

**MWEA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & COMMITTEE CHAIR MEETING
AGENDA**

**Friday, November 8, 2024
9:00am - 12:00pm
Columbia Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Call to Order & Confirmation of a Quorum - *Called to order at ____*

Approval of the minutes from the August 2024 meeting - *____ moved for the approval of previous minutes without reading. ____ seconded the motion. Motion passes.*

Reports from Officers

President, Allison Mannion
President-Elect, Bently Green
Vice President, John Killips
Treasurer, Mike Castner
Secretary, Verlon Perssinger*

Past President, Todd Fulton**
Past-Past President, Amanda Johnson**
WEF Delegates, Jeff Clarke*
PWOD Representative, Rodney Spires*

Committee Reports

KNOWLEDGE (Past President – Todd Fulton)

Stormwater & Watershed Management, Colleen Armstrong & Chris Walter
Treatment Systems, Brock Pfost, Gary Davis & Kent Peetz**
Biosolids Management, Jeff Barnard & Andrew Hummel
Collection Systems, Deron Huck
Lab Practices, Jacob Schwoerer & Natalie Stahl*
Industrial Wastewater, Mehul Soni & Mark Pearson*
Safety, Security & Occupational Health, Chris Safford
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Charles McAllister & Renee Lawrence

DELIVERY (Past-Past President – Amanda Johnson)

Local Arrangements, Bob Welsch
Newsletter, Chris Deffenbaugh
Website, Erica Bogenpohl*
Registration, Zach Malach*
Awards, Brent Herring**
Program, Dave Yates*

STAKEHOLDERS (Sr. Delegate – Jeff Clarke)

Emerging Leaders, Ray Gosen & Kyla Strickler
WFP, Jeff Clarke & Jennifer Welsch
Government Affairs, Lacey Hirschvogel & David Carani
Public Relations, Rebecca Howley*
Education, Katie Bruegge*
SSSSS, Ben Riles

MANAGEMENT (Jr. Delegate – Jeff Clarke)

Membership, Todd Rasche*
Audit, Dave Haverdink
Nominating, Todd Fulton
Tellers, Jeff Finn
Historian, Pam Schweitzer
Association Management, Madison Eacret

*Report provided.

**No report.

Old Business

1. Review and update committee description

New Business

1. Pheedloop update
2. By-law Updates
3. Visioning Ad Hoc Committee - Samantha
4. Call for Abstracts
5. WEFTEC Review
6. C2C Financial Management
7. Emerging Leaders Scholarship Form
8. Joint Ad Hoc Committee Excess Funds MOU
9. Voluntary Lab Analyst Certification Ad-Hoc



MWEA Secretary
2024 - 2026

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Jeff Clarke

Junior WEF Delegate

Saki Urushidani

Executive Administrator

Madison Eacret

Re: Quarterly Report
November 8, 2024

I have two items to report:

Approving an article submitted by the DEI Committee for the upcoming issue of the Current was presented by Saki Urushidani by electronic format on October 29, 2024, as a motion to approve, seconded by John Killips. The recorded votes were as follows:

Affirmative – 6
Negative – 2
Abstain - 1

With the recorded vote, the motion was approved with a 6-2-1 vote.

Sponsoring the fees for six (6) High School Students to attend Fall Tech on November 7, 2024, was presented by Collection System Committee Chair Deron Huck. Mike Castner made the motion to pay the expenses associated with the registration for six (6) students to attend Fall Tech, seconded by Todd Fulton. The recorded votes were as follows:

Affirmative – 7
Negative – 0
Abstain – 0

With the recorded vote, the motion was approved with a 7-0-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Verlon W. Persinger



Missouri Water Environment Association
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11-06-2024

MWEA November Board Meeting
Delegate Report

President MWEA Board and Visitors:

Allison Mannion

HOD Committee Report Outs:

