



Kansas Water Environment Association
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Kansas Water Environment Association

Meeting Date: November 17, 2017 Capitol Plaza Hotel
Topeka, Kansas

Executive Board Present:

(x)	Susan Pekarek	President
(x)	Ron Thomann	President-Elect
(x)	Chris Ramsey	Vice-President
()	David Hauser	Past President
(x)	Sylvan Coles	Secretary-Treasurer
(x)	Brian Spano	WEF Junior Delegate (2017-2019)
(x)	Jeanette Klamm	WEF Senior Delegate (2016-2018)
(x)	Joe Foster	PWO Trustee (2015 – 2017)
(x)	Michael Rudy	Manufacturer's Trustee (2015-2018)
()	Dustin Coles	Convention Coordinator (2015-2018)
()	Ed McGrath	Young Professionals Trustee

Committee Representatives Present:

(x)	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
()	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
()	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
()	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)
()	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
(x)	Tina Leitzel	PC&O: Webmaster
()	Martha Tasker	Scholarship – Chairperson
()	Rebecca Lewis	Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Chairperson
(x)	Miranda Sloan	Student & Young Professionals – Chairperson
()		Student & Young Professionals – Vice Chairperson

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the May 12 and August 29, 2017 Board Meeting's Minutes – approved.
- III. Reports

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

- i. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Sylvan Coles)
- ii. Sr. Delegates Report (Jeanette Klamm): WEF is promoting national certification and looking at operator certification as a trade. They also want to establish an operator advisory panel.
- iii. Splashings (Tina Leitzel/Caitlin Perry): Winter Splashings is the conference issue. Need to provide conference reports to Caitlin. As for the conference, we discussed that we might want to consider moving back to an April date is 2021. We are losing operators to the KDHE operators conference/school. There is also APWA conference the same week as KWEA/KsAWWA conference in 2018. Moving back to April, we would likely get more people. One consideration is that the KU Environmental conference is now in April. We will need to put this on the list of topics to discuss with AWWA. Advertisers should contact Tina for more info about ads. She has more options and will need to make changes in the next Splashings.
- iv. Committee Chairs
 - 1. Administrative/Finance (Brian Spano): Brian will send everyone the budget before the end of the year.
 - 2. Audit (Waldo Margheim)-Will begin audit with the information he has received.
 - 3. Plant Operations and Maintenance/Safety (Tyler Pjesky): Tyler did not have a report, but we discussed the Dodge City award from the banquet. Sylvan will look for it and get it to Dodge City. We discussed one of the board members going out and presenting it to them. Also Sylvan mentioned that the Plant Award signs are in the works and will be mailed out to the Plants as soon as finished.

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

- i. Jr. Delegate Report (Brian Spano)-thanks to Brian Spano for being our new Jr. Delegate. Brian provided handouts from WEF.
- ii. Committee Chairs
 - 1. Public Communications and Outreach: Page Burks and Carla Dodds are taking on this role.
 - 2. Student/YPs (Miranda Sloan)-Miranda and the group discussed attendance at YP events and getting more people. A broader message is needed. Need to get management buy-in, buy tickets to YP and bring a YP with them to help them network. Add a page to the website. Splashings article. Push the professional support network advantages. Look to other MA's for examples. Portland area had a good YP participation program. Ron & Tina suggested that to increase YP involvement we not only need to target the YP's but also their management. Tina mentioned that she has the tools at her disposal to facilitate communication with YP's but needs direction.
 - 3. Scholarship (Martha Tasker)
 - a. Scholarship Results: The recipients of the KWEA 2017 scholarships were; Jennifer Warren (\$1200), Samuel Thomas Nixon (\$1000) and David Trevino Jr. (\$750). Judges this year were Becky Lewis, Jim Martin, Michael Rudy, Martha Tasker, Ron Thomann, and Ryan Rutkowski.
 - 4. Government Affairs (Lorrie Hill)
 - a. Lorrie Hill is taking over as chair for the Government Affairs committee. Lorrie will be meeting with Joe Foster and Susan Pekarek to understand the committee and past activities. The committee will meet after the first of the year to discuss priorities and objectives.
 - b. Lorrie Hill, John Metzler, and Trent Stober attended the Four-States Governmental Affairs Meeting at EPA Region 7's office on November 6, 2017.
 - c. Heather Phillips, City of Olathe, and Tami Lorenzen and Aaron Witt, Johnson County Wastewater, also attended.
 - d. Representatives from EPA, Iowa DNR, KDHE, Missouri DNR, and Nebraska DEQ spoke about budget status, water quality standard updates, and other regulatory topics.
 - e. The EPA outlined their major priorities from their strategic plan:
 - i. Reducing out-of-compliances instances for community water systems.
 - ii. Increasing the number of water and wastewater infrastructure projects through various funding mechanisms.
 - iii. Reducing water quality impairment miles and acres.

