

NEW JERSEY
WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
njwea.org

CONSTITUTION



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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the New Jersey Water Environment Association hereinafter designated as the Association.

ARTICLE 2 – AFFILIATION

- 2.1 The Association shall be a Member Association of the Water Environment Federation, hereinafter designated as the Federation, and shall participate in the activities of that organization. It is the intent that the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association shall be in harmony with the By-Laws of the Federation.

ARTICLE 3 – OBJECTIVES

The mission of the Association is to serve its members as their primary source for continuing professional development while concurrently serving the public as a scientific and technical resource on issues dealing with the water environment. In furtherance of that mission, the Association has the following principal objectives:

- 3.1 The advancement of fundamental knowledge of the water environment, its basic qualities, and the physical laws governing its interaction with other aspects of the environment and with aesthetic, economic, and biological needs of New Jersey's inhabitants.
- 3.2 The advancement of practical knowledge in the technology, design, construction, operation and management of water quality control systems and facilities.
- 3.3 The increased understanding of the nature and function of New Jersey's natural waterways, surface, subsurface and atmosphere; and encouragement and promotion of action to preserve and enhance them.
- 3.4 The implementation of the objectives previously stated through an exchange of information and experience among its members, and

- other interested persons, or by an Annual Conference and Meeting of its members as described in Article 10 of the By-Laws.
- 3.5 The publication and distribution of information relating to the water quality field.
 - 3.6 The promotion of public understanding of pollution problems, the endeavor to obtain beneficial public relationships, the stimulation of public awareness of the relationship of water resources to the general public welfare and the need for preservation and reuse of water resources.
 - 3.7 The improvement of the professional status of all personnel engaged in any aspect of the water quality control field including, but not limited to, the planning, design, construction, management and operation of water quality control systems.
 - 3.8 The persistent quest to create a sound regional policy in matters relating to New Jersey water quality.
 - 3.9 The support of educational activities among its members and the general public, in addition to the annual conference, through scholar awards, seminars, workshops, and publications to stimulate interest and knowledge in the environmental pollution control management field.

ARTICLE 4 – FRANCHISE

- 4.1 The exclusive service area of the Association shall consist of the State of New Jersey in the United States of America.
- 4.2 No revision to divide the exclusive service area shall be made until the following conditions are met.
 - a. A petition requesting such division is presented to the Governing Council through the President. The petition shall be signed by not less than 100 Members of the Association.

- b. A mail ballot on the question of division of the Association is submitted to the entire membership and two-thirds of the voting Association Members approve the division of the Association.
 - c. The division is approved by the Water Environment Federation.
- 4.3. No revision to expand the exclusive service area by joining with another member association of the Water Environment Federation shall be made until the following conditions are met:
 - a. A petition requesting such joining is presented to the Governing Council through the President. The petition must be signed by not less than 100 Members of the Association, or 50 percent of those members if that number is lower.
 - b. A mail ballot on the question of joining another member Association is submitted to the entire membership and two-thirds of the voting Association Members approve the joining of the Association with another member association.
 - c. The joining is approved by the Water Environment Federation.

ARTICLE 5 – MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 The membership of the Association shall consist of persons and organizations interested in any of the objectives of the Association residing in or maintaining a business within the State of New Jersey, United States of America and having such qualifications as are prescribed under Article 1 of the By-Laws for the various grades of membership.
- 5.2 The terms “Professional” and “Professional Wastewater Operator (PWO)” as used in this Constitution shall include all persons having the right and privileges of Professional or Professional Wastewater Operator (PWO) membership.
- 5.3 In addition to membership in the New Jersey Water Environment Association, members shall apply for membership in one or more of the Sections described in Article 6 of this Constitution. Generally, the applicant will be assigned to a Section according to the applicant’s

preferred mailing address. The applicant may request assignment to a different Section or request membership in multiple Sections through the Association business office.

ARTICLE 6 – SECTIONS AND STUDENT CHAPTERS

- 6.1 There shall be three distinct and separate Sections of the Association: the North Section of the New Jersey Water Environment Association which shall include Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Essex, Warren, Morris and Hudson Counties; the Central Section of the New Jersey Water Environment Association which shall include Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, Ocean, Middlesex and Monmouth Counties; and the South Section of the New Jersey Water Environment Association which shall include Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Cape May and Mercer Counties.
- 6.2 All members of the Sections shall be members of the Association and all members of the Association shall be members of, at a minimum, one Section. Members may belong to more than one Section; however, when serving in any State Association office, a member can only represent one Section.
- 6.3 Each Section shall adopt By-Laws and a manual of practice consistent with the Association Constitution and By-Laws. The By-Laws and subsequent revisions thereto of each Section of the Association shall be certified by the Association's Constitution and By-Laws Committee as being compatible with the Constitution and By-Laws of the New Jersey Water Environment Association.
- 6.4 Each year it is optional to hold a tri-sectional meeting when there is sufficient reason to do so. The request may come from any member of the Executive Committee and shall be authorized by the Executive Committee. The purpose of such a meeting is to allow the membership of the Sections to meet and mingle in an informal manner with the Association's Officers. The agenda shall be planned jointly by the three Section Presidents with the presiding Chairperson decided by rotation (i.e., North, Central and South, in that order, and determined from the latest tri-sectional meeting) who shall conduct the meeting except that part, if necessary, that the President of the

Association shall conduct in the event of a session of the Governing Council.

