

# Operations & Maintenance Committee Meeting

Friday February 9, 2024, 10:00 am EST

Location: Virtual

*Meeting notes in blue italics.*

Attendance: *Richard Claus, Tyler Hammerle, Madison Truemner, Kwabena Adu-Sarkodie, Vanessa Fisher, Leah Leimbacher, Katie Castro-Jackson*

- Fostering Learning in Operator Communities (FLOC) Program Initiative
  - Draft Digester article due today, February 9<sup>th</sup>.
    - *Richard and Tyler have drafted the article, to be submitted to the Digester later today.*
  - *YP Committee Mentor Program Synergy?*
    - *YP committee mentorship program is currently idle. YP is focusing on other aspects of the committee before getting mentorship program off the ground again, and will likely have more information on the program in a few months.*
    - *O&M committee will proceed with FLOC and touch base with YP again in a few months.*
    - *Madison will coordinate a presentation of FLOC during a future YP meeting.*
    - *As FLOC gets younger operator participation, we will also suggest they join the YP committee.*
  - *O&M committee to push forward the website and program applications in the next month or so. Once they are complete and on-line, we can start advertising at operator association meetings.*
  
- Ideas for future Digester Articles?
  - IWEA hopes the O&M Committee can provide Quarterly Articles
  - Here is a link for more information on submitting Digester articles and article topic ideas: [Submit an Article - Indiana WEA | Wastewater Education](#)
  - *"Meet the operator" – idea to interview an operator and feature them and/or their WWTP. The article could be written in interview format, as a summary article, or any other format. Avoid rigid Q&A with the same repeating questions to each operator.*
    - *Shooting for first submittal in mid-May for the summer Digester issue.*
    - *Ideas include Pat Smoker (Richmond Utilities); **a Brownsburg operator (winners of the 2023 Operator's Challenge)***
    - *Multiple members of the committee can work on these separately, so we have a selection to submit throughout the year.*
  
- Committee Guide
  - Thank you Katie for putting the draft together!
  - Richard and Tyler need to review the draft.

- Core Conference 2024
  - The date is Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - *Online registration is open, and will be open through the day of the event. Walk-in / on-site registrations are also welcome!*
  - The theme is March Madness and Richard has promised us a pop-a-shot!
  - *Richard to coordinate pop-a-shot reservation with Kate @ IWEA.*
  - Registration is open! <https://indianawea.org/event/2024-core-conference/>
  - Check out the IWEA website for the presentations. You can get a total of 7 CEUs for the whole day.
  
- 2024 Operator's Challenge
  - *Part 1: Hydromantis WWTP Simulator. There are 9 pre-programed WWTP problems from Hydromantis that need to be troubleshooted. Each problem has a set points value. The operators can complete as many problems as possible in the event timeframe.*
  - *Part 2: American Pump Repair to provide equipment for a pump impeller change and tolerance check.*
    - *Tyler and Richard will coordinate the event logistics and details with Elisha @ APR, including when and where to set up the crane truck and pump activity and how to allocate and score 100 points for the event (i.e. verbal Q&A or quantifiable speed and correctness of the impeller change).*
  - Venue is Aqua Indiana's Hancock County Facility
  - Occurs on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with Facility open for setup on May 13
  - Seven Event Rounds, goal is 14 Teams, therefore dual teams for each 1-hr. round. Event score based on 200 points total possible.
  - *Vanessa, Richard, and Tyler volunteered to facilitate the events during the challenge. Katie is also available if needed.*
  - *Awards: we need to brainstorm an award for the winners!*
    - *Richard will reach out to various manufacturers for cast iron replicas of equipment to mount to a trophy base.*
    - *Tina Wolff offered to order trophy bases or plaques that we can use to mount the awards to.*
      - *Richard will forward this email to the committee, so we can discuss and decide what should be ordered.*
  
- Distribute IWEA President Letter sent to Committee Leaders on 1/31
  - *Not covered but sent with meeting minutes.*
  
- In-person Meetings and Site Visits
  - Upcoming Meeting is Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am
    - We will not have a meeting in March due to the Core Conference
  - Date and Location
    - April 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be in Brownsburg?
    - *Madison has not yet gotten a response - Tyler will reach out to another contact at Brownsburg.*

- Can we get PDH and CEU credits for a plant tour?

Closing Thoughts/Ideas/Statements/Comments – Adjourn by 11:00