- f. Other comments from EPA included:
 - i. The Waters of the US Rule (WOTUS) is being reworked by EPA and has received 650,000 comments. A webinar was held for impacted parties on November 14th. A webinar for the general public was held on November 21st.
 - ii. They are revisiting priorities on the national enforcement initiative.
 - iii. An October directive from EPA Administrator Pruitt is aimed at eliminating closed-door settlements/consent decrees and increasing transparency.
 - iv. Optimization opportunities won't be done through the 308 letter, they are being done through a voluntary survey instead.
- g. Comments from KDHE (Jaime Gaggero) were:
 - i. The budget is remaining steady, but KDHE is looking at their fee structures since most fees have not been updated for 15 to 20 years.
 - ii. KDHE encouraged associations to review and comment on the Farm Bill, which includes more funding for watershed initiatives.
- 5. Membership (Ryan Rutkowski) – Ryan is taking over membership. He is looking at several options to garner interest in membership. He would like to get a description of what all the committees do. This is in the constitution and by-laws. We would like to put these on the website. Lorrie has information in her files she can share as well.

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

- i. 2018 Conference Update
 - 1. Mark Poling Trust (? I don't' have any more notes here)
 - 2. Kent Rader is the Key note speaker. \$3500; from Oklahoma; comedian
 - 3. December 1, call for papers
 - 4. Discount offered to exhibitors that register early (January?)
 - 5. Evening Event – Maybe a comedy house in Topeka. Ron will share the info. Members want to be sure there is a networking opportunity. North Topeka may have better networking?
 - 6. Ops Challenge – Jeff Stacy is heading up the committee; there will be individual events. 1 task, 10 minutes
- ii. Annual Report Update-Ron will be sending emails on this soon.
- iii. Committee Chairs
 - 1. Collections (Laura Gray)-outreach; ABC; historically well attended. Can we work with KRWA? Need to check with Sylvan on this. Begin coordinating now for 2018/19
 - 2. Laboratory (Jason Patty/Mike Bader)-New Vice Chair, Jay Lovett. Service is 2 years
 - 3. Municipal Management (Patrick Beane) – no report
 - 4. Municipal Tech Transfer (Phil Burns)-no report
 - 5. Safety (Include with Plants- Tyler Pjesky)-no report
 - 6. Industrial (Mike Carter)-Mike will schedule a meeting for February
 - 7. Manufacturer's Trustee (Michael Rudy)-
 - a. 77 booths this year
 - b. No more large exhibits
 - c. Discounts for early bird registration
 - d. Combining lunches in the exhibit hall on Wednesday
 - 8. PWO Trustee (Joe Foster)
 - a. Residual Biosolids SWAT analysis @ Olathe recently
 - b. Ft. Scott Classes in KC area, some on line and some in classroom
 - c. KDHE revamping requirement for certificates; more to come on this; on hold for now
 - d.

D. Old Business

None

E. New Business

- I. Committee Chairpersons to confirm address information on the Executive Board list & send updates to Tina.
- ii. Strategic Planning Update is scheduled for the December 15, 2017 Meeting in Topeka.
- iii. Ron has provided Strategic Planning Materials from WEF & WEFMAX.
- iv. Ron will contact Sheila Shockey to ask for assistance with the strategic planning effort.

- v. Future Meeting Date Calendar has been sent out. Next Meeting: January 9, 2018, Capitol Plaza Hotel Topeka.
- vi. Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 P.M.