

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
SOUTH JERSEY SECTION
Minutes of the March 7, 2024 Business Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

The business meeting of the New Jersey Environment Association South Section was called to order by President Joe Pantalone at 17:20 hours at The Crab Trap located at 2 Broadway in Somers Point, New Jersey. The following members were present at roll call:

Joe Pantalone, President
Steve Blankenship, Vice President
Kathy Collinge, Treasurer
Kevin Whitney, Secretary

Approval of Minutes: President Joe Pantalone made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2023 business meeting, approved by Kevin Whitney, seconded by Steve Blankenship and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report: Joe Pantalone

- Attended Committee meeting on February 2
- Attended Vendors Day
- February 16 attended State Executive Committee
- Welcomed the newcomers and had the room introduce themselves
- This is my last term as President of the South Section, Steve Blankenship will be our new President, Kevin Whitney Vice President, Kathy Collinge will remain as Treasurer and Kevin O'Donnell will be Secretary.
- Introduction of the nights presentation from two young entrepreneurs Yidian Liu and Nathaniel Banks of PolyGone Systems, Inc. who are doing a pilot program at ACUA using their filtration system at the EQ basins to collect microplastics. We are happy to have them as a pilot program and here tonight.

Vice President's Report: Steve Blankenship, No Report

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Collinge

- The South Sections Association checking account balance as of February 29, 2024 was \$46,416.19.
- The Section's Harbor Lights Financial Group Investment scholarship portfolio for January 31, 2024 had a closing value of \$24,313.68. This value includes (4) \$6000.00 CDs with maturity dates of May and November of 2024, March of 2025 and November 2026. The cash and sweep balance is \$159.54.
- The most recent reconciliation, current budget vs. actual reports and profit/loss statements are submitted today for ratification. The reports are available for anyone who would like to look at them. Please motion for approval before the end of this meeting.
 - Joe Pantalone made a motion to approve the submitted Financial Statements, seconded by Joe Rizzuto and unanimously approved.

Secretary's Report: Kevin Whitney

- The Master Calendar has been finalized with all current information and posted on the NJWEA South Section website; we will adhere to our planned first Thursday of the last month of the quarter for our Business Meetings.
- The Calendar will be updated when we finalize dates for events in the future, such as our Networking Events and South Section Seminars.
- As Committee chairs make plans for events with the Program Chair, please keep me up to date on any date changes so I can update the Calendar as well.
- I have been collaborating with Joe Pantalone, Ray Longo and Kevin O'Donnell to secure dates and locations for our Networking Events this year. We are making a lot of progress, and I will allow Ray to speak further on our upcoming plans.

Past President's Report: Bob Carlson, No Report

NJWEA Report:

- John Reardon had nothing to report other than a busy technical transfer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health & Safety: Janette Kessler, No Report

Memberships: Vacant

Joe Pantalone reported;

- We do not have a specific chair currently; it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee.
- I wrote 105 emails; to spur interest and try to make the organization younger. As a segway to that, we are trying a joint venture with many municipalities to encourage younger operators to get involved. Ray Longo will continue with this venture.

Sick & Welfare: Rocco Maiellano

- Rick Eustace is doing better
- Frank Hartman is in good spirits

Nominating & Awards: Rocco Maiellano / Josh Palombo

- June 6, 2024 at the Lobster House in Cape May.

Affiliates: Bill LaPorte, Report submitted

Kathy reported;

- Bill LaPorte was called away on an unexpected business trip, he sends his regards and has donated his paid meal. While he was driving, he gave me the rundown of his report.
- This years' Vendors Day event was a success. The joint event was successful because of the many volunteers from the NJWEA and the South Jersey Water Professionals. Our success is also due to the strong support that we have from our Vendors.
- One hundred and twenty-five vendors attended this year and registered sixty-four tables. Vendors also sponsored an additional \$1,650; Core & Main sponsored our breakfast, and we had many wonderful, donated door prizes that kept our one hundred and seventy-four attendees in suspense.
- Next years' event will be on February 7th, 2025, the first Friday in February at the Scottish Rite Auditorium for the same cost as this year. We are waiting for confirmation from the Caterer.

