

International Erosion Control Association
Great Rivers Chapter
Board of Director's Meeting/Teleconference

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Brock Peters, Tom Wells, Rebecca Kauten, J. B. Dixon, Sara Drake, Ron Poe
Darice Baxter (arrived at 9:09)

Call to order: 9:04 a.m.

De De Vest, , (arrival), Brook Music (arrival)

Agenda Items

1. Secretary's Report (Kauten)

- Approve meeting minutes from November 13, 2008.

Motion to approve by Wells. Second by Peters. Motion Carried.

2. Treasurer's Report (Drake)

- (\$14,890.47 – balance

Still have yet to receive final bill from fall conference. CISEC has been reimbursed.
All 2008 dues have been paid. Duqubue \$280 and \$131.40 for web hosting has been paid.

Drake anticipates approximately \$700 remains to be paid to the University of Iowa, depending on credit card payment and other variables.

Committee Reports

3. Spring Workshop 2009 (Vest) –tabled (9:08)until Vest arrival to meeting

- Speaker Update
- Vendor Update
- Location Update

Wells noted most items have been confirmed and the event planning seems to be tracking.

4. Annual Conference 2009 (Wells)

- Wells held a meeting with Michael Thomas and selected dates of October 27-29. Requests for RFPs out, and trying to keep the event centrally located and cost effective. The Lenexa area is being considered.
- Potential Topics & Speakers
 - i. KC CSO Program
 - ii. EPA Region VII “Surviving and EPA Audit”
 - iii. Lenexa WQ Testing
 - iv. Iowa’s WQ Monitoring Program (RK)
 - v. CISEC Course (JB)
 - vi. Local Projects/Case Studies/Site Visits
 - vii. Interp for Fed/State/Local Regs
 - viii. Public Information & Education
 - ix. Enforcement
 - x. TMDL/Monitoring/Analysis
 - xi. Stormwater USA
- Wells plans on another planning meeting soon, but nothing is scheduled. Peters mentioned the reduced attendance numbers for both the fall conference and Reno. He suggested keeping our event schedule “lean” as a response. Others are considering conferences every other year as a way to reduce costs. Drake mentioned the time of year is also when organizations learn they are not meeting their budgets and decide late not to attend – especially government agencies. Wells suggested tabling discussion for the next board meeting to determine whether or not to hold a fall conference (March 12). Peters suggested using the spring workshop as a barometer for projecting attendance. Dixon mentioned another event in Overland Park where CISEC training will be held (March 24-26). If that event is not well attended, it may also determine the outcome of a fall conference in’09. Drake mentioned vendors may not be participating as much as in the past, and to be prepared for that at the fall meeting. National vendors may not be present. Drake suggested estimating attendance at 50-60, and at the most 80 people. That number might help with determining a cost effective location. Wells suggested moving the next meeting to after the spring workshop as a post-conference update.

EC09 attendants include: Ron, Sarah, Brock, JB, Tom

5. Newsletter (Vest) – tabled until Vest arrives at meeting

- Wells commented February 15 is the current content deadline/goal. He asked for article ideas before the holidays but still needs content. Drake

will be sending out information to vendors to solicit advertising space. She will send out the notice today, but may not get a response from vendors in time.

- The previous issue had problems with graphics from the conference and other commitments made by the publisher. The goal is to have copies available for the spring workshop.
- Wells suggested getting articles to Vest by February 7 so she can compile and get to the publisher in time for production.

ACTION ITEM(S) – Newsletter Article Topics:

- a. Loess Hills/Omaha World Herald article
- b. Dubuque LID Workshop Summary
- c. Product Spotlight (Like ESCN.TV)
 - i. Would need to be cautiously done – not to overly promote or condemn various products
 - ii. Perhaps include product type but not brand name?
 - iii. “A Place for Everything in ESC” as article topic? – launches new feature article segment of newsletter
 - iv. Poe is testing many products on the market and can provide general summaries. Dixon suggested slope testing/test plots. Poe has quarterly updates that may be available.
- d. Board Member Introduction/Re-Introduction (maybe after May election)
 - i. 2 Member Profiles in each newsletter? Dixon suggested making this a consistent component of the newsletter. Profiles have been done in the past (Ron, Sarah, Brock, etc.) but the plan may be to go through the 3 year cycle and start with “new” board members. Depending on content, there may be 1-2 profiles included. Bios for Kauten and Baxter will be featured in the next issues depending on space. Wells will keep a folder of previous files/bios to keep track once profiles are created.
- e. Website updates and call for suggestions

6. Website (Wells)

- Uploads are done, but with some delay from Graphix.
 - ii. Fall conference presentations and photos
 - iii. Approved Meeting Minutes
 - iv. Spring Conference information
 - v. Spring Conference Co-Sponsorship information
- Open to additional information to be added

- i. Dixon suggested a blurb as a “call to visit” the website in the newsletter for information, letting readers know the site is regularly updated, call for stories & ideas, etc.