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Secretary

Verlon Persinger

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- WEFMAX Three Opportunities:
 - Oklahoma City April 2 to 4
 - Salem, MA April 30 to May 2
 - Palm Springs, CA June 4 to 6.
 - Virtual WEFMAX will be TBD
- DE&I: Highlighted various tools and resources available to MAs.
- They hosted a learning exchange at WEFTEC that all three of attended that was hosted by HOD, CLC and the Board of Trustees. We had small group discussions where we brainstormed ideas for various aspects of DEI and I look forward to seeing what comes of the sessions.
- One of the initiatives implemented at WEFTEC this year was the Mindfulness Lounge which Saki really enjoyed. There was a room designated as a quiet space for people to spend time in solitude whether you are an introvert who just needs some alone time or would like to meditate or pray. Saki utilized the room and as a part-time introvert really enjoyed having a space that was quiet and comfy at the conference center rather than having to go all the way back to my hotel room. They set up open stalls with curtains and had one couch in each stall. Would we be able to try something like this at JAM or are we too late for something like this?
- Communications: The purpose of this committee is to improve communication between the MAs. They are working toward utilizing WEFUnity for document retention and are wanting to use WEFUnity to encourage collaboration between MAs.
- The HOD is working towards MAs having their separate place to upload and use WEFUnity

- Budget: Pointer for when/if we apply for MA grant program, utilize the strategic plan goals when filling out the application (attached). They emphasized that the request has to be for something new rather than paying for something that the MA has done in the past
- Water Advocacy: The purpose of this committee is to encourage water professionals to reach out to and connect with government officials on issues related to water. They found that the majority of water professionals that don't feel confident advocating for water either feel like they don't have the expertise or don't know exactly how to advocate. They are empowering water professionals to advocate and have a toolkit
<https://www.wef.org/globalassets/assets-wef/4-topics/government-and-regulatory-affairs/water-advocates/wef-advocacy-toolkit.pdf>
- Our Blue World: Creators of “Brave Blue World” created new documentary called “Our Blue World” WEF is encouraging people to host showings of the movie and has a toolkit to help with planning the event:
<https://www.wef.org/contentassets/78a3e742e6ac4b96847e02b92b25956a/wef-screening-toolkit-compressed.pdf>
- Water Advocacy Fly-In - April 8-9th – Washington DC

2023-2024 Work Group Report Outs:

- HOD of the Future: Delegates at Large (DAL): surveyed DALs and decided to create a work group to implement various findings of the survey. Scott Foley Co-Chair, they are now taking the recommendations from the WG and implementing them in 2024-2025 WG – See Below.
- HOD of the Future: Emerging Leaders : surveyed HOD to determine barriers and solutions to recruiting emerging leaders to HOD (Emerging Leaders is Formerly known as YP's)
- MA Delegate Selection Best Practices – toolkit will be available on WEFUnity
- HOD New Member Onboarding: Created one-pager to help new delegates navigate WEFTEC and hosted orientation for new delegates prior to WEFTEC
- Workforce Development: Compiled information from MAs about what different workforce development programs they have. The information can be accessed on WEFUnity

2024-2025 Work Groups:

- MA Spotlights & Engagement – Saki signed up for this one. The

purpose of this work group is to set up a framework to help MAs learn from each other and highlight different programs, accomplishments, etc.

- Strategic Plan and Implementation – Carry over from last year
- Document Management and Historical Records – Jeff Clarke is the co-chair of this workgroup
- Promoting the Circular Water Economy
- Workforce Development Recruitment Tools for Operators
- Delegate-At-Large Strategic & Implementation – Scott Foley is Co-Chair and the WG will start in the spring of 2025

Other Notes:

- WEFTEC had 20,450 registrants (wow!)
- WEF YP Springboard Summit is March 24-25 in Herndon, VA. This is a program to help YPs get involved with the WEF technical communities and WEFTEC Program Community.
- 2025 WEF Fellows Nominations and WEF Award Applications open soon (Dec 1 and Jan 15 respectively)
- We should have received five free WEF promo codes to give out to prospective members. If we did not receive, should email sbrignac@wef.org

- Personal note from Saki: I am very excited to be in the role and had a great experience at WEFTEC getting to meet so many new people and learn about so much that is going on with WEF. Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Signed –

Jeff Clarke – Senior Delegate

Saki Urushidani – Junior Delegate

Scott Foley – Delegate at Large



Missouri Water Environment Association

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PWOD Report for November 8th, 2024 MWEA Board Meeting

- Submitted Fall Tech courses to DNR for approval
- Working with Jacob & the Lab Committee with the WPI testing
-

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Submitted by:
Rodney Spires, PWOD Rep.



