



## RICWA

---

P.O. Box 8805  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[ricwa.org](http://ricwa.org)

The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting April 11, 2023. President Peter Connell called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

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

Also in attendance was Justin D'Antonio, and Jim Folco.

All in attendance reviewed the March 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 will comment throughout.

**Treasurer** – Ms. Lough was excused from the meeting. Mr. Connell presented the budget. A motion to accept the budget was made by Mr. Chapdelaine and seconded by Ms. Burke-Wells. All members voted in favor of the motion.

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

**State Director** - Mr. Davies was asked to be on the NEWEA nominating committee.

**Certification Director** – Mr. Desrosiers stated Mr. Matt Puglia chaired his first meeting of the Board of Certification, taking over for Mr. Bill Patenaude. The Department of Administration is still putting the salary survey together with hopes of releasing the results in May.

### **Old Business**

1. Awards banquet – The awards committee met virtually on April 6, 2023, to determine the recipients for the awards. The committee noted that four people were nominated for a lifetime award and agreed that only two lifetime awards will be given out this year, with the other two given next year. When the list of recipients was presented to the board for approval, Mr. Ryan Desrosiers inquired as to why Ms. Mary Torti of Veolia Cranston was not a recipient. He felt her years and dedication should have qualified her. Mr. Goodinson made a motion to add Ms. Torti to the list of recipients and was seconded by Mr. Connell. All voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Davies inquired about the nomination process and asked the committee to review the selection criteria and process to make improvements going forward. This will be discussed for next year's awards banquet at a future meeting.
2. Earth Day Clean Up–Supplies for the cleanup have been ordered by Ms. Houghton. Reusable aluminum water bottles will be given away and used for the cleanup instead of plastic water bottles. The Narragansett Bay Commission also is allowing RICWA to borrow supplies such as pickers, grabbers, shovels, and nets.

3. Ops Challenge – Several team members have withdrawn from competing. Therefore, the RI Ops Challenge team consists of Coach Eddie Davies, Captain Dave Bruno, Max Maher, Robert Norton, Shaun Collum, and alternate Courtney Iawa-Savage. The team traveled to Holyoke, MA, for training day where New England teams and several New York met to observe the events. The RI team will also travel to Holyoke for practices throughout the season.
4. Training – Mr. Perrotta is waiting for a syllabus from Sanitary Equipment for the class on May 9, 2023. Mr. Perrotta will also be looking into who will be providing lunch for the day. Mr. Davies will be giving his final exam in his Grade I class. He will also be looking into offering a review class for Grades 2, 3, and 4.
5. Website – The monthly minutes will now be accessible on the website. Mr. Dilorenzo will be excluding the word “clambake” from the tradeshow flyer on the website.
6. Golf outing– Mr. Connell will be sending an email out announcing the golf tournament on June 19, 2023, at Potowomut Country Club. He will inform the golf committee if the fee needs to be increased from \$160.00 due to the fee of the golf cart increasing.

### **New Business**

1. RI Rural Water Association (RIRWA) – Mr. Justin D’Antonio, Director, and Mr. Jim Folco, Executive Director, spoke about their association. It is a non-profit trade association that provides training and technical assistance to rural and small utilities in Rhode Island. They offered to work with RICWA on any future training if needed.
2. Golf league – Openings in the Tuesday night league are still available. Mr. Jim Deluca from Aqua Solutions will be hosting a monthly “10<sup>th</sup> hole” gathering after the rounds.

### **Open Forum**

1. The monthly board meetings will take place the second Thursday of each month starting in May due to the golf leagues on Tuesday and Wednesday.
2. Mr. Chapdelaine made a motion to adjourn at 6:42 pm and seconded by Ms. Burke-Wells.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Sandbach  
Secretary