

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 20, 2013

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at the Ames WPC Plant in Ames, Iowa on September 20, 2013.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President, Steve Hershner, at 10:03 AM, with the following Executive Committee members present: Jim Rasmussen, Steve Hershner, Jonathan Brown, Michael Tripp, Tim Snyder, Ed Askew, Rick Graves, Jim McElvogue, Laurie Twitchell and Darin Jacobs. Also present were: Scott Wienands, Dan Riney, Ted Payseur, Eric Evans, Bob Ranson, and Larry Hare.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Ed Askew, and seconded by Tim Snyder, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ed Askew, and seconded by Jonathan Brown, to approve the minutes of June 6, 2013 as printed. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

While the Secretary/Treasurer was not present he did provide a spread sheet with account balances from January 1 and September 9, 2013. Most of the accounts are up by interest only. The Operations account is up by \$47,887.23 since the first of the year due to the specialty conferences, the annual meeting and the fall short course. There is still a small amount of outstanding income for the annual meeting and the spring short course. There is a small amount of expense outstanding for the annual meeting for CVENT and credit card expense. The Newsletter account has had some additional advertiser income is up \$1,043.79. Region account is down slightly for the year.

Results for the Collections Systems, Collection Recertification, Biosolids and the Calendar are finalized. The balance in the Golf account will be transferred to the Xicotepec project before the end of the year. Results for the spring short course are not yet available.

At this time there was some discussion about troubles some of the Regions have with bookkeeping issues. This seems to be an area where better and timelier communication should be a goal for all parties concerned.

It was moved by Tim Snyder, and seconded by Jonathan Brown, to accept the report of the Secretary/Treasurer as presented. Motion carried.

B. Delegates' Report

Tim Snyder reported that WEF has suspended their contribution to the Ad Council for environmental awareness due to a difference in philosophy. It seems the Ad Council wanted to address water conservation while WEF wanted more of the focus to be infrastructure investment.

C: Regional Directors

Region 1: Paul Horsfall could not be present but provided written comments. Region 1 held a planning meeting on March 1st for their annual meeting. The meeting will be held October 23, 2013 in Manchester at the Delaware County Fairgrounds Pavilion. They expect there will be 160-170 attendees. During the annual business meeting a plaque will be awarded to the Grade III Operator of the Year in Region 1.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that the Region 2 meeting will be held October 10, 2013 at NIACC in Mason City. The fall conference is geared toward water operators.

Region 3: Jim McElvogue reported that Region 3 has scheduled a training meeting for October 2, 2013 at the Yacht Club in Cherokee. Elections for Region Director and Region Secretary Treasurer will be held at their business meeting that day.

Region 4: Mike Tripp reported that Region 4 has their meeting scheduled for October 4, 2013 in Carson. They will

again have split sessions in the afternoon.

Region 5: Rick Graves reported their fall meeting will be held October 30, 2013 at the Iowa Rural Water Association building in Newton.

Region 6: Ed Askew reported Region 6 will soon hold a planning meeting for their annual meeting next spring.

D: Correspondence

a. A thank you letter was received from WERF for the financial support of \$750 from IAWEA.

ITEM V: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Short Course Update

Eric Evans reported that the Fall 2013 Short Course fell somewhat short on expected attendance. This was attributed in part to a conflict in the dates for an IRWA conference. Attempts will be made to avoid this conflict in the future.

B. DMACC Scholarship Fundraising – Shrimp Bingo Update

Scott Wienands discussed the efforts to this time. The inaugural event last year was attended by 52 people and raised about \$8,800. This year's fundraiser grew to 152 people and will provide around \$18,000 for scholarships. Scott suggested that a line item be added to the budget so IAWEA's annual contribution could be approved well ahead of the actual event.

It was moved by Ed Askew, and seconded by Mike Tripp, to add this donation as a line item to the annual budget. Motion carried.

C. Short Course Contract with IA-AWWA

Jim Rasmussen thought we had a signed contract but was unsure. Steve Hershner will contact AWWA to check on the status. The venue contract, or lack thereof, was also discussed. FFA has changed their catering policy effectively charging an additional 10-18% (dependent on caterer selection) per attendee. No notice of this development was received from FFA or DMACC. A caterer we contacted informed us of this change. A possibility of a long term contract with FFA was suggested to see if a discount is available but details with IA-AWWA and IRWA need to be hammered out first.

D. Who is eligible to vote on electronic items? (per Ed Askew)

John Ringelestein reported via the agenda that only members of the Executive Committee could vote. The consensus was that Committee Chairs are included in these communications as a courtesy and to remain inclusive. Ed Askew stated that he thought that electronic votes should go only to the Board members and that these electronic vote tallies should be recorded. His concerns were duly noted.

E. DMACC & Kirkwood Environmental Program Participation

Ed Askew asked the question if IAWEA ought to be supporting the environmental program at Kirkwood as we are doing with DMACC. At present it is the impression of everyone present that there is no on-site training occurring at the Kirkwood campus. Steve Hershner, as a Kirkwood graduate, will check on this as well.

ITEM VI: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

Annual Conference

Steve Hershner brought up the topic of the significance of the 2015 Annual Conference in Ames. The first training for wastewater operators in the United States occurred in Ames, IA in 1915. While next year's conference in Cedar Rapids takes priority Jay Brady suggested to Steve that volunteers should be solicited now for planning for this observance at the conference in Ames. Suggestions for those willing to help were taken and some others even volunteered.

Awards Committee

Dan Riney reported that the Regional Directors will be receiving a request for nominations for the IAWEA Operator Advancement Award. Awards to be given in 2014 will be Grade I/IL and Grade IV.

Government Affairs

Ted Payseur reported that part of the initial judgment on blending issues by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals was overturned and attorney fees have now been awarded to John Hall for his work on behalf of the League of Cities. Other topics covered were the still uncertain future of the Nutrient Strategy, possible shortages in State Revolving Loan funding, a possible discussion with Iowa Environmental Council about collaboration on nutrient issues, and the recent publication of new ammonia limits in the *Federal Register*.

Industrial Pretreatment

Larry Hare reported that the committee would have a planning meeting in October for their spring meeting in conjunction with the Lab Practices Committee.

Maintenance

Bob Ranson stated that their next planning meeting was scheduled for October 15th in preparation for the annual Maintenance Conference on January 28-29, 2014. In response to Bob's question about a combined maintenance/collection system track at the annual conference in June, the consensus of the Board was that another attempt should be made to sponsor this training.

Program

Jim Rasmussen reported that he and Jay Brady have discussed possible additions to the makeup of the committee. The first planning meeting will be held in late October.

Public Education/Public Relations

Laurie Twitchell reported on activities concerning the IAWEA Facebook page. Some of the suggestions have been to employ questionnaires or publish some "fun facts" to generate more traffic. IAWEA will have a booth at the Science Teachers' Conference next month. Some members of the committee participated in World Water Monitoring Day on September 18th and they will be submitting their results.

Web Page

Steve Hershner related that Lance Aldrich has requested that a replacement be found for chairing this committee. The word will go out that we are looking for help with this effort. Steve will also ask Lance to attend the next Board meeting to discuss needs and issues in this area.

ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT

President Hershner declared the meeting adjourned at 12:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer