

IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
June 8, 2017

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Annual Business Meeting, held at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa on June 8, 2017.

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Kam Reeves, at 3:52 PM.

ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by John Ringelestein, and seconded by Mark McGuire, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by Keith Hobson, to approve the minutes of June 9, 2016. Motion carried.

ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. President's Comments

Kam Reeves thanked the Association for approving Ottumwa to host this year's conference. The Secretary announced that the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee did an excellent job.

B. WEF Representative's Comments

The WEF representative, Paul Bowen, had already left to return home.

C. Delegates' Report

Jay Brady reported that WEF continues to focus efforts on assisting operators. Jonathan Brown reported that he had volunteered for the Public Communication and Outreach for Member Associations work group and added that several valuable publications were available on the WEF website.

D. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer distributed the annual financial report for 2016. The Operation Account ended the year up \$20,267.83. The Operations Account for the Regional Programs also increased by \$1,956.25. Overall, the Association is in very good shape financially. It was moved by Mark McGuire, and seconded by Tim Wilkey, to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

E. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

ITEM V: COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aims & Objectives

At the request of the IAWEA Executive Committee the A&O Committee recommended changes to the Manual of Policies and Practices concerning attendance at WEFTEC and WEFMAX meetings by certain IAWEA officers. A form was also established whereby IAWEA committee chairs or other committee members can apply to attend WEFMAX meetings for education purposes if funds are available. These changes were adopted by the Exec Committee at the March 17, 2017 meeting.

Annual Conference

Kam Reeves reported on Local Arrangements actions. A local Ottumwa donor paid for the giveaways at the golf outing and motorcycle ride and some of the signage for the conference. Jay Brady reported that the Program Committee had some trouble lining up a Keynote Speaker but everything came together in the end. Many complimentary comments were received about the program and conference venue.

Awards

No report

Biosolids

Dan Miers reported that the committee met 5 times in 2016 and had 10 active members. The 2016 Biosolids Conference had 6 presentations, 82 registrants, and 72 attendees. In 2017 the committee will focus on a project with the DMACC soil test plot comparing Biosolids and conventional fertilizer yields.

Collection Systems

Curt Kampman gave a detailed report of the many things the Collection Systems Committee accomplished this past year. The Collection System Specialty Conference was held at the Best Western Regency Inn in Marshalltown, Iowa from March 1, 2017 through March 3, 2017. There were 232 registrants, which included approximately 70 individuals from 37 exhibitors. The conference location was well received and they intend to hold the conference at this location again next year. This is a Collection System Operator Recertification year. The ABC Collection System Exam was given at the Specialty Conference, as well as a special testing session in February. A total of 25 individuals who took exam and 17 passed. The WEF National Collection Conference was held in Omaha, NE from May 21, 2017 to May 24, 2017. The conference was well attended with over 600 attendees. Glen Petersen has prepared a History of the Collection System Committee, a copy of which is available for a small donation.

Education

No report.

Exhibitors and Vendors

Jon Harger reported that 57 booth spaces were rented and another 2 were complimentary to DMACC and IRWA. He had requests that wastebaskets and staging of dirty dish trays be provided next year. Jim McElvogue and he have plans to change up the stamp sheet prizes a little bit next year to try to draw more people into the hall and keep them there longer.

Financial

Keith Hobson reported that while 2016 was a good year for the association in that holdings increased about \$20,000 the 2016 Annual Conference left much to be desired in both attendance and revenue. The committee recommends that cost controls and registration fees be adjusted to compensate for these matters. The committee also encourages the newsletter to return to normal publication and advertising rates so this valuable service can continue. John Ringelestein has done an admirable job with the books. All required reserve accounts are being maintained in good order.

Government Affairs

Greg Sindt reported that IAWEA and DNR staff participated in the 4-States EPA Region 7 meeting in Kansas City. Iowa is the lead state for organizing the 2017 meeting. Government Affairs Committee members Jay Brady and Greg Sindt represented IAWEA at the Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC) meetings. A concept regarding review of state wide water quality monitoring programs was proposed by the IAWEA representatives and advanced by WPAC to the Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC). DNR subsequently prepared a review of the monitoring programs. The WPAC role appears to be changing to a less important role in reviewing water resources issues and making recommendations to the WRCC. WPAC plans to meet only two to four times per year. Government Affairs Committee members participated in DNR Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) including the copper BLM water quality standards and Waste Load Allocation Procedures (WLAP) manual. IAWEA contributed significant technical support in the WLAP manual development over the past five years. Government Affairs

Committee invited DNR staff to the 2017 annual conference. Several staff attended the conference. The rules regarding raw wastewater BOD (rather than CBOD) monitoring were discussed with a presentation by Dr. James Young at the annual conference. The Committee may request DNR to organize a TAC for reviewing this issue and developing rule revisions to replace BOD with CBOD as the raw wastewater monitoring parameter and to revise State design standards from BOD to CBOD design basis. Government Affairs Committee members worked with ACEC members in discussing wet weather design issues and standards with DNR staff. A panel discussion with DNR staff and IAEA members at the annual conference indicated that DNR has not reached any significant conclusions on wet weather design standards such as design rainfall occurrence frequency or limitations on use of blending in treatment process design.

Historian

John Ringelestein reported that he is beginning the process of compiling the next installment of the history of IAWEA.

Industrial Pretreatment/Lab Practices

John Ringelestein reported that the Lab Practices/Industrial Pretreatment Conference was held in May. IAWEA has assumed responsibility for the conference as AWWA has stepped out of the picture for now. The financials for the conference are also back under IAWEA oversight as well.

