



Kansas Water Environment Association
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Kansas Water Environment Association
Topeka, Kansas

Meeting Date: November 9, 2018 Capitol Plaza Hotel

Executive Board Present:

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

Committee Representatives Present:

(x)	Brian Spano	Administration – Finance Chairperson
(x)	Ryan Rutkoski	Administrative – Membership Chairperson
()	James Martin	Administrative – Constitution & Bylaws Chairperson
()	Waldo Margheim	Administrative – Audit Chairperson
()	Laura Gray	Collections – Chairperson
()	Alex Darby	Collections – Vice Chairperson
()	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
(x)	Jay Lovett	Laboratory Education – Chairperson
()		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
(x)	Steve McNolty	Plant Operations & Maintenance: Plant Awards Sub-Committee Chairperson
()	Floyd Koder	Plant Operations & Maintenance: Safety
(x)	Chris Ramsey	Program – Chairperson (KWEA President-Elect)
()	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

- I. Call to Order
- II. No Minutes to Approve
- III. Reports

A. Member Services and Operations- Led by Vice-President (Chris Ramsey)

i. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Sylvan Coles)

Sylvan updated the Board regarding the financial status of KWEA. The conference went well and the proceeds realized from it for KWEA were the highest since we have held them jointly with KsAWWA. The question was asked whether we will be raising our membership dues and the answer is no based upon the current status of KWEA's finances.

ii. Sr. Delegates Report (Jeanette Klamm)

Jeanette visited with the Board regarding the Pilot member Association Grant Program being established by Water Environment Federation. WEF is proposing that in the years that it has a surplus, it will announce at WEFTEC the availability of the surplus funds and allow Member Associations to apply for one grant yearly. Grant applications would be received from November 1st through July 30th and be available in three categories: MA Operations, Seed Grants, & Planning & Training. There would be no limit on the amount of many an MA could apply for within reason. The applications will be reviewed by members of the House of Delegates Budget Committee & WEF staff with notification and disbursement to happen quarterly.

Examples of an MA Operations Grant would include:

- New Computers for Staff
- Updating the MA website
- Tax / Audit Assistance
- Executive Director Search

Examples of Seed Grants would include:

- Creation & Launch of a Membership Campaign
- Operations Challenge Team Development & Support
- Member Training Program
- Public Awareness / Advocacy
- Fostering Regional Innovation

Examples of a Planning & Training Grant would include:

- MA Strategic Plan Development
- Staff Training
- Volunteer Leadership Development (Board Delegates, etc.)

A couple of suggestions Sylvan made have been hashed around in the past and still of interest to the Board. One of these is the development of an MA only membership. The other is the development of the Operations Certification database on line to streamline the way new certificates are issued, certificates are renewed and re-issued, training is entered, contact information is kept current, and how renewal fees are collected. President Thomann suggested that we assemble a committee to discuss the implementation of these ideas with the idea of putting forth a proposal.

Jeanette visited with Katie Miller of Kansas Municipal Utilities and discussed the retirement of Vicki Wessel in December of 2018. Vicki's retirement might put a burden on the KDHE certification and training program and it was suggested by Katie that perhaps both organizations could visit with KDHE to see how we could help them to continue the good work that both Vicki Wessel & Teresa Schuyler have been doing.

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

Conference Issue in the works. Barrett has sent out requests for articles.

iv. **Committee Chairs:**

a) **Administrative / Finance (Brian Spano):**

Will be sending out budget request information to committees for 2019 in the near future.

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

c) **Plant Operations & Safety Committee (Tyler Pjesky):** No Report

B. External Relations and Outreach- Led by Past President (Dave Hauser)

i. **Junior Delegate Report (Brian Spano):**

As WEF Delegate Brian serves on the membership committee. The focus of the committee is to ring diversity into the membership. WEF has also developed a new recruitment video which discusses the value of being a member which Brian will send to Tina to post on our website.

Another focus area of WEF is that of helping MA's with Succession Planning. This is an issue that many MA's are facing as retirement nears for the baby boomers.

