



Kansas Water Environment Association  
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Kansas Water Environment Association

Meeting Date: October 17, 2019 Capitol Plaza Hotel  
Topeka, Kansas

**Executive Board Present:**

(x)	Chris Ramsey	President
(x)	Jason Patty	President-Elect
()	Ryan Rutkowski	Vice-President
(x)	Ron Thomann	Past President
(x)	Sylvan Coles	Secretary-Treasurer
()	Ron Thomann	WEF Junior Delegate (2017-2020)
()	Brian Spano	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:**

(X)	Sylvan Coles	Administrative Function
(x)	Brian Spano	Administrative – Finance
()	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
(x)	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
()	Michael Carter	Industrial Pretreatment – Chairperson
(x)	Jay Lovett	Laboratory Education – Chairperson
()	Open	Laboratory Education – Vice Chairperson
()	Patrick Beane	Municipal Management – Chairperson
()	Open	Municipal Technology Transfer – Chairperson
()	Kurt Bookout	Nominating Committee – Chairperson (KWEA Past President)
(x)	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 Sub-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
()	Ryan Rossel	Student & Young Professionals – Chairperson
()	Vacant	Student & Young Professionals – Vice Chairperson

**Guests: Kahao Lim – Kansas State University & Chris Chin – Kansas State University**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approved Minutes of the July 19, 2019 Executive Board Meeting with 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 October 17, 2019 of KWEA. The financial position of KWEA is sound.

### **ii. Sr. Delegates Report (Brian Spano)**

Brian is now our Senior Delegate and Ron Thomann is our Junior Delegate replacing Jeanette Klamm who recently completed her three years. Brian reported that he was selected at WEFTEC to be a member of the WEFMAX Committee. **A synopsis of what transpired at the House of Delegates meeting at WEFTEC 2019 is provided below to familiarize our Board. This was not shared by Brian at the meeting.**

WEFTEC is the start of a new year for the House of Delegates. The Delegates WEFTEC experience starts bright and early on Saturday morning with a 7 AM House of Delegates breakfast. This year, the breakfast featured Table Talk with delegates discussing the following topics:

1. WEF has recently hired a new Sr. Director of Association Engagement, what would you like to tell her about your MA and WEF relationship?
2. What MA and WEF collaborative activities provide the most mutual benefit for both organizations and our common mission?

The Breakfast is a great opportunity to hear ideas from other MAs and share ideas and challenges. For example, attendees learned that the Kentucky and Tennessee MA changed their name to Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky & Tennessee. The common themes were that the biggest needs for MAs that WEF can assist with are to serve as an information hub for MAs, to provide membership/engagement assistance, and to prepare operator training materials.

Saturday's meetings included reports from outgoing speaker Keith Hobson, incoming speaker Dean Miller, and incoming president Jackie Jarrell. Delegates also had a chance to meet the new Executive Director, Walter Marlowe.

***As part of the WEF Business meeting, WEF's five Critical Objectives for the next year were introduced***

- **Critical Objective 1: Develop an Engage Membership.** New Director of Association Engagement, Lisa Ruane, was introduced.
- **Critical Objective 2: Provide Broad Range of Professional Content and Programming.** Topics discussed included the Fundamentals of Wastewater Treatment Vol. 1 Operator Training Manual, Operator Fact Sheet, and PFAs/PFOA issues.
- **Critical Objective 3: Generate Increased Public Awareness of Value of Water (VOW).** Discussion items included the Brave Blue World documentary film, *Why Water's Worth It* children's storybook, Word on Water podcast, and Affordability Report to EPA.

- Critical Objective 4: **Innovative Technologies and Approaches**. Highlights include the Joint WEF-WRF LIFT program, Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Task Force and InFLOW program.
- Critical Objective 5: **Operate Sustainable Business**. Current financial status and FY20 budget was presented.

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

- Advertising renewals to be sent.
- Winter Issue will be the Conference Wrap-Up Issue – January 2019
- Deadline for Winter Issue is November 15, 2019.
- Scheduled to complete a Website Layout Redesign by year's end.
- Will be sending out the Committee Sign-up sheets to Committees.

iv. **Committee Chairs:**

- a) **Administrative / Finance (Brian Spano):** No Report
- b) **Audit Committee (Waldo Margheim):** No Report
- c) **Plant Operations / Maintenance / Safety Committee (Steve McNolty):**

Steve will be making contact with those folks who signed up at the conference to join the committee.

A concern that Steve brought before the Board was the fact that the Board has not updated the Committee descriptions in some time and many are outdated. His committee is one example. Without a current description and without clear direction from the Board as to what is expected of the Committee, it is, not only hard to know if the expectations are met and to move beyond those expectations. This might be the subject of a retreat as to the best of the Boards recall, the descriptions have not been updated in a decade.

It was suggested that perhaps WEF could provide some guidance in this regard.

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

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

Ron attended this year's House of Delegates meeting at WEFTEC. (See Summary above). Ron will be serving on the Work Force of the Future Committee.

ii **Committee Chairs:**

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

The committee met this month and has decided that it will continue the photo contest next year. The committee's membership is at 5 now and the committee is busy brainstorming ideas for next year as well as preparing a budget request for its activities to come.

b) **Student / YP's (Ryan Rossel)**

The Committee is planning a YP get together at an active construction site. Tina mentioned that this could be promoted on our website.

The big goal for the committee next year will be to get the Universities engaged again. While KU has been quite active, the same cannot be said for others. Tina mentioned that she may have some contacts for Ryan at Wichita State University that she can follow up with. Belinda Sturm is the KU contact.

KSU Students Kahao Lim and Chris Chin were at our meeting to discuss establishing a Chapter at KSU as well as getting KSU into the Student Design Competition Program. They are working on a KSU Chapter draft of the Constitution & Bylaws to present to the Board. In addition to some financial assistance to establish the Chapter, they are in search of Guest Speakers to address the Chapter.

Also, they are seeking guidance / rules / outline process for the Student Design Program. Kahao mentioned that he had been in contact with Dr. Sturm, and that may be the best approach. Joe Foster also mentioned that he can put them into contact with Heather Phillips who can be of some help. Having both KU & KSU competing in the Student Design Competition will not only make the competition competitive in Kansas but at the national level. It, hopefully, will also increase KWEA's outreach to the students.

**c) Scholarship (Martha Tasker):**

Martha reported that an article will be in the Winter Issue of Splashings.

**d) Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) (Rebecca Lewis):** No Report (Recap id provided)

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.**

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.

This year's winner was Sonja Michaluk of New Jersey. Her paper was entitled, "A Novel Method of Monitoring the Health of our Global Freshwater Supply Using DNA Barcoding of Chromomidae (Diptera).

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

Lorrie Hill, Joe Foster, Heather Phillips, & Trent Stover attended the EPA Region 7 4-State meeting. They will be providing the Board a report on the discussion.

**f) Membership (Ryan Rutkowski):** No Report

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

**i) 2020 Conference:**

Ideas are starting to come together for next year's Conference in Wichita. The group is hoping to get Greg Marshall on board as Speake. At the present time the consensus for the Meet & Greet will be to do an on-site in the Exhibit area that would include entertainment & Food Trucks – kind of a Block Party event. Also under

consideration is to host a Kid's Water Event involving the Young Professionals. Alex Darby mentioned that he could put Jason into contact with some folks who have a water demonstration unit.

II) **WEFMAX 2024:**

Jason, Ron & Brian are all part of the WEFMAX Committee engaged in the early planning for KWEA to host. The thought at this time would be to host it in the Kansas City area around

ii) **Committee Chairs**

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

In the process of scheduling their first meeting.

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

c) **Municipal Management (Open): No Report. Need to Fill.**

d) **Municipal Technology Transfer (Open): No Report. Need to Fill.**

e) **Industrial (Michael Carter): No Report.**

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

Work is beginning on the Operator's Mini-Conference to be held in Topeka at the Capitol Plaza Hotel on April 28-29, 2020. A meeting is planned to be scheduled in November to develop the program which will have three tracks. The conference is planned to address the training needs of those who will not be able to attend the Annual Conference in Wichita.

g) **Manufacturer's Trustee (Michael Rudy): No Report**

**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. 2020 WEFMAX:**

The locations for 2020 WEFMAXs have been identified as follows. The WEF is 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.

- Jersey City, New Jersey March 25-27, 2020
- Honolulu, Hawaii April 15-17, 2020
- Charleston, South Carolina May 13-15, 2020
- Fargo, North Dakota May 27-29, 2020

At this time Ron, Jason, Ryan & Dustin have expressed an interest in going.

## **E. New Business**

### **1. KWEA Board Retreat:**

Chris is considering a KWEA Board retreat. A couple topics on the agenda are (mentioned above) the updating of Committees – their descriptions and responsibilities and also KWEA's Strategic Plan. Sheila Shockey had facilitated the last such retreat and perhaps is the person to lead us again.

### **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. Next Board Meeting:**

- |                     |            |                                     |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| • December 13, 2019 | 10:00 A.M. | 1315 South Robinson, Olathe, Kansas |
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