- 6.5 Student Chapters may be formed among Association Student Members attending a New Jersey college, university or high school. There shall be five (5) or more student members and at least one professor, who also shall be an Association member, in the Chapter and the Chapter shall be named after the college, university, or high school (e.g., Rutgers University students are required to name it the Rutgers University Chapter of the NJWEA). See Section 1.4 of the Association By-Laws for procedures to form a Student Chapter. Student Members must belong to a Chartered Student Chapter or to a Section of the Association.

ARTICLE 7 – GOVERNING COUNCIL

- 7.1 The Governing Council designated throughout the remainder of this document and the By-Laws as the “Council” shall manage the affairs of the Association under rules that is determines necessary subject to conditions of the Constitution under Article 6 of the By-Laws.
- 7.2 All members of the Council shall be Members of the Association. The membership of the Council is listed under Article 6.1 of the By-Laws and shall include all elected Officials (President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Treasurer); Federation Delegates; other members of the Executive Committee (see Article 5 of the By-Laws); and thirty (30) elected Delegates to serve a one-year term. Each year each Section’s Secretary shall supply the Association Executive Director at the December Executive Committee meeting with a list of elected Delegates and Alternates to the Governing Council for the Annual Business Meeting.
- 7.3 The Council shall meet at least once per year during the month of April and this shall constitute the Annual Business Meeting of the Association. The date and time of the meeting shall be designated by the Executive Committee during its December meeting. The meeting shall be opened with a roll call of Council members by the Executive Director who shall report the presence or absence of a quorum (see Article 7.4) to the President. In the absence of a quorum of Council members, the President shall suspend the voting rights of Delegates

and immediately continue the business meeting with only the Executive Committee having voting rights (see Article 5.1 of the By-Laws). In the absence of a quorum of Executive Committee members, the President shall postpone the Annual Business Meeting until the next scheduled Executive Committee Meeting,

- 7.4 A majority of the Council, defined as greater than 50 percent (50%) of the total membership of the Council, shall constitute a quorum calculated as follows:

$$\text{Members Present} \times 100 / \text{Total Members} > 50.00\%$$

- 7.5 The President of the Association shall conduct all Council Meetings.
- 7.6 Other Council Meetings shall be held at the call of the President or on petition to the Executive Director and signed by at least fifteen (15) members of the Council representing at least two Sections of the Association. Any such meeting shall be opened with a roll call of Council members by the Executive Director who shall report the presence or absence of a quorum (see Article 7.4) to the President. In the absence of a quorum of Council members, the President shall suspend the voting rights of Delegates and immediately continue the meeting with only members of the Executive Committee having voting rights (see Article 5.1 of the By-Laws). In the absence of a quorum of Executive Committee members (see Article 5.2.1 of the By-Laws), the President shall postpone the meeting until the next scheduled Executive Committee Meeting.
- 7.7 Any member of the Association may attend any meeting of the Council or meeting of the Executive Committee constituting the Annual Business Meeting.

ARTICLE 8 – OFFICERS

- 8.1 All elected Officers shall be Members in good standing of the Association.
- 8.2 The elected Officers shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice President, a Delegate (or Delegates) to represent the Association in

the House of Delegates of the Federation and a Treasurer as described under Article 4 of the By-Laws.

- 8.3 The President, President-Elect, Vice President and Treasurer shall assume their duties at the close of the Annual Conference.
- 8.4 The Executive Director shall be appointed as described under Article 4.1.5 of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE 9 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 9.1 The Executive Committee shall manage the affairs of the Association between meetings of the Council as described under Article 5 of the By-Laws.
- 9.2 The Executive Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year and one of its meetings may be held at the Annual Meeting of the Association in April.
- 9.3 A majority of the Executive Committee, defined as greater than fifty percent (50%) of the total membership of the Committee, shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee calculated as follows:

$$\text{Members Present} \times 100 / \text{Total Members} > 50.00\%$$

- 9.4 This Committee is comprised of elected officers (President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer); Federation Delegate(s); the immediate Past President of the Association; three Association members elected at the Annual Meeting by the Council; the President's of the North, Central and South Sections; three (3) Regulatory/At-Large Representatives, and the Executive Director, who is a non-voting member.

ARTICLE 10 – AMENDMENTS

- 10.1 Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be submitted to the Executive Director in written form not less than sixty (60) days before the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council. The Executive

Director shall notify each Council member at least thirty (30 days) before the Annual Meeting of the Council.

- 10.2 Proposed amendments may evolve through the Executive Committee or on petition by Association Members representing not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the Association Members providing not more than two-thirds (2/3) of the petitioners represent any one Section.
- 10.3 Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Council voting at an Annual Meeting of the Council or at a special meeting of the Council called by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee to be held at a central location determined by the President and/or the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 11 – DISPOSITION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

- 11.1 Upon dissolution of the Association, the Council, after payment of all liabilities, shall dispose of all assets of the Association for the purpose of supporting pollution control education or research within the State of New Jersey that shall not violate Internal Revenue Code 501C (3) (such as, but not limited to, the NJWEA Endowment Fund).