The Succession planning conversation generated comment from Steve McNolty, who now serves as the Plant Operations Committee Vice-Chair. Steve mentioned that he found it tough to get involved on a committee. Despite having signed up for many years on the Conference Committee Signup sheets, he failed to get calls inviting him to be a part and were it not for the persistence Joe Foster, he might have given up trying. Ron mentioned that in his experience he has noticed that some committees are engaged and do a good job of bringing new folks to the table and others do not and that has been an ongoing problem. As President he will work to be an advocate for those who want to be involved and will actively recruit to fill Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

McNolty also mentioned that descriptions of the individual committee's charges was not also readily available. While these descriptions have not been updated recently, they should be posted on line.

Brian also mentioned that WEF is replacing MOP 11 with a three part series on wastewater treatment. The first of which is already available on line and is entitled, "Wastewater Treatment Fundamentals I: Liquid Treatment". The book covers all aspects of liquid treatment processes and helps operators prepare for the first three levels of certification examinations. In addition to learning the basics of liquid treatment, operators will gain a thorough understanding of critical aspects of biological treatment, nutrient removal, and disinfection. After learning from real-life examples, users can apply the material they learn to situations they encounter in their day-to-day work.

Committee Chairs:

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

Twenty people/organizations signed on the distribution list to participate in the WQ sampling with kids. We sent out 4 or so dates in October and only had 1 KWEA participant. Requests were sent out by email with a Sign-Up Genius link.

Attendance was low partly because the dates probably were not sent out enough in advance. We also need to work on our outreach to encourage more participation. Dates are over for the year, but there may be more in the spring and we will try and get those messaged sooner. The group is open to suggestions.

We plan to send out messages via KWEA's Facebook in support of World Toilet Day, which is Monday, November 19th is World Toilet Day - so a great time to honor all those who design, engineer, construct, and maintain our sewer systems.

Page plans to schedule a committee meeting in January to jumpstart next year.

b) Plant Operations & Safety (Tyler Pjesky/ Floyd Koder): No Report

c) Student / YP's – Miranda Sloan:

Miranda attended the YP Summit and was excited to have the opportunity to get more acquainted with the workings of WEF. The committee has several new volunteers this year. On November 8, 2018 the YP's gathered at the Free State Brewery for a tour and camaraderie. About twenty folks showed for the gathering. The KU student chapter has actively participated in these events.

d) Scholarship (Martha Tasker):

Martha was not in attendance but sent along the article that she had written for Splashings regarding this year's scholarship awardees. She also will be posting in the coming issue of Splashings the 2019 Scholarship announcement / application form. The scholarship program is in its 18th year and applications for scholarship will be accepted through March 29th of 2019. Award of the 2019 scholarships will be announced in May, 2019.

The Board discussed the concern that we are not getting many, if any, applications for Vo-Tech scholarship grants. The Board is not averse to extending this scholarship to leadership training or perhaps an operator scholarship similar to KsAWWA. The board will take a look at the KsAWWA Operator Scholarship eligibility requirements.

In a related issue, Becky Lewis will be working with the State of Kansas to better get the word out regarding the Stockholm Water Prize. Becky has spearheaded this program since its inception and Kansas has brought some strong competitors to the competition. However, more students need to be aware of the opportunity.

e) Government Affairs (Lorrie Hill):

The committee drafted and sent on October 30, 2018 to EPA a response regarding EPA's request for stakeholder input as it develops a framework for the management of wet weather flows at POTW's. KWEA is in favor of a common sense solution to what could be a very costly regulation to municipalities with little environmental benefit. In general, KWEA concurs with the U.S. 8th Circuit Court decision in the Iowa League of Cities versus EPA. *The full letter is attached for review.*

f) Membership (Ryan Rutkowski):

Ryan spent some time talking to the Plant Operators and has come to the conclusion that many operators do not join our organization because the cost of membership is too high. Cost of the PWO membership is \$75 which is cost prohibitive for operators whose employers do not foot the bill. KWEA has talked in the past about issuing a KWEA only membership which would include the benefit of receiving Splashings, conference & workshop discounts, committee membership, and the possibility or certification benefits at a cost in the \$25

per year range. This would require some computerization to handle the additional paper work associated with the KWEA Only membership, but could be doable. It may also be eligible for Grant funding by WEF. According to Ryan, at least half the MA's have in place this type of membership.

