



Kansas Water Environment Association  
6209 SW 24<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Topeka, KS 66614  
Telephone: 785-215-2530

Kansas Water Environment Association

Meeting Date: May 10, 2019 Capitol Plaza Hotel  
Topeka, Kansas

**Executive Board Present:**

(x)	Ron Thomann	President
(x)	Chris Ramsey	President-Elect
()	Jason Patty	Vice-President
(x)	Susan Pekarek	Past President
(x)	Sylvan Coles	Secretary-Treasurer
()	Brian Spano	WEF Junior Delegate (2017-2020)
(x)	Jeanette Klamm	WEF Senior Delegate (2016-2019)
(x)	Joe Foster	PWO Trustee (2015 – 2019)
()	Michael Rudy	Manufacturer's Trustee (2015-2019)
()	Dustin Coles	Convention Coordinator (2015-2019)
()	Ed McGrath	Young Professionals Trustee

**Committee Representatives Present:**

()	Brian Spano	Administration – Finance Chairperson
()	Ryan Rutkowski	Administrative – Membership Chairperson
()	James Martin	Administrative – Constitution & Bylaws Chairperson
()	Waldo Margheim	Administrative – Audit Chairperson
()	Laura Gray	Collections – Chairperson
()	Alex Darby	Collections – Vice Chairperson
(x)	Lorrie Hill	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
()	Jay Lovett	Laboratory Education – Chairperson
()		Laboratory Education – Vice Chairperson
()	Patrick Beane	Municipal Management – Chairperson
()	Open	Municipal Technology Transfer – Chairperson
()	Kurt Bookout	Nominating Committee – Chairperson (KWEA Past President)
()	Steve McNolty	Plant Operations & Maintenance: Committee Chairperson
(x)		Plant Operations & Maintenance: Plant Awards Sub-Committee Chairperson
()		Plant Operations & Maintenance: Safety Sub-Committee
(x)	Chris Ramsey	Program – Chairperson (KWEA President-Elect)
(x)	Page Burks	Public Communication & Outreach – Chairperson
()	Carla Dods	Public Communication & Outreach - Vice Chairperson
()		PC&O: Publicity/WEF Awards Sub-Committee Chairperson
()	Barrett Schmidt	PC&O: Publications Chairperson
(x)	Tina Leitzel	PC&O: Webmaster
()	Martha Tasker	Scholarship – Chairperson
()	Rebecca Lewis	Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Chairperson
()	Miranda Sloan	Student & Young Professionals – Chairperson
()	Sarah Espinoza	Student & Young Professionals – Vice Chairperson

**Guests:** Alex Beck – Johnson County Wastewater

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approved Minutes of the March 1, 2019 Executive Board Meeting with corrections.

## **A. Member Services and Operations- Led by Vice-President (Jason Patty)**

### **i. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Sylvan Coles)**

Sylvan updated the Board regarding the financial status as of May 9, 2019 of KWEA. The financial position of KWEA is sound.

### **ii. Sr. Delegates Report (Jeanette Klamm)**

Operator Initiatives Workgroup – Jeanette is our representative on this workgroup, which seeks to assist the WEF Operator Advisory Panel (OAP). The mission of the OAP is promoting and supporting the professional operator through the development of promotional materials to support and encourage participation in WEF operator-oriented programs and services, including the Operator Ingenuity Contest. The workgroup will also assist in the OAP's current efforts to survey MA's on operator workforce development, assist in the review of existing operator training materials (both WEF and MA developed) to provide a gap analysis for content. The workgroup will also assist in other WEF operator initiatives as the need arises. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Promoting the role of the professional operator in the community, WEF Operations Challenge, and WEF OWWLs
- Promoting and endorsing ABC Professional Operator Designation
- Passing along information for utility managers on how to support operators in the workplace
- Inform MAs about available WEF and other operator training materials
- Distributing operator-oriented articles for MA magazines
- Defining long-term MA operator training strategy working with OAP
- Investigate workforce development for future operators and living wage material to provide deliverables to MAs for distribution
- Development of the On-Line Library.

Jeanette will also be attending the WEFMAX event in Scottsdale at the end of this month.

### **iii. Splashings (Tina Leitzel / Barrett Schmidt)**

- Advertising renewals have been sent to Sylvan for billing.
- Winter Issue was the Conference Wrap-Up Issue.
- Sent out a request for articles for the upcoming issues.
- Scheduled to complete a Website Layout Redesign by year's end.
- Will set up the site to automatically kick award applications to appropriate committee chairs.

### **iv. Committee Chairs:**

#### **a) Administrative / Finance (Brian Spano): No Report**

b) **Audit Committee (Waldo Margheim): No Report**

c) **Plant Operations & Maintenance Committee (Steve McNolty):**

**B. External Relations and Outreach- Led by Past President (Susan Pekarek)**

i. **Junior Delegate Report (Brian Spano):** No Report. Preparing to attend WEFMAX in Atlanta.

**Committee Chairs:**

a) **Public Communication & Outreach ( Page Burks):**

Page was not in attendance but sent by email a report. She is working with Tina to get the events in the table below advertised on KWEA’s social media and although many of the listed notices have already occurred, the full year is planned.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
International Women’s Day	March 8	Will do this year if we can find info in time; on list for next year for sure  Tina, <a href="https://www.internationalwomensday.com/SocialMedia-Cards">https://www.internationalwomensday.com/SocialMedia-Cards</a>
St. Patrick’s Day	March 17	
World Water Day	March 22	<a href="http://www.worldwaterday.org/resources/">http://www.worldwaterday.org/resources/</a>
Earth Day	April 22	
National Prescription Drug Takeback Day	April 27	Mike Carter sent some info and some social media at link  <a href="https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/content/national-take-back-day">https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/content/national-take-back-day</a>
World Migratory Bird Day	May 11	<a href="https://www.migratorybirdday.org/resources/">https://www.migratorybirdday.org/resources/</a>
National Fishing & Boating Week	June 1-9	<a href="https://www.takemefishing.org/how-to-fish/how-to-catch-fish/national-fishing-and-boating-week/">https://www.takemefishing.org/how-to-fish/how-to-catch-fish/national-fishing-and-boating-week/</a>
KWEA Photo Contest Reminder	Mid July	Reminder about KWEA photo contest. See attachment
KWEA Photo Contest Reminder	Around Aug 1	Reminder about KWEA photo contest. See attachment
EarthEcho Water Challenge	Sept 18	
Imagine a Day Without Water	Oct 23	
World Toilet Day	Nov 19	

In addition to the above recognition of significant water related events, this year the Committee plans to run a photo contest to be judged at the conference by attendees. The information below outlines the contest guideline. Please encourage folks to share so we hopefully get a decent level of entries. See Below:



**KWEA** Kansas Water  
Environment  
Association

Clean Water - It Connects Us



## KWEA 2019 PHOTO CONTEST

**CONTEST GUIDELINES**

- Photos must be taken by KWEA members
- Entries must be original content
- Photos should include people
- Photos may be submitted in color or black & white
- Photos may be submitted in horizontal or vertical format
- Size requirements: Minimum 300 dpi, at least 3,000px on one side

All entries will be displayed at the KWEA conference and voted on by conference attendees. Prizes will be awarded for First, Second, and Third place. The First place photograph will be featured in an issue of *Splashings*.



**SUBMIT PHOTOS BY  
AUGUST 16, 2019 AT 2:00P.M.**

Contact Carla Dods at Shockey Consulting, [carla@shockeyconsulting.com](mailto:carla@shockeyconsulting.com) for upload instructions. Use "KWEA Photo Contest" in the subject line.

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT A KWEA COMMITTEE MEMBER:** Brian Bohnsack at [brian.bohnsack@wichita.edu](mailto:brian.bohnsack@wichita.edu), Page Burks at [burksps@bv.com](mailto:burksps@bv.com), or Carla Dods at [carla@shockeyconsulting.com](mailto:carla@shockeyconsulting.com)

b) **Plant Operations & Safety (Floyd Koder) :** No Report.

c) **Student / YP's (Miranda Sloan):**

The YP Committee is planning a "Donuts & Demo" with SAK & JCW to see the installation of CIPP in the next couple of months. Sarah Espinosa is scheduled to move to Omaha so the YP's will be looking to fill both the Chair & Co-Chair positions for the next term. Miranda asked whether the YP's will have the top floor of the Meet & Greet venue for their use and that is the plan as of now.

d) **Scholarship (Martha Tasker):**

Martha reported that the Scholarship Committee was in the process of reviewing applications that have been received. She had hoped to have made the decision by the Board meeting time, but had not yet received responses from all the committee members.

e) **Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) (Rebecca Lewis):**

Two entries were submitted for this year's Kansas SJWP competition. Laura flucke, a senior at Olathe North High School was selected as the Kansas Representative for the competition with her project, "The Effect of Microalgae on Wastewater Quality". Laura will be representing Kansas at the national competition , located at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, on June 13-16, 2019.

