



Kansas Water Environment Association

**Kansas Water Environment Association
6209 SW 24th Terrace
Topeka, Kansas 66614**

**Meeting Date: November 4, 2010
CAS Construction Company: Topeka, Kansas**

Executive Board Present:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------------|
| (x) | Michael Rudy | Past President |
| (x) | Jeanette Klamm | President |
| (x) | Page Burks | President – Elect |
| (x) | Brian Spano | Vice – President |
| (x) | Sylvan Coles | Sec-Treasurer |
| () | Rod Philo | PWO Trustee |
| (x) | Amy Kliewer | Sr. Delegate |
| (x) | Martha Tasker | Jr. Delegate |
| (x) | Marc Pedrotti | Mfgr. Trustee |
| (x) | James Tush | Convention |
| () | Michael Rudy | Ambassador |
| (x) | Lorrie Hill | YP Trustee |

Committee Chairs Present:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------|
| () | Betsy Betros | Industrial |
| () | John O’Neil | Municipal Management |
| () | Phil Burns | Municipal Tech Transfer |
| () | Jim Martin | Constitution & Bylaws |
| () | David Hauser | Audit |
| () | | Safety |
| () | Kathy Windham | Laboratory |
| () | Isaac Crabtree | Publications |
| () | Andy Sauer | Watershed Management |
| () | Lee Kellenberger | Watershed Management |
| () | Jamie Beldon | Plant Awards |
| () | Doug Nolkemper | Membership |
| () | Vinta Varghese | Public Education |
| () | R Panneerselvam | Public Education |
| () | Chris Burns | Collection System |
| () | John Metzler | Government Affairs |
| () | | Publicity / WEF Awards |
| (x) | Joe Mester | Scholarship |
| () | Maya Turner | Young Professionals |
| () | Travis Stryker | Young Professionals |
| () | | Biosolids |
| () | Michael Rudy | Nominating |
| () | Tina Leitzel | Webmaster |
| () | Becky Lewis | SJWP Committee |

Others in Attendance:

Dan Ott

Future Board Meetings:

Splashing’s Deadlines:

- November 15, 2010 (Winter Issue)

Action Items:

- Sylvan to send an email to our members to see which ones would be willing to receive Splashings via email. This will be done after discussing with advertisers.

Executive Board Actions Taken:

- Approved the purchase of Monitoring Kits for the World Water Monitoring Day Event.
- The Board adopted a motion to adopt the tag line, “ Building Professional Excellence in Water Quality” for use on our new Banner.

Financial Report:

Sylvan updated the Executive Board with regard to the status of CD's, checking, and the Scholarship Fund. One CD was cashed to provide money to get us through the 2010 conference. At this time it appears that both entities will increase the revenue they received over the 2009 year. Although total revenue did not raise much, we were able to reduce expenses this year at the Meet & Greet. The Scholarship Program has \$30,034.

Professional Development & Education:

Collections Committee: Chairperson Chris Burns

Chris reported that the committee is currently in flux as he is planning to step down as Chairperson. The next meeting will hopefully determine who will follow in Chris' footsteps. Items recently discussed:

- a) The committee elected not to pursue offering training opportunities through webinars as they seem to be too expensive and too hard to track. As an alternative, the committee will pursue providing / implementing an outreach program similar to MWEA's Collection Committee which has been successful for the last 6 years.
- b) As all are aware, Bill Carter won the National Collection Systems Award. As of this time no nominations have been received for the Ray Stillwell Award, two nominations have been received for the Class II category for the Collection Systems Award and two nominations have been received for the Golden Manhole Award.
- c) The committee is looking into developing field cards / mini manuals on Best management Practices for Collections Systems which is tailored after Ohio's WEA.
- d) On the national front, the committee provided input for the EPA listening session on June 30, 2010. Additional comments will be provided at public comment on August 2, 2010 along with the KWEA Government Affairs Committee.

2) *Laboratory Committee: Chairperson Kathy Windham*

Kathy plans to meet after the first of the year to start planning the Laboratory session for the 2011 conference. The majority of laboratory meetings are held via email or telephone, but the Committee tries to meet at a physical location once or twice yearly. Currently the committee is composed of 13 members & is expecting a couple more to come on board. The NELAC Workshop at the 2010 conference was well received. Based on the feedback another such session may be planned for 2011. The current members are: Carolyn Woodhead, Scott Craig, DeWayne McAllister, Mike Bader, Cathy Rider, Tommy Bowman, Rod Philo, Dale South, Jeff Graham, Karla Pierce, Heath Horyna, Clay Campbell, Peggy Williams, and Cathy Windham.

- 3) *Safety Committee: Chairperson Open - No Report*
- 4) *Municipal Management Committee: Chairperson John O'Neil - No Report*
- 5) *Municipal Technology Transfer Committee: Chairperson Phil Burns - No Report*
- 6) *Industrial Committee: Chairperson Betsy Betros - No Report*

Member Services & Operations

Senior Delegates Report: Amy Kliewer

WEF has set up a matrix between MA's & WEF for the purpose of showing the connection between MA committees and corresponding WEF committees and facilitating communication between the two. A questionnaire from WEF is to follow. Dan Ott is a Co-Chair of the wet weather flow task force as well as the government affairs committee. Discussion about WEF Operator Outreach???