7. Membership (Poe)

- EC09 discussion on last call – if people are available Saturday and Sunday there is training for Chapter leaders. One session is on recruitment and retention. Wells emphasized the need for this training, but the timing makes attendance challenging. Dixon commented given this is a transition year for IECA staff the EC09 planning has had challenges partially due to turnover. Peters believes the scheduling of leadership training will be different for 2010. Kauten suggested possibly requesting leadership training at Chapter events to curb the inability of board members to make training events at EC events. Wells and Peters will discuss options with Meg while in Reno. Peters and Dixon will be attending the meetings prior to EC09, and will be asking questions of IECA staff regarding these concerns.

ACTION ITEM: Peters, Dixon and Wells will take up this issue with Meg and others at EC09.

- Membership Committee Meeting at EC09 is Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. if any members present would like to attend.

8. Professional Certification (Peters)

- Peters had little new information. He mentioned a “new” role Dixon will have within the Professional Development committee with IECA. He has been appointed as a CISEC liaison for the committee.
- Training Events in our Chapter area:
 - CISEC
 - i. March 23-24, Overland Park Convention Center, OP, KS
 - CPESC
 - February 9, Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium (NEWSC) Full Chapter Meeting, Grand Chute, WI
 - March 10, Washington WCD, Stillwater, MN

9. Governmental Affairs (Peters)

- No change in activities. Peters mentioned the comment period for the ELG ending in February. At the moment this is the primary concern.
- A replacement may have been hired for Nikos Singelis at EPA, as he transferred to another position. No news on who this person is, however they will be doing a half-day session at EC09.

10. Other Business

- **International Erosion Control Association Partners For Excellence Results**

Wells went through list of requirements, etc., and identified what our Chapter is currently doing and where we need work. While our Chapter won no awards, our numbers are up and we are improving. However, when compared to other chapters there is a great disparity - we are lagging behind some other chapters by a large margin.

Wells commented on the need to possibly delegate out certain tasks if we are interested in pursuing awards and recognition for our work. His time may not be available as needed if we want to make the Partners for Excellence award a priority for the board.

Wells suggested making newsletters and responding to membership as a priority. He would like to see someone take on the list and track activities as a dedicated task list. The point of the program would not then be based on points and merit, but how we provide better services to membership. The point system is meant to motivate.

Dixon commented that the list of items included for Partners for Excellence has been something the board picks and chooses as priorities. Some items got put on hold due to transition, which we are still recovering and rebuilding. He feels we will be in good shape going into the next year based on current leadership and activities in place with the Chapter board.

Kauten asked if the Partners for Excellence guidelines might serve as a framework for discussion at the annual face-to-face board meeting. Dixon agreed this might help boost our levels of achievement simply due to organization and management.

There are minimum rules and regulations for the Chapter to meet on an annual basis. Anything else would be considered “above and beyond” activities. Drake and Peters believe as long as we are doing what we need to serve our members, the Partners for Excellence achievement may not be necessary. Dixon suggested looking at each category as a framework for goal setting, rather than concentrate on the reward system offered by IECA.

ACTION ITEM

Kauten and Dixon volunteered to evaluate the criteria and develop a workplan over the next few months. The plan will be to report back to the group on how best to move forward.

Wells will send out the Partners for Excellence point sheet, along with the edits Meg Tully added to indicate the Chapter’s current standing.

- **Fall Conference Survey Results**

Wells was pleased to have survey results and feedback. This information will be helpful for future planning. One of the Partners for Excellence criteria is contact with members.

Dixon commented that the feedback was reassuring in spite of the financial outcome of the event.

- **“Building for the Future” Erosion and Sediment Control Seminar VII**

Wells was asked to speak at an Omaha seminar for builders, engineers, etc. It is a free, well-attended- event. He was asked to give his presentation from the Iowa City conference. The event is February 4 and he will be able to have membership information available and a table at no cost to the Chapter. Peters will also be presenting and attending.

- **Chapter did not sign up for a booth at EC09.** There was not one at Orlando due to return on investment; therefore the same decision was made for '09. Chapter meeting information for EC09 TBD. Costs in Orlando for a Chapter meeting were \$1,000. Wells will investigate what will be provided in Reno and will report back to the group.

Baxter left meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Next meeting schedule for Thursday March 12, but will be changed to after March 26. Agenda items to be sent to Wells in the meantime.

Dixon suggesting asking Vest for a summary update on the Spring workshop. Wells will contact via email. The report will be added as an amendment to the meeting minutes.

Motion: to adjourn. Wells moved. Dixon seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned: 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Kauten, secretary