



## RICWA

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[ricwa.org](http://ricwa.org)

The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting March 16, 2023. President Peter Connell called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Board members in attendance: President Peter Connell, Secretary Kim Sandbach, Treasurer Nora Lough, Scott Goodinson, Paul Desrosiers, Eddie Davies, David Perrotta, Eli Hannon, Kevin Regan, Tracy Santoro, Ryan Desrosiers, and Janine Burke-Wells.

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

### **Officers Report**

**President** - Mr. Connell will comment throughout.

**Vice President** – Mr. Chapdelaine was excused from the meeting.

**Treasurer** – Ms. Lough presented the January budget. A motion to accept the budget was made by Ms. Burke-Wells and seconded by Mr. Perrotta. All members voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Lough will contact Mr. Dilorenzo about adding total actual income and expense columns on the main budget spreadsheet.

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

**State Director** - Mr. Davies reported that Work for Water has been working on training programs and placed 42 people in water related jobs. He attended the GAC meeting which covered the DC Fly-in and PFAS concerns.

**Certification Director** – Mr. Desrosiers announced Mr. Patenaude from the DEM will be retiring May 31, 2023. Mr. Jack Segal will be taking over some duties. MS. Tracy Pena from DEM will be organizing a reception for him and asked Mr. Connell to speak on behalf of RICWA and Mr. Goodinson to speak on behalf of NEWEA. Mr. Desrosiers also announced the Synagro has a new superintendent who will be needing a Grade II license.

### **Old Business**

1. Awards banquet – Several award nominations have been sent in. Still looking for nominations for some categories before the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Mr. Connell is looking for adequate speaker systems to use the night of the banquet. Two vendors, Veolia and Seacoast Supply, were nominated by board members for the Vendor Appreciation Award. The board voted for Veolia to receive the award. After the nomination deadline, the awards committee will meet to review all nominations and make their choices. The final list will be taken to the board for approval at the next meeting.
2. Trade show –A check for \$1600.00 was submitted to the Crowne Plaza for the trade show. Mr. Davies will hold an operations challenge demonstration along with a pipe cutting contest with gift cards given out to winners.

3. Website – Ms. Lough is working with Mr. Dilorenzo on changing payment methods and job postings. The award nomination form is posted on the website. It was suggested that the character box on the form should be changed to 500. Ms. Lough emailed the member profiles to Mr. Dilorenzo to add to the website. She will also inquire if he will be able to post the Legislative Event video. Ms. Lough stated she is waiting for a list and pictures of past scholarship winners to be posted on the website. Lastly, she asked for feedback or suggestions from the board about the homepage tabs.
4. Earth day clean up – The Narragansett Bay Commission awarded RICWA a \$625.00 grant for a cleanup. A flyer will be made and sent to the members with a sign-up date by April 8, 2023. A rain date of May 6, 2023 was agreed on by the board. Ms. Kerri Houghton will be compiling a list of supplies needed and the price of them.
5. Training – Mr. Perrotta requested a syllabus from Mike Gregory of Sanitary Equipment to get this class approved for credits in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He will be communicating with Mr. Gregory to discuss a place and time. Ms. Lough will look into contact Diane Johnson about a training class. Ms. Lough is also organizing a NEWEA specialty seminar on PFAS sampling. This class will be held May 3, 2023, at the Narragansett Bay Commission. She asked the board members if any vendors would like to sponsor breakfast or lunch for the day. Ms. Santoro will get approval from Flygt to sponsor breakfast and Mr. Desrosiers will ask Veolia to sponsor lunch for that day. She will also work to get this seminar approved for TCH's.
6. Ops challenge- - The team has held numerous practices. Mr. Davies will be making a final decision about who will join the team. He will determine if it will be feasible to send two teams to the regional competition if necessary.

### **New Business**

1. State report filing – Mr. Connell filed the state report and paid the \$22.00 fee.
2. NEWEA State Director – Mr. Connell announced Ms. Amy Anderson volunteered to assume the role of the RI State Director when Mr. Davies steps down January 2024. Mr. Connell made a motion to accept Ms. Anderson as State Director. Mr. Goodinson seconded the motion with all board members voting in favor.
3. GoFundMe donation – Mr. Goodinson made a motion to contribute \$100.00 to the fund for Past President Mr. Doug Nettleton's grandson. Mr. Perrotta seconded the motion with all board members voting in favor.
4. Golf League – Ms. Burke-Wells stated the RICWA golf league at the Cranston Country Club will be capped at 28 people. Ms. Sandbach will send the flyer to the membership to fill any remaining spots. The league has an April 25<sup>th</sup> start date.

### **Open Forum**

1. Mr. Goodinson is looking for locations for the annual RICWA Chowder Cook Off. The Scarborough plant will be undergoing construction for renovations. He will contact DEM about hosting it next door at Scarborough Beach.
2. Mr. Goodinson recommended that RICWA issue a position paper on Biosolids. The document would outline the need for a viable and sustainable state-wide biosolids disposal plan and recommend that all Rhode Island generated biosolids receive head-of-the-line disposal treatment over biosolids generated from out-of-state facilities.

3. Mr. Goodinson made a motion to adjourn at 6:42 pm and seconded by Mr. Hannon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Sandbach  
Secretary