

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2007 MEETING  
NEW JERSEY WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION  
NORTH JERSEY SECTION**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Brian Bigler called the meeting to order at Ruppert's Restaurant, Riverdale, N.J. at 6:30 PM.

**ROLL CALL:** George Baer, David Baker, Brian Bigler, Charles Blumeling, Ann Bonaccorso, Francis Bonaccorso, Joe Bonaccorso, Mario Bonaccorso, Ron Conte, Bob Cornetto, Jim De Block, Vicky De Block, Robert De Block, Tory De Block, Laurie DeRosa, Gary Gray, Ken Hrasdzira, Dick Jenkins, Jack Kennedy, Jack Lagrosa, Ralph La Mendola, John McNamara, John Minnett, Charles Moeller, Jack Myer, Frank Pestana, Rick Quintieri, Arnold Raquet, Bob Ryan and Ramon Vara.

Brian Bigler welcomed Laurie DeRosa, a new member to her first meeting and expresses his hope that she would become actively involved in the activities of the North Section.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** President Bigler asked everyone to review the minutes of the February 21, 2007 meeting. A motion was made by Ron Conti and seconded by Joe Bonaccorso.

Discussion: None

The motion was approved unanimously. Motion Carried

**Presidents Opening Remarks:** Brian Bigler called for a moment of silence for those affected by the tragedy at Virginia Tech. I'm sure everyone is inundated with the rain this past weekend. He received a call from Metro Enforcement and he wanted to note negative press coverage related to treatment facility operations during rainfall events like we just experienced. They fail to mention the good work done by operators where thousands of houses are saved from flooding. Typical average daily flow at Secaucus is 3.1 MGD, for the 3 day period we processed 19.5 million and partially treated 10 million.

Note by Joe Bonaccorso; Please forward your success stories so we can include them in our publications so people are aware of the good work that we do. There will be no outbreak of malaria and cholera and the good work by individuals in our profession needs to be highlighted. Over the years Joint Meeting has had to by-pass secondary treatment but we called it primary effluent to it is clear we there was some treatment.

**RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:** Jack Lagrosa, Dave Baker, Ken Hrazdzira, Jim De Block and Joe Bonaccorso.

**RECOGNITION OF STATE OFFICERS:** Joe Bonaccorso, NJWEA President, Jack Lagrosa, NJWEA Executive Director

**BILLS:** The following bills were presented by Frank Pestana for ratification by the membership:

Manny's Restaurant,	2-21-07 Meeting	\$1,158.30
Water Gap Country Club,	Golf Outing 07	\$500.00
Brian Bigler,	Reimbursement. DD07 Ladies Gifts	\$776.59
Flowers Galore,	Dinner Dance 2007 Flowers	\$520.00
Hydra-Numatic,	Reimbursement. DD07 Prizes	\$927.78
Ralph LaMendola,	Reimbursement. DD07 Supplies	\$64.60
Catherine Jacob,	Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Ian Bigler,	Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Gregg Cardena,	Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Stephen Sablack,	Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Fiesta Catering,	Dinner Dance 2007	\$12,717.50
Dee Productions,	Dinner Dance 2007 Entertainment	\$500.00
Breast Cancer Resources Center,	In Memory of Judith Miller	\$100.00
La Reggia	Executive Committee Meeting	\$152.45
Ralph LaMendola,	Reimbursement- Labels	\$55.62

**TOTAL**            **\$23,472.84**

Note: We have received an reimbursement from Flowers Galore for \$45.00

Motion to approve the bills was made by David Baker, seconded by Mario Bonaccorso. The motion was approved unanimously.  
Motion Carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Brian Bigler; Gary Fare has sent a note of thanks for the sections kindness, sympathy and fruit basket on the passing of his father.

We have received thank you letters from each of the scholarship winners to be read into the minutes:

From Stephen Saplack: Dear Mr. Bigler and the NJWEA thank you very much for the scholarship. It meant a lot to me to have my grandfather, Richard Jenkins to present me with the check.

From Greg Cardena: Mr. Bigler I just wanted to personally thank you for the scholarship and four year membership. I am extremely thankful and promise to use the money to the best of my ability. I just wanted you to know how truly important this is to my future and my education. I also wanted to thank you on behalf of myself and my parents for inviting us to the Frank S. Miller Dinner Dance for the award presentation. The Association did a wonderful job and the music, food, entertainment and of course the scholarship all created a very fun night. Once again thank you very much for the scholarship as well as the many great opportunities membership has afforded me. You and the rest of the association have already begun to make my college career that much easier and I am truly appreciative. Good luck in the future and thank you again.

From Catherine Jacob: Gentleman, thank you for the scholarship awarded to me on March 10, 2007. This award will provide aid to further my education. I apologize for the delay in cashing the check but I wanted to make sure I could deposit it at the college of my choice. I have opted to attend Westchester University and have forwarded them the check. Again I would like to thank the officers and members of the North Section of the NJWEA for the award. Thank you for you efforts to improve the quality and knowledge of water treatment throughout the state.

From Ian Bigler: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the section for the scholarship that was presented to me at the dinner dance on March 10<sup>th</sup>. I will be attending Wesley College in September and the scholarship will help out greatly with college costs.

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President's Report:** Brian Bigler, There was a good turnout for the seminar and meeting in February. Due to some technical issues, we have had to postpone the Backflow Certification Course offering. This is a four-day course and there were some unforeseen issues that had to be addressed. We hope to be able to offer this in the near future. I will be held at BCUA and we look forward to offering it sometime in the summer.

The Dinner Dance was very successful. We gave out four, \$1,500.00 scholarship awards and many section awards including: Outhouse; Mario Bonaccorso and Frank Pestana; Benefactor/supporter: Schoor DePlama; TW Cleveland to John Corkery and Past Presidents Award to Bob Fisher. I hope everyone had a great time and I'd like to tank the DD'07 Committee for putting together such a fine program. Mr. Corkery was really taken by surprise and it was a great pleasure to present him with the award.

Bob Cornetto noted that Mr. Corkery said he would take 2 tables next year and the invoice has already been sent.

I Attended the South Section Annual Ladies Night Dinner and it was a very good night.

For the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Section is sponsoring an Eco-Cruise with the Hackensack Riverkeeper. Space is limited to thirty (30), so attendance will be on a first come first serve basis. There will be a one hour presentation on water quality issues prior to the meeting.

**Vice Presidents Report:** Bob Cornetto; No Report.

**Secretary Report:** Robert De Block; No Report.

**Treasurer Report:** Frank Pestana; No Report. .

**Trustees Report:** Ralph LaMendola; No Report.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Membership Committee:** Bob Cornetto; In order to keep up an accurate list for e-mail updates it is important to go online to [www.WEF.org](http://www.WEF.org) and update your contact information under the my WEF page. Your membership ID can be found on your WEF publications and your last name as your password. The link is available from [www.njwea.org/north-section/index.php](http://www.njwea.org/north-section/index.php)

Joe Bonaccorso; WEF has promised to be re-issuing membership cards and those that have renewed recently have already received them.

Brian Bigler; You will also begin receiving meeting announcements with a postcard and it will save the section a significant amount of money. We have also purchased a lap top to keep the section books as well as to use at functions to update membership information.

**Policy and Advisory Committee** Dave Baker; The Committee is reviewing the constitution and by-laws to ensure and will present changes at the September meeting.

**Nominating Committee** Ken Hrasdzira; this is the second reading of nominations:

Trustee, 3 year term from May 2007 – May 2010, Stephen Dowhan

NJWEA Delegates and Alternates, Term begins at the conclusion of the NJWEA Annual Business Meeting in May 2007 at the conference. Delegates: Robert Cornetto, Stephen D’Achino, Robert De Block, Richard Jenkins, Frank Pestana, Stephen Dowhan, Kenneth Hrasdzira, Ralph LaMendola, David N. Baker and Michael Lyons. Alternate Delegates: Robert Grodeska, Donna Lyons, Gregory Burde, James De Block and Francis Bonaccorso.

Motion to accept the nominations of the committee by Joe Bonaccorso, seconded by Mario Bonaccorso.

Disussion: None

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion Carried.

**Education Committee:** Brian Bigler; There are many educational opportunities available at the conference in Atlantic City. The next meeting will be preceded by an Eco-Cruise where TCHs will be given. Scholarship recipients have been selected: Greg Cardena, Katherine Jacob, Ian Bigler and Steven Sablack. The recipients will be recognized and receive their awards at the Annual Dinner Dance. We are continuing to prepare for the backflow certification course and registration will be offered to members in attendance first. If anyone is interested please let Steve Dowhan know.

**Ethics and Practices:** Jack Lagrosa, No Report.

**Auditing Committee** Ralph LaMendola, No Report.

Brian Bigler; we are waiting for a letter of determination from the NJWEA that we can forward to the IRS.

**Awards Committee** Brian Bigler; The North Section will be well represented in Atlantic City during the annual NJWEA Conference. Congratulations to: Joe Bonaccorso who will receive the “Croft Award”, Robert Fischer who will receive the “Public Education Award”, Charlie Moeller who will receive the “Joe Bonaccorso Educator Award”, Robert Cornetto who will receive the “NJWEA Service Award – North Jersey Section”.