Industrial: Chris Jepson, report submitted

- We are still putting together a complete industrial WWTP tour and South Section group meeting. I recently visited the Oatly WWTP in Millville, they make oat milk there. Nice and high tech – great WWTP with both activated sludge and DAF units – unusual to see both processes at any treatment plant – municipal or industrial . Worthy of our group’s interest. If nothing else comes up – I make a motion to contact Oatly and set up a visit. Dates and times must be ironed out and approved by our President. Please contact me with any other ideas for an industrial meeting venue. Several ideas have been forwarded but none have come to fruition. Who has major industrial dischargers in their area? Who had facilities that reuse their wastewater in innovative ways? Please check with any that may be interesting for our membership to visit. The Industrial Committee needs a few more members. If you are interested, please contact President Pantalone or me. Thank you

Legislative Report: Dennis W. Palmer

- The good news for the lame duck sessions is that it was not too bad. Not a mad rush of dozens or even hundreds of bills as in the past.
- We now have the 2024-2025 session in place and the committees have only met on January 25 and 29th and for February is a much busier calendar with 7 committee meeting dates. A joint session of both houses was held on February 27 to hear the Governor’s budget message. However, several bills have been filed, with 5945 bills pre-filed with the start of the new session on January 9th. Some bills of interest to the Association are below, it has been a quiet time on environmental bills so far:
- **Bill S198** Prohibits investment by State of pension and annuity funds in, and requires divestment from, 200 largest publicly traded fossil fuel companies. I added this as it may impact the pension fund return on investment.
- **1/9/2024** Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee
- **2/5/2024** Transferred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee
- **Bill S2594** Appropriates \$28,670,924 in 2003 and 1992 bond act monies for loans for dam restoration and repair projects and inland waters projects.
- **2/8/2024** Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee
- **Bill SCR11** Amends Constitution to prohibit construction of new fossil fuel power plants.
- **1/9/2024** Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee.
- **Bill A547** Requires public agency receiving State funds to post on website use of State funds for public work contracts with minority, women, and veteran owned businesses. This bill requires a public agency that is receiving State funds for the purpose of public work to post on its main website for public inspection an accounting of how much of those funds were used for public work contracts in which the public agency contracted with businesses to owned by minorities, women, and veterans.
- **1/9/2024** Introduced, Referred to Assembly Labor Committee
- **2/5/2024** Reported out of Assembly Committee, 2nd Reading
- The following bills have not seen committee action , but are being monitored:
 - **A328** - Requires all elected or appointed local government officers to receive ethics training. This would apply to commissioners as well as elected officials.
 - **A1732** – Prevents intoxicated employees from receiving workers’ compensation.

- **A1790** - Establishes registry of out-of-state contractors who are awarded public works contracts in this State.
- **A2043** - Applies local public contract bid threshold amounts to local pay to play and prevailing wage laws. This is a good bill.
- **A3111** - Requires use of design-bid-build or design-build delivery system for certain local government construction projects.

Golf Outing: Joe Rizzuto

- Our next golf outing will be on September 20, 2024 at Valleybrook.

Scholarship Awards: Steve Blankenship/Kevin Whitney

Kevin reported;

- We are approaching the end of the application acceptance period, deadline of April 1, 2024.
- So far, I have only received one application – I would like to confirm if anyone else has received applications or knows of someone planning to apply.
- To be complete and consistent, I am requesting any applications and required documents be forwarded to me for record keeping.

Seminar & Technology: Andrew Lieb, No Report

Young Professionals: Brian Carey, No Report

Email from Danielle Farrell

Monday night at Tech Transfer we held "YP night" wherein three YP speakers gave talks to an audience of about a dozen attendees. This is the second time that we have used the lightly attended Monday evening session to encourage YPs to participate in Tech Transfer and practice their public speaking/networking skills. All in all, the evening was enlightening and quite successful. Our speakers and their talks were Thomas Julian, of Woodard Curran who spoke about the current technology in designing engineering drawings, i.e., REVIT, BIM, CAD 3D Torin Johnson of Gannett Fleming who spoke about Engineers Without Borders and their current projects in Guatemala and Philadelphia

Elizabeth Alba of Mott MacDonald who spoke about Revit/BIM/LiDAR application technology and how that data is collected and used on projects.

We will be looking to round up our next crop of 3 YP speakers for the Fall Tech Transfer in the near future. Anyone interested can reach out to me via email.

Archives: Kathy Collinge, No Report

New Business: Nothing to Report

Old Business: Nothing to Report

Good of the Membership: Nothing to Report

Adjournment / Time:

Joe Pantalone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, approved by Dennis Palmer, seconded by Blake Maloney and unanimously approved at 17:43 hours.