Brian shared with us the new membership video by WEF entitled, "Enhance Your Future in the Water Sector". See the link: <https://www.wef.org/membership/about-wef-membership/enhance-your-future/>

C. Professional Development and Education- Led by President-Elect (Ron Thomann)

i. 2018 Conference:

The conference was the highest attended event that we have had in the ten years that we have partnered with KsAWWA. Attendance was ~ 850 folks. Eighty two booths were sold making this the largest exhibitor support that we have also had. Approximately 122 sessions were offered over the three days. For KWEA & KsAWWA this conference was also its most profitable. All most all of the registration was completed on line.

ii. **Annual Report Update:** Is currently being worked on.

iii. Committee Chairs

- a) **Collection Systems (Laura Gray):** Last meeting had an attendance of 15-20 members. Currently working on an agenda to determine what the committee objectives will be. One of two new members showed up. Both were invited. Josh Teddar will be responsible for putting together the April Workshop.
- b) **Laboratory (Jason Patty / Mike Bader):** In search of more committee membership. Hope to put on a ½ day training session and ½ day training / competition session at the next conference.
- c) **Municipal Management (Patrick Beane):** No Report. Working on Conference Papers.
- d) **Municipal Technology Transfer (Phil Burns):** No Report. Working on Conference Papers.
- e) **Safety Committee (Floyd Koder):** No Report.
- f) **Industrial (Michael Carter):**

The awards presentations went well at the conference. There are, however, some industries showing up who have not registered ahead of time and therefore we are not aware of their presence until the final announcement is made. There were four presentations at the conference and at least one of them was standing room only. The next meeting of the committee will be in the first quarter of 2019.

D. Old Business

1. The Sunflower Reception in New Orleans at Landry's was the best attended get-together to date. The event was attended by ~75 folks. The buffet style meal setup seemed to work quite well in getting all the people served in a timely fashion. Sylvan will check to see what venue in Chicago will work for us. Landry's in 2020 will be again the venue.

2. The conference wrap up session with the hotel went well and the Hotel staff was apologetic regarding the state of their facilities and their failure to communicate to us the interruption the remodeling might have on our conference. We also had some issues regarding service this year that the Hotel staff accepted responsibility for. The Hotel / Expo is in a four year period of remodel which ultimately should enhance the facilities available to us.

E. New Business

1. KWEA is considering hosting a WEFMAX in 2023. Ideally we will look at the Kansas City area for a facility to hold it at as it will be more convenient for those flying in.

2. Tentatively, Chris Ramsey, Jason Patty, Brian Spano, & Jeanette Klamm are planning to attend WEFMAX's in 2019. 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

3. The KU Design Team that was sponsored this year by KWEA was one of 22 schools representing 20 member associations & 3 countries which competed in the 17th Annual Student Design Competition at WEFTEC in 2018. While they did not finish in the top four, they were competitive and were thankful to KWEA for the sponsorship. KWEA received a big "Thank You" for our support from Sydney Gard of KU. The four place winners this year in the wastewater competition were:

1st) University of Colorado, Boulder

2nd) University of South Florida

3rd) Utah State University

4th) University of Idaho

4. Ron plans to revisit the Strategic Plan that was completed this year and to stay on track with the recommendations there in.

5. Conference Discussion 2019:

Tracking and scanning is still an issue as not all need the credit and therefore are not scanning in. This creates a problem when we are trying to size the rooms from year to year. Moderators are responsible for the counts and need to be aware that everyone needs to sign in. As some moderators do not show up at their assigned stations in time, they are not always on top of what is expected of them. If we send out the packets ahead of time this could be remedied.

The keynote speaker for the 2019 conference will be Tim Grunhard. Tim is currently the Coach for Bishop Miege High School in Roeland Park, Kansas and played with the Kansas City Chiefs in 169 games.

6. WEF / NACQUA is looking for feedback on mixing models from Municipalities.

7. Jason proposed that KWEA / KSAWWA print a parody of the Fireman's Calendar featuring people in our profession.

8. 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

9. Next Board Meetings:

- January 14, 2019 10:00 A.M. Topeka Capitol Plaza
- March 18, 2019 10:00 A.M. Topeka Capitol Plaza
- May 10, 2019 10:00 A.M. Topeka Capitol Plaza
- July 19, 2019 10:00 A.M. Topeka Capitol Plaza