



## Education & Training Council Virtual Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2024

- A. Attendees Joel Martinez, Peter Schwarz, Sally Duffy, Angie Goodman, Lashone Bedford, Greg Alimmenti, Jonelle Moore, and Rebecca Chesnut. The meeting began at 10:06 a.m.
- B. J. Martinez volunteered to take minutes.
- C. Agenda- S. Duffy motioned to approve the agenda, and P. Schwarz seconded the motion.
- D. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2023 meeting – S. Duffy motioned to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2024 meeting. P. Schwarz seconded the motion.
- E. Update on New MI-AWWA Trustee Liaison – Board Trustee Angie Goodman will be the new acting liaison for the Education and Training Council.
- F. Training Update; Review of upcoming Michigan Section Trainings
  - 1. J. Martinez mentioned that exam prep courses are coming up in October. Rebecca mentioned that there have not been a lot of sign-ups, but the class is new and she will take registrations up until the class date.
  - 2. The Regional Seminars program has been set. These will be held at three locations on October 15, 16, and 17. The locations are Gaylord, Grand Rapids, and Livonia.
  - 3. The UP Conference is will be taking place in October. There are 105 attendees signed up so far. This is about average for attendance.
  - 4. Lab Practices Seminar – This will take place in the middle of November. This is a one day event held annually in the Lansing area.

The group also discussed some of the difficulties in getting people signed up for the classes we offer. Discussion included looping the Communications Committee in on these classes to try to improve attendance. Questions of if our marketing of the classes still makes sense. Had to cancel math and distribution classes for the year. P. Schwarz offered the Midland training room for classes, the room can hold 30 people.

### G. Committee Liaison Update.

- 1. Regional Seminar Planning – C. Loudon was not in attendance.
- 2. Source Water – C. Loudon was not in attendance.
- 3. U.P. – G. Alimmenti stated their group is fully prepared for the upcoming UP conference. Finding speakers was difficult, but they have a full schedule.

4. Water Security & Emergency Maintenance – K. Carpenter was not in attendance, but the group did express interest in reviving this committee to fully active status. Discussions were held on who should participate in the group. EGLE staff and people associated with the WARN program were suggested.
  5. Distribution System Practices – Sally Duffy said that competitions previously held at Joint Expo will be moved to Field Day. The committee is very focussed on field day as it is a growing event. The group is meeting on a monthly basis. Field Day is scheduled for April 30, 2025 in Mason.
  6. Asset and Infrastructure Management – Sally Duffy stated that this group is getting ready to look for a chair and co-chair. They are trying to lay out their goals going forward in a document. They have come up with a mission and vision statement and are following the new MI-AWWA strategic plan. They are meeting three times per year and are working on succession planning.
  7. Laboratory Practices – J. Martinez stated that this group is meeting monthly and are preparing for the Lab Practices Seminar in November.
  8. Maintenance – L. Bedford said the group has had lots of participation recently. People are wanting to host and create classes that are focussed on maintenance. The group wants to be helpful when it comes to certification This committee is picking up momentum with representation from both water and wastewater professionals.
  9. Health and Safety – S. Sutton was not in attendance.
  10. Research and Treatment Practices – J. Martinez and A. Goodman stated that the RTP is working on growing their student scholarship program, but participation has been low. They are looking at going to one fellowship which would pay \$4000 to a student researcher and \$2000 to their respective university. The RTP remains interested in offering speakers for Regional Seminars and MI-ACE.
- H. Other Business – J. Martinez will be meeting with A. Goodman, J. Moore, and R. Chesnut in October to discuss future plans and goals of the ETC. We will make sure that the goals of the ETC align with the new strategic plan.
- I. The next meeting will take place on December 11, 2024.
- J. Meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.