

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 25, 2016

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at the Ames WPC Plant on March 25, 2016.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Twitchell, at 10:03 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Jonathan Brown, Jim McElvogue, Eric Evans, Darin Jacobs, Alison Manz, Kam Reeves, Paul Horsfall, Tim Snyder, John Ringelestein, Rick Graves, and Jon Koch. Jay Brady participated in part of the meeting by telephone. Also present were Committee Chairs Matt Wildman, Marci Whitaker, Mark Jones, Ted Payscaleur, and Patrick Brown. Steve Moehlmann attended as a guest.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Secretary related that there was an addition to the agenda to discuss the attendance of WEF representatives at the Annual Meeting. It was moved by John Ringelestein, and seconded by Darin Jacobs, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Ringelestein reported that the minutes for the previous meeting listing him as attending that meeting was in error. It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by Rick Graves, to approve the minutes of January 8, 2016 as amended. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer distributed a report with balances as of December 31, 2015 and March 24, 2016. Most of the accounts are up by interest only. Assets are up \$37,648.43 but this is due to the three recent conferences (Maintenance, Collection Systems, Biosolids) having received revenues but haven't paid expenses as yet. The Treasurer requested permission to transfer \$2,500.00 to the Reserve Account. Approval was moved by John Ringelestein and seconded by Darin Jacobs. Motion carried. It was moved by Jim McElvogue, and seconded by Kam Reeves, to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that the Association phone lines had been transferred so that they are answered at the Ames WPC Plant. The address listed on the website is now also the address of the plant. Due to tax and official record requirements the official address will continue to be listed as the 707 Diamond Court address. The Secretary also encouraged Regional Directors to avail themselves of a few leftover IAWEA gift items to give away at their meetings.

C. Delegates' Report

Tim Snyder reported that he had attended the WEFMAX in Orlando that saw the greatest number of MA's attending a single event. After listening to some of the issues other MA's are having Tim said it made him appreciate how well things run here in Iowa. Laurie Twitchell reported on that WEFMAX as well. The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is moving to different universities with each location hosting for a period of three years. This year's site is the University of North Carolina. Jay Brady reported that he will attend the WEFMAX in Chicago.

D. Regional Directors

Region 1: Paul Horsfall reported that planning for the fall meeting will begin in the next month or so. They will be discussing the possibility of raising the price for non-members in order to recruit some new members.

Region 2: Darin Jacobs reported that he had been approached by a representative of IoWarn about sponsoring this organization. After some discussion it was determined that we are already considered a sponsor. Darin was encouraged to see if we needed to do something else to help the group get back on track.

Region 3: No report.

Region 4: Alison Manz reported that their next meeting is to be held in Carson on April 1, 2016. They still have plans to put more separation in their registration prices between members and non-members.

Region 5: Rick Graves reported their region meeting would be held Wednesday, March 30th in Huxley.

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

E. Correspondence

None.

ITEM V: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Members Survey

Kam Reeves distributed a member survey to all those present both so everyone could see what information was being gathered and also for everyone to complete the survey. Kam also encouraged input on changes that the Board would like to see. The survey will be used extensively at upcoming meetings and conferences to determine how IAWEA can better serve its members.

B. 2016 Annual Conference – Council Bluffs

Jay Brady and Jonathan Brown have a draft program put together. The pre-conference tour will include the Council Bluffs and Omaha Missouri River treatment plants. Jim McElvogue, Jon Harger & Jay will meet with convention center staff next week. It is hoped that Hank and Anita Pangelina will be able to join us for the banquet in Council Bluffs. It has been requested that the association waive the fee for the banquet for both of them. John Ringelestein made that a motion and it was seconded by Tim Snyder. Motion carried. WEF has authorized sending two representatives to our conference this year. One is the usual Trustee and the other is an administrative staffer and they have posed the question of what IAWEA would cover for local expenses. It was moved by Tim Snyder, and seconded by Jonathan Brown, to provide hotel and registration at association expense to both representatives. Motion carried. No decision on a venue for 2017 has been made. Kam Reeves shared some information about a possible site in Ottumwa. While the venue shows promise there is no hotel on site so that is something to be considered. Jon Koch reported that the economics for a bus to the Council Bluffs conference was not encouraging so that will not be an option..

