



## RICWA

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Cranston, RI 02920  
[ricwa.org](http://ricwa.org)

The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting February 21, 2023. President Peter Connell called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Board members in attendance: President Peter Connell, Vice President Jeff Chapdelaine, Secretary Kim Sandbach, Treasurer Nora Lough, Scott Goodinson, Paul Desrosiers, Eddie Davies, David Perrotta, Kevin Regan, and Tracy Santoro.

All in attendance reviewed the January 2023 minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Goodinson and seconded by Mr. Chapdelaine. All members voted in favor of the motion.

### **Officers Report**

**President** - Mr. Connell will be commenting throughout.

**Vice President** – Mr. Chapdelaine will comment throughout.

**Treasurer** – Ms. Lough presented the January budgets on the new format. A motion to accept the budget was made by Mr. Hannon and seconded by Mr. Chapdelaine. All members voted in favor of the motion.

**Secretary** - Ms. Sandbach will comment throughout

**State Director** - Mr. Davies finished writing his article for the NEWEA Spring Journal. He also attended the Government Affairs Committee meeting and stated he will not be attending NEWEA's Congressional Briefing in Washington, D.C.

**Certification Director** – Mr. Desrosiers stated there was no new business at the last Certification board meeting. He also announced Mr. Bill Patenaude will be retiring in May, 2023, and Mr. Matt Puglia will be taking Mr. Patenaude's seat on that board.

### **Old Business**

1. Legislative Event – Thanks to Ms. Burke-Wells and Ms. Lough for making the legislative event a success. Video and pictures will be uploaded to the RICWA website. A suggestion for next year included handing out the awards at the beginning of the event.
2. Training – The Training Committee will be working with Sanitary Equipment for scheduling a class. Mr. Davies Grade I class will be starting in March with 10 people enrolled so far.
3. Website – The new website is live. Work on it will be continuing.
4. Trade show – The Trade Show Committee held a virtual meeting on January 31, 2023. Mr. Chapdelaine stated that the Crowne Plaza is holding the same price for the event later this year. All members of the board voted in favor of securing the Crowne Plaza for September 8, 2023, by sending a deposit check of \$1600.00 to the Crowne Plaza. Prices for the vendor booths will be \$500.00 and tickets for the luncheon will be \$35.00. Mr. Chapdelaine will send a “save the date” flyer to Ms. Sandbach to distribute to the membership.

5. Awards Banquet – The Awards Committee held a virtual meeting on February 13, 2023, and voted on hosting the event at the Cranston Country Club on May 12, 2023. RICWA will borrow or rent a speaker system for the event. Mr. Goodinson made a motion to raise the award sponsor fee to \$300.00 and keeping the dinner fee at \$40.00. It was seconded by Mr. Perrotta. All voted in favor of the motion. Seacoast Supply and Veolia were both nominated got the Vendor Appreciation Award. Mr. Connell stated the Board can make more nominations for the award, which will be voted on in a future meeting. Ms. Sandbach will be sending the nomination form for all other awards to the membership. Mr. Joe Haberek from the DEM will be the guest speaker.
6. Earth Day Clean Up – the application for the NBC Earth Day Clean Up grant was submitted. The board will be notified on how much grant money was awarded to RICWA at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

1. Ops Challenge – Mr. Davies held a kick-off meeting. Because there was up to 8 people interested, Mr. Davies stated there could possibly be two RI teams competing in the future, depending on funding. Training Day will take place in Holyoke, MA, on March 31, 2023.
2. NEWEA Conference – The NEWEA Annual Conference was held last month, and it was well attended. Mr. Connell mentioned that he is still learning the NEWEA ropes with all that goes on and attended several meetings. He has agreed to be the Vice Chair of the Awards Committee, and he mentioned that RICWA has to start looking to nominate the NEWEA Operator Award and the Peloquin Award.
3. Member profile – Ms. Lough will be working to have the member profiles uploaded to the website. They include articles on Mr. Desrosiers and Mr. Goodinson that were featured in Treatment Plant Operator Magazine.

### **Open Forum**

1. NEIWPC – NEIWPC is looking for volunteers to take an online course on Wet Weather Operating.
2. Golf League – A discussion about the status of the golf league will be held at the March meeting.
3. Mr. Chapdelaine made a motion to adjourn at 6:36 pm and was seconded by Ms. Lough.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Sandbach  
Secretary