenstein for review and the Government Affairs committee is seeking approval to submit the letter. The letter will be sent to the Board for further review with a deadline of January 15. Barring any changes, the letter will be submitted as is.
A motion to approve submitting the letter if no changes are received by January 15, was made by Mike Roth and seconded by Jason Loots. Motion carried.

ITEM IIX: OTHER

- A.** Mark Jones shared to the Board that John Ringlestein's loving wife, Judith, had passed away. It was discussed and suggested to donate a total of \$500 to the two chosen charities, St. Jude Children's Hospital and Shriner's Hospital in Judith's memory.
A motion to approve the donation was made by Mark Jones and seconded by Eric Evans. Motion carried.

ITEM IX: CONCENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

ITEM X: ADJOURNMENT

President Lauren Michael adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Jones, IAWEA Secretary