

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
SOUTH JERSEY SECTION
Minutes of the June 6, 2024 Business Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

The business meeting of the New Jersey Environment Association South Section was called to order by President Steve Blankenship at 18:34 hours at The Lobster House located on Fisherman's Wharf in Cape May, New Jersey. The following members were present at roll call:

Steve Blankenship, President
Kevin Whitney, Vice President
Kathy Collinge, Treasurer
Kevin O'Donnell, Secretary
Rick Eustace, Trustee
Rocco Maiellano, Trustee
Joe Rizzuto, Trustee
Joe Pantalone, Past President

Approval of Minutes: President Steve Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2024 business meeting, approved by Dennis Palmer, seconded by Blake Maloney and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report: Steve Blankenship

- April 4, 2024 – Attended an Executive Committee (TEAMS) to discuss various topics, which included event scheduling.
- April 12, 2024 – Participated in the State Executive Committee meeting in Eatontown.
- April 26, 2024 – Participated in a Teams Meeting to discuss YP Event
- May 6-9, 2024 – NJWEA Conference at Harrah's:
 - Monday – Attended Awards ceremony
 - Tuesday – Participated in the YP happy hour reception and later bartended in the hospitality suite (10 PM to Midnight)
 - Thursday – Attended Golden Shovel Breakfast and assisted in a YP presentation on Vacuum Sewer.
- May 16, 2024 – Teams Meeting to discuss YP Event at TopGolf

Vice President's Report: Kevin Whitney

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Next State Sponsored Mini-Seminars will be held next week, June 10 in Marlton or June 11 in Sayreville, if you have not already registered – 4 TCH's are available
- Next South Section Executive Meeting will be held July 11 via zoom
- Networking Events
 - We are putting together another Phillies Night event
 - Young Professionals Networking Event at TopGolf of Mount Laurel – Thursday, August 22

- Next South Section Business Meeting will be held September 5 at the Cape May Zoo
- South Section Golf Outing will be held September 20 at Valleybrook in Blackwood

Networking Events

- As mentioned above, we are continuing to put together networking events to encourage our membership to interact and to bring younger members into the fold – we continue to encourage our director and managerial members to bring their younger staff to our meetings and introduce them to the membership
 - We have finalized our first planned YP Networking Event at TopGolf for Thursday, August 22 – 6:00 – 8:30 PM
 - The event will include sponsorship opportunities for vendors, a ‘meet and greet’ half-hour before we golf – we have reserved four bays and will provide pub style food, all included in the registration fee.
 - We will be releasing both information for sponsorship and for registration in the coming weeks
- We have discussed and are looking into additional Networking Events, such as a Phillies game in the summer and a brewery night in the fall
- If anyone has any additional suggestions for events or outings, please do not hesitate to share them with us

Scholarships

- Since our last meeting, the Scholarship Committee received and reviewed several applications that were received for the NJWEA South Section Scholarships
- Upon my review and recommendations as Chair of the Scholarship Committee, the Executive Committee voted to approve the scholarship recipients, who I am happy to recognize later this evening
- Attended NJWEA State Governance Meeting
- Attended NJWEA Annual Conference
- The conference was well attended and success from my perspective, as it always is
- Would like to thank the State Awards Committee for recognizing me as ‘Outstanding Young Water Environment Professional’ for 2024

Treasurer’s Report: Kathy Collinge

- The South Sections Association checking account balance as of April 30, 2024 was \$60,727.83
- The Section’s Harbor Lights Financial Group Investment scholarship portfolio for April 30, 2024 had a closing value of \$24,547.11. This value includes (4) \$6000.00 CDs with maturity dates of May and November of 2024, March of 2025 and November 2026. The cash and sweep balance is \$528.51.
- The most recent reconciliation, current budget vs. actual reports and profit/loss statements are submitted today for ratification. The reports are available for anyone who would like to look at them. Please motion for approval before the end of this meeting.
 - Steve Blankenship made a motion to approve the submitted Financial Statements, seconded by Kevin Whitney and unanimously approved.

Secretary's Report: Kevin O'Donnell, No report

Past President's Report: Joe Pantalone

- March 6, 2024 - Teams meeting regarding NJWEA Long Range Planning Committee Licensed Operator Improvement Meeting 2
- March 7, 2024 – Presided over my last meeting as President at the Crab Trap
- April 4, 2024 - We had an Executive Committee via TEAMS to discuss various topics such as the upcoming schedule of events for our Section.
- April 9, 2024 – Teams meeting Industrial Tour Possibility (Discussion) Tyson, Vineland.
- April 12, 2024 - I attended the State Executive Committee meeting in Eatontown and rendered a South Section report.
- April 24, 2024 - Presided over a meeting to re-group the South Jersey Regional Authorities.
- April 26, 2024 – Teams Meeting to discuss YP Event
- May 6-9, 2024 – NJWEA Conference at Harrah's:
 - Monday – Attended Awards ceremony
 - Tuesday – attended YP happy hour and bartended hospitality suite
 - Wednesday – attended YP happy Hour
 - Thursday – Received Golden Shovel, presented at the Biosolids and participated in a Biosolids roundtable discussion.
- May 16, 2024 – Teams Meeting to discuss YP Event at TopGolf
- May 23, 2024 – Teams Meeting to finalize YP Event at TopGolf
- May 24, 2024 - Teams meeting regarding NJWEA Long Range Planning Committee Licensed Operator Improvement Meeting 2 – Follow-up
Future goal - Assist with program planning to entice younger and new members
Thank you to all the Officers and Committee Chairs who supported me during my tenure as President.
Good luck to all that follow.

