



## **Education & Training Council Virtual Meeting Minutes**

June 25, 2025

- A. Attendees Joel Martinez, Angie Goodman, Jonelle Moore, Rebecca Chesnut, Greg Alimenti, Koren Carpenter, Matt Weldon, Sandy Sutton, Sally Duffy, and Cheryl Loudon (joined at 10:29).
- B. Agenda- Matt motioned to approve the agenda and Koren seconded the motion.
- C. Approval of Minutes from March 19, 2025 meeting – Greg motioned to approve the minutes and Koren seconded the motion. A change in the spelling of Matt Weldon's last name was noted for the minutes.
- D. Committee Liaison Update.
  - 1. Regional Seminar Planning –Regional seminars are being planned for October. Joel and Cheryl will be reaching out to some that have volunteered to speak. There are a few ideas in place for speakers at the moment. Meetings of this group are being held regularly.
  - 2. Source Water – Cheryl stated that the group is deciding if they should continue with their source water seminar that takes place every three years. EGLE offeres a similar conference that is a good training. The group is trying to figure out where to best place source water information, this could be put into regional seminars to make sure people get that information.
  - 3. U.P. – Greg provided an update on the fall meeting, which is actively being planned. They are filling speaker slots right now. They have booked sessions on cybersecurity in the water industry, water loss, and have presenters to talk about upgrades to the Manistique water plant.
  - 4. Water Security & Emergency Maintenance – Koren once again reported that she believes now is the time to start getting this committee up and running again. We will try to put out a blurb on either social medias or the section website asking for volunteers for the committee. Koren also said that EGLE received a grant to help provide cybersecurity assessments of water systems. So far, 33 water systems have had assessments done. The UP seminar will get a presentation from Michigan State Police about cybersecurity and the assessment program.
  - 5. Distribution System Practices – Matt said that field day had a great turn out. He was told that attendance was higher than in the past and people reported really enjoying the program. Will look into the possibility of getting even more vendor involvement in the field day program. The event could be moved to different venues or different times of year to attract even more attendees.

6. Asset and Infrastructure Management – Sally said that the annual asset management seminar went well. The one issue is that attendance may have been hampered by the Lansing Spring Regional Seminar being on the same day. This group is looking for a new chair and co chair as the current members have been in the positions for three years. The group has created a charter and mission value statement. It will be roled out to members of the committee soon for final review. This is something that is already in place for non joint committees in the Michigan Section. Jonelle stated that she is excited to see this process happening in the joint AWWA/MWEA committees.
  7. Laboratory Practices – Joel said that the Laboratory Practices Committee, which hosts an annual seminar, is currently in the final phase of evaluating what worked and what didn't at their last event. They are trying to balance the focus between wastewater and water. It is currently wastewater heavy. They have a 50 person roster but only about 15 active participants. They are trying to find a way to remedy this. This committee is looking into writing a SOP document for lab use in the state. It could be used as guidance document for labs that are experiencing issues or have laboratory questions.
  8. Maintenance – No report
  9. Health and Safety – Sandy Sutton reported that the state is seeing more and more instances of the anti-fluoridation movement pop up. There are systems that have stopped their fluoride feeds with no notice to health departments. In her role, she is being advised not to speak up on the issue to these communities but says that her department stands behind to the scientific evidence that points to the positive effects of water fluoridation.
  10. Research and Treatment Practices – Joel mentioned that the group is currently looking for a new chair to replace Bethyl Skinker. The Borchardt Conference has been scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This conference will take place on the campus of the University of Michigan. RTP had no fellowship awardees this year, but want to continue on with the program. RTP is looking to procure grants to work on research projects.
- E. Joel and Jonelle gave an update on the upcoming trainings for the Michigan section. Jonelle also spoke some of the new and exciting trainings that are being developed. She stated that there also needs to some emphasis on trainings for engineers and others in the water field, not just operators.
- F. Other Business – Joel stated that Water Works News needs a new editor. Joel also noted that he had spoken with Joe Callahan from the DEI committee and wanted to talk with the state about what special testing accomidations are available for operators taking EGLE licensing exams. Koren noted that this information is listed on their exam applications and that they work with people who may have special tesing needs and requests. She said that they have provided staff to be exam readers to help testers in the past. She also noted that remote location testing for low level exams is being piloted. Koren let the group know that the state now has over 5,000 licensed operators (5,034).

Matt said that his plant is completeing a pilot program to test leak detection systems. He is working with three different groups on this program. He would be willing to speak on the findings at future events. He noted that there are many types of new systems from satellite, to pressure monitoring, to hydrant detection systems.

Koren told the group that Great Lakes Commission will be holding a Water Workforce event. Some MI-AWWA members will attending the event. Koren will try to connect Jonelle with members of the Great Lakes Comission to start collaboration between our groups.

G. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025.

H. Matt Weldon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

-Minutes transcribed by Joel Martinez.