

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 14, 2025

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting held at Bridge View Center in Ottumwa on March 14, 2025.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Lauren Michael at 10:07 am, with the following Executive Committee members present: Curt Kampman, Mike Roth, Jason Loots, Lindsay Beaman, Mark Jones, Eric Evans, and Jim McElvogue. Other members present were Jay Brady, Seth Lamb (Zoom), Paul Ebert (Zoom), Taylor Hopper, Jason Kenyon, and John Lloyd.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lauren Michael requested an amendment to the agenda to item 6, Discussion and Action Items, adding a section 'G' to discuss Funding from EFC for the Water In Progress program.

Eric Evans requested an amendment to the agenda to item 6, Discussion and Action Items, adding a section 'H' to discuss possibly adding an Executive Director/Lobbyist.

It was moved by Mike Roth and seconded by Eric Evans to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mike Roth and seconded by Jason Loots to approve the minutes of January 10, 2025. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

A. Aims & Objectives

No report.

B. Annual Meeting

Curt Kampman reported on the Program Committee's progress on this year's Annual Conference. Jim McElvogue recommended that since the IAWEA awards have been removed from the Awards Banquet and moved to the Wednesday lunch, the Harris F. Seidel Education Award, being the most prestigious of the IAWEA awards, still be presented at the Banquet rather than the luncheon. Lauren Michael responded that the award presentation changes had been made to shorten the Awards Banquet and that it should not be moved.

Jay Brady reported on the progress of the logistics of the Annual Conference. The registration cost was detailed by Jay, and he showed that this year's Annual Conference can be priced lower to hopefully attract more attendees. He also revealed a Diamond Sponsorship for Exhibitor registration. It includes two booths, two full conference registrations, two exhibitor registrations, separate banner recognizing them as a Diamond Conference Sponsor, and ability to give out a logoed piece of merchandise to stuff in the registration packets.

C. Awards

No report.

D. Biosolids

Dan Miers reported via email that the 33rd Annual Biosolids Conference is March 19, 2025, at the DMACC, FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, Iowa. He also added that they have added new members to the committee roster over the past year. Their next committee meeting will be held April 8, 2025.

E. Collection Systems

David Haugen reported via email that the Collection Systems Conference was held March 5th through the 7th at the Quality Inn in Ames. Overall, the conference was well attended with good registration numbers. They received good feedback from attendees. Due to inclement weather on Wednesday, about half the people registered for the ABC Collection Exam were unable to make it for the review session and exam. Adam Smith is working to schedule a makeup session. The Golden Manhole award winners were Patrick Bean from the City of Des Moines and Blake Jorgensen from the City of Cedar Rapids. The next committee meeting will be April 17th.

F. Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

No report.

G. Education

Seth Lamb reported preparations are being made to plan the Operator/Pretreatment Conference.

H. Exhibitors

No report.

I. Financial Review

No report.

J. Government Affairs

Eric Evans reported for Katie Greenstein that there are openings for anyone who would like to attend the Washington DC fly-in. Eric also reported on a PFAS bill wanting testing of Biosolids and another wanting to put a 2% cap on utility increases. Eric attended the sub-committee meeting discussing the cap and that both did not make it past the sub-committee. The EO-10 topic has not changed since the last meeting.

K. Historian

No report.

L. Industrial Pretreatment

Paul Ebert echoed Seth Lamb's report of gearing up for the Operator/Pretreatment Conference.

M. Laboratory Practices

Drew Campbell reported that he had a successful outreach looking for members and resources for the committee. There are about six participants outside of Cedar Rapids getting involved.

N. Maintenance

No report.

O. Membership

Jason Loots reported on the remaining committees that have not given a slide with committee descriptions. He has also been trying to find someone to take over as Director of Region 3.

P. Newsletter

Jon Koch had sent out an email announcing that the deadline for the next issue is March 21st.

Q. Nominating

Curt Kampman reported that he has a list of names to reach out to for upcoming votes. Curt asked about having a “co-Treasurer” for the upcoming year for training purposes. Jim McElvogue explained that there is nothing in the bylaws that allow for that position, but one could shadow the other for the upcoming year. They could be considered an assistant position appointed by the Board.

