



RICWA

P.O. Box 8805
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ricwa.org

The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting January 9, 2024. President Peter Connell called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

Board members in attendance: President Peter Connell, Vice President Janine Burke-Wells, Treasurer Nora Lough, Secretary Kim Sandbach, Paul Desrosiers, Scott Goodinson, Amy Anderson George, Michael Digiovangiaco, Laura Marcolini, Ben Levesque, Eli Hannon, and Tracy Santoro

Also in attendance was Jeff Chapdelaine and Eddie Davies.

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

Officers Report

President - Mr. Connell welcomed the four new board members. He also will be commenting throughout.

Vice President – Ms. Burke-Wells will comment throughout.

Treasurer – Ms. Lough presented the November and December budget. A motion to accept the budgets was made by Ms. Burke-Wells and seconded by Mr. Hannon. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Secretary - Ms. Sandbach will comment throughout

State Director – Ms. Anderson George is continuing to work with Mr. Davies with the transition to State Director.

Certification Director – Mr. Desrosiers stated that the board is currently awaiting over 100 license renewals. A list of approved training courses is being compiled. Mr. Chapdelaine has not yet been approved to the board.

Old Business

1. Holiday party – The holiday party collected 606 pounds of food to be donated to the RI Food Bank. Monetary donations include \$330.00 from the 50/50 raffle and \$125.00 donated from Jacobs.
2. Board elections – Elections took place during the Holiday Party. There were no changes to the bylaws for the upcoming year.
3. Website – Ms. Lough will have Mr. Dilorenzo change the wording of vendors to sponsors. She will also be working with Ms. Santoro and Mr. Hannon on the sponsor page. New board members are asked to submit a photo and short biography for the website. The calendar will be uploaded to google calendars for all to view. Ms. Lough would also like to have several people from the board trained in website procedures to make posting pdf files easier and quicker.

New Business

1. Calendar of Events – In regard to the calendar of events, Mr. Davies will contact someone from Jamestown to arrange the chowder cook-off at Fort Getty. Mr. Goodinson will start contacting plants for open house tours during Clean Water Week on April 7, 2024- April 13, 2024. A motion was made by Ms. Santoro to add the Operations Challenge Training Day to the calendar as soon as it is confirmed by NEWEA. It was seconded by Ms. Lough. All members voted in favor. Ms. Lough will be making the edits to the calendar.
2. 2024 Budget – Ms. Lough presented the 2024 budget. Mr. Goodinson made a motion to increase the State Director budget to \$1000.00. It was seconded by Mr. Hannon. All members voted in favor of the motion. Jeff Chapdelaine asked the board to approve funds to but a cornhole carrying case. The motion was made by Ms. Lough and seconded by Mr. Regan. All members voted in favor.
3. Legislative Event – The Legislative event will take place on February 8, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the RI State House. RICWA will be presenting the 2024 Clean Water Legislator of the Year to Senator Alana DiMario. Ms. Burke-Wells and Ms. Lough will be working on invitations and flyers for the event. Ms. Sandbach will email the invitation to the members.
4. Ops Exchange – RICWA will be working with Massachusetts for the operator exchange. Ms. Anderson George will be working with Mr. Davies on the requirements for those who may apply for the exchange. Ms. Sandbach will send an email to the membership with the information and application.
5. NEWEA Annual Conference –The board congratulates Mr. Goodinson on being the incoming NEWEA President. RICWA is offering 10 \$100.00 scholarships for any member to attend Operator Day on January 23, 2024, at the conference. Ms. Sandbach will send an email to the state superintendents and assistants for any staff interested in attending operator day.
6. Earth Day Clean Up Grant – RICWA will apply for a \$1000.00 Clean Up Grant given by the Narragansett Bay Commission. The application is due February 16, 2024.
7. Board Committees – The committees are set as follows:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	SUPPORT
Finance	Nora	Peter, Janine, Kim
Membership	Kim	Peter, Tracy, Jeff, Ed
Golf Outing	Peter	Peter, Eli, Kim, Paul, Ben, Janine, Scott, Bill Wilber
Trade show	Tracy	Peter, Jeff, Eli, Amy, Ben, Kim, Janine
Holiday Party	Eli	Peter, Kim, Scott, Jeff, Mike
Awards banquet	Jeff	Peter, Paul, Tracy, Jason, Kim
Scholarships	Laura	Peter, Janine, Kim, Nora, Ben
Legislative event	Janine	Peter, Scott, Amy, Nora, Jennifer, Ryan
Web site	Nora	Peter, Eli, Tracy, Janine, Kim
Operator training	Mike	Peter, Ed, Nora, Kim, Jason, Jeff
Ops challenge	Ed & Amy	Peter, Nora, Scott, Kim

Nominations & Election	Scott	TBD
Earth day Cleanup	Kim	Peter, Nora, Amy, Tracy, Laura, Jason

Open Forum

1. Ops Challenge – The collections event will feature a new piece of equipment. Mr. Davies will purchase a pipe assembly for \$600.00. Mr. Davies and Mr. Goodinson will be working with Veolia to sponsor a 5k run to benefit ops challenge during the NEWEA Spring Conference.
2. Ms. Burke-Wells announced the RI Science Fair will take place March 16, 2024. More information will follow.
3. Mr. Connell stated he will be transferring money into the Ops challenge account.
4. Mr. Goodinson made a motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm and was seconded by Mr. Hannon.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Sandbach
Secretary