

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 8, 2016

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at the Ames WPC Plant on January 8, 2016.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Twitchell, at 10:04 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Jonathan Brown, Jim McElvogue, Jay Brady, Eric Evans, Darin Jacobs, Alison Manz, Kam Reeves, Paul Horsfall, Tim Snyder, and Jon Koch. Also present were: Matt Wildman, Marci Whitaker, Mark Jones, Ted Payseur, Greg Sindt, and Patrick Brown.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by Kam Reeves, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Jonathan Brown, and seconded by Paul Horsfall, to approve the minutes of November 13, 2015. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer distributed a report with balances as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2015. Most of the accounts are up by interest only. The Newsletter account is up somewhat due to advertising receipts. Assets are up \$14,191.80 with some money still due to IA-AWWA to settle up Short Course revenues. We have now received the required acceptance and release from the IA-AWWA Board so this account can finally be settled. Most of the increase is in the Operations and Region checking accounts. Deposits in the amount of \$6,500.00 have been paid to the venue of the 2016 Annual Conference. It was moved by Jonathan Brown, and seconded by Alison Manz, to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary had nothing to report.

C. Delegates' Report

Jay Brady related that WEF is concentrating on arrangements for the WEFMAX meetings in early 2016. WEF is also busy promoting its latest PR campaign, VOW, the Value of Water. Jay suggested that we may want to have our WEF representative at the Annual Conference give a presentation on available promotional items and suggestions on when and where to use them. Tim Snyder reported that his HOD committee assignment was Membership. That committee is working on identifying the traits and practices of successful student chapters in order to pass along those ideas to other members. He also passed along the topics to be discussed at the upcoming WEFMAX's; Alternate Revenue Resources, General Great Ideas, Public Education (VOW), Developing YP's and Students. Any attendee is encouraged to contact WEF if they have an interest in presenting on one or more of these topics.

D. Regional Directors

Region 1: Paul Horsfall reported that 198 people had attended the Region 1 meeting held October 28th at the Delaware County Community Center in Manchester. Lyle Krueger was recognized for 35 years of past service as Region Secretary-Treasurer. Kam Reeves, Membership Committee Chair, gave a brief presentation on IAWEA membership at the meeting. They intend to start planning for next fall's meeting in April.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that 109 people attended their fall water training. The spring wastewater training will be held in April and they had their first planning meeting for that 2 weeks ago.

Region 3: No report.

Region 4: Alison Manz reported that they had 72 operators in attendance at their fall meeting. Their next meeting is to be held in Carson on April 1, 2016.

Region 5: No report.

Region 6: Jon Koch reported that the Region 6 meeting will be held on May 4th.

E. Correspondence

Laurie Twitchell passed around a letter received from Steve King in response to our contacting Iowa's Congressional delegation about support for federal funding of revolving loans for water infrastructure. Unfortunately his letter did not address the issues we contacted him about but seemed to be a form letter he sends out critical of EPA and everything they do.

ITEM V: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Members Survey

Laurie Twitchell distributed copies of a PowerPoint presentation that a member of the Kentucky/Tennessee Water Environment Association had given at a WEFMAX last year on conducting a member survey. There was general consensus that we should do something similar in order to better serve our members. President Twitchell established an ad hoc committee to pursue such an endeavor. Kam Reeves and Tim Snyder will assist Laurie on this committee.

B. Short Course Accounting

The paperwork necessary to resolve the financial details of all previous Short Courses was finally received from IA-AWWA. A check will be mailed shortly and the issue laid to rest.

C. 2016 Annual Conference – Council Bluffs

Jonathan Brown reported that we had some trouble with the email for abstracts but that seemed to be resolved now. The deadline for submittals will be pushed back a little due to this problem. In discussing the conference the topic of the next Executive Board meeting on March 25th in Council Bluffs arose. In lieu of the fact that March 25th is Good Friday followed by Easter weekend it was the general consensus to move the meeting that day to Ames in order to have a better chance of having a quorum. Chartering a bus to transport conference attendees from eastern Iowa to Council Bluffs was discussed. Jon Koch volunteered to look into the economics of such a venture. Jay Brady reported that the planning for the meeting was coming along. Jay is concentrating on determining a draft budget for the conference using attendance numbers from the last meeting in Council Bluffs. We'll need to take a look at expected attendance before a final decision is made on registration pricing. Jay is continuing to work on an RFP for the venue for the 2017 conference.

D. Formation of a Small Communities Committee

Draft language was presented to form a Small Communities Committee. Matt Wildman had suggested at the last meeting that the Association form a Small Community Committee to address the distinct needs of these municipalities. The push for more treatment hits the smaller towns especially hard due to their lack of an economy of scale. The general consensus was for approval of establishing such a committee and this would be included in the next agenda item.

E. Recommended Changes to the IAWEA Manual of Policies and Practices

Jim McElvogue highlighted the proposed changes to the manual for the Board. There was some discussion about possibly specifying what travel expenses might be approved for officers or members on official IAWEA business. Jay Brady volunteered to explore language for this. It was moved by Tim Snyder, and seconded by Jon Koch, to approve all of the changes that were proposed at this time. Motion carried. President Twitchell immediately appointed Matt Wildman as Chair of the new Small Communities Committee.

