



Kansas Water Environment Association

Kansas Water Environment Association  
6209 SW 24<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Topeka, KS 66614  
Telephone: 785-286-6994 Cell: 785-969-3758

Meeting Date: November 18, 2016 – Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel

**Executive Board Present:**

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

**Committee Representatives Present:**

()	Brian Spano	Administration – Finance Chairperson
(x)	Dan Riney	Administrative – Membership Chairperson
()	James Martin	Administrative – Constitution & Bylaws Chairperson
()	Waldo Margheim	Administrative – Audit Chairperson
(x)	Chris Ramsey	Collections – Chairperson
()	Laura Gray	Collections – Vice Chairperson
()	Joe Foster	Government Affairs – Chairperson
()		Government Affairs: Treatment Sub-Committee Chairperson
()		Government Affairs: Collections Sub-Committee Chairperson
()	Andy Sauer	Government Affairs: Storm Water Sub-Committee Chairperson
()	Michael Carter	Industrial Pretreatment – Chairperson
()	Jason Patty	Laboratory Education – Chairperson
(x)	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)
(x)	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
(x)	Tina Leitzel	PC&O: Webmaster
()		Safety – Chairperson
()	Martha Tasker	Scholarship – Chairperson
()	Rebecca Lewis	Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Chairperson

- ( ) Ryan Rutkoski                      Student & Young Professionals – Chairperson
- ( ) Miranda Sloan                      Student & Young Professionals – Vice- Chairperson

**I: Call to Order:                      10:00 a.m. November 18, 2016**  
**II: Annual Business Meeting Minutes Approval: Election of Officers & some Conference Discussion.**  
**III: Reports:**

**A: Professional Development & Education: Led by President-Elect Susan Pekarek**

**i: 2017 Conference Update:** Martha & Susan toured the Wichita Hyatt Hotel facilities on October 18, 2016. The Board also discussed keynote speakers and Bill Self, Tim Conway, & Aaron Davis were names that were being considered. Since the meeting, the Board has agreed to enter into contract with Aaron Davis. The Board also discussed raising the exhibit fees for the Wichita conference. After visiting with the Manufacturer’s Trustees of both our respective organizations and recognizing that we have not raised the exhibitor rates in ten years, it was agreed that we would raise the 2017 booth rates to: \$950 for the first booth, \$600 for the additional booths and \$350 for an equipment display.

**ii: Annual Report Update:** Susan to send out an email requesting feedback from Committees.

**iii: Committee Reports:**

**a) Collections Committee: Laura Gray**

The committee met in early November and discussed the 2016 Conference. The consensus was that we are offering too many tracks and that our current system of tracking attendance is still somewhat cumbersome. The committee would like to put together a training class in Spring and will work with Sylvan to coordinate.

**b) Laboratory Committee: Jason Patty                      No Report**

**c) Municipal Management Committee: Patrick Beane                      No report**

**d) Municipal Tech Transfer Committee: Phil Burns                      No Report**

**e) Plant Operation & Maintenance Committee: Tyler Pjesky**

**f) Industrial Committee: Michael Carter**

The committee submitted their budget request for 2017 and also submitted an article for publication in Splashings.

**g) Manufacturer’s Trustee: Michael Rudy**

Michael met with members of the KWEA & KsAWWA Executive Boards to renegotiate the above agreed upon increases in Exhibitor rates for the 2017 conference.

**h) PWO Trustee: Joe Foster**

On September 13, 2016 the Operator Advisory Committee met to discuss the new Kansas Certification Standards to take effect in 2017. Also, Joe met with the Fort Scott Community College (FSCC) Water Advisory Unit to discuss the direction of FSCC environmental training and the idea of moving their 16 week training classes online.

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

**i: Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Sylvan Coles**

Sylvan updated the Executive Board on the current finances. The KWEA maintains three accounts; one for checking / savings, one Joint account with AWWA and the third for the Scholarship Fund. Proceeds from the 2016 Annual conference were in the amount of \$45, 301.57 which is typical for the Topeka Conference. The KWEA has two CD's.

**ii: Senior Delegates Report: Page Burks**

Page serves on the HOD Public Outreach Workgroup & is Liaison for the Value of Water Initiative. WEF is looking for input from MA's on how it can better serve them as WEF has an abundance of resources which can be made available to MA's. WEF is looking for input on how their Public Outreach Committee can better serve them. Other initiatives by the WEF include: making available to MA's a photo library of stock technical equipment images & the development of a national certification program for Water & Wastewater Operators. Finally, WEF is looking for WEFMAX topics of interest by MA's and needs MA input to keep these WEFMAX meetings relevant and informative.

**lii: Splashing: Tina Leitzel & Caitlin Perry**

The Winter issue will include the highlights of the Annual Conference and articles for this issue are already past due as they were due November 15<sup>th</sup>. All committee chairs are encouraged to get them in by the end of next week.

**iv: Committee Reports:**

**a) Finance Committee – Brian Spano**

Brian will present a draft at the January 13, 2017 Board Meeting.

