

**IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
*June 9, 2016*

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Annual Business Meeting, held at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs on June 9, 2016.

**ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Twitchell, at 3:47 PM.

**ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Jay Brady, and seconded by John Ringlestein, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Mark McGuire, and seconded by Rick Graves, to approve the minutes of June 4, 2015. Motion carried.

**ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**A. President's Comments**

Laurie Twitchell stated that she thought the conference went really well. She especially enjoyed the first morning in that it all tied together. While the number of attendees was down a bit that was to be expected with an extreme side of the state venue.

**B. WEF Representative's Comments**

Karen Kubick, WEF representative, echoed Laurie's assessment of the conference with well-rounded sessions and stated that she really enjoyed the first morning with all of the differing viewpoints. She also encouraged IAWEA to follow through on plans to set up student chapters at educational institutions and pursue new YP members.

**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. He encouraged others to attend if able, especially if they are close to Iowa. Tim thought that WEFMAX's had improved over the years with more interaction between MA's now being the norm. Jay Brady reported that he attended the WEFMAX in Chicago and that Jon Koch attended that one on his own as well. Jay was also impressed with the session he attended and reported that WEF may try to add more focus on stormwater issues. Keith Hobson, as a WEF At-Large Delegate, is involved with the Value of Water Committee. The first focus of this campaign seemed to be heavily concentrated on drinking water. Over the past year this committee has developed five or six specific messages on the importance of wastewater treatment.

**D. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer distributed a report with balances as of January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. Most of the accounts are up by interest only. Operation Accounts show an increase of \$9,410.14. All other accounts showed minor gains or losses through the year. It was moved by Tim Snyder, and seconded by Mark McGuire, to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

## **ITEM V: COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Aims & Objectives**

An IAWEA Officer Handbook was assembled with a list of duties for each individual officer throughout their term in office. It will serve as a guide to what is expected of each officer along with a timetable for when various tasks need to be accomplished. A draft guide for IAWEA conferences on registration cancellations and refund policy has been proposed. A revision of the Manual of Policies and Practices was recommended to and approved by the IAWEA Executive Committee. The changes dealt with the addition of a Small Communities Committee and various minor edits.

### **Annual Conference**

Jay Brady reported that we had fairly good attendance at the annual conference but accounting would have to determine if we made any money. Registration went pretty smoothly once it got started and we received good comments on the program. One thing that we do need to better is to recruit an active Local Arrangements Committee to help, especially on Tuesday before the conference. Exhibitor participation was again tremendous and something that helps make our association as strong as it is.

### **Awards**

No committee chair was present but there were questions about the lack of a Bedell Award this year. There was a brief discussion on award nominations and how those are made. The WEF awards generally are chosen by a committee of the last three respective winners.

### **Collection Systems**

Mark McGuire gave a detailed report of the many things the Collection Systems Committee accomplished this past year. Among those was another successful conference, an expansion of the PAPC training, and continued the voluntary licensing. The committee also coordinated CS topics for the Operators and Annual Conferences. With IAWEA Executive Board approval, Lauren O'Neil attended the Chicago WEFMAX to share the success of IAWEA's CS Committee. Adam Smith is leading an effort to establish an IAWEA CS award similar to the one given by WEF. The committee will also assist with the WEF CS conference in Omaha next year.

### **Education**

Eric Evans reported that the inaugural Operators Conference was held last September with about 100 attendees and it made about \$5,000. This year we will be adding a small exhibit hall due to popular demand.

### **Financial**

Keith Hobson reported that John Ringlestein has done an admirable job with the books. All required reserve accounts are being maintained in good order. The profit of last year's annual conference was outstanding yielding over \$18,000. It also saw record attendance. The committee was pleased that a resolution to the outstanding balances of the former Short Course has been reached.

### **Government Affairs**

Jay Brady reported that the committee has been busy and thanks to EPA and IDNR that looks to continue. The committee has dealt with Integrated Planning, the bioavailability of copper, wet weather, and blending issues. Jon Koch attended the annual fly-in to Washington, D.C. organized by WEF and NACWA. This was a chance to meet with our state's Congressional representatives to apprise them of pressing issues affecting our industry. Several IAWEA representatives attended the 4-state government affairs meeting to sit down with Region 7 EPA and the four state departments responsible for environmental quality. It is a good chance to discuss issues and advise regulators how new rules may affect our customers.

### **Historian**

John Ringlestein reported that, with some prodding, he is beginning the process of compiling the next installment of the history of IAWEA. He plans to reread the past two history volumes and discuss ideas for the next one with the previous author. He will also be contacting former officers for bios and pictures.

### **Maintenance**

The committee met regularly and held their 19<sup>th</sup> annual Maintenance Conference this past February and made approximately \$3,200. They also presented two Wrencher awards at the conference.

### **Memberships**

Kam Reeves reported that current numbers are 402 WEF and 131 Iowa Only for a total of 533 members. He will be stepping down as Chair of the committee in order to concentrate on his duties as president next year but Jason Loots of Story City will assume the duties of Chair. A member survey was developed and has been distributed at three region meetings.

### **Nominating**

Jonathan Brown presented the following slate of candidates, Kam Reeves for President, Eric Evans for President Elect, John Ringlestein for Treasurer, Jim McElvogue for Secretary, and Jon Koch for Vice President. A motion was made by Keith Hobson, and seconded by Jonathan Brown, to cease nominations and approve the slate as presented. Motion carried. Laurie Twitchell was reminded that she was elected to a two-year term serving the past year as President and as Past President this coming year.

### **Operator Certification**

Jim Utter reported that there was very little activity by the committee in the past year. A draft Code of Conduct for operators was developed but no final action has been taken on that as yet. The committee continues to encourage IDNR to update their facilities classification system as it is old and outdated. The committee has submitted schedules for such but no action has been taken by IDNR.

### **Nominating Committee, Part II**

At this point in the meeting Jay Brady asked if we needed to elect a new WEF Delegate at this meeting. That was confirmed to be so. After much discussion Jonathan Brown indicated that he would be willing to serve. A motion to elect Jonathan Brown as WEF Delegate to assume office at WEFTEC16 was made by Keith Hobson, and seconded by Tim Snyder. Motion carried.

### **Public Education/Public Relations**

Laurie Twitchell reported that due to the fact that the Water Sourcebook is so outdated IAWEA has stopped promoting it at the Iowa Science Teachers Conference. The committee did select an IAWEA Stockholm Junior Water Prize winner. Unfortunately, she was not able to make it to the conference this year. Due to a scheduling mix-up IAWEA was not provided rooms at the Children's Water Festival for our Clean Water Heroes presentation. WEF has provided us a new tabletop display that will be ideal for use at region meetings.

### **Small Communities**

Eric Evans reported that the committee has had several meetings. The committee has been working with Dustin Miller of the Iowa League of Cities and IAMU on several conferences and exploring sponsoring some training on their own. The committee has formed a New Technology Review panel to make recommendations to IDNR on the feasibility of new treatment methods.

### **Water for People**

Tom Neumann reported that Water for People raised over \$2,000 with the raffle, about \$1,100 with the cup, \$930 from the motorcycle ride, and the golf outing total is yet to be determined.

### **Website**

Mark Jones reported that the Small Communities page has been added to both the website and Facebook. He continues to seek plant or construction photos to post on the website. A new discussion forum board is in development as well. Slides from presentations at IAWEA conferences are also available. These last two features are in the member only section. If you haven't yet activated your account you can do so by following the instructions on the website.

**ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT**

Past President Twitchell declared the meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, Secretary