F. WEFMAX Logistics

Tim Snyder and Laurie Twitchell reported that they will attend the WEFMAX in Orlando. Jay Brady and Kam Reeves are still undecided at this time. Jim McElvogue reported that he did not plan to attend any of the meetings.

The Board was reminded that in the past if the Secretary did not attend the Vice-President was allowed to attend a WEFMAX. Jonathan Brown moved, and Jim McElvogue seconded, to approve the attendance of the Vice-President at a WEFMAX this year. Motion carried. Laurie Twitchell related that she gained a lot of knowledge and a better understanding of WEF practices when she was allowed to attend a WEFMAX as Vice-President a few years ago. President Twitchell moved, and Alison Manz seconded, adding the Vice-President to the list of those approved to attend WEFMAX. Motion carried.

G. 2016 Draft Budget

The 2016 budget was discussed at length. In the end only a very few minor changes were made. A motion was made by Kam Reeves, and seconded by Tim Snyder, to approve the 2016 budget with the noted changes. Motion carried.

H. Other Items

None.

ITEM VI: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

Awards

Marci Whitaker asked about specific awards the committee wanted to solicit nominees for in the newsletter. The Operator Advancement awards are the most difficult to identify since most of the IDNR field offices stopped making suggestions. She was encouraged to contact Todd Penisten or Bob Milroy for more information.

Education

Eric Evans reported that the committee would meet on February 10th with representatives from Collection Systems, Maintenance, and Biosolids to start planning the 2016 Operators Conference.

Government Affairs

Ted Payseur reported that Laurie Twitchell, Kam Reeves, Greg Sindt, and he met with the IDNR Director recently and discussed several topics. Ted reported that the meeting was very congenial and was an excellent forum to discuss future rules that would affect our industry. Topics discussed were 503 sludge regulation primacy, the Waterloo settlement that might possibly lead to answering some of the questions concerning wet weather, the Catfish Creek watershed project around Dubuque and the nutrient reduction expected, Aluminum standards, and integrated planning. Copper limits continue to be an issue and IAWEA may need to get involved in order to retain expert opinions on the necessity of lower limits. Greg Sindt reported that some new regulations are due to be released in the near future. This includes the relaxed reporting for process testing on MOR's. Also due out is the new Wasteload Allocation procedure manual. Greg also mentioned that the first meeting on the Nutrient Trading program led by the League of Cities was held yesterday. Greg discussed several concerns on the horizon that are of concern to NACWA and that we should keep tabs on also. Greg and Jay Brady participated in the WPAC Work Group #3 that issued a recommendation that a statewide study of water quality monitoring programs be commissioned. Ted reminded everyone of the Washington, D.C. fly-in lobbying effort coming up in April.

Membership

Kam Reeves reported that a conference call meeting would be held next week.

Newsletter

Marci Whitaker reminded everyone that she is always open to accepting pertinent articles for publication.

Nominating

Jonathan Brown reported that the committee would meet in February to discuss possible candidates.

Public Education/Public Relations

Laurie Twitchell stated that they would be having a meeting soon and be getting ready to judge science fair projects.

Website

Mark Jones related that we had a little trouble with the email for submitting abstracts for the Annual Conference but that it should be OK now. Several examples of missing or outdated material were discussed. As a reminder to all committee chairs they are responsible for maintaining their respective pages. If you don't know how to do that please contact the webmaster for instructions. Specialty conferences can also post their conference information on the

website calendar and that should be done as soon as the date(s) are set for their conferences. The look of the home page was discussed and members are encouraged to submit pictures of their facilities or projects to the webmaster for posting.

ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT

President Twitchell declared the meeting adjourned at 1:18 PM.

CONSENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

A. Ad hoc Committee to conduct a member survey

President Laurie Twitchell will set up a meeting to start the process.

B. WEFMAX Meetings

Tim Snyder and Laurie Twitchell will attend the WEFMAX in Orlando. Kam Reeves will attend Philadelphia. Jay Brady and Eric Evans will decide soon on which WEFMAX will work for their schedules.

C. Annual Conference

1. Jay Brady will arrange to meet with Jon Harger and Jim McElvogue to inspect the site of the Annual Conference to confirm logistics before March 25th, the date of the next Executive Board meeting.
2. Jay will also continue to develop the RFP for hosting the 2017 Annual Conference somewhere in eastern Iowa.
3. Jon Koch will investigate costs for chartering a bus to transport Annual Conference attendees from eastern Iowa.
4. The March 25th meeting of the IAWEA Executive Board will be held at the Ames WPC Plant.

D. Manual of Policies and Practices

Jay Brady will look for language from other organizations detailing eligible travel expenses.

E. Website

Mark Jones will develop a page for the new Small Communities Committee. He will also explore methods to send email blasts out to members. Everyone is encouraged to submit photos of treatment facilities to the webmaster for posting. Committee chairs are reminded to update and post new information on their respective committee page. Contact the webmaster for details.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, Secretary