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

**c) Plant Awards Committee: Tyler Pjesky**

The Committee met in October and submitted their report for the Fall Splashing Issue. Sylvan has submitted the information for the Plant Award Signs to B&B Sign Company and is waiting on them to finish them up. The Awardees are as follows:

- Biosolids Management Award: City of Lawrence
- Class 1B WWTP Award: Dodge City South Lagoons
- Class 4 WWTP Award: City of El Dorado
- Class 4 WWTP Award: City of Gardner
- Class 5 WWTP Award: City of Lawrence

**C: External Relations & Outreach: Led by Past-President Kurt Bookout**

**i: Jr Delegates Report: Jeanette Klamm**

Jeanette has signed up for a couple of workgroups and is still waiting to hear back from WEF. As an MA liaison to WEF Jeanette will be in telephone communication with WEF on a monthly basis. .

**ii: Committee Reports:**

**a) Young Professional Committee: Ryan Rutkowski**

WEF is planning a joint WEF/AWWA Young Professional Summit on February 6-7, 2-17 in Tampa, Florida. The information has been disseminated to the YP Committee. Also a Mid-Year Springboard YP event is planned in Coral Gables, Florida on January 25-26, 2017.

**b) Scholarship Committee: Martha Tasker**

Martha was approached by Smith & Loveless Corporation regarding contributing to the scholarship program. If the Board is to entertain acceptance of large donations to the fund that are "Earmarked", it would be wise to formally structure the program to manage those funds. Nothing precludes us from doing so and Joe Mester & Sylvan Coles looked at this question a few years back.

Martha said the Scholarship Committee plans on awarding three University scholarships in 2017 in the amounts of \$1200, \$1000, & \$500 respectively. Another \$1000 is allotted for Technical schools if worthy applicants are found.

On a similar subject Kurt Bookout discussed with the Board the EPA program "Work for Water"(www.workforwater.org)" which he has worked with as he hired an intern through this program in 2016. That same intern also presented at our Annual Conference. This program is currently rolling around Kansas. The program was developed by the AWWA & WEF in partnership with EPA to help youth find jobs and prepare for rewarding careers in protecting public health and their environment. Kurt advocates that KWEA promote this program and look at the scholarship program as a potential source of funding for it.

**c) Government Affairs Committee: Joe Foster No Report**

**d) Membership Committee: Dan Riney**

Dan shared a booth jointly with his AWWA counterpart at the conference. While we did not have a run on applications, the fact that we had a presence was noteworthy. Dan also attended the leadership workshop at WEFTEC. The long standing belief is that millennials are only going to join WEF/KWEA if they are convinced that they are going to get a benefit from it that outweighs the cost. The Breakdown of KWEA Membership as of November 2016 is as follows:

- Professionals 273
- PWO 95
- Young Professionals 26
- Life 19
- Student 7
- Retired 5
- Corporation 3
- Executive 2
- Honorary 1

The KWEA has a total of 431 members of which 76 are professional women.

**e) Public Communications & Outreach Committee: Erin Dougherty**

Erin is working up a gift basket for the office that brings the most positive attention to World Toilet Day.

**IV: Old Business:**

**A: Committee Signups from Conference.**

Two people expressed an interest at the conference in serving on KWEA committees. Brandon Wright of Ottawa signed up for the Young Professionals, Plant Operations & Maintenance, and the Safety Committees. Brandon works for Dan Riney and his email address is [bwright@ottawaks.gov](mailto:bwright@ottawaks.gov). Sylvan will also send out the Executive Board & Committee Roster Spreadsheet for address and member updates.

**B: WEFMAX Meetings 2017:**

- March 29-31, 2017 San Juan, Puerto Rico
- April 26-28, 2017 Cincinnati, Ohio
- May 10-12, 2017 Winnepeg, Canada
- May 31-June 2, 2017 Austin, Texas

Typically we send SR. & Jr. Delegates, the President, President-Elect, & Vice-President to these functions to represent Kansas. Attendees are asked to hold the budget to ~ \$750. The earlier booked the easier it is to stay in budget.

**C: KC Urban Stormwater Conference:**

The Mid-America Regional Council will sponsor the KC Urban Stormwater Conference on January 27, 2017 and has asked the KWEA and the MWEA for their endorsement as well as monetary sponsorship of the conference and use of their respective logos. The workshop hopes to draw 200 attendees and anticipates that it will break even on the funding, but to reassure MARC, MARC is asking KWEA to make available up to \$1500 to them in the event of a shortfall. A motion was passed by KWEA to do so as they feel this conference is beneficial to our members.

**B: KWEA Future Meetings:**

- Friday, January 13, 2017 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Capitol Plaza Hotel
- Friday, March 24, 2017 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Capitol Plaza Hotel
- Friday, May 12, 2017 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Capitol Plaza Hotel
- Friday, June 23, 2017 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Capitol Plaza Hotel