

**IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*June 7, 2018*

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at the Waterloo Center for the Arts, Waterloo, Iowa on June 7, 2018.

**ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Jon Koch, at 4:07 PM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Eric Evans, Darin Jacobs, Jonathan Brown, Steve Hoambrecker, John Ringelestein, Drew Lammers, Jim Utter, Lance Greazel, and, Jim McElvogue. Also present were: Jay Brady, Mike Roth, Dan Miers, Keith Hobson, Seth Lamb, Jason Loots, Kam Reeves, Greg Sindt, Marci Whitaker, Taylor Hopper, and Curt Kampman.

**ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Eric Evans, and seconded by Jonathan Brown, to approve the minutes of March 16, 2018, as printed. Motion carried.

**ITEM IV: OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer submitted a written report with balances as of January 1, 2018 and June 4, 2018. The main difference was an increase of approximately \$55,600 in the Association Share and Operations accounts. This was due to registrations at several different conferences and few expenses having been paid as yet. It was moved by Jonathan Brown, and seconded by Eric Evans, to accept the report of the treasurer. Motion carried.

**B. Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report.

**C. Delegates' Report**

Jonathan Brown reported that the Operator Initiative work group meets only once a month and has such a large agenda that it will take a considerable amount of time to achieve results. President Koch requested that Jon send him periodic reports on their progress. Jim Utter, who also volunteers for this work group, has not yet been able to attend a phone conference as the timing conflicts with some of his other duties. Jim stated that he was especially interested in one of the group's goals of promoting reciprocity among the different states. Keith Hobson reported that WEF would be issuing some new training manuals in the near future. Keith also reported that WEF would be providing each MA with at least three WEF memberships that we can award to non-members.

**D: Regional Directors**

**Region 1** No report.

**Region 2:** Darin Jacobs reported that the fall meeting will be held on October 11th at NIACC and will focus on water related topics.

**Region 3:** Mark Simms will be the new Region 3 Director but he was unable to stay for this meeting.

**Region 4:** No report.

**Region 5:** Due to the election of Bob Ranson as Vice-President Lance Greazel has been selected to replace him temporarily until a vote of the membership at the next regional meeting can choose an official replacement (which could very well be Lance). Lance reported on the past year's activities in Region 5. The next meeting will be October 31<sup>st</sup> at DMACC Southside.

**Region 6:** Drew Lammers reported that they had an exceptional turnout for their meeting this past spring. He also reported on the free registration to the IAWEA Annual Conference given away at their meeting. This member was able to experience the annual conference for the first time and related that it was time well spent.

**E: Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**ITEM V: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Changes to Manual of Policies and Practices for Operator Advancement Award and Other Items**

The Secretary outlined the changes that were made to facilitate the new Operator Advancement Award form. Since the old form was listed in the manual any changes must be approved by the Board. One other change being recommended is to do away with free speaker registration at the annual conference. Last year the Board had limited free registration to one speaker per presentation but this still presented problems trying to determine who was the lead presenter. Sometimes more than one speaker received free registration because a secondary speaker registered for the conference before the primary speaker could register. The idea is not to charge speakers for registration if they merely attend to give their presentation and leave. They could also stay for lunch at no charge if their schedule allows. However, if a speaker wishes to receive CEU's or PDH's they would have to register and pay for the conference like any other attendee. Special consideration would be given to keynote speakers and WEF representatives so they might continue to receive free registration. It was moved by John Ringlestein, and seconded by Eric Evans, to approve the changes as presented. Motion carried.

**B. IAWEA Email Blast Service**

Seth Lamb reported that he had investigated using Google Groups to send email blasts. This service has two user types; manager who can send emails or member who can receive emails. A member does have the capability of replying to the sender but the member can't reply to everyone in the group. Anyone wanting to send out a message to the membership would clear the email through the President, or the Board if necessary, and then the email administrator could send out the message. A suggestion was made that generic email addresses for various IAWEA officers could be established so those addresses could remain the same year after year. Seth will look into that as well.

**C. Strategic Plan**

Jon Koch plans to visit with committee chairs to discuss the Mission Statement in the new Strategic Plan. Jon wants to kick around ways for the committees to incorporate this into their activities.

The meeting recessed at 5:13 PM for dinner and reconvened at 5:30 PM.

**D. WEFMAX**

Several WEFMAX attendees reported on items discussed at various WEFMAX meetings. Eric Evans learned that there could be some support from WEF available for Operator Challenge activities. He had heard that one of the larger plants had expressed an interest in participating and he would follow up with them to see if there was still some interest. Eric also reported that he had heard of a new activity for YP's called a "Poo & Brew". YP's tour a wastewater facility and then adjourn to a local brewery for refreshments and discussion. Jon Koch reported that one of the MA's recruited some "experienced" wastewater personnel and had them available at their vendor exhibit to

relate stories about how things used to be done. Another MA had YP's interview seasoned professionals on camera on how they first got started in the industry.

