



RICWA

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ricwa.org

The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting August 17, 2023. President Peter Connell called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm.

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

Also in attendance was Amy Anderson George.

All in attendance reviewed the July 2023 minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Ms. Burke-Wells 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 was excused from the meeting. Mr. Connell presented the July budget. A motion to accept the budget was made by Mr. Goodinson and seconded by Mr. Chapdelaine. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Secretary - Ms. Sandbach will comment throughout

State Director - Mr. Davies attended a workforce meeting. He also wrote his last entry as RI State Director to the NEWEA Fall Journal. Mr. Davies introduced Veolia Academy. It is an online source of classes for training hours, and it is free from Veolia North America. Ms. Sandbach will send an email out to the membership with a link to the site.

Certification Director – Mr. Desrosiers did not have anything new to report. Mr. Puglia, of the RIDEM, approved the training class Ms. Lough will be holding at the trade show for TCH's. Mr. Davies would like to be on the agenda for October to discuss the results of the Wastewater Operator Certification results. He feels the Department of Administration takes too long to grade the exams and hopes to find a resolution, perhaps by enlisting the help of the RICWA board. He also would like to speak to the plant superintendents at the trade show about the grading issue.

Old Business

1. Trade show – Mr. Connell has purchased a large screen for the association for approximately \$118.00 plus shipping. Ms. Lough will use the new screen and her projector instead of renting one at the trade show. Kevin Gardner, of RCAP Solutions, has inquired if RICWA will give a discount on a booth for a non-profit organization. Mr. Connell will respond that at this time there is no discount for non-profits. Mr. Connell is also seeking more raffle prizes and waiting for pricing on RICWA hats to be given out at the trade show. Suggestions for next year include seeking out sponsorships and selling raffle tickets.

2. Training – Mr. Desrosiers stated there is interest in collection systems training. He has communicated with Patty Chesebrough, of NEIWPCC, for training options. She suggested numerous scenarios of RICWA working with NEIWPCC on the training. Mr. Desrosiers will confirm cost and fees with Ms. Chesebrough. Mr. Davies will begin a Grade I Certification Course in September.
3. Chowder Cook-off – Many thanks to Mr. David Greene and Mr. Doug Oulette from Jamestown for securing our location at Beavertail State Park. There were 6 chowder entries. Total cost of the cook off was \$412.42.
4. Scholarships – The scholarship committee met virtually and presented to the board that all 7 applicants be awarded a scholarship. Mr. Connell made a motion to award all 7 a \$500.00 scholarship and was seconded by Mr. Goodinson. All members voted in favor.
5. Ops challenge – Fundraising stands at \$19,200, the most ever raised. The team will be competing at the end of August in Ocean City, MD, and may travel to Nassau, NY, for a Veolia Invitational for WEFTEC preparation.

New Business

1. Ops exchange – Mr. Graydon Stewart from Farmington, CT, will be visiting RI for plant tours and attend the trade show. Mr. Evan O'Brien from South Kingstown, RI, will be traveling to CT for the ops exchange.
2. Holiday party – Mr. Connell reserved the Potowomut Country Club on December 1, 2023 for the annual Holiday Party.
3. Elections – Mr. Goodinson will be emailing board members on their intent of running for election. He will forward a flyer to Ms. Sandbach to send out to the membership for anyone interested in running for a board position.

Open Forum

1. Ms. Burke-Wells made a motion to adjourn at 6:58 pm and was seconded by Mr. Chapdelaine.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Sandbach
Secretary