



Chesapeake WEA Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 2024

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

JMT Conference Room

40 Wight Avenue

Hunt Valley, MD

Attendance: Clarence Beverhoudt, Alana Gildner, Laura Oakes, Kraig Moodie, Gian Cossa, Eric Held, Jegnaw Essatu, David Wildasin, Justin Bell, Beth Forbes, Danielle Sheahan, Andrew Kreider, Yvette Judge, Ellen Frketic, Charles Poskas, Gary Moore, Chaka Kamran, Hahns Hairston, Alexis Wingfield, Liz Colletti

Call to Order by President Clarence Beverhoudt – meeting called to order 9:40.

SECRETARY REPORT – Cheryl Paulin – not present

- Meeting Minutes
- Motion to approve the minutes – Kraig, seconded by Jegnaw. **Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT – Danielle Sheahan – present in-person

- Current Financial Status of CWEA – Danielle reported on the finances.
- Gian mentioned that we should consider looking into another more secure way of earning interest. Laura mentioned that we would look into it.

DELEGATE'S REPORT(S)

- Ellen Frketic – present online – Ellen reported that WEF HOD nominations are due. Talked about the WEFMAX that she and Laura attended. She is active on the Workforce Development Workgroup and will be presenting at WEFTEC. They are planning the next DE&I networking meeting.
- Laura Jo Oakes – present in-person – Laura is working on a WEF HOD workgroup ensuring that the HOD is relevant to the MAs. To all board, chairs, vice-chairs – there is a virtual WEFMAX on August 1st – everyone is encouraged to attend. Clarence talked about his experiences with the WEFMAXs he has attended.

CTA'S REPORT – Kraig Moodie – present in-person

- Kraig reported that we're expecting to have a great conference this year. Cancellation insurance has been obtained. Other Tri-Con topics will be discussed throughout the meeting. Gian will send Traci the August 28th Leadership breakfast invite to distribute.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominations/Election – on schedule
- YP Tri-Con Sponsorship – One complete application
- CWEA Only Membership - Vote to move forward with looking into this option
 - Motion to move forward with the Ad Hoc committee – Ellen, seconded by Kraig. **Motion Carried.**
- UMC Discussion – Gian reported and thanked everyone that helped plan the UMC.
 - CSAWWA is working on their part of the MOU and is working on the "Issue Resolution committee."
 - Gian stated his concerns, and many participated in the conversation.
 - It was decided that it was still to CWEA's benefit to participate in the UMC and we should submit our abstracts and work through any issues.
- Reorganized Board Representative/Committee Chair Board Report List
 - Discussion was had on the board representative reorganization.
 - The presented list will be updated and reissued to everyone.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

- Upcoming events –
 - OPS Challenge Sponsorship promotion
 - Kraig reminded everyone of the deadlines and encouraged more teams to participate.
 - Tri-Con –
 - Gian reported that more booths being offered next year, and the new layout will be offered at Tri-Con.
 - September Leadership Retreat
 - Tentative date 9/24/24 – looking at southern Maryland area
 - October PCOC event near Key bridge with Backwater Restoration
- Other activities –
 - Traci reminded the technical committees that there is a preference of having an agenda for any event at least 60 days in advance to properly promote the event.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Clarence Beverhoudt

This is Clarence's last meeting before Tri-Con and he thanked everyone for their support of him during his presidency. The year goes by very fast and it's hard to get everything accomplished. His advice to others looking to roll up is to attend and participate in as many things as possible, and to listen to your board. He spoke about his support from Jegnow and David (his section leaders from WSSC). It takes a team to make this work. He thanked Cheryl and others for getting the Hiram scholarship created and the CWEA embroidered shirts. Clarence shared that there are many benefits to being an active part of this organization, including professional.

COMMITTEES

President-Elect – Gary Moore - present

- Audit – Kraig Moodie – present
 - Meeting scheduled for July 25th.
- Awards – Eric Held
 - WEF MA awards for TriCon have been ordered.
- DE&I – Eric McFarland – not present
- Budget/Finance – Ellen Frketic – present
 - Will start working on a new budget worksheet.
- Leadership Retreat – Gary Moore – Already covered
- Nominations – Gary Moore – Already covered

Vice President – Alana Gildner - present

- Sponsorship – Andrew Kreider – present
 - Great program this year – beat last year's total.
- Strategic Planning – Yvette Judge – present
 - Met at the end of June.
 - Worked on the number of wins we had for the year.
 - Looked to see if we wanted to make any adjustments.
 - We're going to do a Lunch and Learn at WSSC Water
 - Laura mentioned that we have money in the budget for Lunch n Learns.
 - Talked about bringing local consultants into the Lunch n Learn with the utility.
 - Charles will share his experience with the Lunch n Learn he did.
- By-Laws – Alan Will – not present

- Alana reported for Alan that we are currently meeting and working on bylaw changes.
- Business Practices – Gary Moore – present
 - Currently combining with the Bylaws Committee.

