



## RICWA

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The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting September 17, 2023. President Peter Connell called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Board members in attendance: President Peter Connell, Treasurer Nora Lough, Secretary Kim Sandbach, Scott Goodinson, Paul Desrosiers, Eli Hannon, and Tracy Santoro.

Also in attendance was Amy Anderson George.

All in attendance reviewed the August 2023 minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Goodinson and seconded by Ms. Santoro. 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 August budget. A motion to accept the budget was made by Mr. Goodinson and seconded by Mr. Hannon. All members voted in favor of the motion.

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

**State Director** - Mr. Davies was excused from the meeting. He attended a NEWEA Awards Committee meeting in August. All nominations were submitted to NEWEA.

**Certification Director** – Mr. Desrosiers stated that the Board of Certification agreed to have all exam takers sign a Code of Conduct and a Non-Disclosure Agreement. At the last set of exams, three out of 17 people passed operator certification exams given by the DEM. Mr. Matt Puglia now has the power to approve training classes.

### **Old Business**

1. Trade Show – Mr. Connell stated the trade show made approximately \$3,400.00. Ms. Lough has put together a survey monkey about the trade show, and Ms. Sandbach will send out to the membership. Some suggestions for next year include sending out a “save the date” flyer earlier in the year, perhaps having the vendor booths and lunch in one large room, changing the menu and buffet options, and ways to improve operator attendance.

2. Ops Exchange – Mr. Graydon Stewart, from Farmington, CT, sent the following note:

- *"Thank you for everything you guys did to put the Operators exchange together this year! I had a great time touring the facilities and meeting the people who run them. It was a very well-planned experience, and I feel honored to have been able to participate in it. The events scheduling, and the leaders that gave the tours made the experience one of a kind. This gave me a real world look of things I have only read about in books."*

Evan O'Brien, from South Kingstown, will be traveling to Connecticut October 16-18, 2023.

3. Ops Challenge – Fundraising to date is a record \$22,370.00. The team traveled to MD to compete in Ocean City with 10 other teams on August 29-30, 2023. They finished 1<sup>st</sup> place in Process, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Laboratory, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Overall. The team will be traveling to Chicago, Il, to compete at WEFTEC October 1-4, 2023. Ms. Lough will compile the logos of the vendors who sponsor the RI Ops Challenge team and have them uploaded to the website.
4. Holiday Party – Potowomut Country Club has been confirmed to host the annual Holiday Party on December 1, 2023. Mr. Hannon will be gathering information on menu choices and prices and sharing with the holiday party committee.
5. Elections – Mr. Goodinson will be contacting current board members on their intent to run for a position on the board. Ms. Sandbach will send an email to the membership about the upcoming election. The Board will also submit a name to the DEM to replace Mr. Desrosiers as a representative on the Board of Certification.

### **New Business**

1. 2024 Calendar of Events – It was agreed by the board that all event advertising needs to start earlier in the year and start fundraising for ops challenge sooner.

### **Open Forum**

1. Mr. Goodinson made a motion to adjourn at 6: pm and was seconded by Ms. Lough.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Sandbach  
Secretary