**Meeting and Programs Committee** Jack Lagrosa; We have 205 paid exhibits for the conference and there are 20 on the waiting list. There are 31 sessions along with the popular social events. Registration is higher than ever and room nights are up. Get your room reservation in soon because we soon use all of the rooms at the reduced rate.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

**Golf Outing** John McNamara; The 2007 golf outing will at the Water Gap Country Club on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements will be slightly different this year in that we will have a buffet breakfast from 9-945 rather than lunch at the turn. Start time will follow breakfast at 10AM. Dinner will follow at 3:30 PM. Each golfer will receive a ticket that can be redeemed for a drink at the halfway house. Cost is \$90/person. Please start sending in your registration and sponsor forms as soon as possible. If you have any questions you can reach me at [jmcnamara@jmeuc.com](mailto:jmcnamara@jmeuc.com)

Bob Cornetto; information for the golf outing, registration and sponsorship forms are available at [www.NJWEA.org](http://www.NJWEA.org)

**Life membership committee** No report.

**Affiliates Night** Bob Cornetto: Affiliates Night will be the last Thursday in November. Robert De Block will be organizing the event and we are looking forward to another huge success.

**Social Functions Committee** Ken Hrasdzira; The "Night at the Races" will be held Saturday October 6 2007. We will have a private room, bartender and betting booth but we are limited to 60 people. Cost is \$60/person.

**Dinner Dance Committee** Bob Cornetto; A good time was had by all. As this is a transition year and the Fiesta costs are significantly more than the now defunct Wayne Manor we did not fair as well financially as years past. The food and service was outstanding and if you missed it we hope to see you there next year. Expenses were \$18,366.56 Income was 18, 115.00 and we finished \$251.56 in the hole. Next year we are going to have to adjust the ticket prices but for the quality of the food and service it is well worth it and we have booked it for next year.

**NJWEA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:** Joe Bonaccorso; The scholarship committee met last week. A member of the North Section, Matt Carerra who won the Jean Decker newly created Jean Decker Scholarship. Charles Moeller will be receiving a prestigious award from the state at our Annual Conference. We have also awarded a grant to Rowan University for research on force mains and their report will be available to all membership and will be publish in Effluents. The Federation is looking to the NJWEA as a leader in membership growth and retention. Most other MA's are loosing membership while NJ continues to grow. We are successful as a result of the passion of our members.

**Executive Directors Report:** Jack Lagrosa; Water for People will be at our conference in AC and we are working on what the NJWEA can do to assist this worthy organization.

**Old Business:** Steve D' Achino; with the new structure of the NJWEA our section now has over 800 members. The costs associated with mailing minutes to all members is significant and the Section is looking to move into the information age and save money by making minutes available online. Bob Cornetto; we will still be mailing notices and flyers for other function it is only minutes that will not be mailed. Jim De Block; to update your e-mail address in the association database you need to visit [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org) and log onto the "MY WEF" page. From there you can edit your personal information including your e-mail address.

**New Business:** Ron Conte; On June 2<sup>nd</sup> Fair Lawn will be holding a beefsteak dinner fundraiser for 2 people who have worked for the town. One was a firefighter who has suffered from cancer and recently underwent heart surgery. The other was a public works employee who got crushed between two garbage trucks and has had his legs rebuild. We are raising money for them and their families and if you would like to attend let me know and ill get you tickets. I would also like to thank Joe Bonaccorso for the workshop in Tinton Falls on Excel Spreadsheets it has come in very handy and I would recommend the course to everyone.

**Treasurer's Report:** Frank Pestana;  
For the period of 2/1/07 – 3/30/07

Opening balance	\$53,970.33
Deposits	\$17,164.00
Cleared Transactions	\$21,224.22
Uncleared Transactions	\$3,408.07

Closing balance	\$46,502.04
Scholarship CDs	\$20,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$66,502.04</b>

Motion to accept Treasurer's report by David Baker, seconded by Ralph LaMendola.

Discussion: None

Motion approved unanimously. Motion Carried.

**Good and Welfare** Dr. Joe Soporwoski has undergone bypass surgery. Bob Grodeska underwent a back operation and is now doing well. Bob Ryan was hospitalized but we are pleased to have him here with us tonight.

**Door Prizes:** Benefactors – Hydra Numatic Sales Company and D2L Associates

Winners: Bob Ryan and Ken Hrasdzira. Both winners graciously donated the prizes to the NJWEA Hospitality Room for the 2007 Annual Conference.

The next meeting is May 23<sup>rd</sup> at La Regia in Secaucus and the information is available on the website.

[www.njwea.org/north-section/index.php](http://www.njwea.org/north-section/index.php)

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Fran Bonaccorso, seconded by Jack Lagrosa and approved unanimously.