Maintenance

The committee held their 20th annual Maintenance Conference this past January 31 and February 1 with about 60 attendees and made approximately \$2,900.

Membership

Jason Loots reported that he attended Region 2, 3, and 6 spring meetings (region 1 didn't have, Kam covered region 4, region 5 was missed due to training). General feedback was that there isn't much benefit to be members other than class price reductions. Jason discussed other benefits from WEF/IAWEA as far as DNR discussions, publications, general knowledge of other operators, etc. Membership numbers from 2016 were 402 WEF and 131 Iowa Only Members. Our numbers before the Annual Meeting this June are 421 WEF and 141 Iowa only members for a total of 562. The Membership Committee had the Iowa League of Cities send out an email blast to all member communities explaining the importance of Operators, Maintenance staff, Lab and Industrial Pretreatment staff becoming members of IAWEA.

Newsletter

Jon Harger reported that Marci still struggles to obtain articles and updates for the newsletter and that is the main reason only two issues were published last year. With the limited output it was decided not to invoice advertisers as it didn't seem right to charge for such a small run. Efforts will be made to return to the full publishing schedule and Jon will charge advertisers accordingly. Anyone with newsworthy articles is asked to submit those to Marci as often as you can.

Nominating

Laurie Twitchell presented the following slate of candidates, Eric Evans for President, Jon Koch for President-Elect, John Ringelestein for Treasurer, Jim McElvogue for Secretary, Matt Wildman for Vice-President, and Jim Utter for WEF Delegate with this last position effective at WEFTEC17. A motion was made by Keith Hobson, and seconded by Scott Wienands, to cease nominations and approve the slate as presented. Motion carried. Kam Reeves was reminded that he 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 the IJOCC met on February 24th 2017 for their only meeting after the 2016 IAWEA State Conference in Council Bluffs. Officers are Committee Chairman John Martens (IAWWA), Vice-Chair Jill Soenen (IAMU), and Secretary Harris Seidel (IAWEA) all are serving the second year of their two-year terms. It was proposed to change the bylaws number of attendees needed for a quorum from two to four. The proposal passed unanimously. DMACC will replace ISU on the membership roster. Jane Enfield retired from the IDNR. Marissa

Schreiber was hired and is working with Laurie Sharp. New Chapter 81 rules are coming out. There will be a definition for “operating shift” and “shift operator”. Oral exams and temporary certification will be dropped from the rule. Also a change will be made in waiting period between failed exams that are more in conformance with ABC testing standards. After the first failure, no waiting period; after the second failed exam, there will be a 30 day waiting period. It is planned that an IDNR Task Force will begin work this fall on updating the wastewater facilities classification system. Water facilities will follow. The IDNR had requested the Joint Committee draft an Operator Code of Conduct for new and renewal operators to sign. A subcommittee of Jim Utter, Steve Marsh, Ted Corrigan, Dale Barrie, and Mark Simms was asked to serve. A draft Code of Conduct was shared with the Executive Board at the March 17, 2017 meeting.

Public Education/Public Relations

Laurie Twitchell reported that the committee did select both a junior and senior IAWEA Stockholm Junior Water Prize winner. IAWEA also made our Clean Water Heroes presentation at the Children’s Water Festival. At their last meeting each committee member was tasked with contacting their local high school to identify who they should contact about providing the new DMACC marketing materials.

Research

No report.

Safety

Bruce Jensen reported that the committee was not active this past year but he submitted three articles to the newsletter. He requested that anyone wanting to volunteer for the committee should contact him.

Small Communities

No report.

Water for People

Ari Herrera thanked everyone for their support and reported that Water for People raised over \$2,700 with the auction, \$600 from the motorcycle ride, and \$2,600 from the golf outing. Ari also requested time during one of the meals to explain what Water for People does in order to raise awareness of the cause.

Website

Mark Jones submitted a written report stating that we now have 65 members that have registered on the website to have access to “members only” information. He is currently trying to facilitate a discussion board that is in the “members only” section that will allow for forum discussions and a subscribe button for members to be notified when a discussion is updated. A “past conference presentations” section has been established but the committee is seeking input on whether there is an interest in keeping up with more before asking for a commitment from conference facilitators to provide for all conferences. As we didn’t receive much interest from members the scrolling pictures of various facilities at the top of the home page were removed and to show our sponsors from the calendar. Committee Chairs and Regional Directors are encouraged to enter their own information or get the information to me for upcoming events in a timely fashion. We have a limited amount of memory in our email account, so he is looking into using a different means of collecting abstracts next year’s Annual Conference. Dropbox has been mentioned as an option.

Young Professionals

Taylor Hopper submitted a written report stating that members from IAWEA and AWWA exhibited at the May 11 Iowa Children’s Water Festival in Ankeny. ISU WEF owns an operable model sand filter and this filter was utilized to demonstrate water treatment to the students at the festival again this year. For social outings, an Iowa Cubs game was attended last August and a Buccaneer Hockey game this March. Project AWARE 2017 (Iowa DNR’s river cleanup) will be on the northern Iowa portion of the Cedar River July 10-14, with the IAWEA/AWWA group planned for July 10-11. Presentations were given at AWWA Region 1 and IAWEA Region 2 on this year’s outing. All activities this year were held jointly with the AWWA YP group.

ITEM VI: NEW BUSINESS

Past President Reeves brought up the subject of possibly getting IAWEA's logo and slogan trademarked.

ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT

Past President Reeves declared the meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, Secretary