1. **Call to Order & Introductions**

   Jason Neighbors, Amanda Streicher, Mark Eddington, Tom Romza, Tim Juskiewicz, Paul Burris, Aaron Berry, Nick Domalewski, Mike Holland, Leigha Green, Amy Underwood, Dennis Haile, Sonia O’Dell, James Kerigan, Matt Streicher, Joe Lapastora, Jim Jolly, Daniel Galeher, Mohammed Haque, Brad Benett, Dave Koch, Megan Fox, Andy LeJuene, Dena Potaki, Chris Buckley, Tony Conn, Derek Wold

   Please forgive me if you were on the call and not listed here. We had over 30 participants! Thank you to everyone who came out to help evaluate our IL Section! It was a great meeting with a lot of fantastic ideas! Many of the discussion below base around when we can meet in person again. Until it is safe, we will continue hosting most events virtually, however we will implement as many ideas as we can while we are restricted to a virtual status.

2. **Group Lead Discussion**

   - What does IL Section want to be known for?
     - We want to be known as the source for all information relating to our industry through providing high quality technical programming content.
   - What are we doing, or what should we be doing to get that out of the section?
     - We should be hosting more events outside of the Chicalagand area. Or, if an event is hosted in only one location, there should be a virtual component to it where others from around the state can participate and view the sessions virtually.
   - Engage the students! Identify professors with our contacts in the industry. How can we help increase student involvement in CSWEA so that when they become professionals they join our organization?
   - Work with Sanitary Districts/WRRFs/Utilities and students to provide a scholarship/stipend to work at plants as a part internship and operations experience. This will provide students with hands-on operations experience and the scholarship from CSWEA will help relieve some of the financial burden from the Utility. LIFT with WEF has a similar program called University-Utility Partnerships. Our section should start reaching out to universities and utilities to determine if there is interest to implement the program this summer. https://www.waterrf.org/university-utility-partnership
     i. Is there a way we could work with equipment vendors, students, and utilities to set up a piloting program? Student would receive hands-on experience, Utility would get low cost data, and vendor gets opportunity to pilot equipment.
   - Begin round-table type discussions with equipment vendors and utilities. There would be a list of topics to choose from and for a brief lunchtime discussion once per month to go over relevant daily problems/questions/concerns with Utilities. It would provide Utilities a chance to get together and discuss issues and resolutions of various topics such as equipment maintenance/operation, controls issue, utility financing. Some could be lead by equipment vendors, where others may be a group of operators or Utility Directors coming together discussing industry related questions and concerns. There would be an outstanding request for topics of discussions and those topics would be selected for a monthly round-table discussion. Depending on the topic, a Committee will be selected to host the round table to keep all Committee’s active throughout the year. These round tables could be recorded to serve as a podcast or reference tool for future operators/utilities finding a similar issue.
- Fermi lab hosts and event each year with a career fair style event. Can we get CSWEA with a booth at this event to promote jobs within our industry?
- Can we provide a database for IL Operators to track their CEUs? Operators would then come to CSWEA for their Operator Training courses because we automatically would track their CEUs with their event participation. Can this be spread across all three states? Maintaining this type of asset management program would cost a lot of money, IL section can’t afford the full cost of the software or maintenance, but if we want CSWEA to be the place to go for operator CEUs, we may want to strongly consider this as an opportunity for all three states.
- What do you believe CSWEA IL should identify as one of its core values and why?
  - We want to be the “Trusted Resource”.
  - Promoting clean water and protecting the environment.
- How is our niche unique relative to other professional organizations in wastewater and stormwater?
  - CSWEA’s niche is that we have experiences from 3 different states that brings in a wide perspective.
  - IL doesn’t have an ultimately unique niche. What of the discussion above can we take and expand on to make a niche?
- Is there anything we can do to reach deeper into the state and make it easier for those not in the Chicagoland?
  - Begin holding seminars in various locations of the state such as Greater Peoria Sanitary District, Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District, Bloomington-Normal, Etc.
  - Take the list of all IL WWTPs/POTWs and compare them to who is a CSWEA member. Reach out to those in the southern portion of the state to see if they are interested in any CSWEA programs. Promote operator training programs and CEUs.
  - Work with ERTC for operator training. This may be a way to expand our interactions near Edwardsville. ERTC does have a strong connection with ISAWWA, but it is worth reaching out and having a conversation.
- How can the leadership of CSWEA IL do a better job supporting initiatives that you believe in?
  - Provide more networking events. Taking over a training course as a networking night to introduce young professionals to industry professionals.
  - The CSWEA website could use a revamp – it is a bit difficult to find information quickly for new comers.
- Should your committee structure and/or leadership be changed for 2021?
  - There is merit to changing out chairs, when needed. New blood doesn’t always help a committee.

3. Open Session
   - Bring forward additional ideas now!

4. Upcoming Events
   - IL Section Meeting – 11/17, Noon – Virtual

5. Next Meeting
   - IL Section Meeting – Virtual

6. Adjournment
   - Motion to Adjourn: