



Education & Training Council Virtual Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024

- A. Attendees- Bonnifer Ballard, Joel Martinez, Sandy Sutton, Doug Scott, Grant Gartrell, Lashone Bedford, Greg Alimenti, Cheryl Louden, Koren Carpenter, Jonelle Moore, and Rebecca Chesnut. The meeting began at 10:05 a.m.
- B. J. Martinez volunteered to take minutes.
- C. Agenda- L. Bedford asked to add a “Review of Prepard Classes” line to section E. of the agenda. L. Bedford motioned to approve the agenda, and K. Carpenter seconded the motion.
- D. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2023 meeting - L. Bedford motioned to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting. G. Gartrell seconded the motion.
- E. Training Update
1. J. Martinez gave a review of the 2nd annual Careers Round Table at the Joint Expo. There were around twenty students and twenty water professionals that participated in the event this year. A presentation was given by Hilary Caron from Grand Rapids Water. The group is hoping to grow the program for next year by including a wider group of students. Discussion in the ETC group was focussed on some changes that could be made including allowing more time for Q & A with students and the potential of doing this program in areas other than Lansing.
 2. The group entered into a discussion on recent classes offered by MI-AWWA. Cross Connection Principles, Principles of Water Treatment, Basic Math and Hydraulics, and Exam Prep Roundtable were all well received and attended. These classes are newly designed in an effort to meet the needs of new water professionals. Lab School is a new class that is being designed and could use teachers and content creators. Advanced Math will be offered in the fall. These classes are being offered in two day format instead of the traditional three day format. K. Carpenter noted that two day classes are becoming more common for EGLE trainings as well. The needs assesment has shown that in person classes are preferred, and we have noticed that webinars are not being well attended.
 3. L. Bedford is working with B. Ballard on producing new classes and content for the section. This includes pumps and valves, instrumentation and SCADA, hydrant maintenance, and pump math classes. The ETC will review these class proposals to see if they could be used as section trainings in the future.

B. Ballard talked about “The Deep End”, which is a new program to the section that was forged at the YP Summit. This is a twelve month program for eight students that are paired with a mentor. These students go through an application and interview process before being selected. These are students that are new to water, but not necessarily new to the workforce. Program is designed for no more than twelve students. EGLE would be willing to help with locations for tours. The program is focussed on student learning and tours. The program will also feature student capstone projects with presentations.

F. Committee Liaison Update.

1. Regional Seminar Planning – C. Loudon stated that we are still a couple of presenters shy of filling all of the necessary slots. These seminars, formerly the regional meetings, are only being offered in three sites instead of the traditional four sites. Grand Rapids, Livonia, and Gaylord are the locations. Still in need of two Topic of Local Interest speakers. MML Grants and Cybersecurity presentations were discussed as possible topics for future dates.
2. Source Water – C. Loudon stated that source water is looking to find their direction and path right now. They have worked with EGLE on their Source Water Conference. MI-AWWA also has a Source Water Conference every three years. Group is working on boosting the AWWA website, submitting articles for magazines, and supporting members in the source water protection grant application cycle.
3. U.P. – G. Alimenti stated their group met in January in Escanabe. They are preparing for the April 24th and 25th U.P. Conference. Their presentations are mostly set for this conference. G. Alimenti will be attending the conference.
4. Water Security & Emergency Maintenance – K. Carpenter stated that EGLE just had a webinar on digital defense and they are having another on June 20th as a joint venture between CISA, EPA, EGLE, WARN, and Michigan State Police.
5. Distribution System Practices – Sally Duffy gave J. Martinez an email saying that this committee has a new chair and vice-chair. Michael Behunin and Jack Nagle, respectively. They are working on the Michigan Field Day Class.
6. Asset and Infrastructure Management – Sally Duffy gave J. Martinez an email saying that they recently had one of their three times a year committee meetings at GLWA’s facility with a tour following their meeting. They have their Asset Management Seminar planned for April 18th.
7. Laboratory Practices – The next meeting is planned for March 14th.
8. Maintenance – L. Bedford stated the group has not met recently, but the next meeting is scheduled for April 5th.
9. Health and Safety – S. Sutton stated that this group has had no recent meetings.
10. Research and Treatment Practices – J. Martinez stated that the RTP is working on growing their student scholarship program. RTP is interested in joining with the Careers Round Table group on exposing university students to jobs in the water and wastewater field. Karlin Danielson has stepped down as the vice-chair of this committee but remains a member of the RTP.

G. Other Business – None

H. The next meeting will take place on June 12, 2024.

I. Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.