

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
SOUTH JERSEY SECTION
Minutes of the October 26, 2022 Business Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

The business meeting of the New Jersey Environment Association South Section was called to order by President Joe Pantalone at 17:09 hours at Carlucci's Waterfront located at 876 Centerton Road in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. The following members were present at roll call:

Joe Pantalone, President
Steve Blankenship, Vice President
Kathy Collinge, Treasurer
Kevin Whitney, Secretary
Frank Deyhle, Trustee

Approval of Minutes: Steve Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2022 business meeting, seconded by Frank Deyhle and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report: Joe Pantalone

- Attended the meeting on October 5 at Landis Sewerage Authority. Topics of discussion:
- Attendance and action by Committee Chairs
 - Need to assure they attend; filers seek assistance where needed.
- Ladies Night
 - The Executive Committee discussed the future of Ladies Night since COVID thwarted the past few events.
 - A meeting by the Executive Committee on this topic is scheduled before this business meeting.
- Presentation by John F Cornacchia regarding his transition from Wells Fargo Advisors to Harbor Lights Financial Group scheduled for Dec. 8, 2022.
 - Since Harbor Lights Financial Group is an affiliate of Wells Fargo & Co. nothing else changes.
 - Investment selection-the Brokered CD program and inventory will be the same.
 - Monthly statements layout will be the same. The logo will change to a Light house and Harbor Lights Financial Group.
 - Account number will not change
 - Online Access: ID and password will be the same.
 - All existing documents will remain valid.
 - Protections will be the same. "How your money is protected" see brochure. This ensures your investment accounts are safe and accessible. Covers are SIPC-Securities Investor Protection Corporation which covers the first \$500,000 in securities (not guarantee of value). Additional coverage is provided by London Underwriters up to \$1 Billion.
 - All financial reports will be the same.
 - Investment Research will be the same.
 - The Executive Committee approved but this is subject to the approval of NJWEA – Budget Committee.

Last South Section Meeting

The last meeting/picnic of the South Section was held at the Cape May Zoo on Friday, June 17. Attendance was good and following the business meeting we had a picnic under one of the pavilions. Thanks to Josh Palumbo for arranging and as always to Kathy Collinge for all she does to make these events successful. Reports were filed by the various committee chairs.

Effective Utility Management Workshop

I assisted on the planning and attended a one-day EPA sponsored session which was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at the Middlesex County Utilities Authority Early. This workshop was geared to help utilities address a full range of challenges and move toward sustainable management of their operations and infrastructure. The following summary was prepared by Lisa Oberreiter of Middlesex County Utilities Authority who was instrumental in organizing the event

An USEPA workshop was recently held at the Middlesex County Utilities Authority on July 19, 2022. The NJWEA coordinated with the EPA to plan and prepare for the Effective Utility Management Workshop. This workshop has been held in conjunction with various MA's across the US. It was a wonderful opportunity to have the program available to professionals in New Jersey and was attended by approximately 35 participants throughout the state. The workshop began with an introduction and a utility self-assessment. This assessment asked the individual to rate their utility's current state in the ten attributes listed below.

1. *Product Quality*
2. *Customer Satisfaction*
3. *Employee and Leadership Development*
4. *Operational Optimization*
5. *Financial Viability*
6. *Infrastructure Strategy and Performance*
7. *Enterprise Resiliency*
8. *Community Sustainability*
9. *Water Resource Sustainability*
10. *Stakeholder Understanding and Support*

Participants were then asked to rank the importance of each attribute based on the utility's vision through the eyes of multiple stakeholders. This self-assessment laid the groundwork for subsequent discussions throughout the day. We determined as a group that our visions varied slightly based on utility type i.e., water, wastewater, public, private, consultant, as well as between different roles participants played at each facility i.e., operations, executive director, finance. Once discussed, these self-assessments allowed for identification of areas to improve upon. Attendees shared insights on how they may have made strides towards improvements on some of the attributes. The information sharing gave others' ideas on how to improve their own facilities. One noteworthy observation was that practically all participants regardless of roles recognized that Product Quality was the highest priority. Another strong discussion point in all break sessions was Employee Development and retention. As the session progressed, it became evident that all measures are somewhat interdependent.

Example performance measures were discussed. It is one thing to identify a hurdle but another to be able to quantify the need for upgrades to assets or additional employees, for instance. If data can be provided to back up these statements, the likelihood a utility's stakeholders will approve it are high.

