



Chesapeake WEA Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2025

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendance: Eric Held, Kurtis Drummond, **David Wildasin**, Alan Will, Peter Garvey, Meg Livak, **Gary Moore**, **Kraig Moodie**, **Gian Cossa**, Brian Persing, **Ellen Frketic**, **Alana Gildner**, Justin Bell, Tralonda Kelly-Redondo, Islam Khallaf, **Clarence Beverhoudt**, **Danielle Sheahan**, **Laura Jo Oakes**, **Yvette Judge**, **Jegnaw Essatu**, Beth Forbes, Liz Colletti, Travis Gold, Alexis Wingfield, Chrissie Swann, **Chaka Kamran**, Carlos Mejia, Hahns Hairston, George Pearson

Call to Order by President Gary Moore – Meeting called to order at 9:34 am.

SECRETARY REPORT – Kraig Moodie - present

- November 2024 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed.
 - **Motion to approve the minutes by Ellen, seconded by Dave. Motion carried.**
- Discussion was had on the CTA dues. A budget amendment isn't needed.
- Kraig explained the PWE Happy Hour event and encouraged attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Danielle Sheahan - present

- Current Financial Status of CWEA reported.
- Discussion was had on the Sweep Account and investment possibilities.

DELEGATE'S REPORT(S) – both present

- Ellen Frketic – reported on the WEF HOD processes.
 - WEF would be working with a deficit but is selling the building in Virginia. Brian Persing reported that they have an interested buyer for the WEF building. They will be looking for a rental in the Alexandria VA area.
 - Reported on the MA Grant process.
- Laura Jo Oakes – reported on the WEFMAX opportunities.
 - Encouraged interested people to reach out to the board. Peter is interested in attending New England. Danielle suggested that a YP attend.
 - Laura did an overview of WEF Unity. Yvette reported that it fits into our Strategic Plan for Leadership Development.

CTA'S REPORT – Gian Cossa - present

- TriCon Registration – a discussion on registration fees was held.
 - George Pearson stated that as a vendor, he doesn't believe they would have an issue with a price increase. He believes a vendor increase would be better accepted than individual increases.
 - Gian stated there should be visible benefits for any increases.
 - Yvette asked if a survey had been done. There was not a formal survey, but feedback was gathered through different avenues. Yvette would like to see a survey created but timing won't allow for that.
 - Alana mentioned that she doesn't object to price increases and feels there is a psychological effect on paying a certain amount for a quality product.
 - Gian needs the board to let the four Tri-Con CWEA voting members know what they should take back to the TriCon committee.
 - Alan doesn't agree with a price increase.
 - Gary doesn't object to a price increase but wants to see that the benefit is incredibly obvious.
 - Jegnaw mentioned speaking with the sponsors and getting feedback from them.

- Clarence stated that we have to get CWEA's best interest represented.
- Another meeting should be scheduled prior to the next TriCon meeting with the four voting members and a few Chesapeake WEA board members.
- Alan stated that we have our 4 members to represent us, but we need to utilize their representation.
- Eric suggested that we check with other MAs to see what they keep in reserves and how they look at their conferences. He stated that insurance is rising and it's not a bad idea to stay with the inflation rate.
- Gian asked for abstract reviewers from our committee chairs so that we have a strong CWEA presence.
- Gian discussed the leadership breakfast at Tri-Con and the lack of interest. Eric suggested that he bring it up during the Tri-Con planning meeting and is guessing there isn't enough interest. Gian wanted to gauge if there is Chesapeake WEA interest, and no one expressed interest in the board meeting.
- Gian reported on the initiative to personally greet each vendor at Tri-Con, asking questions to get feedback. Each association has been asked to have 10-12 volunteers to make this possible. He asked for volunteers – Kraig, Clarence, Laura, Alana, and David – volunteered.

NEW BUSINESS

- Kraig Moodie – Information Discussion
 - Wanted to make everyone aware that Kraig and Traci have been working on her contract and Scope of Work.
- WEF's National RBITT Conference – May 6th–9th – Baltimore Convention Center
 - We are hosting the Friends of Biosolids social event on the evening of May 6th.
- WEF Delegate At Large – Peter Garvey
 - Peter shared slides to introduce himself and what a WEF Delegate at Large is responsible for.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

- CWEA Only Membership – Yvette - present
 - Proposed creating a CWEA only membership as discussed in the Bylaws Committee.
 - The vote would be to approve the additional work.
 - Gian asked what the admin lift would be and what impact it would have on our other organizations.
 - **Yvette motions that the initiative be approved in advance of the workgroup, seconded by Kraig. Motion carried.**
- Upcoming events –
 - Collection Systems Seminar – January 22, 2025
 - Utility Management Conference – March 10th-12th
 - April – Fly-In
 - Clarence asked about registration and Liz reported on the work she's been doing with Peter Garvey and Chris Phipps with planning for the event.
 - April – Tentative Water Palooza
 - Friends of Biosolids & ITT Social Event – May 6th
 - National WEF RBITT Conference – May 6th-9th
 - Spring Meeting – May 15th
 - Ed Norton/Gary Wyatt Memorial Golf Tournament – May 21st
 - Stormwater Seminar - June