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Collection Systems Committee Report
Deron Huck, Chair 2024-2026
Amanda Bybee, Vice Chair 2024-2026

Re: Quarterly Report – November 8, 2024

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The Collection Systems Committee has held two meetings since the last report. Two hybrid committee meetings were held, one on August 7, 2024, and another on October 2, 2024. These hybrid meetings were conducted over Teams and in-person at the Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant. The August meeting had nine attendees, and the October meeting had seven attendees.

Discussions continued to include revisiting the committee's mission statement and members were asked to review and suggest edits or updates by the December meeting so revisions could be submitted by the end of the year.

The Committee is working to continue to offer our Outreach Programs throughout the State of Missouri. The Committee cancelled one outreach session in Carthage, MO on August 21, 2024, due to lack of sign-ups and online notification challenges. One testing opportunity was offered with Kansas City, MO on October 17, 2024, where 7 test-takers passed the B exam, and 10 of 11 passed the A exam.

We are not currently using WPI format for the testing due to the lead-time and coordination required before ordering tests. Going forward, testing format will continue under the historical format unless attendee registration can be captured in advance of the WPI planning window (~60 days).

The next Outreach event (without testing) is planned for Cape Girardeau, MO on November 20, 2024, starting at 8:30 am. A subsequent outreach event and testing event is planned for Carthage, MO in late January 2025. The Committee's Outreach coordinator is leaving the area, so a fill-in coordinator will be needed soon.

The Committee maintains the list of certifications and renewal information. Award nominations are open for the Golden Manhole Society and the Charles Raab Collection System Award. Awardees receive their awards at the MWEA Annual Conference Awards Luncheon.

The Committee currently meets approximately every other month during the year. The next meeting of the CSC will be held virtually at 10:00 am on December 4, 2024.



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Laboratory Practices Committee Report to Executive Committee

November 8, 2024

- The Fall Lab Workshop took place on Friday September 13th at the Wentzville Rec Center (free). The training offered 7 WW CEU's and there was attended by 23 people.
- The LPC Q3 meeting was held on Thursday September 12. All speakers/topics for the Sunday Lab Workshop were set: Lab Safety, WW/Lab Math, Oil and Grease Determination, and Phosphorous Determination.
- During the Q3 meeting, I made the committee aware of the ad-hoc committee to investigate utility of the voluntary lab analyst certification and sought any input. (more on this in the ad-hoc committee report).
- Several LPC members have agreed to volunteer and “work” the Operators Challenge at the JAM. This is a great opportunity for members to get involved with the organization.
- The LPC Q4 meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2024.

Submitted by:
Jacob Schwoerer, LPC Chair



Industrial Wastewater Committee Report
Friday, November 08, 2024
Mehul Soni
Chair

President
Allison Mannion

President-Elect
Bently Green

Vice President
John Killips

Secretary
Verlon Persinger

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Saki Urushidani

Executive Administrator
Madison Eacret

Leadership:

Open to anyone wanting to help with the committee as Co-Chair.

Industrial Wastewater Committee Awards:

The committee felt that criteria for awards has been confusing and has had contradictory language in the past and can be made clearer and more concise. We are working on putting together a visual aid that helps explain the three tiers of awards (silver, gold, and platinum).

The Industrial Wastewater Committee discussed the need and our suitability in presenting Industrial Safety Awards (self-nomination process) at the JAM given there is a committee dedicated to occupational health and safety which might be better equipped. Pretreatment coordinators and pretreatment system operators do not necessarily track safety at their facilities. Additionally, we've only received 1 nomination in the past two years (same industry). We are trying to figure out if we should scrap the award or if this is something the safety committee might be willing to take on.

Industrial Wastewater Committee Mission and Description:

The committee is reviewing our description and mission statement currently on the MWEA website which was last updated in 2016. We might have more updates regarding the suggested changes in the next couple of meetings.

Training and Certification:

The committee is exploring the possibility of starting some form of pretreatment training/certification program for pretreatment system operators and/or POTW pretreatment coordinators. We've reached out to some organizations that offer similar programs in other states to see what might be involved and how we may be able to implement something similar in Missouri. The idea behind this program is to allow professionals (operators and/or coordinators) to showcase their skills/competency and also create an opportunity for engagement with

MWEA.

Funding:

In the coming weeks and months, the committee will look to see if any avenues are available (state or federal; CDBG/USDA) to make funds available for establishing and running pretreatment program in smaller troubled communities with limited resources.



Website Committee Report
November 8, 2024

Cost for redesigned website has increased from \$1,980/yr to \$2,574/yr

Cost for existing subscription is increasing from \$1,650/yr to \$1,738/yr effective 10/14/25

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President **Registration Committee Report – November 2024**

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- Registration buildout for JAM is ongoing with PheedLoop.
- REMINDER: If a committee wants to host a workshop/outreach event that will need DNR approval, the committee must submit this to Zach Malach, Rodney Spires, and Madison Eacret 60 days in advance.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Fall Collections Committee Outreach – November 20, 2024 (Cape Girardeau, MO)
 - Joint Annual Meeting – March 23-26, 2025



President Program Committee report
Allison Mannion November 8, 2024

President-Elect
Bently Green

- Initial abstract submission date: October 25. Extended to November 15.

Vice President
John Killips

- Abstract reviewers lined up for review w/o Dec 9. Let presenters know w/o Dec 16.

Secretary
Verlon Persinger

- Presentations moved from 50 minutes to 30 minutes due to MDNR requirements.

Treasurer
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PWOD Representative
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Jeff Clarke

Junior WEF Delegate
Saki Urushidani

Executive Administrator
Madison Eacret



President Allison Mannion **Emerging Leaders (Student Activities / YP) Committee Report – November 2024**

President-Elect
Bently Green

Current:

Vice President
John Killips

Secretary
Verlon Persinger

- Met in-person with Missouri S&T and Mizzou student chapters (and other interested students) at their respective campus for an informational session on MWEA, the Emerging Leaders Committee, opportunities, etc. Provided dinner as well.
- WashU Student Design Competition team won 4th place at WEFTEC!

Treasurer
Mike Castner

Planned:

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Past Past President
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Future thoughts:

- We'd like to continue building connections with the student groups
 - Considering meeting with each chapter in a similar manner in Feb / March / April timeframe to discuss another topic, possibly more geared toward the graduating class – transitioning to a full-time position, involvement in MWEA post graduation, etc. specific topics TBD
- We'd like to build our presence in Colombia and Jeff City – if you know of anyone in those areas who may be interested, let us know! A student from Mizzou recently joined our committee.



President PR committee report
Allison Mannion

11/8/2024

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- **Thank you to everyone who sends in items to be posted on social media. If applicable, include a “deadline” ie you want it to be posted ASAP, by next week, etc.**
- **Trying to get more engagement on social media. Make sure you like or follow Missouri Water Environment Association (not MWEA – that is Minnesota), and encourage your co-workers and colleagues to do so. Please like, comment or share posts on LinkedIn and Facebook. If you are not seeing posts, go to Missouri Water Environment Association page (not group) and respond to posts. This should get us more visibility.**
- **Also looking for more interesting newsy type items to post, please send them to me or tag Missouri Water Environment Association.**



Education Committee Report

1. Next week is the bi-monthly SJWP organizer call – the 2025 announcement/advertising should be coming out soon.
 - a. Will coordinate 2024 winner attendance at JAM.
2. Last weekend (November 2), I attended the Missouri Environmental Education Association's annual conference, representing MWEA.
 - a. Did a brief presentation asking that educators bring wastewater treatment concepts into your water curriculum, raising awareness for the SJWP competition, and offering resources that teachers can take back to their classrooms.
3. Still working on a proposal for other student engagement:
 - a. I met with MO-AWWA and we decided to keep our effort separate from their Poster Contest.
 - b. Still looking to partner with MDNR – they have requested a proposal that outlines responsibilities and other details.

