



Kansas Water Environment Association
6209 SW 24th Terrace
Topeka, KS 66614
Telephone: 785-286-6994 Fax: 785-286-6993

Kansas Water Environment Association

Meeting Date: May 12, 2017 – Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel

Executive Board Present:

(x)	David Hauser	President
(x)	Susan Pekarek	President-Elect
(x)	Ron Thomann	Vice-President
(x)	Kurt Bookout	Past President
(x)	Sylvan Coles	Secretary-Treasurer
()	Page Burks	WEF Senior Delegate (2015-2017)
(x)	Jeanette Klamm	WEF Junior Delegate (2016-2018)
(x)	Joe Foster	PWO Trustee (2015 – 2017)
()	Michael Rudy	Manufacturer's Trustee (2015-2018)
(x)	Dustin Coles	Convention Coordinator (2015-2018)
()	Ed McGrath	Young Professionals Trustee

Committee Representatives Present:

()	Brian Spano	Administration – Finance Chairperson
()	Vacant	Administrative – Membership Chairperson
()	James Martin	Administrative – Constitution & Bylaws Chairperson
()	Waldo Margheim	Administrative – Audit Chairperson
()	Chris Ramsey	Collections – Chairperson
()	Roxann Slater	Collections – Vice Chairperson
(x)	Joe Foster	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
(x)	Jason Patty	Laboratory Education – Chairperson
()	Michael Bader	Laboratory Education – Vice Chairperson
()	Patrick Beane	Municipal Management – Chairperson
()	Phil Burns	Municipal Technology Transfer – Chairperson
(x)	Kurt Bookout	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: Safety
(x)	Susan Pekarek	Program – Chairperson (KWEA President-Elect)
()	Erin Dougherty	Public Communication & Outreach – Chairperson
()		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
()	Martha Tasker	Scholarship – Chairperson
()	Rebecca Lewis	Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Chairperson
(x)	Ryan Rutkowski	Student & Young Professionals – Chairperson
()	Miranda Sloan	Student & Young Professionals – Vice Chairperson

- I: Call to Order: 09:00 A.M., May 12, 2017.
- II: Minutes from March 24, 2017 Board Meeting was approved.
- lii: The Board approved a motion to donate \$500 to the WE&RF Foundation.

- iv: Reports:

A) Professional Development & Education: Led by President-Elect Dave Hauser (for Susan Pekarek)

- i. 2017 Conference Update: Susan extended the deadline for papers to April 1, 2017 and has since sent out a copy of what we have to date. Hank will be sending out the confirmations next week. Tina has posted an on line sign up form for moderators. The ability of online paper submittal has been a godsend.
 - Tina updated the group on the Meet & Greet Tuesday night with the Wing Nuts. A box on the registration form is there for the Wingnut affair as well as sponsorships.
 - There was a brief discussion about giving out T Shirts to conference attendees, but was tabled for this year as we are not sure how it would affect the conference budget.
 - Discussed was the ability to get scanner information into the computer system in a more usable way. Tina to visit with the service that provides the scanners.

- ii. Annual Report Update: Is now available on the website.

- iii. Operators Challenge: The thought at this time is to offer the challenge at the 2018 conference. It would be a “Blind Competition” in that the topics would be unknown to contestants and would run the gamut of the industry. In this way there would be no targeted preparation that could be done in advance. More of a general knowledge format.

- iv. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Collections: Chris Ramsey –The committee be offering a round table discussion at its collection system session. They will be also sending out email blasts regarding the collection system award. A recipient of the ray Stillwell award has been selected. The committee is also planning an outreach workshop in Topeka and Manhattan this year.

 - b. Laboratory: Jason Patty – Conference papers are full. The committee has found sponsorship for it s field trip to the brewery which will take place the last two sessions of the afternoon. The committee has worked with Tina to woo submittals for both the Laboratory Analyst as well as the Crystal Crucible Awards.

 - c. Municipal Management: Patrick Beane – No report

 - d. Municipal Tech Transfer: Phil Burns – No report

 - e. Plant Operations & Maintenance/Safety: Tyler Pjesky - No Report

 - f. Industrial: Michael Carter – Michael is attending the NACQWA conference next week. Upon return he will be contacting Industrial Pretreatment Coordinators to get their nominations for the Pretreatment Awards.

 - g. Manufacturer’s Trustee: Michael Rudy – No report

 - h. PWO Trustee: Joe Foster – Joe is working on a paper to present at WEF on the Olathe Pretreatment & FOG program. He also will be teaching a BNR class & tie a maintenance aspect into the presentation in conjunction with Fort Scott Community College (FSCC). Joe Crips and Steve Green of WaterOne will be teaching a class on distribution and finally a Utilities management course is in the works. Some FSCC training is on line, but much of the needed training needs to be “Hands On”.

B) Member Services & Operations: Led by Vice President Ron Thomann:

- i. Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Dave Hauser for Sylvan Coles – The Finances are as follows:
 1. Checking- \$56,492.30
 2. 32-month CD- \$10,050.09
 3. 27-month CD- \$62,968.22
 4. Scholarship Fund- 37,968.22

Senior Delegate's Report: Page Burks – Page & Jeanette will attend the WEFMAX in Austin, Texas which is scheduled to be held on May 31 – June 2, 2017 at the Stephen F. Austin, Intercontinental Hotel. A host of WEF management will be presenting including: WEF Vice-President Tom Kuentz, WEF Treasurer Ralph Exton, WEF HOD Speaker Howard Carter and a host of WEA of Texas Board Members.

- ii. Splashings: Tina Leitzel & Caitlin Perry – The Summer issue is coming up and will have conference articles. The issue is still in need of content (membership data, ABC certifications, articles, etc,)
- iii. Committee Reports:
 - a. Administrative/Finance: Brian Spano – Brian checked in to ask if we wanted to post the budget in Splashings.
 - b. Audit: Waldo Margheim – Will meet with Sylvan in the near future.
 - c. Plant Awards: Tyler Pjesky – No Updates

C) External Relations and Outreach: Past President Kurt Bookout

- i. The WEF & MA's Resources and Knowledge Sharing Workshop in Arlington was attended by Kurt Bookout. Kurt was impressed with the people at WEF and their dedication to their mission. Over 40 MA's were able to send representatives. Topics of discussion included:
 - **Membership and member engagement:** WEF provides the MA's with real-time updates of membership and access to 11 different reports for the membership to use including: active, delinquent, new, etc. WEF has volunteered in our efforts to reach out to new members and assist in any way it can to welcome them into the fold.
 - **Operator Certification:** The WEF is exploring a national certification program to eliminate some of the issues that exist with the varied state programs that do not communicate well with each other when it comes to reciprocity due to the lack of standardization of training and educational requirements for certification. A partnership between WEF, AWWA, and the Association of Boards of Certification could make this happen although they may have a hill to climb as States and other entities are reluctant to give up their programs.
 - **Social Media:** The WEF has made a push in recent years to have a greater presence on social media. WEF currently has a following of >7500 on Facebook, 29,000 on Twitter, and 35,500 on Linked In. The WEF Resource Center is available to help us with our Social Media Strategy. Ryan mentioned that the YP's had taken a look at the multiple social media methods of communication and found Linked In to be the avenue of choice for those in their professional lives. Some MA's utilize third party media consultants to get the word out. As an example Arizona is affiliated with the organization "**Red Ballon**"
 - **Cyber Security:** WEF has available to us a Cyber Security expert if we are in the need.
 - **My Water Legacy:** Is one of the latest WEF videos and it and others can be linked to our website. As we need to do more outreach, these videos could help us in that regard
- ii. Junior Delegate Report: Jeanette Klamm – Strategic planning initiative will be discussed at WEFMAX. A survey to determine the level of strategic planning that MA's need and webinars to help guide MA's in strategic planning processes was sent out and has been received by the HOD. Examples of strategic plans will also be available for MA's to review. The HOD will be working with MA's in need of help and will have a Strategic Planning Session at the WEFMAX's. Member Association are encouraged to align their strategic plans with WEF.

iii. Committee Reports:

- a. Public Communications & Outreach: Erin Dougherty – No report
- b. Students & Young Professionals: Ryan Rutkowski – The YP’s toured the Lawrence WWTP in late April and about 30 showed up for the get together. The group is planning to schedule a Royals Game get together in the near future.
- c. Scholarship: Dave Hauser for Martha Tasker – Feb. 17 closed solicitation for scholarships. The group has selected the recipients for this year. Jennifer Warren is the recipient of the Shirley Coles Scholarship of \$1200. Samuel Thomas Nixon is awarded \$1000 and David Trevin Jr. is the recipient of \$750. We did not have any Vo-Tech candidates selected this time around.

Along those lines the Board discussed the criteria some other MA’s use for scholarship eligibility. Some MA’s consider need as basis for the award, while some award on a need / scholarship basis. The New York MA has such a large scholarship program that it gives 12 - \$2500, 2 - \$5000, & 1- \$10,000 scholarships yearly. They tie the award together in a forum with consultants and legislators which facilitates government and business awareness of the MA’s mission.

- d. Government Affairs: Joe Foster – Joe updated the Board on the Fly-In. He and Susan were able to meet with Kevin Yoder, Moran and Roger Marshall where they were able to talk to them about Kansas Water Resources and the monetary needs of Kansas communities. Joe sensed that the climate this year was different from years past as the legislators had more questions. Joe & Susan expressed to them that we could be a great resource to them. Also discussed was the SRF funding and its limitations as the need exists for greater investment in declining infrastructure.

David mentioned that it would be a good idea for Claudio Ternieden to come back and update us on what is happening at the national level. Claudio spoke at the WEFMAX.

Joe mentioned that in the future it may be a good idea to contact KDHE & Kansas Municipalities before the next Fly-In to see what interest there might be in getting others to come along as the larger the numbers the greater the potential for engagement of our government representatives. While reaching out, we could also canvas them to find out what water quality issues are in the forefront of their minds. Along the lines of outreach, it would also may be a good idea to find an interested member from Western Kansas who can speak to the issues confronting that area of the state.

- e. Membership: Vacant –Dan Riney has stepped down and we need to find a replacement chair for this committee. Dave is hoping that we can find a YP member interested in the position.

D) Old Business

- i. WEFMAX 2017 (Dave & Ron):

Ron mentioned that he was quite impressed with the workshop as it was a great way to hear what innovative approaches other MA’s are using to address the challenges that we all face as MA’s. One MA prints a great calendar every year which is sponsored by companies. New York has a innovative approach to scholarship award as companies & legislators are invited to be a part of the program. It has a substantial budget for scholarship. Ohio has sponsorship drives to acquire new members.