Utility Member Representative – Yvette Judge - present

- Government Affairs – Liz Colletti – present
 - Reported that a webinar is being planned in October with a PFAs remediation and will give a general overview of what was obtained through the fly-in.
- MDE W/WW Board Liaison – Clark Howells – not present
- Short Course – Clark Howells – not present
 - Clarence will work on getting nominees for Short Course scholarships.
 - Andrew and David stated that we need to support the smaller utilities with Short Course and Tri-Con attendance.
 - Jegnaw stated that the MDE requirement is that the attendee has to work inside the plant to get a scholarship to attend Short Course.
 - Is it a requirement to be an operator to take Short Course?
 - Do you have to be an existing operator to take Short Course?
- Training, Review and Evaluation (TRE) – Clark Howells – not present
- Mentorship – Dennis Hasson/Moalie Jose – neither present
 - Kraig reported that registration is open for the fall session.
 - Changes are being made to the coaching/mentoring program and encouraged people to volunteer as a coach/mentor.
 - Charles would like to make suggestions that he feels could be improved with the coaching/mentoring program.
- Utility Management Conference – Gian Cossa - present

Delaware Trustee – Chaka Kamran- was present but needed to leave

- Public Outreach – Emma Danz, Brandon Friedland
 - Discussed PWE and Water Palooza.
- Publications – Chaka Kamran
 - Ecoletter is ready to be printed.
- Stormwater – Alexi Sanchez de Boado, Beth Forbes – not present/present
 - Beth and Justin Bell reported on the June 6th conference and the Golden Raindrop Award will be presented to David Gleason.
- Technical Education – Matt Zelin – not present

DC Trustee – Jessica Shiao – not present

- Asset Management – Bhaumik Hotha – not present
 - Alana reported on Tri-Con Preconference Workshop being offered.
- Collection Systems – Bryant Welch – not present
 - Charles reported for Bryant that he will meet with Bryant and George Pearson about a possible conference in December.
 - Working on a formal election process for the chair selection.
- Membership – Laura Jo Oakes – present
 - Laura reported on the membership event that was postponed.
 - Suggestions were made to have it in the evening.
- Plant O&M and Safety – Joe Wright/Tyrus Hunter – not present – no report

Maryland Trustee – Jegnaw Essatu – present

- Jegnaw reported on his WEFMAX, Utah attendance.
- Residual and Biosolids Management – Hahns Hairston – present

- Hahns – preparing for the RBC Beauty Contest at Tri-Con
 - Next quarterly meeting will be held on August 16th.
- Laboratory Practices – David Wildasin – present
 - Dave reported that Dave Baker is officially retiring; he may be eligible for a WEF ‘longevity’ award.
- Spring Meeting –Chrissie Swan/Bethel Abate – neither present
 - Laura reported that Spring Meeting was awesome, and we made a profit.
- Student Activities
 - Hiring Event – Alexis Wingfield – present
 - Reported that we will pursue a 2025 Hiring Event and welcomed ideas.
 - Comment: Stormwater Committee/people would like to be a part of planning the event but aren't aware in time.
 - We are looking for a new chair to replace Alexis.
 - Student Chapters – Agam Singh – not present
 - Design Competition – Thomas Howard – not present
- YP's –Thomas Howard/Carlos Mejia – not present
- Water Reuse – Andrew Kreider – present
 - In the process of planning and stated that the Mid-Atlantic Water Reuse Association are essentially our competition. We are considering canceling this year's event or collaborating with them.
 - Laura is suggesting that we request other association to enter into an MOU that if they have an event in our area to include us.
 - Andrew would like to broaden our information base but want to ensure it's a fair trade in workload.

BOARD MEETING DATES 2023-2024 –

- Annual Business Meeting Luncheon at Tri-Con
 Thursday, August 29th at 12:45pm

ECOLETTER EDITORIAL DEADLINES FOR 2024 FALL ISSUE

Refer to the Chesapeake WEA Reference Guide for submission guidelines.

2024 Fall issue

1. Deadline to Editors	Friday, September 20, 2024
2. Editors submit to CK (editorial deadline & advertising sales close)	Friday, October 4, 2024
3. Page proofs to Chesapeake WEA & WWOA for review	Tuesday, October 15, 2024
4. Edited proofs returned to CK	Wednesday, October 23, 2024
5. Final art to print	Friday, November 1, 2024
6. Finish printing	Monday, November 11, 2024

ADJOURN – meeting adjourned 12:12pm.