#### **E. Newsletter Committee Help/Follow-up**

Marci Whitaker reported on newsletter activities and/or the lack thereof this past year. As we all know our personal lives can sometimes not go the way we plan and those difficulties always come first. Thus her work on the newsletter suffered but she hopes that the committee activities can resume this next year. The topic of contracting out the publication of the newsletter was discussed. This possibility was raised during the formulation of the Strategic Plan and the consensus today was that this should be investigated.

#### **F. Research Proposals**

Matt Roth updated the Board on two research proposals that had been submitted in response to the call for proposals by the Research Committee. Two proposals were received with one being from the University of Iowa asking \$10,000 to study if the SAGR process was able to remove nutrients. The other proposal was from the City of Indianola asking \$9,000 to do a pilot study to see if microbial technology would be useful to treat their community's wastewater. The committee recommends that the U of I study be funded for \$7,000 and the Indianola study be funded for \$3,000 as the funding available totals \$10,000. After discussion a motion was made by Jim Utter, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to adopt the recommendation of the committee. Motion carried.

#### **G. IAWEA Calendar**

The calendar was discussed briefly and the general consensus was that we would keep publishing one for now.

#### **H. New Logo**

Several new logos were debated. A motion was made by Jim Utter, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, that the logo adding "est. 1927" to the current logo be adopted as IAWEA's new logo. Motion carried.

#### **I. Other Item #1**

Dan Miers brought up that several training events were scheduled for the same day this past spring. The Biosolids Conference, the Region 5 meeting, and an EPA Pretreatment seminar were all held on the same day. We need to have better coordination of notifying IDNR of our training events in order to avoid these overlaps.

### **ITEM VI: COMMITTEE ACTION/DIRECTION REQUESTS**

#### **A. Annual Meeting**

Jay Brady thanked Scott Wienands and Steve Hoambrecker for their efforts on the Local Arrangements Committee and Kam Reeves for spearheading the Program Committee. The Local Arrangements Committee also helped get the golf outing up and going and brought back the morning bike rides after a long absence. We had great support from the vendors as we unfortunately had to turn some away. Two vendors paid for a booth and declined to actually claim a spot so we could sell two more displays – Nutri-Ject and Strand & Associates. Attendance was a respectable 275 and projected income should be around \$20,000. There was some concern expressed about the availability of hotel rooms for next year's conference as it is the same week as the Pork Expo in Des Moines. It was also mentioned that RFP's for future locations should be sent to our contacts in various communities who could serve as their community's champion and volunteer on the Local Arrangements Committee.

Kam Reeves reported on the activities of the Program Committee and thanked everyone involved with the conference for their efforts.

#### **B. Collection Systems**

Curt Kampman reported the Collections System conference was held on March 7-9, 2018. All registration was online this year and that seemed to go over very well. Attendees were 141 for the conference, 39 exhibitor companies, 70 exhibitor reps, 5 PACP recertification, 12 PACP training, 10 MCAP/LACP training and 18 exams. New management at the hotel meant extra work for the committee assuring proper setup but everyone pitched in and made it work.

**C. Government Affairs**

Greg Sindt reported that the committee was involved with several IDNR efforts to update some of their rules. They also attended the EPA Region 7 Government Affairs meeting. Projected rules revisions for this next year include Design Standards, Water Quality Standards for Selenium and Aluminum, and a possible Wet Weather Permit concept.

**D. Maintenance**

Bob Ranson submitted a written report with a recap of their annual conference. The estimated net income was \$1,900. Next year's conference is scheduled for January 29-30, 2019.

**E. Membership**

Jason Loots reported that current membership is trending higher with about 625 current members (468 – WEF and 157 – Iowa Only). The committee met 3 or 4 times to discuss a tiered rate structure but after identifying problems with administration of that program decided to investigate possibly reducing Iowa Only fees.

**F. Operator Certification**

Jim Utter reported that the committee met once last year. The committee received an update from Laurie Sharp about personnel changes due to a retirement and subsequent transfers. IDNR is also interested in updating the facility classification system. The committee had recommended this change several years ago but it had not been acted on at that time.

**G. Research**

Matt Roth reported that the committee wants to tweak the RFP for research proposals. The Strategic Plan calls for posting case studies on our website and the committee will address that in the coming year. Adam Schnieders of IDNR has asked for the committee's assistance with putting together some information on plant optimization.

**H. Small Communities**

Jon Koch passed along information from Chair Matt Wildman that attendance at the Small Community Workshops doubled from last year. The committee is always looking for more volunteers and is also now working with Iowa Rural Water.

**I. Young Professionals**

Taylor Hopper submitted a written report detailing committee activities of the past year. Members from IAWEA and AWWA exhibited at the Children's Water Festival. They had social outings consisting of an Iowa Cubs game and a Des Moines Buccaneers hockey game. Project Aware is scheduled for July 8-13 on the Maquoketa River with the IAWEA/AWWA group planning to help July 8-10. The committee will be developing a plan for an IAWEA competition to select a state representative at the design competition at WEFTEC. Both Iowa and Iowa State students have expressed a desire to compete.

**ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT**

President Koch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary