



Kansas Water Environment Association
6209 SW 24th Terrace, Topeka, KS 66614
Telephone: 785-215-2530 Cell: 785-969-3758

Kansas Water Environment Association

Meeting Date: February 7, 2020 Capitol Plaza Hotel,
Topeka Kansas

Executive Board Present:

(x)	Chris Ramsey	President
(x)	Jason Patty	President-Elect
(x)	Ryan Rutkowski	Vice-President
(x)	Ron Thomann	Past President
(x)	Sylvan Coles	Secretary-Treasurer
(x)	Ron Thomann	WEF Junior Delegate (2018-2021)
(x)	Brian Spano	WEF Senior Delegate (2017-2020)
(x)	Joe Foster	PWO Trustee (2017 – 2020)
(x)	Michael Rudy	Manufacturer's Trustee (2017-2020)
(x)	Dustin Coles	Convention Coordinator (2017-2020)
()	Ed McGrath	Young Professionals Trustee

Committee Representatives Present:

(X)	Sylvan Coles	Administrative Function
(x)	Brian Spano	Administrative – Finance
(x)	Ryan Rutkowski	Administrative – Membership
()	James Martin	Administrative – Constitution & Bylaws
()	Waldo Margheim	Administrative – Audit
()	Laura Gray	Collections Committee – Chairperson
(x)	Alex Darby	Collections Committee – Vice Chairperson
()	Open	Collections Sub-Committee for Awards
()	Stuart Lord	Collections Sub-Committee for National Issues
()	Lorrie Hill	Government Affairs – Chairperson
()	Open	Government Affairs: Treatment Sub-Committee
()	Open	Government Affairs: Collections Sub-Committee
()	Andy Sauer	Government Affairs: Storm Water Sub-Committee
()	Open	Industrial Pretreatment – Chairperson
()	Open	Laboratory Education – Chairperson
()	Open	Laboratory Education – Vice Chairperson
(x)	Jeena John	Municipal Management – Chairperson
()	John Keller	Municipal Technology Transfer – Co- Chairperson
(x)	Tim Hunt	Municipal Technology Transfer – Co- Chairperson
()	Kurt Bookout	Nominating Committee – Chairperson (KWEA Past President)
()	Steve McNolty II	Plant Operations & Maintenance: Committee Chairperson
()	Open	Plant Operations & Maintenance: Plant Awards Sub-Committee Chairperson
()	Open	Plant Operations & Maintenance: Safety Sub-Committee
(x)	Chris Ramsey	Program – Chairperson (KWEA President-Elect)
()	Page Burks	Public Communication & Outreach (PC&O) – Chairperson
()	Carla Dods	PC&O - Vice Chairperson
()	Vacant	PC&O: Public Education Sub0-Committee
()	Vacant	PC&O: Publicity/WEF Awards Sub-Committee
()	Barrett Schmidt	PC&O: Publications Sub-Committee
(x)	Tina Leitzel	PC&O: Webmaster
()	Martha Tasker	Scholarship – Chairperson
()	Rebecca Lewis	Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Chairperson
(x)	Ryan Rossel	Student & Young Professionals – Chairperson

() Alex Beck Student & Young Professionals – Vice Chairperson

I. Call to Order

II. Approved Minutes of the December 13, 2019 Executive Board Meeting without corrections..

A. Member Services and Operations- Led by Vice-President (Ryan Rutkowski)

i. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Sylvan Coles)

Sylvan updated the Board regarding the financial status as of February 7, 2020 of KWEA. The financial position of KWEA is sound. KWEA anticipates a budget shortfall this year, but has enough buffer to absorb it. Proceeds from the golf tournament in 2019 was \$2,359.43. The SSSSS contributed \$1,047.00 which was deposited directly into the scholarship fund. The fund is currently at \$41, 255.87.

ii. Sr. Delegates Report (Brian Spano)

The upcoming WEFMAX's consist of a 1 ½ day event. For those attending the House of Delegates meeting, that will occur on the day prior to the WEFMAX meeting. Day one of the WEFMAX this year will begin with breakfast and a welcome from the host member association. Following the welcome the day will launch into the following format:

Day 1

1. Session 1: (Host topic of choice)
2. Session 2: Diversity & Inclusion
3. Session 3: HOD Public Outreach Group
4. Session 4: WEF Resources
5. Session 5: MA Resource Sharing

Day 2

6. Session 6: Communication
7. Session 7: Engagement

The WEFMAX will adjourn at noon on day two.

Brian reported that turnout at the WEFMAX's this year is good with 43 registered for New Jersey, 67 for Hawaii, 58 for Charleston, and 25 for Fargo.

The Documentary Film "Brave Blue World" premiered in Los Angeles at the Paramount Theater in Hollywood on December 16, 2019. The documentary which examines how new technologies and innovations can create a sustainable water future has since received great reviews and many are wondering how to set up special screenings as KWEA would like to screen them at our student chapters as well as other functions. So far we are waiting on WEF to sort out how they want to make the screenings available.

As Brian is moving to Colorado Springs, Colorado, the Board will need to consider his replacement as Senior Delegate as well as the Finance Chair.

iii. Splashings (Tina Leitzel / Barrett Schmidt)

- Advertising notifications went out December 12, 2019. Still trying to find a contact for UCI.
- Winter Issue is the Conference Wrap-Up Issue & was emailed out February 6, 2020.
- Scheduled to complete a Website Layout Redesign by end of 2020.
- Splashing's redesign is in effect and Marc Pedrotti recently commented how much he liked the new look.
- February 15th, 2020 is the deadline for the Spring, 2020 Edition of Splashing's.

iii. **Committee Chairs:**

a) Administrative / Finance (Brian Spano):

Brian and Sylvan worked together on this year's budget as Brian will be leaving Kansas for Colorado. The budget put forth recognized that KWEA might have a shortfall in revenue from the Wichita Conference and the fact that we will have an additional outlay of funds for the upgrade of the website. The good news is that the revenue from the Topeka Conference in 2019 will make up the difference.

b) Audit Committee (Waldo Margheim):

Completed 2017 Audit. Sylvan to get the 2018 Finance information to the committee.

c) Plant Operations / Maintenance / Safety Committee (Steve McNolty): No Report

B. External Relations and Outreach- Led by Past President (Ron Thomann)

i. **Junior Delegate Report (Ron Thomann):**

Ron is on the House of Delegates Water Utility Workforce of the Future Work Group. The Committee has had a couple of meetings. Also weekly conference calls with WEF. The Future Work Force Sub-Committee is planning Interviews in Kansas, Oklahoma, & Iowa. Ron plans to attend the WEF Mid-Year Conference in San Antonio, 2/2020.

ii **Committee Chairs003A**

a) Public Communication & Outreach (Page Burks):

Page was not able to make the meeting but reported that her committee has been meeting on a monthly basis. For 2020, they propose that, in addition to continuing the support of social media postings of water related dates (i.e. WWMD, Imagine a Day without Water), that their committee try a pilot of getting a booth and running a water activity at a local Earth Day festival (likely Lawrence this year). Once established, they can make the kit and directions available for members to easily employ in other locations. In addition, they would like to Partner with the YPs (assuming they are agreeable) to help support the kids "water day" at the annual conference as requested by Jason.

Page asks the Board to let her know if there are questions or additional information is needed.

b) Student / YP's (Ryan Rossel)

KWEA has allocated \$1000 for each of the KU & KState chapters. In the works is:

- YP screening of the "Brave New World" video.
- YP Summit in Anaheim.
- Royals Outing.

c) Scholarship (Martha Tasker):

Martha reported that she has sent out scholarship information to the Colleges and Universities. The following awards are planned to be made available in 2020:

- a. Three University Scholarships in the amounts of \$1,200, \$1,000, & \$750.
- b. Up to \$1,000 set aside for up to \$500 of requested assistance for Technical School Students.

The awards are limited to students attending Kansas Schools. University scholarship applicants should also be, at a minimum, completing their sophomore year and interested in pursuing a career in the environmental sciences. There are no financial need requirements, only an essay & application form showing academic prowess and activities the student is involved in.

To date, Martha has received seven University applications and none from the Vo-Tech programs. Vo-Tech applications will, however, be considered throughout the year.

In discussion it was suggested that KWEA develop an application for the Vo-Tech scholarship. Also it was suggested that we use our workshops to promote the scholarship. It was also suggested that we shift the focus of the Vo-Tech scholarship to include those in operations.

d) Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) (Rebecca Lewis): No Report

e) Government Affairs (Lorrie Hill):

Lorrie could not attend due to scheduling pressures, but did email in to say that the committee is working on papers for the conference. Also, she plans to attend the annual Water Policy Fly-In which is coming up on April 27-28, 2020.

f) Membership (Vacant):

Sylvan sat in on the WEF Monthly Membership Meeting where the topic of Association "Branding" was discussed. The California Water Environment Association (CWEA) has partnered with Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP), the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), the (CWEA), the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) and the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA) and the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) to sponsor *Building the Wastewater. Utility Brand: Practical Advice for Increasing Trust, Support, and Investment*

The utility branding manual is designed to help wastewater utilities improve how they communicate about the value they provide. Wastewater utilities are faced with a series of challenges that will require more investment from their communities especially during challenging economic times. This has put pressure on utilities to improve their ability to communicate about the roles, services, and value they provide. The branding manual provides solutions that are based on principles of marketing and branding. Applying these principles will help wastewater utilities be extremely clear about the value they offer to their communities. It addresses how to build a strong brand, which will increase trust, support, and investment.

The practical advice given in the branding manual is helpful whether the your utility is trying to combat negative branding and low trust, attempting to be more visible to their community, proposing higher rates, or just striving to improve its decision making and communications.

Simply put, Branding is how we as an industry are seen and how we convey our message to our customers and the Public in general. The five pillars that are necessary to the growth of our Industry are:

- c. Empowerment of wastewater professionals through training / education.
- d. Uniting the Industry as well as the individual.
- e. Raise the profile of wastewater treatment.
- f. Prove to the public that we are the proven experts and the most trusted.
- g. Bring the wastewater into the future.

C. Professional Development and Education- Led by President-Elect (Jason Patty)

i) 2020 Conference: Jason Patty

- Greg Marshall will be the keynote for the Wichita Conference.
- A Water Day Festival is planned for Tuesday afternoon of the Conference. Currently we are inviting 5-6th grade students to the event. Approximately 100 kids are anticipated. Jason is also working with the El Dorado school district to get students to the event. These students will be shadowed by High School Science students. Tonya Brownley of Wichita State University & the Young Professionals to spearhead the program. Six sessions are planned with topics including: River Sample Collection, a Water game, a spinoff of the water taste test, etc. The students will be bringing sack lunches.
- The Tuesday Night Meet & Greet will be held in the Exhibit area this year and is designed to resemble a "Block Party" atmosphere. The original plan was to work with the Wichita Chamber of Commerce to work with us to attract vendors to the EXPO where they would be given booth space and opportunity to hawk their beverages. At this time there does not seem to be much interest from vendors, so that idea is scrapped and food will be served in the area instead.
- The A/V guys have some games that can be made available.
- Another Idea being considered is to have a Microbiology Workshop. Jamie Belden and Becky Lewis would host the workshop. The class size would probably be limited to 20 folks and a separate charge might be considered. A few Phase / Contrast microscopes would be needed and perhaps Hach would be able to provide. As the laboratory is currently in flux with Jay Lovett having to resign due to work restraint, the Laboratory track could include this ½ day program and add ethics training also to the mix. Ethics training coupled with a few other papers and the Micro Workshop could fill a full day.
- Also giving some thought to having a Pump Station training Workshop.
- Jason also brought up for thought the idea of doing away with the Annual Awards Banquet given the fact that attendance is low and it is late in the conference. After much discussion, the Banquet still seems to be the best place to present the National awards.
- Video Board will be provided in the EXPO Hall.
- Tina mentioned that we had only received seven papers to date and the first deadline is March 7, 2020.
- We also need to make sure that the YP track ties into the Wastewater Industry,

II) WEFMAX 2024:

Jason, Ron & Brian are all part of the WEFMAX Committee engaged in the early planning for KWEA to host. No Updates at this time.

ii) **Committee Chairs**

a) **Collection Systems (Alex Darby):**

The committee met last week for the first time. The committee is interested in hosting a Collection Systems Workshop in the Kansas City area in the future. The group is still planning to host the Operator Challenge in Wichita.

b) **Laboratory (Vacant): Jay Lovett resigned due to work commitments.**

c) **Municipal Management (Jeena John):**

Jeena John of Johnson County Wastewater has agreed to take over responsibility for the committee and has reached out to former Committee Chair Patrick Beene for historical perspective. Meanwhile Jeena is looking to recruit some more committee members (Currently 2) as well as looking to define the Committee's purpose beyond just providing papers for the conference. The idea has been kicked around about combining the Municipal Management & Municipal Technical Committee's. Currently working on expanding the committee's outreach, working on charter, and developing an article for Splashing's.

d) **Municipal Technology Transfer (John Keller & Tim Hunt):**

John Keller of Black & Veatch and Tim Hunt of Automatic Engineering have agreed to Co-Chair the Committee. They too will be looking to define the committee's purpose as it moves forward. Brian suggested that they might look to other MA's with similar committee's for guidance. The committee plans to recruit articles for Splashing's also.

e) **Industrial (Vacant):**

Becky Lewis has made a recommendation which is being considered at this time.

f) **PWO (Joe Foster):**

The Operator's Mini-Conference will be held in Topeka at the Capitol Plaza Hotel on April 28-29, 2020. Joe Foster, Heather Phillips, Lorrie Hill, Bart Rehagen, Jeanette Klamm, and Sylvan Coles met at the Olathe Public Works in December and again in January at the Topeka Capitol Plaza to finalize the three tracks. The three tracks are: Maintenance, Operations, & Collections. Discussed were Topics discussing activated sludge, SCADA, lagoons, etc. Tina is preparing the announcement on the KWEA website.

g) **Manufacturer's Trustee (Michael Rudy):**

Again this year, the opening session will be held in the Exhibit area. No classrooms are planned in the Exhibit area this year. Ideas are still being bantered about with regard to how best utilize the space that we have available including the idea of a robot roaming about the area. As already mentioned, the Tuesday Night M&G will be held in the Exhibit area and the "Block Party" theme is taking shape.

h) Resource Recovery Committee (Chris Burns):

The Committee met last week and is interested in facilitating / moderating a half-day session on Resource / Recovery Topics. The objective and goals of this newly formed committee are described below.

Committee Objective and Goals

Wastewater utilities are starting to embrace the idea of resource recovery because it makes economic and environmental sense, and has been implemented in a variety of ways for decades in many industries. By looking at what different utilities are already doing on a daily basis in Kansas, within the United States, and around the world, it is the goal of this committee to leverage and share that knowledge and new technologies with our KWEA members. The Kansas Water Environment Association (KWEA) Resource Recovery Committee's objectives are to provide leadership and information to the Association's membership regarding resource recovery topics and issues. The committee shall strive to inform plant operators, as well as management, on the following topics:

- Educate members on current and emerging resource recovery and reuse technologies, innovations, trends, and success stories. These area may cover such technologies as the following:
 - Biosolids/residuals beneficial reuse
 - Biogas use for CHP/Co-generation/CNG/RNG
 - Water reuse and reclamation
 - Nutrients recovery
 - Sustainability/Resiliency practices
 - Energy use management
- Track and share information on regional and federal regulations
- Identify and conduct technical training opportunities
- Develop/implement activities that promote resource recovery awareness to professionals within the water environment, regulatory, governmental, and local community arenas
- Facilitate standards for the design, construction, operation & maintenance, and management of reuse and resource recovery facilities

Committee Activities

The KWEA Resource Recovery Committee shall conduct, but not be limited to, the following activities:

1. Conduct quarterly meetings with committee members.
2. Prepare technical sessions for annual and specialty conferences, workshops and seminars.
3. Obtain and share information gathered from WEF and national resources.
4. Inform the Association membership on resource recovery topics through the Splashing newsletter and via the KWEA website.
5. Honor and recognize municipalities and industries for implementing resource recovery activities, programs and systems.

Subcommittees

The work of the Resource Recovery Committee will be performed through several proposed subcommittees as follows.

- Annual Conference and Workshops

- Coordinate a technical session at the KWEA annual conference with the Program Committee.
- Conduct and coordinate with special workshops and seminars concerning resource recovery/reuse issues.
- Awards – Resource Recovery Facility (TBD)
- National Resources
 - Interaction with the WEF Sustainability Committee
 - Promote “LIFT” program
 - Communication with national/international sites/facilities
- Publications
 - Submit articles and information for publication in the Association’s newsletter *Splashings*. and website
- Technology Transfer
- Advocacy, Education and Outreach
 - Training opportunities
 - Public awareness promotions

Membership is open to all KWEA members, including utilities, vendors, industry, regulators, and educators.

D. Old Business:

1. **2024 WEFMAX: No Update**
2. **2020 WEFMAX:**

The locations for 2020 WEFMAXs have been identified as follows. The WEF in the process of narrowing topics for the WEFMAX from ten suggested down to three. A survey has been sent out to MA’s to decide which three are of greatest interest. The following WEFMAX locations are:

- Jersey City, New Jersey March 25-27, 2020
- Honolulu, Hawaii April 15-17, 2020 (Jason Patty & Ryan Rutkowski will be attending)
- Charleston, South Carolina May 13-15, 2020 (Dustin Coles will attend)
- Fargo, North Dakota May 27-29, 2020

Brian reported that attendance at the WEFMAX’s is looking good with New Jersey expecting 43, Hawaii at 67, Charleston at 58, and Fargo at 25 folks. All of the event are looking for attendees to present.

E. New Business

1. **KWEA Board Retreat:**

The KWEA Board Retreat is planned for April 2-3, 2020. Sheila Schockey has agreed to facilitate the Retreat. A couple topics on the agenda are (mentioned above) the updating of Committees – their descriptions and responsibilities and also KWEA’s Strategic Plan. Chris is still working on a location. Possible locations for the retreat are:

- Black & Veatch
- University of Kansas
- Johnson County Wastewater
- Olathe Public Works

Ron Thomann checked to see whether WEF could provide any assistance and they do not have the capability.

2. Next Conference Dates

- 2020 Wichita Hyatt Hotel 08/31/2020 – 09/03/2020
- 2021 Topeka Capitol Plaza 08/29/2021 – 09/02/2021
- 2022 Topeka Capitol Plaza 08/28/2022 – 09/01/2022

3. Updated Contact Information of Meeting Attendees:

Name	Email	Telephone
Sylvan Coles	scoles@topeka.org	785-969-3758
Tina Leitzel	webmaster@kwea.net	316-214-7026
Michael Rudy	mrudy@epecwater.com	316-305-7839
Ryan Rossell	rrossell@carollo.com	816-326-6717
Ron Thomann	rthomann@trekllc.com	913-660-8750
Tim Hunt	thunt@fluidequip.com	918-998-7021
Jeena John	jeena.john@jcw.org	913-715-8524
Ryan Rutkowski	ryanr@casconstructors.com	785-270-1115
Alex Darby	alex.darby@pec1.com	785-817-2341
Dustin Coles	colesd58@hotmail.com	785-608-5457
Jason Patty	jpatty@eldoks.com	316-648-4822
Chris Ramsey	clramsey@bv.com	913-458-3303
Brian Spano	brign.spano@wilsonco.com	785-577-7536
Joe Foster	jf440rr@live.com	913-838-2038

4. Next Board Meeting: June 5, 2020 at the Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel