



RICWA

P.O. Box 8805
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ricwa.org

The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting March 12, 2024. President Peter Connell called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Board members in attendance: President Peter Connell, Vice President Janine Burke-Wells, Secretary Kim Sandbach, Paul Desrosiers, Scott Goodinson, Amy Anderson George, Laura Marcolini, Ben Levesque, Tracy Santoro, and Jason Trenholm.

Also in attendance was Jeff Chapdelaine.

All in attendance reviewed the February 2024 minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Goodinson and seconded by Mr. Trenholm. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Officers Report

President - Mr. Connell will be commenting throughout.

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

Treasurer – Ms. Lough was excused from the meeting. Mr. Connell presented the February budget. He conveyed that Ms. Lough will be moving portions of Account 9571 and Account 7281 into a 12-month CD with 4.5% compounded interest and keeping a total of \$5000.00 as a rainy-day fund. A motion to accept the budget was made by Mr. Goodinson and seconded by Ms. Santoro. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Secretary - Ms. Sandbach will comment throughout

State Director – Ms. Anderson George will comment throughout.

Certification Director – Mr. Desrosiers announced that the appointment of Mr. Chapdelaine as the Board of Certification Designee has been accepted. The Board of Certification is still waiting for approximately 40 license renewals. Mr. Connell, on behalf of the board, would like to thank Mr. Desrosiers for his years serving as the Board of Certification Designee.

Old Business

1. Earth Day – RICWA was awarded an \$850.00 grant from the Narragansett Bay Commission. United Rentals is also sponsoring the cleanup with \$250.00 for refreshments. Ms. Sandbach emailed a flyer out to the membership asking for volunteers.
2. Awards Banquet – Sponsorship for the awards will be kept at \$300.00. Tutela agreed to sponsor two awards and will be charged \$500.00. Dinner will include NY Sirloin for \$50.00 with the remaining three choices at \$40.00. Ms. Sandbach will forward all award nominations to Google drive for the board to review. The board will also fill out the spreadsheet located on Google drive for their choice in each category. Ms. George made a motion to create a General Event Sponsor for \$100.00 which includes one dinner ticket. The motion was seconded by Ms. Santoro. All members voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Sandbach will also email a flyer to the membership advertising the awards banquet.
3. Website – Ms. Lough has been waiting for Mr. Dilorenzo, the website designer, to upload changes to the site. Ms. Lough would also like to start cross training with Mr. Dilorenzo in website designing.

4. NEWEA Spring Conference – The final flyer for the Run for Clean Water 5k is in Google drive. Ms. Sandbach will email the flyer to the membership with registration being opened immediately. To receive a race t-shirt, registration must be made by April 15, 2024. Mr. Goodinson is working on portable restroom donations for the race. Ms. George stated room reservations will open soon for the conference. The golf tournament will take place on Monday, May 20, 2024, and will cost \$125.00. RICWA will be awarding \$100.00 each to four board members who wish to play in the golf tournament.
5. Science Fair – Mrs. Burke-Wells will meet volunteers for judging at noon at The Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick for The Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair for middle and high schoolers on March 16, 2024.
6. Trade Show – Ms. Santoro will be holding a virtual meeting with the trade show committee to discuss the menu and other items.
7. Operator Exchange – Ms. George will notify the operator chosen for the exchange after the deadline on March 15, 2024.
8. Ops Challenge – Ms. George gave an update on the RI teams from Mr. Davies. They held a practice for the safety event at the West Warwick Treatment Facility. Both RI teams are looking into traveling to New York for a Veolia invitational ops challenge event.
9. Training – Mr. Digiovangiaco has several companies interested in training classes. Ms. Lough will help him to organize classes.

New Business

1. RICWA Rookies –Ms. Maryann Sourivong proposed creating a group of individuals new to clean water named the RICWA Rookies. A written proposal is available upon request. Mr. Connell made a motion to form a RICWA Rookies committee and was seconded by Mr. Goodinson. Ms. Sandbach will be committee chair with Ms. Sourivong as co-chair. The committee also includes Ms. George, Mr. Trenholm, and Mr. Goodinson.
2. Golf – Mr. Connell will send a registration packet via email on April 1, 2024. Potowomut Country Club raised the price from \$160.00 to \$180.00. Mr. Hannon would like to raise donations by using a golf cannon on one of the holes. Ms. Burke-Wells made a motion to accept the price increase and the use of the golf cannon. It was seconded by Mr. Chapdelaine. All members voted in favor of the motion.
3. DC Fly-in – Ms. George and Mrs. Burke-Wells will be traveling to Washington, DC. Ms. Burke-Wells volunteered to write a position paper on behalf of RICWA pending board approval regarding the S-2152 Comprehensive PFAS Ban Act of 2024.
4. Golf League – Due to rising prices at the Cranston Country Club, it was suggested the golf league move to the West Warwick Country Club. Ms. Burke-Wells and Mr. Chapdelaine will be in contact with West Warwick Country Club to secure a place.
5. Mr. Goodinson suggested a place on the website for memoriam for deceased members. Mrs. Lough will convey this with Mr. Dilorenzo.

Open Forum

1. Ms. Burke-Wells made a motion to adjourn at 6:56 pm and was seconded by Mr. Chapdelaine.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Sandbach
Secretary