R. Operations Challenge

Tim Runde reported via email that they have surpassed our fundraising goal of \$12,000, currently at \$12,500. Today we will be selecting teams to represent IAWEA, and I assume they will be Des Moines Reclaimers and Cedar Rapids. The teams plan to train together, when possible, over the next few months before WEFTEC. Jerseys, Hardhats and other items are currently being designed by the teams.

S. Operator Certification

No report. A new Chair to represent IAWEA is needed.

T. Public Relations/Public Education

Daria Dilparic reported via email that March 14 is the EISEF/WISEF Regional Science Fair. March 27th and 28th is the State Science Fair in Ames, we have multiple PR/PE Committee members ready to judge that day. The “Day in the Life of an Operator” video footage has been filmed at Ames WPC. The clips are currently being worked on. The committee will be reaching out to Cedar Rapids WPC soon. They would like to have the video completed by the Annual Conference. Daria also reported that the committee is starting to work on the Scavenger Hunt for the Annual Conference. We will be getting footage of the Annual Conference to create a promotional video for the future Annual Conferences in an effort to boost participation and attendees. At their last committee meeting, they discussed that they might need a microphone and/or ring light, and an area (perhaps in the exhibit hall) to capture interviews.

U. Research

Mike Roth reported that they have finalized the Research Grant RFP and will be distributing it soon. The timeline allows to hopefully have a recommendation to the Board at the June meeting. The committee’s next meeting will be at the Annual Conference.

V. Safety

No report.

W. Small Communities

No report. Eric Evans asked if the Board needs to reach out to Matt Wildman to see if the committee is still active. Mike Roth said he would check with him.

X. Water for People

Taylor Hopper reported that Keith Hobson and Bob Main will be flying to Xicotepec, Mexico. They are going to be working with a new Municipal President to implement a flushing project. Annual Conference events are lined up. The Burgers and Bumps volleyball event will be in Ames in July.

Y. Website

No report.

Z. Young Professionals

Jason Kenyon reported that they had some networking luncheons, one in central Iowa and one in eastern Iowa. Attendance was good at these events. Jason Loots asked if the ISU Student Chapter attended any of the events. Eric Evans asked about the membership status of the Student Chapters and Jim McElvogue explained that they are to be WEF members. IAWEA gives each Student Chapter money to cover the membership. Eric Evans said he would reach out to Student Chapter advisors regarding membership.

ITEM V: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

Jason Kenyon presented the Treasurer's report for John Ringelestein. A hard copy was passed to all present members.

It was moved by Mark Jones and seconded by Eric Evans to accept the report. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

No report.

C. Delegates' Reports

Jim McElvogue reported that he has a five-page update on WEF selling their building. They had gotten a good offer on the building and decided to lease space instead.

Eric Evans added that his MA workgroup is the monthly MA Spotlights and has been forwarding those on to the Board. They are hoping to do one more MA Spotlight then pass it off to the Communications Committee who will probably drop back to 4 per year rather than monthly.

Eric's next workgroup that he will be a part of is Emerging Leaders and Identifying Emerging Leaders and it begins in June.

D. Regional Directors

i. **Region 1:** No report.

ii. **Region 2:** No report.

iii. **Region 3:** No report.

iv. **Region 4:** No report.

v. **Region 5:** Jason Loots reported for Grant Reimers that the spring meeting is scheduled for March 26 in Huxley. Mark Jones reported that they are utilizing online registration more now.

vi. **Region 6:** Drew Lammers reported via email that the spring conference is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 in Iowa City. Registration details should be listed on the IAWEA website. Postcard reminders for this conference will be mailed this week.