C. 2016 Operators Conference

Eric Evans reported that the 2016 Operators Conference would be held September 7-8, 2016 in Marshalltown. New this year will be an opportunity for vendors to rent a booth to exhibit products or discuss their services. This will be very similar to the exhibits at the Collection Systems Conference with modest fees to cover the extra expenses. Vendor representatives have requested permission from IAWEA to offer a networking session the first night of the conference. Consensus was that if all vendors participating at the conference would be given the opportunity to participate in sponsoring the get together the association would not oppose it.

D. DMACC Student Chapter

Steve Moehlmann, the new DMACC Water Environment Technology Program Chair, inquired about how to form a student chapter at the community college. He was directed to WEF's website that explains in detail how to go about this.

E. Other Items

None.

ITEM VI: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS

Awards

There was a brief discussion on the status of award nominations and how those are made. The WEF awards generally are chosen by a committee of the last three respective winners. IAWEA Regions are encouraged to submit nominees for the Operator Advancement awards.

Government Affairs

Ted Payseur reminded the Board of the annual fly-in to Washington, D.C. organized by WEF and NACWA. This is a chance to meet with your state's Congressional representatives to apprise them of pressing issues affecting our industry. IAWEA budgets for someone to attend every year but rarely has anyone volunteer to participate. Jon Koch, Region 6 Director, expressed an interest in attending the event this year. Ted also related some issues pertaining to the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan. The whole event illustrates just how important it is to allow professionals to make treatment decisions as some politicians don't understand some of the consequences that can happen.

Historian

John Ringlestein reported that he is being urged by a former president of WEF to get the next installment of IAWEA history into production.

Membership

Kam Reeves reported that he will be stepping down as Chair of the committee in order to concentrate on his duties as president next year. The IAWEA calendar needs dates of conferences and committee meetings ASAP for inclusion in the next year's printing. Ted Payseur reminded people, without mentioning any names, of the availability of a WEF life membership and the application process. Several people were noticed jotting this information down.

Newsletter

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

Public Education/Public Relations

Laurie Twitchell reported on the new procedure for selecting IAWEA's Stockholm Junior Water Prize candidate. The new method will allow home-schooled students to participate. This year's selection will be made soon. The committee is also getting ready to participate in the Children's Water Festival in May.

Small Communities

Matt Wildman reported that the committee has had several meetings. Ted and Matt met with IDNR and SRF people to discuss possible funding methods for experimental treatment ideas. Nothing definite was decided but it laid the groundwork for future discussion. The committee has also been working with Dustin Miller of the Iowa League of Cities and IAWEA will be taking the lead on helping the League organize six sessions around the state focusing on small community issues such as IDNR procedures, funding, and rates. The committee has also submitted an abstract that has been accepted for the League's annual conference discussing issues facing small Iowa communities. The committee is also interested in helping to form a New Technology Review panel to make recommendations to IDNR on the feasibility of new treatment methods.

Website

Mark Jones reported that the website continues to develop and he has added the page for the Small Communities Committee. There is a slight problem with storage room on the site and he will be looking at deleting more of the older information that was no longer relevant. The Board was reminded that more pictures of facilities or projects are being sought for posting on the home page.

ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT

President Twitchell declared the meeting adjourned at 12:42 PM.

CONSENSUS & ASSIGNMENTS

A. Annual Conference

Jay Brady will finish up details for the conference so all info will be available by April 15th. Jonathan Brown and Jay will confirm the program details by the same date.

B. Government Affairs

Jon Koch will coordinate his attendance at the D.C. fly-in.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, Secretary