



CENTRAL STATES WEA
Illinois State Section Meeting
Fall | November 17, 2020 | 12:00 PM
Teleconference

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Amanda Streicher called the meeting to Order.

Motion: Mike Holland

Second: James Kerrigan

2. Officer Reports

) Treasurer's Report – Mike Holland

Not a lot of things happening financially with everything being Association Level virtual events. We will need a budget starting January 1 as our section does their budget as a Calendar year. Each Committee Chair will need to provide Mike with anticipated budgets. Mike will follow-up with Committee Chairs over the next month.

) Trustee's Report – Mike Holland

Main conversations have been revolving around how to manage things with Covid. Many of our events have been association events, and not as many section events. Reaching out to all three sections (IL, MN, WI). When it is a section event, the section gets the money. When it is an association level event, Mohammed and Jonah manage it. There are no more geographic barriers with things being virtual, so all sections can participate.

The Annual Meeting will be planned to be virtual.

Motion to Approve the Treasurer's and Trustee's Reports: Aaron Berry

Second: Matt Streicher

3. Committee Chair Reports

) Public Education – Stephanie Cioni

PE committee joined with GWS to create a "build your own water filter" at home activity for the WEF virtual Water Palooza website for WEFTEC 2020. GWS PE Miranda Durbin is working on creating a demo video to go with the activity PDF. Miranda will have the demonstration video complete at the end of next week. PE committee is planning to create and offer free kits including all materials for kids to create their own water filter and follow the PDF activity; for Illinois teachers and students only. Up to 15 participating agencies this year, not as many in years past, but still a good turn-out. This is a resource page, so ultimately anyone can access and use the activities.

We are in the brainstorming stages of offering our services to POTWs to create "virtual tour" videos, With COVID, no one has been able to have in-person tours, the idea we have is for the PE committee to come in, collect information about the plant, take a "tour" and collect video footage and put together a virtual tour video that the plant can use for their own education opportunities (share on their website, social media, etc) PE committee can then also reach out to teachers in their area, let them know that the virtual tour is available, and perhaps coordinate a Zoom chat with someone at the plant and their classroom.

Lastly, looking to get approval to move forward with the Waters Worth It essay contest again this winter. Previous contest had a total of 600 in cash prizes and not sure how the section feels about

Chair – Amanda Streicher, Baxter & Woodman

Vice Chair - Bob Swirsky, DGSD | 2nd Vice Chair – Jason Neighbors, Glenbard Wastewater Authority

giving out that much money during COVID. The section thinks there was a good response and would like to support this effort again. There was suggestion to change the prompt to the students so that they are not writing the same essay.

) Membership – Aaron Berry

The Membership Survey has been set out! We have had 20 responses so far, and are finding the common themes. We have coordinated with WI and MN and they may do something similar. Please fill out the survey as it provides anonymous information on what is going with will the organization and what is not going so well. Bring out new ideas, too, such as the on-boarding videos for new members. Hope to have results of the membership survey at the next IL Section meeting.

) Students & Young Professionals – Liz Heise

Looking to host more ‘fun’ events in the future. Committee is going to put together a virtual escape room in December and it will be opened up to the entire association. December 10th 4:30-6:pm happy hour with break-out rooms.

Also working on the Student Design competition and starting to push out the problem statement to the universities. Working with U of I and trying to get them involved in the WEF student chapter calls to get them involved.

) Laboratory / Industrial Pre-Treatment – Eduardo Gasca/ Mary Dressel

September 22nd webcast on PFAS went well and had over 40 people in attendance. There is a December presentation covering phosphorous updates and pretreatment and has a few people already registered!

) Collections – Tom Romza

Committee is discussing a joint Seminary with MN and WI January 26th, and February 2nd, and 9th. By combining all three states, they are hoping for a large audience. Extending over three days and a shorter time block out of each day is hoping to increase participation. There is a call for abstracts out, but we have not received any yet. If you know if anyone who has a good presentation on collections, please ask them to submit!

) Operations /Safety – Jason Neighbors

There is a potential presentation in December.

) Government Affairs – Matt Streicher

IAWA has not officially canceled their mini-Conference at this point. Providing the economics work-out, Matt will coordinate speakers at the beginning of the New Year. There is usually 4-5 speakers talking about 30 minutes, each. Virtual meetings have been around 2-3 hours max, so maybe only 2-3 speakers. It’s easier to attend an hour long seminar since it’s only a small part of the day. When the committee determines their speakers, then they will look at how long the presentation should be.

) Biosolids /Energy/Resource Recovery – Chris Buckley / Mike Harvey

With some movement on data for PFAS in biosolids based on that CDM/EPA report recently posted, we are looking to do a webinar on that perhaps in January. Also, Mandy Sheposh and Jay Kemp are working to coordinate a regional biosolids/energy CSWEA committee to help facilitate a more widespread group that can share data and projects and perhaps even have a regional seminar.

) Stormwater Committee – Paul Siegfried/Tim Juskiewicz

Stormwater is working with the Collection System committee for the virtual conference in 2021.

The committee is exploring possible IAFSM collaboration. There will be an IFSM booth at the CSWEA Annual Conference. He's working to get a little involved with the IFSM group to collaborate and increase participation for both IFSM and CSWEA on sending out e-blasts with webinars and continuing ed. program.

Tim is working on the stormwater tour for the Annual Meeting. A site is picked out, but working through the challenges with Covid.

4. CSWEA Executive Committee Reports

) Executive Director – Mohammed Haque

Report discussed on how the Annual Meeting in August did well. Didn't have as much of a financial hit as they thought they would have, so the association will end out well.

Planning that all events the first half of the year will be virtual, Annual Meeting, Ed Seminar, Student Design Competition, etc.

CSX focused on managing virtual meetings and how that would be too many if each committee in each state gave their own seminar, and tri-state seminars would be beneficial. Guidelines will be sent out regarding financial support, managing against oversaturation and consolidation of webinars.

) President – Mark Eddington

Reiterated the Executive Director's report. Looking at new ways to engage members. Creativity on how to achieve those goals should be on everyone's mind

) Global Water Stewardship – Liz Heise

Group is working towards maintaining momentum without travel such as the student design competition and local volunteers working with the bio-gardens. They are going to see where things are in 2021 and hopeful for another TicoSan in November.

) LIFT Delegate – Derek Wold – Guy Carpenter gave the report.

Committee is still seeking nominations for the position of a Vice Chair. There will not be an Operations Track at the Annual Meeting. They are looking at doing a joint seminar between the Operations and LIFT on the various impacts of adopting smart water utility networks on operations.

5. Old Business

) CSWEA Member Survey

Finally sent out! Please complete the member survey to help CSWEA IL Section work for YOU!

6. New Business

) IL-X Action Items

- i. Can we become the go-to place for Operators to track their CEU's?

The IEPA does have a tracking system for pre-registered IEPA courses. These courses are the only ones that can be tracked through their program and must have a course number provided by the IEPA. The link to track these courses is identified here: <http://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/operatorcertification/OpCertLogin.aspx>. You must first login info or create a login first by selecting register. Once you log in it looks like this, click the assigned Training tab towards the top. You must have the IEPA course number to track the training. This is helpful, but is there a way CSWEA as a whole can become the location for IL, or for all states, to track not only IEPA courses, but all courses. This would be a complete asset management type program that would require a significant amount of work to maintain. Should we as a group look into the

costs to operate and maintain and determine if as a group/section/organization? This should be discussed at future meetings.

ii. Begin hosting operations discussions.

James Kerrigan is requesting help on putting together topics of discussions that operations staff and District personnel would find useful in day-to-day issues/questions/challenges. Such as “Financing” – how are various WRRFs funding their projects? What are they doing to their rate structures? Where are they looking for funding? These discussions are meant to be 30 minute conversations where a group of members call in to discuss similar problems between facilities and help each other to find innovative solutions. We hope to hold these discussions monthly, and if you think you’d find these discussions helpful to your daily activities, please reach out to James Kerrigan!

) On-boarding videos

Looking to create on-boarding videos for new members to CSWEA. Provide them with a feel for everything they can do in CSWEA and how to get involved quickly and in the way they want to be active.

7. Upcoming Events

Pretreatment & Phosphorus - December

Operations – December?

B.E.E.R. – January?

Collections System – Jan. 26th, Feb. 2nd, Feb. 9th

8. Next Meeting

) Early March

9. Adjournment

) Motion to Adjourn: Liz Heise

) Second: James Kerrigan