Committee Reports:

Splashings / Web Discussion

- Brian Spano reported that the pictures from the annual conference will be posted on the web.
- The Fall issue of Splashings is expected to go to the printer November 15, 2010.
- Joe Mester mentioned that he has submitted an article on the history of KWEA to be posted on the web. Joe also updated the SSSSS data.
- Sylvan will be updating ABC certification on the web and will be posting in Splashings the names of those who have passed their ABC Certifications.
- Tina is working through the site looking for outdated and inaccurate content. She asks each Board Member and Committee Chair to take some time to review the site and information pertinent to their function for accuracy and send her changes needed.
- Sylvan has submitted write-ups for the Shirley Coles and Jerry Davies scholarships.
- Betsy suggested that we add to the site a collage of photo's from events past for our members who love photo's and would like to view.
- The Board is also waiting on a proposal from Tina to digitize some of KWEA archival material.

Student & Young Professional Committee:

The committee last met at the Yard House – Legends on October 7, 2010. At that meeting the Committee – see minutes below. The YP event at the Rooster Tail during the conference Meet & Greet had a good turnout and the facility lent itself well to their activities. The committee is well structured and has an ambitious agenda as can be seen in the minutes.

- **2010 KWEA Annual Conference** – Still would like to see more YPs at the conference. We must set the “YP Day” for the conference during the initial conference meetings. Many YPs state that it is not clear on what day of the conference will be YP day and they are left guessing what days to sign up for. An idea of having a job fair with the Vendors came up as a way to get more student attendance at the conference.
- **YP’alooza** - Another successful event. The new location was very nice and provided a great atmosphere for our event.
- **YP Events Team Update** – Ed McGrath agreed to lead this group. Thanks Dan for your leadership during our first couple of years.
 - 1) Tour – Travis Stryker to organize and get scheduled for second quarter of 2011
 - 2) Social – Ed McGrath to organize and get scheduled for first quarter of 2011. The ideas of a pub crawl, bowling party, or paint ball tournament were all suggested.
 - 3) Lunch & Learn – Dan Ott to organize and get schedule for last quarter of 2010. The ideas of having a past-president come and speak, retirement/tax planning, and technical sessions were all suggested.
- **Student Poster Competition** -
 - 1) Feedback - We liked the timeline of having it earlier in the year to allow more students to be involved. Great location for judging. Make sure to keep the judging day on the same day as a Board meeting to increase attendance at judging.
 - 2) Contact with Universities – We would like Mike Hafling and Lorrie Hill to continue their contact with the Universities and Lindsey Bergsven has volunteered to also assist in communication with KU.

YP / Past Presidents Mentoring Opportunities – *This was brought to our attention by Dan Ott. He said the group of past-presidents was thinking about forming a group. The YPs are very interested if this group gets formed to have a social or some gathering to form a better mentoring relationship.*
- **YP Champions** – Garrett Sheehan has served and guided our YP committee over the last few years and he has an idea of a YP Champion. This person would most likely be in senior management that understands the importance of not only the career development side for the YP, but the exposure a corporation gets by having active employees in professional organizations. This person would be an advocate within a company to assist YPs in getting departmental approval to attend our annual conference and other YP activities we put on. As a committee we think it is a great idea, but we will need to

Boards help in identifying these people with the different companies. Once these people are identified, the committee would be willing to put together a fact sheet on the benefits of having YPs involved. This idea may even extend to some sort of annual membership fee for YPs that would cover their conference registration and YP events for that year.

- **Website** – Kayla Manning has provided the committee some questions concerning our website. The committee needs to review these comments and give feedback to Kayla.
- **Budget Needs** – Lorrie Hill will address this to the Board. We would like to continue to send two representatives to the YP Summit each year. It was decided that starting this year and into the future the Chair and Vice Chair will attend if funding was provided. This will allow for a natural rotation of attendees and provide some continuity with the Summit. It will be mandatory for the YPs to also attend the WEFMAX portion of the conference to learn more about what all is going on at the regional and national level. We do plan on continuing to hold at least our four events each year. For each event we will attempt to find sponsors to offset the cost.

External Relations & Outreach

Ambassador – Michael Rudy: No Report

Junior Delegates Report – Martha Tasker

WEF is putting together a new position statement on wastewater operator's certification and training. The hope is to standardize the requirements across the nation. The current WEF President Jeanette Brown is interested in enhancing operator relations and greater outreach.

Amy is part of a workgroup looking at Policy & Procedure for delegates.

Watershed Committee – Sauer / Kellenberger: No Report

Plant Awards – Jamie Belden

Jamie will continue on as Chairperson.

Manufacturer Trustee – Marc Pedrotti

It is the plan to keep Vendor rates constant through the next conference year. Sylvan mentioned that he is negotiating with the Expo Centre to lock in Exhibit Hall rates through 2014.

Constitution & Bylaws – Jeanette Klamm

Jeanette met with Jim Martin and opened discussion to look at a review of our Constitution & Bylaws as they are in need of update. Amy Kliewer and Martha Tasker have volunteered to be part of the group to assist in the review. Jeanette will get this group of the ground the first of the year.

Government Affairs – John Metzler: No Report

Annual Report - Page Burks

Page has set up a google link site and asks all Board Members and Chairpersons to update their information from last year.

Sunflower Reception – Sylvan Coles

Kansas was well represented in New Orleans at this years WEFTEC as 57 folks made their way to the luncheon which was held on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jimmy Buffet’s Margaritaville, provided the setting for this year’s get together and although it was located a healthy walk from the WEFTEC Convention Center, attendance was strong as ever.

Although a little slow in coming the food was great as guests dined on a menu of Fish, Blackened Chicken, Smothered Chicken, or the very popular Broiled Shrimp & Andouille Sausage (a New Orleans specialty). Next year the reception will be held in Los Angeles. We hope to see you there.

New Business:

- **KDHE Operator Certification Requirements** – Jamie Belden expressed to KWEA his concerns about pending KDHE regulations to change the certification requirements for Water & Wastewater operators. Jamie is hoping that KWEA will look at the proposed changes and provide comment. The Board will look to get a copy of the proposed changes and put it on the next agenda for discussion.
- **Scholarship Program** – Joe Mester has been working with Mike Hafling and Sylvan to develop an Endowment program for KWEA. Some other States (North Carolina) have an Endowment program in place already. Mike Hafling has offered to make available CAS’s Attorney for some assistance. Sylvan has picked up the documents from the Secretary of State’s Office to begin the process.
- **What is a Young Professional?** – Sylvan initiated a discussion about the definition of a young Professional as there seems to be some confusion when it comes to Conference time. For the record, WEF defines a Young Professional as a water quality professional who has 5 years or less experience in the Industry and who is under the age of 35.
- **Conference Discussion – Board**

1) The next conferences will be held on the following dates at these locations.

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|-------------|
| ○ 2011 | Topeka Capitol Plaza | Topeka, KS |
| ○ 2012 | Topeka Capitol Plaza | Topeka, KS |
| ○ 2013 | Wichita Hyatt Regency | Wichita, KS |
| ○ 2014 | Topeka Capitol Plaza | Topeka, KS |
| ○ 2015 | Topeka Capitol Plaza | Topeka, KS |

2) Suggestions for improving the conference at the Capitol Plaza Hotel include:

- Improve the readability of the conference program.
- Get Hotel to improve heating / cleaning.
- Improve lunch service – water / food.
- Improve the cleanliness of the restrooms.
- Add pastries to morning coffee.

- **Matt Bond Presidency Inaugural:**

The Board discussed next year's Inaugural of Matt Bond to WEF Presidency. The reception is scheduled to be held on October 17, 2011 from 5:30 – 7:30 P.M. at the conference headquarter Hotel which is the Westin Bonaventure. Most receptions have a Band and the Board discussed the idea of having KWEA's "Grey Water" play at the function.

The Board discussed the reception's cost is estimated to be between \$25,000 to \$30,000 and invitations are to be sent to the WEF Boards as well as MA leaders. WEF currently chips in \$10,000 of this cost (used to be \$15,000) and the rest is expected to be contributed by the MA. KWEA is still in discussion regarding the amount that it can contribute to this event. It is hoped that the additional expense can be shared by KWEA and Black & Veatch.

- **WEF Conference Call Discussion:**

Jeanette will schedule a conference call with Phyllis Ross of WEF at the next Board meeting on January 18, 2011. The purpose of this call is to give WEF an idea how they can better serve our MA. Jeanette wants all of us to be thinking of discussion points that we want to bring up with her. We will follow the general meeting with that conference call.

- **WEF Fly-In – Dan Ott**

In the past, WEF has organized an event that enables MA leaders and local leaders to meet with congressional legislators in Washington to discuss environmental concerns of their individual constituencies. This year the event will be jointly sponsored with AWWA. This event would be an opportunity for KWEA to present its concerns. The event would require funding from KWEA as WEF does not provide funding as does AWWA. The Board will ask our Governmental Chair John Metzler if he sees any value to this. Others suggest that this could be done on a local basis as our National Legislators are here routinely anyway, thus saving the expense of a Washington trip.

- **Committee Activity – Email Blast:**

We need to re-evaluate the charges of our committees and to determine whether there is a need to sunset some while creating others. Some committees need to grow so that they can better do the work that is needed such as those committees associated with communication and recognition of member accomplishments. Others need their responsibilities better defined so that there is no confusion with KWEA expectation

of them. We also do not have a good list of those who currently serve on the various committees. Jeanette will place emphasis this year on restructuring and growth of the committees and will be sending out an email to begin this task.

Next Meeting – January 18, 2010 Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel 10:00 a.m.