

**IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*September 14, 2018*

The minutes of the Iowa Water Environment Association Executive Committee Meeting, held at FOX Engineering, Ames, Iowa on September 14, 2018.

**ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Jon Koch, at 10:03 AM, with the following other Executive Committee members present: Matt Wildman, Bob Ranson, Eric Evans, Darin Jacobs, Jonathan Brown, Steve Hoambrecker, John Ringlestein, Drew Lammers, Jim Utter, Lance Greazel, and Jim McElvogue. Also present were: Keith Hobson, Jason Loots, Greg Sindt, Taylor Hopper, and Laurie Twitchell.

**ITEM II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Jonathan Brown, and seconded by Matt Wildman, to approve the minutes of June 7, 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 September 4, 2018. The main difference was an increase of approximately \$32,000 in the Association Share account in order to comply with the new reserves policy. All of the conferences made money this past year but it was noted that large increases in charges were instituted by the Marshalltown venue and this would drastically affect future revenue of the Operators Conference. It was moved by Darin Jacobs, and seconded by Eric Evans, to accept the report of the treasurer. Motion carried.

**B. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that the Operators Conference will be exploring other venues.

**C. Delegates' Report**

Jonathan Brown reported that WEF wanted Delegates to survey their MA to answer three questions. What does the MA do well? What is the MA's main need? What does the MA hope to accomplish in the next five years? The consensus of the group was that operator education was what we do well especially considering that all work is performed by volunteers. IAWEA's main need is a lower cost operator membership for smaller towns and national certification reciprocity. Our hope for the next 5 years is to increase membership and have more involvement from the membership as well. Jim Utter reported that WEF is supplying data to employers on appropriate wages for operators.

## **D: Regional Directors**

**Region 1:** Steve Hoambrecker reported that the Region 1 meeting would be held on October 3, 2018. This is somewhat earlier than usual as there seems to be a lot of conflicts this time of year. Region 1 will be working towards the goal of syncing their operator awards to IAWEA's schedule but that may take a little time.

**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 could not attend but has indicated that there will be a region meeting this fall.

**Region 4:** Zeb McFarland is no longer with the City of Stanton and has stepped down as Region 4 Director. The fall meeting will be October 5, 2018 in Atlantic.

**Region 5:** Lance Greazel reported that the fall meeting will be October 31<sup>st</sup> at DMACC Southside.

**Region 6:** Drew Lammers reported that they do not have a fall meeting. 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.

Jon Koch discussed with the Regional Directors which committees they would like to liaison with. Region 1 will work with the Operator Certification and Safety committees. Region 2 will work with Biosolids. Region 5 will work with Collection Systems and Maintenance. Region 6 will collaborate with Membership and YP.

## **E: Correspondence**

Nothing official to report but Keith Hobson brought up that WEF's new operator training manual is now available.

## **ITEM V: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. IAWEA Email Blast Service**

Jon Koch reported that Seth Lamb is still working to set up this service to be used to advise members of upcoming legislation or important updates. IAWEA Webmaster Mark Jones has established an online email account for IAWEA's President and there is a direct link to that on our website.

### **B. Outsourcing the Newsletter**

Jon Koch provided information from Craig Kelman & Associates on having them produce our quarterly newsletter. Essentially CK&A will develop content and sell advertising and edit, print, and mail the newsletter every quarter at no charge. IAWEA will be free to provide content it wants published and will retain all copyright and other literary rights to all material published. CK&A will perform all work free of charge and pay IAWEA 10% of ad revenue that exceeds \$15,000 on any issue. An electronic version of each issue will also be provided. A motion was made by Jim McElvogue, and seconded by Bob Ranson, to sign the proposed 64-month (through 2023) agreement. Motion carried.

### **C. YP Committee Discussion**

Taylor Hopper reported that the ISU student group has inquired about support for participating in the Design Competition at WEFTEC19. Taylor is working on a format for student clubs to apply for funds for this purpose. A motion was made by Steve Hoambrecker, and seconded by Eric Evans, to authorize spending up to \$3,000 per year (\$1,500 per team) to help defray expenses of IAWEA student groups to attend the Design Competition at WEFTEC. Motion carried.

### **D. Other Item(s)**

1. The Secretary reminded the Board that lowering the fee for Iowa Only membership had been discussed previously and that now was the time to do that if they so desired. A motion was made by Jim McElvogue, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to lower the Iowa Only membership fee to \$20 per year. Motion

- carried.
2. Eric Evans reported that he had been approached by Des Moines WRA about the possibility of them competing in the Operations Challenge at WEFTEC. Eric didn't have any particulars and he will check back with them to see if they were still interested.

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

### **A. Aims & Objectives**

No report.

### **B. Annual Meeting**

Eric Evans reported that an initial Program planning meeting will be held in Grinnell on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Jim Utter and Matt Wildman will contact Jay Brady to discuss arrangements for the Welcome Reception as the venue needs to be secured before long.