Even though we only had two entries, both entries were two of the best that Rebecca has seen in several years. Both papers were well written and included detailed technical analysis. The other paper was from a student from Ellis, Kansas.

The SJWP committee requested that the KWEA Board approved coverage of Laura's flight expenses to Ohio. Student airline travel is booked through WEF's travel Agency, Direct Travel and an invoice is sent to the Member Association. **The Board voted unanimously to do so as it has done in years past. Flight cost is ~ \$676.**

Rebecca will be mailing a certificate to Laura in congratulations on her selection and is asking for a KWEA Board member in the Olathe, Johnson County area to make the formal presentation to her.

THE SJWP is hosted by WEF and is supported, this year, by Xylem, Inc. and the local Member Associations. The 2019 U.S. Competition will include student winners from 48 States, plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands for a total of 50 projects.

The purpose of the SJWP program is to increase student's interest in water-related issues and research and to raise awareness about global water challenges. The competition is open to projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life through improvement of water quality, water resources management, water protection, and water & wastewater treatment.

**f) Government Affairs (Lorrie Hill):**

- The DC Fly-In was held April 3-4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- Lorrie Hill, Kurt Bookout & Joe Foster attended.
- Alex Beck was awarded a young professionals scholarship for KWEA & WEF.
- The first day of the Fly-In was a series of panels with EPA Directors.
- There was no real update on rulemaking for the peak flow management rule for WWTP's; the comment was that a draft rule would be available "pretty soon".
- There was a common theme amongst the EPA Directors regarding water sector workforce challenges. EPA is working with the department of Veterans Affairs, Education, & Labor regarding the workforce challenge.
- On the second day the group met with Kansas Congressional leaders. The group visited Senators Moran & Roberts and Representatives Davids & Estes. The topics for discussion included: Infrastructure Package, SRF/WIFIA funding, continued support for tax exempt municipal bonds, and funding of the Farm Bill in the FY2020 Budget.
- Lorrie noted that much of the funding had already been decided prior to the Fly-In.

**g) Membership (Ryan Rutkowski):**

Ryan was not in attendance, but Sylvan did mention that he had reviewed last week's report and that our membership stands at 515 which is the highest that it has been in ten years. The City of Topeka recently signed up fourteen of its people (5 Professional & 9 Professional Wastewater Operators).

## **C. Professional Development and Education- Led by President-Elect (Chris Ramsey)**

**i. 2019 Conference:**

- Call for Papers deadline is March 15, 2019
- Only 15 papers in as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. We typically need 110-125.
- Registration on-line since January 21, 2019
- Meet & Greet Event has been locked in (Norseman Micro-Brewery) and Michael Carter is working on putting together the Band.
- Sponsorship Levels added this year to better facilitate donations so far sponsorships received have been light.
- The Conference Committee met last month and over 180 papers had been submitted. Safety papers were not in abundance.
- The Capitol Plaza Hotel is undergoing renovations and the internet availability is a concern at this time. Hopefully it will be resolved by conference time.

- KDHE has stepped up with quite a few papers.
- Hank is currently notifying presenters whose papers have been chosen.

ii. **Annual Report Update:**

Chris is currently waiting on two submittals and it should be done by month's end.

iii. **Committee Chairs**

a) **Collection Systems (Laura Gray):**

Last meeting is planned for March 22nd, 2019, in Topeka at the new PEC offices to finalize paper selections and choose a theme with the goal to have papers to Tina by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

The committee is looking for submittals for the Ray Stillwell Award.

b) **Laboratory (Jay Lovett): No Report**

c) **Municipal Management (Patrick Beane): No Report.**

d) **Municipal Technology Transfer (Phil Burns):**

Phil Burns has retired and the Board has suggested asking John Rosson of Fluid Equipment to step into the position as well as John Keller of Black & Veatch.

e) **Safety Committee (Steven McNolty II):**

Based on feedback from Steven McNolty II, Floyd has encouraged Steven to assume his position as Chair of this committee. Steven has reached out to the Board for any historical information that would help him to get a better sense of the committee's responsibilities. He is also in need of the evaluation form used by this committee in year's past.

f) **Industrial (Michael Carter):**

Will be sending out requests for Pretreatment folks to send in their list of Industrial Pretreatment Gold & Silver Certificate Awardees. Michael is also working on outing together the Band for the Tuesday night Meet & Greet.

g) **PWO (Joe Foster): No Report**

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

Although Michael did not have a formal report, it was noted that Exhibitors have already begun to sign up for the conference and approximately 25% of the revenue normally realized from Exhibitors has already come in.

**D. Old Business:**

1. **2024 WEFMAX:**

Dianne Crilley confirmed that Kansas was indeed slated to host a WEFMAX in 2024. WEF will begin looking at dates sometime in early spring of 2022. WEF needs to know when the Fly-In, Utility Management Conference/YP Summit is being held so that they do not overlap dates. WEF staff will then provide a list of about 10 date options and provide out to the Host MAs to pick their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> best dates. WEF Staff will then compile and work with the host to finalize date selections. KWEA can already begin looking at the city of choice as well as hotel venues and social venues. WEF recommends that KWEA check to make sure that there are not any competing events that could significantly interfere. WEF also recommends connecting with the local chamber of commerce.

Jason will be reaching out to Matt Bond to solicit his help in the planning of the 2024 as Matt was part of the planning of the last event hosted by Kansas in Lawrence. Jason will be attending WEFMAX and hopes to gain some insights there from other MA's who have hosted a WEFMAX. A committee has been formed and they plan on looking at potential venues around this year's conference time. The KWEA should be receiving a list of dates from WEF in 2022 or sooner.

## **2. Annual Report Update:**

Chris will be putting out the report as soon as the Audit report is received.

## **E. New Business**

### **1. Database Discussion from Previous Meeting of March 1, 2019:**

Sylvan & Tina provided a handout and discussed with the Board the fields that will be tracked as well as the reports which will be generated as we create a database for the tracking of Kansas KWEA Member Association Membership. This database will be an expansion and enhancement of the Voluntary Certification Database that we already have and will enable KWEA to not only track certificate holders but also persons who want to join KWEA without having the additional expense of the national Water Environment Federation (WEF) membership. The anticipated benefit to KWEA and WEF is the ability for us to reach out to people in our profession who cannot afford the cost of a national membership and therefore do not get involved with either the local or the national organizations.

The Board has discussed for some time establishing the Member Association Only Membership recognizing that we have over 700 certificate holders in our voluntary certification program who are not members, but who would want to share in the services that we provide as well as want to become engaged in the work that we do. At this time, the WEF also feels that such a membership can have national benefit and is supportive.

As soon as Tina can get a database development cost estimate from Interkan.net, our web service provider, we will be in a position to weigh the cost versus benefit and also in a position, if we choose to go ahead, to discuss with the WEF its potential to be Grant eligible for their Member Association Grants Program.

2. Alex Beck of Johnson County was awarded the amount of \$750 to help defray the cost of his attendance at the WEF Fly-In. Alex attended the Fly-In along with Lorrie Hill, Joe Foster, & Kurt Bookout. Alex talked about his experience and the fact that it was quite a eye-opening experience to be in the same room with so many experts on water quality issues. Alex also participated in the presentations.

3. Ron mentioned that it might be a good time to revisit the Strategic Plan to see if we are still on track.

4. Hosts for the 2019 WEFMAX's are:

- \* British Columbia in Vancouver, March 13 - 15
- \* AZ Water in Scottsdale, March 27 - 29

- \* Alabama in Orange Beach, May 15 - 17
- \* Kentucky-Tennessee in Nashville, May 29 - 31

5. Next Conference Dates

- 2019 Topeka Capitol Plaza 08/26/2019 – 08/29/2019
- 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

6. Next Board Meetings:

- July 19, 2019 10:00 A.M. Topeka Capitol Plaza