Multiple documents are available to download for free at this website:

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/effective-water-utility-management-practices>

These documents include the 'Effective Utility Management Primer' and 'Effective Utility Management Practices Roadmap'. Action plans can be developed to address all or some of these attributes where a utility may currently fall short. Leadership and planning were discussed at length. The industry is experiencing a knowledge gap due to long time employees coming of retirement age. The plans most facilities have in place to groom personnel for future management are subpar. Information sharing is minimal. Procedures for transitional management have not been defined because they were not needed. Now is the time we must plan for the future and put programs in place to pass on knowledge, encourage training, and provide resources to staff. This will set the stage for continued achievement of our industry's mission which is protection of our most precious resource that being water and its environmentally sound disposal.

Social Outing – Attended the South Section's annual golf tournament, which was held on September 23, 2022 at Ron Jaworski's Valleybrook County Club in Blackwood, NJ. Chairing the committee were Dave Kennedy and Brian Southwick who received assistance from those they will name in their report. Great job as usual and a huge success.

PFAS

I am the Chair of the AEA's PFAS Committee. We have developed a uniform sampling workplan that we will be rolling out to our members once we get pricing from the certified labs we solicited. The AEA has proactively developed this sampling and analysis plan to assist the NJDEP in its research and investigation efforts to identify significant sources of PFAS in the waters of the State. POTWs do not manufacture, produce, or in any way profit from PFAS chemicals. Rather, PFAS chemicals are introduced into sewer systems from a variety of waste streams - domestic, industrial, and commercial. Although AEA's members are not the cause of PFAS contamination and are not required to monitor for PFAS, AEA members are uniquely positioned to serve as a powerful partner in source identification and minimization.

AEA members will use this Sampling and Analysis Plan to estimate baseline concentrations of PFAS in wastewater influent, effluent, leachate, hauled waste and biosolids. Some AEA members will also test drinking water (raw and/or finished) for PFAS chemicals. The results will help (1) characterize PFAS species, concentration, and mass in wastewater; (2) inform monitoring strategies; and (3) assist with implementation of source identification and minimization efforts.

In the industry, there is reluctance to test since there is concern that voluntarily submitting results to the NJDEP will ultimately be used against us. The AEA is attempting to achieve a permit shield to protect against this.

We presented at NJWEA on September 27, 2022, and I have copies of the presentation should anyone be interested.

Vice President's Report: Steve Blankenship

- Scholarship Award Applications will be available on the NJWEA. Application deadline is March 1, 2023. Scholarships will be awarded in April 2023.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Collinge

- Attended the Executive Meeting on October 5th at the Landis Sewerage Authority.
- Attended the Golf Outing on September 23rd. All payments are complete. The Executive Committee approved a \$250 deposit to reserve Valleybrook for September 22, 2023.
- Made various disbursements and deposits
- Association checking account balance as of September 30, 2022 was \$42,899.35.
 - The Section's Wells Fargo Investment portfolio for September 2022 closing is as follows: \$20,000 in (2) CDs with maturity dates of 10/31/2022 & 11/10/2022; Closing value of \$21,666.48 Cash and sweep balance is \$1,716.26.
- With the awards dinner in April, and the total amount of the awards at \$6,000 (**4x \$1500**) the Financial Advisor recommends buying CDs in that amount that coincidence with the April timeframe
 - A \$6,000, due April 2023, rate 3.80% (4 month CD)
 - A \$6,000, due April 2024, rate 4.40% (18 month CD)
 - A \$6,000 due Oct 2025, rate 4.60%, (2 year CD)
 - Leave the remaining balance of \$3,692 in the money market in the account.
- The most recent reconciliation, current budget vs. actual reports and profit/loss statements are submitted for ratification.

Secretary's Report: Kevin Whitney

- Attended the Executive Meeting on October 5, 2022.
- Attended the Golf Outing on September 23, 2022 and assisted with the putting contest.
- Attended WEFTEC, while there supported the Cake Breakers at Ops Challenge.

Past President's Report: Bob Carlson, No Report**NJWEA Report: No Report****COMMITTEE REPORTS****Health & Safety: Harry Smith and Daren DiFonzo, No Report****Memberships: Vacant****Sick & Welfare: Rocco Maiellano**

- Frank Deyhle Hospitalized, surgery went well.
- Tim Fisher is in the Hospital.
- Passing of Connie LaRosa.
- Rocco is having a heart procedure on Friday.

Nominating & Awards: Rocco Maiellano

- In a previous email I have asked for Awards nominations on or before October 15, 2022, to date I have received nominations from the NJWEA Industrial Quality Awards Committee and Award nomination for the James DeBlock Service Award and the Samuel T McGhee Award.
- I have received no nominations from the Sections. I need your help their must be qualified persons for the NJWEA and WEF Awards I have moved the date for submission to November 7, 2022.
- The Awards committed needs time to review the Awards submissions especially if more than one person is submitted for the same award.
- If no award nomination is submitted on or before the November 7, 2022, I will assume you do not wish to participate in the 2023 Awards I will move on.

Affiliates: Bill LaPorte, No Report**Industrial:** Chris Jepson

- We are slowly getting together an industrial wastewater facility to have a tour/meeting. The Millville Landfill has an innovative WWTP that would be of interest to our members. A new operator has taken over the licensed requirements for that facility and when he is comfortable with the process s and operation, he will let us know and we will schedule it.
- Please contact me with any other ideas for an industrial meeting venue. Several ideas have been forwarded but none have come to fruition. Who has major industrial dischargers in their area? Who has facilities that reuse their wastewater in innovative ways? Please check with an that may be interesting for our membership to visit
- The Industrial Committee is in need of a few more members. If you are interested, please contact President Pantalone or me.
- Please contact me with any questions or comments.

Legislative Report: Dennis W. Palmer

- Many new bills have been introduced, several with a focus on PFOS/PFOA.
- S3176 Requires DEP and Drinking Water Quality Institute to perform study concerning regulation and treatment of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- S3177 “Protecting Against Forever Chemicals Act”; establishes requirements, prohibitions, and programs for regulation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- S3179 Requires public water systems and landlords to provide certain notice of elevated perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances levels in drinking water; requires DEP to establish educational program
- A4724 /S3185 Provides CBT credit for development of anaerobic digestion facilities that process food waste.
- S2526/A1961 Authorizes low-income rates for public water/sewer systems. This bill is out of committee in both houses. Has not yet had floor vote.
- A4762 / S3180 Requires certain water purveyors to identify, and use, alternative water supply source when perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances exceed maximum contaminant levels.
- A4761 / S3178 Requires DEP to perform certain assessments concerning regulation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- S3181 Establishes Mercer Regional Water Services Commission as oversight body over certain Trenton Water Works operations.

Program: Frank Deyhle, No Report

Golf Outing: Dave Kennedy Reported

- 108 golfers participated in this year's event.
- \$12,420 from golfer's, \$4,300 in sponsorship, \$12,793.75 in receipts.
- 50/50 raised \$267, other contests raised \$1,042.
- This year's profit is \$4,968.25
- Next year's Golf outing will be on September 22, 2023.
- A big thanks to all our volunteers.

Ladies Night: Josh Palombo

- We held a meeting prior to the General Meeting to discuss the future of Ladies Night. We will continue to hold the event in the Spring and the event will be considered a Recognition Dinner.
- A venue will be announced soon.

Scholarship Awards: Steve Blankenship, *refer to Vice President's Report*

Operations Challenge: Emily Zidanic

- Cake Breakers placed 10th Overall out of 25 teams in their Division at WEFTEC Operations Challenge.
- New Jersey has participated in Operations Challenge for more than 35 years.
- Josh Palombo recognized Emily for having been chosen to represent the United States in a All Star Operations Challenge in Columbia.

Young Professionals:

- Past President Zidanic informed the group that Brian Carey is the new YP Chair.

Archives: Kathy Collinge

- Kathy will accept any photographs or documents on behalf of the Association.
- Tom Greci is digitizing archives.

Old Business:

- Frank Deyhle requires a State Delegate from the South Section of NJ.

Good of the Membership:

- Henry Zeylikovich from Sur-Seal presented a product demonstration and spoke about his line of penetrating oils. Henry handed out samples of a lubricant that not only lubricants but also reduces friction and saves energy.

Adjournment / Time:

Steve Blankenship made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Josh Palombo and unanimously approved at 17:40 hours.