



Kansas Water Environment Association

Kansas Water Environment Association  
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Telephone: 785-286-6994 Fax: 785-286-6993

Meeting Date: March 25, 2016 – Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel

**Executive Board Present:**

(X)	Lorrie Hill*	Past- President
(x)	Kurt Bookout	President
(x)	David Hauser	President – Elect
(x)	Susan Pekarek	Vice-President
(x)	Sylvan Coles	Secretary-Treasurer
()	Chris Burns	WEF Senior Delegate (2013-2016)
(x)	Page Burks	WEF Junior Delegate (2015-2017)
()	Joe Foster	PWO Trustee (2015 – 2017)
()	Michael Rudy	Manufacturer’s Trustee (2013-2015)
(x)	Dustin Coles	Convention Coordinator (2012-2015)
()	Ed McGrath	Young Professionals Trustee

**Committee Representatives Present:**

(x)	Brian Spano	Administration – Finance Chairperson
()	Martha Tasker	Administrative – Membership Chairperson
()	James Martin	Administrative – Constitution & Bylaws Chairperson
()	Waldo Margheim	Administrative – Audit Chairperson
(x)	Chris Ramsey	Collections – Chairperson
()	Roxann Slater	Collections – Vice Chairperson
(x)	Susan Pekarek	Government Affairs – Chairperson
()		Government Affairs: Treatment Sub-Committee Chairperson
()	Dan Ott	Government Affairs: Collections Sub-Committee Chairperson
()	Andy Sauer	Government Affairs: Storm Water Sub-Committee Chairperson
(x)	Michael Carter	Industrial Pretreatment – Chairperson
()	Heath Horyna	Laboratory Education – Chairperson
(x)	Jason Patty	Laboratory Education – Vice-Chairperson
()	Patrick Beane	Municipal Management – Chairperson
()	Phil Burns	Municipal Technology Transfer – Chairperson
()	Marc Pedrotti	Nominating Committee – Chairperson (KWEA Past-President)
()	Tyler Pjesky	Plant Operations & Maintenance – Chairperson
()		Plant Operations & Maintenance: Biosolids Sub-Committee Chairperson
()		Plant Operations & Maintenance: Plant Awards Sub-Committee Chairperson
()		Plant Operations & Maintenance: Special Projects Sub-Committee Chairperson
(x)	Kurt Bookout	Program – Chairperson (KWEA President-Elect)
()	Sheila Shockey	Public Communication & Outreach – Chairperson
()	Erin Dougherty	PC&O: Publicity/WEF Awards Sub-Committee Chairperson
()		PC&O: Public Education Sub-Committee Chairperson
()	Caitlin Perry	PC&O: Publications Chairperson
()	Tina Leitzel	PC&O: Webmaster
()	Craig Stromgren	Safety – Chairperson
()	Joe Mester	Scholarship – Chairperson
()	Rebecca Lewis	Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Chairperson
()	Lindsey Busch	Student & Young Professionals – Chairperson
()	Dallas Massie	Student & Young Professionals – Vice- Chairperson

**Committee Representatives Present (Continued):**

() Andy Sauer Storm Water - Chairperson

(\* Present via telephone

I: Call to Order: 10:00 P.M. March 25, 2016.

II: Approved the Minutes of January 15, 2016 Board Meeting.

III: Board Actions:

IV: Future Meetings:

- |                          |                         |                      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Friday, May 13, 2016  | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  | Topeka Capitol Plaza |
| 2) Friday, June 24, 2016 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Topeka Capitol Plaza |

V: Old Business:

a) 2016 Conference Update – David Hauser

David handed out to the Board meeting attendees a copy of the Conference Tracking sheet to date. The program is on schedule and we have received about ½ of the papers to date. Discussion also took place regarding raising the upcoming conference attendee rates. Conference rates have not been increased for quite a few rates and future expenses are expected to increase. Along those lines, the next conference speaker will be a bit more costly than speakers in past, we will also premier electronic tracking at the next conference, and the organizations are preparing for the upcoming conference in Wichita. KWEA representatives will present the rate increase recommendations to KsAWWA before sending out the registration.

Dustin will be locking in the Firekeeper Golf Course for the Annual Conference Tournament. The individual golfer rate will go from \$100 to \$125. The offset is the fact that this is a nationally ranked course and the corresponding rate increase should not discourage turnout.

Lester Estelle and David have been in contact with the Keynote speaker (Hawkins) and have sent him a list of topics that he could speak to. See topics below from the last minutes.

**Possible Key Note Speech Topics include:**

1. Talk about the DC Water Culture change and how other municipalities (large and small) might adapt or institute certain aspects or components similar changes for their organizations or cities?
2. This might be woven into Item # 1 above or keep as separate topic, but share your Leadership philosophy- (Share your personal path story) and how you have implemented it at DC Water and the challenges and hurdles you had to overcome to get it and the culture change to evolve and come about.
3. Messaging- Discuss how DC Water went about conveying and getting the message across to customers (residential, commercial, industrial) about how increasing rate increases were necessary and how you communicated to the rate payers for them to understand the value of water and why the utility needs to spend large dollars. Discuss the aging water and WW systems and large projects under way both as a result from your Consent Decree and otherwise.
4. Some of your past blog topics, may be relative and new to those here in the Midwest that have not heard those messages and several seem like they would cross Water/WW boundaries:
  - a. *“Good Government Puts People First”*- Very good possible Key Note Speech
  - b. *“The Tightrope that Public Officials Have to Walk”*- Seems rather specific to Water, but coupled with Item # 3- Messaging or “mistake messaging” could be relevant to both Water and WW attendees
  - c. *“Good Customer Service Still Rules the Day”*- Might be part of Item # 1 above and Culture change?
  - d. *“In Edmonton, They are Rethinking Public/Private Ventures”*- What DC Water has done along these lines and what might this look like for smaller Midwest Cities and Towns?

**Possible Breakout Session Topics**

1. Discuss what DC Water is doing specifically related to resource recovery (a lot of major projects going on at the Blue Plains WWTP) and what you see as the long term benefits, as well as if you have implemented a full asset management program to drive/justify your capital improvement plan for future years.
2. Share your take/insight on the Flint, Michigan water events,
3. Share your insight/thoughts on how to obtain better funding for water/wastewater infrastructure replacement.
4. Discuss how to incorporate Green Infrastructure into Consent Decrees and the hurdles or obstacles City's may face and how to overcome them.
  - a. "A Greener DC: Equivalent Alternatives to Gray Solutions" along with "A Greener DC: Part 1"
  - b. "Green Infrastructure for DC. Green Jobs for DC Residents"

b) Annual Report Update – David Hauser

The Annual Report is done and will be in the next issue of Splashings. Electronic copies were sent to KWEA Board members.

**A: Professional Development & Education – Led by President Elect (Dave Hauser)**

**1) Committee Chair Reports:**

- a) Collections Committee (Chris Ramsey): Chris Ramsey reported that the committee met on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to select a Vice-chair, verify sub-committee chairs and discussed an outreach workshop in Salina, Kansas sometime in the Fall. The committee also brainstormed some ideas for improving attendance at the Annual Conference. Those ideas include issuing training credit for the exhibit area and giving a hallway pass to host city water & wastewater employees not registered for the conference. The next meeting of the committee will be on April 1, 2016.
- b) Laboratory Committee (Jason Patty): The committee will be meeting on April 22, 2016 in Salina. Peggy Williams will be featured in an upcoming WEF E Newsletter profiling Laboratories. The committee is also looking for papers for the upcoming annual conference and has received one already entitled, "Improved Jar Testing".
- c) Municipal Management Committee (Patrick Beane): The committee has not yet met but is planning to meet in the near future.
- d) Municipal Technology Transfer Committee (Phil Burns): No Report.
- e) Safety Committee (Craig Stromgren): No Report. The committee is being assigned to the Plant Operations Committee. Kurt will be contacting Dustin to dig up some papers. It was suggested that maybe we should invite both Safety Award Winners & Losers to present papers.
- f) Industrial Committee (Michael Carter): The committee met on March 22, 2016 in Emporia. They have already received five presentations including one on treating industrial wastes with Spaghnum moss. Michael plans to present a paper on, "How to Survive an EPA Audit". The committee also discussed adding a Platinum Award to Industries having a five year 100% Compliance record. Industries receiving this award would be given a plaque.
- g) Manufacturer's Trustee Report (Michael Rudy): No Report.
- h) PWO Report (Joe Foster): Joe organized a training session, "BNR Bootcamp" that was attended by 20 people. The session was advertised by word of mouth. Another is in the works. Joe and Kurt will be participating in this year's Fly-In in Washington, DC. They hope to meet with three Senators from Kansas (Yoder, Moran, & Roberts) and Congressman Pompeo. Hopefully the meetings will be with the officials and not their underlings. This year ought to be interesting as the Flint, Michigan lead crisis has brought water issues in the US to the forefront. Last year our speaker General Deluca spoke to the fact that investment in the US Infrastructure has suffered greatly since the 50's. Kurt has asked the General to show the benefits of Infrastructure investment that would be of value as he visits with the Senators and Congressman.

**B: Member Services & Operations – Led by Vice-President (Susan Pekarek)**

- 1) **Secretary-Treasurer's Report (Sylvan Coles):** Sylvan provided the Board with an update on the current finances of KWEA. In keeping with past policy, Sylvan will be depositing excess liquid funds into a CD.
- 2) **Senior Delegates Report (Chris Burns):** No Report.
- 3) **Committee Chair Reports:**
  - a) Administrative / Finance Committee (Brian Spano): Brian presented the budget for review and changes to the budget were voted upon. The budget estimates are somewhat conservative. Budgetary amounts for the Fly-In and WEFMAX were increased to reflect increases in airfare, etc. The final budget is attached in excel sheet.
  - b) Audit Committee (Waldo Margheim): No Report
  - c) Plant Operations & Maintenance Committee (Tyler Piesky): No Report. Dustin to provide Susan with Tyler's email address.

**c: External Relations & Outreach – Led by Past-President (Lorrie Hill)**

- 1) **Junior Delegates Report (Page Burks):** Page has been involved with the HOD on the Value of Water. Page passed around a survey that the group has out. This survey is available electronically and Page will send out to the Board. Page will continue to work with Sheila to better promote this year "World Toilet Day". Kurt was interested in obtaining a poster that would truly illustrate the world wide absence of good sanitation (toilets, etc.) that he could post a City Hall and other places. Page will check the web.
- 2) **WEFMAX Discussion (Kurt Bookout):**

The Board discussed the upcoming WEFMAX meetings and attendance. The money is available in the budget. At this time it looks like Kurt, Chris & Susan will be heading to Colorado. Page & Dave will be going to Chicago.

**3) Committee Reports:**

- a) Public Communication & Outreach Committee (Sheila Schockey): No Report
- b) Student & Young Professional Committee (Dallas Massie): No Report
- c) Scholarship Committee (Joe Mester): Joe sent a text saying that the committee will meet on March 23, 2016 to review the six applications that he has received. Martha Tasker has agreed to Chair the committee and Becky Lewis has also indicated that she would be interested. Kurt has suggested that they co-chair as there is a lot of work associated with the position and will be visiting with them.
- d) Government Affairs Committee: No Report. Looking for a Chair.
- e) Membership Committee (Martha Tasker): Dan Riney of Ottawa has expressed an interest in chairing the committee. Sylvan will make sure that he is given access via WEF to the membership database. Dan will be at the next Board meeting.

**c: Old Business: (Carryover from last minutes not discussed)**

- a) The Board discussed how, in their opinion, KDHE and its resource to the Kansas communities is being slowly eroded with the loss of experienced personnel. The loss of these people and the fact that the State is not doing anything to replace these people jeopardizes State primacy and does not give communities a buffer from EPA. KDHE has always been the voice of reason and a go between when communities were confronted with mandates that were to burdensome. Without KDHE to aid communities, these communities are at the mercy of EPA directly. Adding insult to injury, all new positions are being unclassified and as such State regulators hold their jobs at the whim of the Governor.
- b) There is a further concern that KDHE does not have a succession plan in place.
- c) Kurt will draft a letter with the assistance of Sheila presenting our concerns for the Board to review prior to sending to KDHE and the Legislature.