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Gary Moore - present

COMMITTEES

Vice President – Jegnaw Essatu - present

- Budget/Finance – Ellen Frketic – present
- Business Practices – Gary Moore – present
- Leadership Retreat – Jegnaw Essatu (Closed until July 2025)
- Membership – Laura Jo Oakes – present
- Spring Meeting Co-Chairs – Chrissie Swan - present, Bethel Abate – not present
 - Tentative Date of May 15th.
 - Still looking for a venue.
- Strategic Planning – Yvette Judge - present

Maryland Trustee – David Wildasin – present

- Laboratory Practices – Tralonda Kelly-Redondo – present
 - Gave committee report.
- Student Activities
 - Hiring Event – Alexis Wingfield - present
 - Student Activities – Agam Singh – not present
 - Student Chapters – Chike Monwuba – not present
 - Beth Forbes reported on meetings that Chike had with Morgan State and UMD for a CWEA chapter creation.
 - Design Competition – Megan Livak – present
 - Asked anyone with a university connection to please reach out to Megan, they are trying to grow the competition.
- YP's – Carlos Mejia, Stephen Greiling – present, not present
 - Carlos reported on the coffee chats.
 - Reported on YP Summit scholarship.

DC Trustee – Jessica Shiao – not present

- Public Outreach – Emma Danz, Brandon Friedland – neither present
 - Water Palooza, PWE events
- Residual and Biosolids Management – Hahns Hairston – present
 - Gave committee report.
- Stormwater – Beth Forbes, Justin Bell – present, present
 - Gabe Musselman is the Vice-Chair.
 - Reported that they're looking at a June seminar

Delaware Trustee – Chaka Kamran – present

- Awards – Eric Held – present
 - Encouraged people to nominate for the WEF awards.
- By-Laws – Alan Will – present
 - Reported on the current work of the 2025 revision.
 - Yvette reported on Officer Duties category progress.
- Collection Systems – Charles Poskas – not present, George Pearson (VC) - present
 - Collection Systems Seminar – January 22, 2025
 - Encouraged registration to increase attendees.
 - Ed Norton/Gary Wyatt Memorial Golf Tournament – May 21, 2025
 - Registration is open
- DE&I – Eric McFarland – not present
- Publications – Chaka Kamran – present, Islam Khallaf (VC) – present

- Islam reported on the winter issue progress.
- Resumed the Women in Water interviews.
- Water Reuse – Andrew Kreider – not present
- Utility Member Representative – Yvette Judge - present**
- MDE W/WW Board Liaison – Clark Howells – not present
- Plant O&M and Safety – Tyrus Hunter – not present
- Short Course – Clark Howells – not present
- Training, Review and Evaluation (TRE) – Clark Howells – not present
- Utility Management Conference – Gian Cossa
 - March 10th – 12th at LIVE in Hanover, MD
 - Reported on the next meeting.
 - Encouraged planning the 2026 MOU meeting ASAP.
- YH2O/Mentorship – Dennis Hasson/Moalie Jose – neither present
 - Kraig reported on the 2024 Closing Ceremony.

President-Elect – Alana Gildner - present

- Asset Management – Theresa Bruton – not present
 - Theresa has moved away is no longer Chair.
 - Chair and Vice Chair are needed.
- Audit – Kraig Moodie – present
 - Final report will be available at the next board meeting.
- Government Affairs – Liz Colletti – present
 - Preparing for the April Fly-In.
- Nominations – Alana Gildner - (Closed until April) - present
- Sponsorship – Andrew Kreider – not present
 - Traci reported on the sponsorship campaign.
- Technical Education – Matt Zelin – not present
 - Not many committees have signed up for a webinar.
 - The webinars are a member benefit.
 - The technical committees that did not provide a webinar in 2024 are encouraged to provide one in 2025.

BOARD MEETING DATES 2024-2025 – Location (virtual or in-person, to be determined)

- Thursday, March 20, 2025

ECOLETTER EDITORIAL DEADLINES FOR 2025 SPRING ISSUE

Refer to the Chesapeake WEA Reference Guide for submission guidelines.

2025 Spring issue

1. Deadline to Editors	Friday, March 14, 2025
6. Finish printing	Monday, May 5, 2025

ADJOURN – meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn, Gian, seconded by Yvette. Motion Carried.