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Respectfully submitted,

Katie Bruegge, Education Committee Chair



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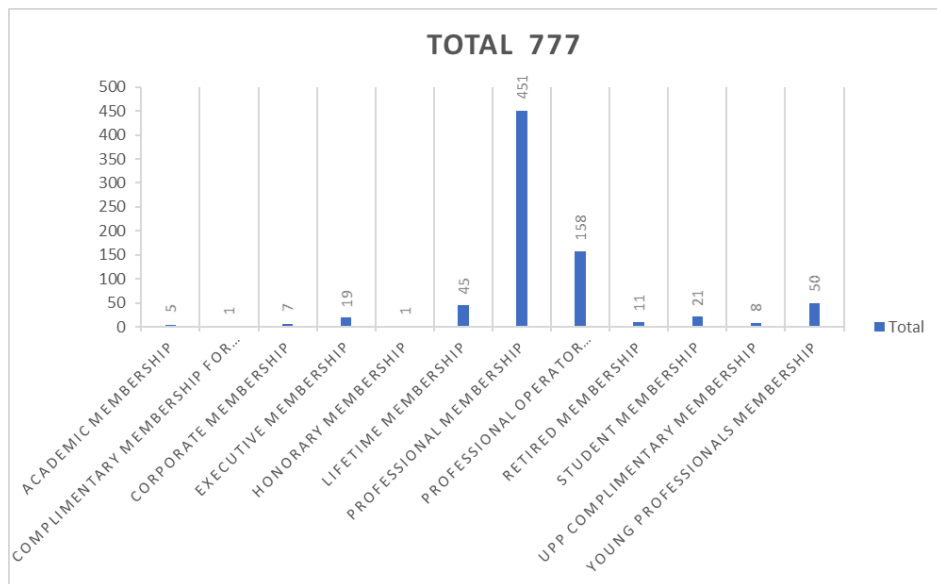
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Jeff Clarke

Junior WEF Delegate
Saki Urushidani

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Madison Eacret

Membership Committee Report
 Thru 11/4/2024
 Submitted by: Todd Rasche

We currently have 777 members; the chart below shows the breakdown of the memberships as of 11/4/2024.





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Voluntary Lab Analyst Certification (VLAC) Ad-Hoc Committee

November 8, 2024

1. Spoke with Deron Huck (ad-hoc committee member) who handles the collection system exam. Had conversations as to the successes of their exam. Spoke with Rodney Spires (ad-hoc committee member) and Natalie Stahl (LPC Vice-Chair and directly handles the VLAC) regarding the history with the exam and the direction it appears to be headed.
2. I completed a review of MWEA's VLAC's that are Current on their renewals and came up with only 32 individuals. I looked deeper and cross referenced those that are also MWEA members and only found 13 people that hold an unexpired VLAC and are MWEA members.
3. I completed a review of the ~40 U.S. based WEF MA's to see which ones offer a VLAC. Only 7 (**New England, California, Rocky Mountain, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, and Michigan**) offer the certification, however Michigan contracts directly with California for all certifications (Lab, collections, and 5 other). I have reached out to all MA's with the certification, and I have spoken with **bolded** states. The only states that I have spoken with that administer exams in any consistent quantity are New England and California (although it looks like Rocky Mountain does as well, just haven't been able to reach anyone). These states also seem to have lobbied extensively to get this added to many job requirements in their region. They also have more stringent water quality standards, therefore their lab staff are more analytically trained and fewer general "wastewater operators".
4. I talked with California, since Michigan contracts with them for their testing needs, to see what that looks like. Based on lack of exam demand, she did not think it would be a great fit.
5. Logical options moving forward. (I do not think reverting to writing/administering the VLAC exams is an option. We moved away from doing that for a reason and I do not think that is on the table.)
 - Continue with WPI – instead of scheduling exams whenever anyone wants, only offer the exam 1-2x annually.
 - Sunset the certification. Only 13 of the 32 people that hold the certification are MWEA members. The purpose of the certification is to benefit MWEA members and it is hard to justify the amount of work it takes for a mere 13 members over the 25+ years of hosting this certification.

Submitted by:
Jacob Schwoerer, LPC Chair