



RICWA

P.O. Box 8805
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ricwa.org

The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting February 20, 2024. President Peter Connell called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Board members in attendance: President Peter Connell, Treasurer Nora Lough, Secretary Kim Sandbach, Paul Desrosiers, Scott Goodinson, Michael Digiovangiaco, Laura Marcolini, Ben Levesque, Eli Hannon, Tracy Santoro, and Jason Trenholm.

Also in attendance was Jeff Chapdelaine.

All in attendance reviewed the January 2024 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 – Ms. Burke-Wells was excused from the meeting.

Treasurer – Ms. Lough presented the January 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. Ms. Lough will be holding a finance committee meeting to discuss ways to invest money for better interest rates.

Secretary - Ms. Sandbach will comment throughout

State Director – Ms. Anderson George was excused from the meeting.

Certification Director – Mr. Desrosiers attended the February Board of Certification meeting where it was stated that 60-80 license renewals are still pending. Mr. Chapdelaine submitted a background check as a requirement for his seat on the board.

Old Business

1. Legislative Event – The Legislative event was very successful with a large turnout. Mr. Dilorenzo will upload the video of the event to the website. Ms. Lough will be working with him to also have past legislative award winners posted on the website.
2. Website – Registration for the Grade I Certification Prep class is available on the website. Ms. Lough will be working with Mr. Dilorenzo on the training page, updating the awards page, and the sponsor page. Ms. Santoro and Mr. Hannon will be working on their write-ups for the Sponsor Spotlight.
3. Earth Day Clean-Up – Ms. Sandbach will apply for the Narragansett Bay Commission clean up grant and will be requesting \$1000.00.
4. Ops Exchange – To date, three applications have been forwarded to Ms. George. She will then make the final decision as to which operator will travel to Massachusetts in May. Ms. Lough suggested that testimonials from former operators who participated in this program be uploaded to the website.

5. Science Fair – The Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick will host The Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair for middle and high schoolers on March 16, 2024. Board members representing RICWA who would like to volunteer to judge should notify Mrs. Burke-Wells.
6. Ops Challenge – Practice has begun for the team members. NEWEA will be holding Training Day on April 5, 2024, in Westborough, MA. Veolia is planning an invitational mock competition in April in New York for teams to attend in preparation for the regional competition at NEWEA’s Spring Conference.

New Business

1. Awards Banquet – The Cranston Country Club has been booked for May 10, 2024, for this year’s banquet. Mr. Chapdelaine will be asking the awards committee to consider two options for the banquet. First is to raise the sponsorship to \$350.00 with dinner tickets for \$40.00. The second choice is to keep the sponsorship at \$300.00 and have a dinner choice of sirloin steak which would increase the dinner ticket for that option to \$50.00. He will be sending out an email to the committee for further discussion. Mr. Connell made a motion to change the Collection System Award to the Bill Wilber Collections System Award. Mr. Wilber was the first recipient of this award. Mr. Hannon seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.
2. Trade Show – A deposit was sent to the Crowne Plaza for \$2000.00 for September 13, 2024. Ms. Santoro will be holding a committee meeting about the trade show including food options and other demonstrations during the trade show.
3. NEWEA Spring Conference – Ms. George and Mr. Davies are working on the Run for Clean Water 5 k event to be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024. Racewire will be used for the event. Payment of approximately \$1600.00 will be paid to them after the event. Racewire will have all registration monies directly deposited to a RICWA account every Thursday. Ms. George and Mr. Davies are hoping to go live with this event in the next 2-3 weeks. Ms. Lough will be working to get the race information on the website.

Open Forum

1. Training – Mr. Digiovangiacomo spoke with several vendors at the NEWEA Annual Conference in January about training classes for RICWA. Penn Valley Pump is interested in holding a class this year.
2. DC Fly-in – RICWA has budgeted for two people to attend the National Water week DC Fly-in. Mrs. Burke-Wells and Ms. George will be attending.
3. Mr. Connell sent a “save the date” flyer out for the annual Golf Tournament on June 17, 2024.
4. Ms. Marcolini will be holding a scholarship committee meeting.
5. Mr. Goodinson made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 pm and was seconded by Ms. Lough.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Sandbach
Secretary