



## RICWA

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

The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting June 15, 2023. President Peter Connell called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Board members in attendance: President Peter Connell, Vice President Jeff Chapdelaine, Treasurer Nora Lough, Secretary Kim Sandbach, Scott Goodinson, Paul Desrosiers, Eddie Davies, David Perrotta, Janine Burke-Wells, and Eli Hannon.

All in attendance reviewed the May 2023 minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Goodinson and seconded by Ms. Burke-Wells. 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 May budget. A motion to accept the budget was made by Mr. Desrosiers and seconded by Mr. Goodinson. All members voted in favor of the motion.

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

**State Director** - Mr. Davies submitted the nominations for the NEWEA awards for Ms. Kathy Perez of South Kingstown and Mr. Nathan Boiros of the Narragansett Bay Commission.

**Certification Director** – Mr. Desrosiers was informed by Mr. Matt Puglia that the Operator Certification exam scores were made available June 15, 2023. It was noted the Department of Administration is very slow on grading exams and members of the RICWA board would like to inquire how to get results in a timely manner. Mr. Goodinson suggested Mr. Davies write a letter on behalf of RICWA to Mr. Matt Puglia of the Board of Certification on how grading can improve. Mr. Connell will send an email to RICWA board members asking for anyone interested in replacing Mr. Desrosiers on the Board of Certification. The board will then vote and the applicant will be submitted to the Governor of Rhode Island. Mr. Davies would like clarification on the conflict of interest on why the Director of Certification cannot teach classes while serving on the board. There is no meeting in July, but members of the RICWA board are encouraged to attend the meeting in August.

### **Old Business**

1. Ops challenge – The joint NYWEA/NEWEA conference had 11 teams participating with Rhode Island’s Rising Sludge coming in second overall. Mr. Jason Swain, the NEWEA Ops Challenge Committee Chair, informed Mr. Davies that the safety equipment will be kept in Rhode Island at the West Warwick facility. Mr. Davies will start fundraising in addition to looking for more funding to purchase equipment for practices. He may also speak to Mr. Jim Folco of the Rhode Island Rural Water Association about securing funding through grants. The Quonset Development Corporation will have a permanent regional training center at their facility for future trainings including Operations Challenge practices. Ms. Lough was asked to fill the role of

NEWEA's Operations Challenge Committee Vice Chair. She would like to work on regional training for the New England teams.

2. Scholarship – To date, there has been one submittal. Ms. Sandbach will continue to send out a reminder email to the membership.
3. Golf outing – There are a total of 136 golfers with 36 tee sponsors. This is the most tee sponsors the outing has had. Mr. Connell spent \$2700.00 on raffle prizes, going \$200.00 over budget. The raffle tickets will be sold in sheets charging \$10.00 a sheet or \$20.00 for three sheets.
4. Trade show –The vendor contract and the flyer have been finalized. They will be available on the website for vendors to sign up and pay immediately. Mr. Goodinson stated that NEWEA will be holding an Executive Committee meeting at the trade show. Mr. Chapdelaine will speak to Mr. Puglia about holding a superintendent meeting also. The Operator Exchange program will host an operator from Connecticut who will be staying at the Crowne Plaza and attending the trade show.
5. Chowder cook off – Mr. Goodinson will inquire about holding the cook off in Jamestown. A suggestion of East Providence was also given.

### **New Business**

1. Membership – Ms. Sandbach will be sending out an email to start membership renewals

### **Open Forum**

1. Ms. Burke-Wells made a motion to adjourn at 6:13 pm and was seconded by Mr. Goodinson..

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Sandbach  
Secretary