### **C. Awards**

No report.

### **D. Biosolids**

Their next committee meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **E. Collection Systems**

Matt Wildman reported that they too have discussed moving to a different venue but are planning to return to Marshalltown for now. Their last committee meeting took place during the Operators Conference and they discussed topics for next year.

### **F. Education**

The Operators Conference added a Pretreatment track that seemed to attract about 25% of the attendees. Collection Systems had about 25% and Operations the remaining 50%.

### **G. Exhibitors**

No report.

### **H. Financial Review**

No report

### **I. Government Affairs**

Greg Sindt reported that the committee has been having monthly teleconference meetings and has some updates for the Board. Draft General Permit #6 is a well construction and discharge permit that IDNR has asked several groups to review and offer support if inclined to do so. A motion was made by Steve Hoambrecker, and seconded by Eric Evans, to have the IAWEA President sign a letter supporting the draft permit. Motion carried.

Greg continued with a synopsis of the Nutrient Reduction Exchange which will record credits for watershed projects that reduce nutrient runoff. This will be run by IDNR and is intended to be used in a possible future water quality trading program. Greg requested a letter from the IAWEA Board to the League of Cities requesting that the Nutrient Reduction Exchange be implemented via formal rule-making including incentives for pre-compliance projects including the date of eligibility with a list of eligible projects. A motion was made by Matt Wildman, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, that such a letter be drafted and sent. Motion carried.

The BOD/CBOD issue has been ignored by IDNR but WEF seems to have taken an interest in it. Several people have been working on developing this into a national issue for WEF. A survey is being put together for WEF MA's to gauge the extent of this issue with the goal of receiving approval at WEFTEC to send the survey out.

Several people are urging WEF and IAWEA to submit comments on a draft permit that is out for public comment for the City of LeMars. IDNR is insisting that BOD be used for industrial user agreements, rated plant capacity, and monitoring all raw waste to the treatment plant even though CBOD has been used for the past 20 years. WEF protocol requires a request from IAWEA to submit comments. A motion was made by Jon Koch, and seconded by Steve Hoambrecker, to send such a request to WEF and for IAWEA to submit comments. Motion carried.

Greg also reported that a WEF MA webinar will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> and IAWEA was selected to present on some of our issues. We will limit our discussion to only three issues; blending, CBOD, and Water Quality Standards with respect to Aluminum. The issue with Aluminum is related to trying to develop a new standard for analysis of Aluminum to take into account the clay in Iowa soils and clay-lined lagoons.

Greg then related that the next TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) meeting will be held September 26<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda is the WQS issues with Aluminum and Selenium.

Eric Evans reported that IDNR and TAC will meet next Tuesday to discuss Wastewater Design Standards.

**J. Historian**

No report.

**K. Industrial Pretreatment**

No report.

**L. Laboratory Practices**

No report.

**M. Maintenance**

Bob Ranson reported that the committee will meet October 9<sup>th</sup> to continue planning for their conference. Next year's conference is scheduled for January 29-30, 2019. Bob asked the Board if there was an expectation by the Board of a certain amount of profit conferences were supposed to make. The general consensus was that some profit was expected but each conference had different levels of overhead so there was not a set percentage or amount.

**N. Membership**

Jason Loots reported that the committee will be looking at possible ways to increase membership with the reduced Iowa Only rate.

**O. Newsletter**

No report except for earlier discussion.

**P. Nominating**

No report.

**Q. Operator Certification**

Jim Utter had nothing to report.

**R. Public Relations/Public Education**

Laurie Twitchell reported that the committee met in July to discuss public outreach via Facebook, Twitter, etc. It was brought up that Board members should post on Facebook when they are out on Association business or at meetings. The committee is also exploring different avenues of student outreach through local schools.

**S. Research**

Matt Roth reported that both of the research funding applicants accepted the grants voted on at the last meeting.

**T. Safety**

No report.

**U. Small Communities**

Matt Wildman reported that attendance at the Small Community Workshops doubled from last year. The committee has selected/drafted a contact person from each region to spearhead setting up the workshops for next year. Small community operator certification continues to be an issue with more complex plants being built demanding higher certification. This in turn means higher salaries, more hours of labor, and a crunch on small city finances. Lauren O'Neil is working with Bob Watson along with IDNR to try to establish a high school intern program where a student can job shadow an operator in a small community to get an idea of what the job is like.

**V. Water for People**

Taylor Hopper thanked the Board for IAWEA's contribution to the couple traveling down the Missouri River to highlight water quality issues. Taylor is working with Mark Cramer on getting acquainted with his new duties as Committee Chair.

**W. Website**

No report.

**X. Young Professionals**

Taylor Hopper met with the new chair, Adam Smith with HDR, this morning.

**ITEM VII: ADJOURNMENT**

President Koch declared the meeting adjourned at 1:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McElvogue, IAWEA Secretary