E. Correspondence

Mark Jones shared the thank you card from the family of Judy Ringelestein for the donations to St. Jude and Shriners in her name.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of 2025 Budget:** The draft budget was presented by Jason Kenyon as written by John Ringelestein. Eric Evans suggested showing anticipated end-of-year reserves would be to show a balanced budget, wanting it shown in the budget when monies are moved in and out of the reserves. There was also discussion about continue to consider a \$5 increase in the Iowa Only membership. These topics will be on the June 5 meeting agenda for discussion and possible action. Eric Evans moved, and Mark Jones seconded approval of the 2025 budget. Motion carried.
- B. Discussion of Adding “Co-Treasurer” Position to Nominations for This Year:** Jason Kenyon reported that having discussed the process of transferring the role of Treasurer from John Ringelestein to him, they had mentioned that they could do a “Co-Treasurer” seat for one year. After discussion with the Board, it was determined that it would be a better process to have a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, who would not have voting capacity. It was recommended that a formal position of Assistant Treasurer as a non-voting role be made. Jason will contact John and discuss procedure going forward. Mark Jones moved, and Jim McElvogue seconded to have Jason Kenyon put on the Association’s bank accounts. Motion carried.
- C. Discussion of Financial Support of 2025 Great Wastewater Tour Across Iowa:** Mike Roth spoke with Craig Just regarding the tour. The planning committee for the event is starting soon. The question was asked if IAWEA would be interested in offering financial support. Mike reported that WEF has a grant initiative that would fit this cause. Last year Craig Just had requested financial support of up to \$15,000. The consensus of the Board was in favor of applying for the WEF grant. The sentiment was echoed from previous discussion that in return for giving financial support, IAWEA would require the ability to contribute to the programming of the event. Mike will reach out to Craig Just regarding the Boards thoughts.
- D. Update From Ad Hoc Committee for Educational Contribution Procedures:** Lauren Michael presented language for the Philanthropic Committee to cover more than just Water For People. The process would be more in line with WEF grant application processes. Requests would be due by September 1 of each year. Then at the September Board meeting, the Philanthropic Committee would provide a recommendation on requests for Board consideration. The November meeting would have the discussion and vote so the funds can be in the upcoming budget. There would also be a small contingency fund in the budget to accommodate any unexpected costs. No action is needed. There will be a line in the June Board meeting for finalization.
- E. Approval of Changes to Policies and Practices Manual Concerning Name Changes and Duties Updates to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and Water For People Committee:** The updated draft was sent out from Aims & Objectives Chair, Tyler Ver Meer for review before the Board meeting. Lindsay Beaman moved, and Mike Roth seconded to approve the changes as written. Motion carried.
- F. Approval of Refined Mission, Vision, and Values:** Lauren Michael recapped the recommended choices for the refined Mission, Vision, and Values.
- The proposed mission statement is “Inspiring Growth, Educating our Community, and Fostering Partnerships to Safeguard and Enhance Iowa’s Water Environment”.
 - The proposed vision statement is “IAWEA: A Champion for Iowa’s Water Environment”.
 - The proposed values are:
 - **Reliability:** We are a trusted professional resource for the water community.
 - **Diversity:** We welcome all perspectives in pursuit of water environment preservation.
 - **Leadership:** We drive through strategic initiatives and innovative thinking.
 - **Advocacy:** We promote water stewardship through education and outreach.

Mike Roth moved, and Jason Loots seconded to approve the refined Mission, Vision, and Values. Motion carried.

- G. Discuss Funding for EFC:** Lauren Michael reported that EFC is willing to provide \$25,000 for the Water In Progress internship program to help fund the next two summers. EFC needs a non-profit entity to disburse it to. She is asking the Board to approve sending a letter from IAWEA that says they will accept the donation as a “pass-through”.

Jim McElvogue moved, and Mark Jones seconded approval of receiving the donation to be directed towards the Water In Progress program. Motion carried.

- H. Discussion of the Possibility of Hiring a Lobbyist:** Based on previous discussion in this meeting, IAWEA is not set up to be able to hire a lobbyist.

ITEM VII: OTHER

- A.** Jason Loots reported that the Nebraska WEA has announced that they will be hosting a WEFMAX in 2026 and they are planning to reach out to IAWEA around July to see if there would be interest in possibly helping with adding personnel, if needed.

ITEM VII: CONSENSUS & ASSIGNMENT

None this meeting.

ITEM IX: ADJOURNMENT

President Lauren Michael adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark C. Jones, IAWEA Secretary