NJWEA Report: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health & Safety: Janette Kessler, No Report

Memberships: Vacant

Sick & Welfare: Rocco Maiellano

- A moment of silence for remaining WW II vets and D-Day.

Nominating & Awards: Rocco Maiellano / Josh Palombo

- Rocco retired from the States Award Chair, he will be staying on in the south. Think about the nominations now for next years' awards.
- President Steve Blankenship presented the following awards:
 - Knights of the Golden Shovel Award presented to Kathy Collinge.
 - William Pine Award presented to Samantha Liccketto
 - Bob Carlson was not able to attend. He will receive the Leo Saverese Award.
 - Past President Award was presented to Joe Pantalone.

Affiliates: Bill LaPorte, No Report

Industrial: Chris Jepson, report submitted

- We have been working on an industrial WWTP located in Millville that has an interesting treatment system. Oatly – oat milk products. Two different activated sludge processes in series. Everything in the WWTP seems to be made from stainless steel. Their staff is excellent, and their operators are quite knowledgeable. Our own Rocco M. was their licensed operator for a time and has greatly assisted in scheduling them. We have planned this WWTP tour and TCH session for early October. Either Tuesday, October 15 or Wednesday October 16 are the potential dates. A choice of dates should be made soon for planning purposes.
- Please contact me with any other ideas for an industrial meeting venue. Who has major industrial dischargers in their area? Who has facilities that reuse their wastewater in innovative ways? Please check with any that may be interesting for our membership to visit.
- The Industrial Committee needs a few more members. If you are interested, please contact President Blankenship or me. Thank you.

Legislative Report: Dennis W. Palmer

- With April and May the legislature move into budget mode. All the committee meeting for April are the respective house budget committees. May had a few committees meeting and went on holiday break on May 21st and both houses come back on June 5 with only Quorum calls on the agendas. Below are bills being monitored:
- **Bill S876** Makes FY2024 supplemental appropriation of \$17 million for grants for certain lake management activities for recreation and conservation purposes.
 - 5/13/2024 Reported from Senate Committee, 2nd Reading
 - 5/13/2024 Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
- **Bill S2310** Requires transparency concerning compensation with promotional opportunities and in employment listings.
 - This bill requires employers to make reasonable efforts to announce, post, or otherwise make known opportunities for promotion that are advertised internally within the employer or externally on internet-based advertisements, postings, printed flyers, or other similar advertisements to all current employees in the affected department or departments of the employer's business prior to making a promotion decision.
 - The bill requires employers to disclose in each posting for new jobs and transfer opportunities that are advertised by the employer either externally or internally the hourly wage or salary, or a range of the hourly wage or salary, and a general description of benefits and other compensation programs for which the employee would be eligible.
 - 5/6/2024 Reported from Senate committee with amendments, 2nd Reading
 - 5/6/2024 Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
- **Bill S2930** Makes various changes to process for access to government records; appropriates \$10 million. This bill makes significant changes to the OPRA process for public records, one of the most significant bill seeing action during the budget process.
 - 5/13/2024 Passed by the Senate (21-10)
 - 5/13/2024 Substituted for A4045 (2R)
 - 5/13/2024 Passed Assembly (Passed Both Houses) (42-28-1)
- **Bill SR99** Urges EPA to adopt drinking water standard for microplastics and nanoplastics.
 - 5/6/2024 Introduced in the senate, Referred to senate Environment and Energy Committee
 - 5/13/2024 Reported from Senate Committee, 2nd Reading

Golf Outing: Joe Rizzuto, report submitted

- Golf Outing will take place on Friday September 20, 2024 at Valleybrook Country Club
 - 4-person scramble
 - Same price as last year, \$120 per golfer
 - New category: Picnic Buffet only \$30.00
- NJWEA announcement of Golf Foursome of the Year.
 - The team with the lowest score in each section golf outing will earn the opportunity to compete for the “NJWEA Golf 4-some of the Year” in the NJWEA Annual Conference Golf Outing that takes place Monday of the Conference week.
 - The top team in each section will receive a 25% discount to participate in the AC Golf Outing in 2025.
 - Each 4-some must consist of the same members to compete in AC. No substitutes are allowed.
 - If the winning 4-some cannot attend the AC event, the second-place team from that section will take their place. If the winning team is unable to attend, the next eligible team will be chosen.
- Golf Committee meeting forthcoming.

Scholarship Awards: Steve Blankenship/Kevin Whitney

- Vice President Kevin introduced the scholarship recipients, Emma Nei Manganaro Scholarship Award recipient could not attend. Tabitha Witts and Erin O’Brien also received the Manganaro Scholarship award, Mr. Bill Muszynski and Mr. Pat Witts spoke of their accomplishments and future goals. Tyler McDevitt received the Robert Ingles Scholarship Award; Joe Rizzuto spoke of Tyler’s achievements and goals.

Seminar & Technology: Andrew Lieb, No Report

Young Professionals: Brian Carey, No Report

Archives: Kathy Collinge, No Report

New Business: Nothing to Report

Old Business: Nothing to Report

Good of the Membership: Nothing to Report

Adjournment / Time:

President Steve Blankenship made a motion to adjourn the meeting, approved by Dennis Palmer, seconded by Dave Bennet and unanimously approved at 19:07 hours.