



RICWA

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ricwa.org

The Rhode Island Clean Water Association held a General Business Meeting May 14, 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, Secretary Kim Sandbach, Scott Goodinson, Laura Marcolini, Ben Levesque, Eli Hannon, Michael Digiovangiaco, Jeff Chapdelaine, Amy Anderson, and Tracy Santoro.

All in attendance reviewed the April 2024 minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Hannon and seconded by Ms. Burke-Wells. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Officers Report

President - Mr. Connell will be commenting throughout.

Vice President – Ms. Burke-Wells announced a Rhode Island student who participated in the RI Science and Engineering Fair was chosen from the New England states to attend the nationals in Colorado in June.

Treasurer – Ms. Lough was excused from the meeting. Mr. Connell presented the April budget. Ms. Lough moved funds into CDs for better interest rates. A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Ms. Burke-Wells 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. Chapdelaine stated the new O & M inspector for DEM is Mr. Tom Saccoccio. The Board of Certification is also studying how certain types of leave, such as military, has an impact on operator status. There are currently 29 people signed up for the May Certification exams.

Old Business

1. Awards Banquet – World Trophy will replace the RICWA tablecloth to include Block Island at no cost. Future awards banquet discussions include plants with flow violations and adding new award categories.
2. Earth Day clean up – Thirty people attended the clean up after the date was moved due to rain. Thanks to all who helped collect approximately 350 pounds of garbage. The committee used the \$850 grant to buy supplies and United Rentals donated money for pizza after the cleanup.
3. NEWEA Spring Conference – The Newport Viking Hotel has sold out of rooms for the conference. The Run for Clean Water 5k has 101 people registered. Packets will be mailed to Mr. Davies and volunteers are still needed for packet distribution and help during the run and clean up after the run. Mr. Connell proposed taking money from the Expense account titled “other” to cover the cost of accommodations at the Newport Viking for Rhode Island judges

at the Ops Challenge competition. Ms. Burke-Wells made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hannon. All members voted in favor of the motion.

4. Ops Challenge update – The Rhode Island team, Rising Sludge, and the RI/CT team are ready to compete.
5. Golf Outing – The outing is sold out with some on a waiting list. There are six silver sponsors and one platinum sponsor to date.
6. Scholarship – Out of the nine applicants, one was eliminated for submitting after the deadline. The board is waiting for one applicant whose paperwork was emailed to Mr. Goodinson within the correct time frame. The Board will choose the winners at the next meeting.
7. Trade Show – Ms. Santoro will be holding a virtual meeting with the committee to further discuss the menu options.
8. Training/ Ops Exchange – Mr. Digiovangiacomo found many operators are wanting pump and math training classes. He will draft an email asking RI superintendents for feedback with their staff on training. Mr. Connell will contact Mr. Eisler, from Clarifiers, Inc., about hosting a class. The RI operator who is participating in the ops exchange will travel to Massachusetts May 13-15, 2024.
9. Golf League – The league will start May 15, 2024.

New Business

There was no new business.

Open Forum

1. Mr. Chapdelaine made a motion to adjourn at 6:38 pm and was seconded by Mr. Hannon.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Sandbach
Secretary