

Operations & Maintenance Committee Meeting

Friday January 10, 2025, 10:00 pm EST

Location: Virtual

Attendance: Tyler Hammerle, Richard Claus, Kwabena Adu-Sarkodie, Madison Truemner

- Ideas for future Digester Articles?
 - Look out for Tony Greene's spotlight article in the next Digester.
 - Next spotlight we want to spotlight someone in the northern region. I was thinking of reaching out to Tim Alston at Gary.
 - Ideas for Future Operators: Adam Huwe, West Lafayette; Erin Johnson, Connersville. Kola Awasika, Gary; Laura Kolo, Elkhart
 - Want to focus on facilities in the northern part of the state, or smaller plants, to include a variety of communities.
- Technical Conference 2025 Updates – IWEA Technical Conference
 - This combined conference will be March 19th at Purdue Northwest Great Hall. Address is 1401 US-421, Purdue Northwest, Westville, IN 46391
 - Conference was combined for one-year "trial run". In recent years, abstract solicitation was needed, and attendance was low at the Core Conference and Specialty Conference.
 - 21 abstracts were received and keynote speaker has been selected.
 - Richard and Tyler will review abstracts.
 - We will discuss the potential need for moderators and room scanner in February.
- Operator Challenge 2025
 - The Challenge will now be a **two day** event, held Monday May 19th to Tuesday, May 20th at Marion Utilities. Set up will be from 9 to 12 on Monday May 19th. Events from 1 to 5 and an evening reception. Next day events will go from 8 to 12 with lunch and awards following.
 - First event will be a Hydromantis WWTP simulator
 - Second event will be reading a valve/pipe schematic in their return sludge building.
 - Richard will spearhead the effort of creating the schematic. We will mark certain valves open/closed in the room, and participants will answer questions about adjusting and/or troubleshooting operations.
 - Event descriptions are due to Tina next week. Richard and Tyler will provide the descriptions.
 - Award ideas?
 - Who wants to help judge?
 - Madison, Tyler, and Kwabena are interested.
 - IWEA prefers consistency in judges across both days, but there may be opportunity to split the days if certain judges

cannot stay overnight. The challenge format will likely have one event held on day, and the second event held the second day.

- Annual Conference 2025 Updates
 - Theme is "Water Being Everything"
 - Abstracts will open in late-January and close late-March – this is one month earlier than usual
 - Battle Royale has been moved up to April - this will allow the presentation schedule to be released before the early bird registration closes.
- Looking for someone to fill the secretary position
 - Tasks include:
 - Keeping meeting minutes
 - Fulfilling the role of Vice Chair in his or her absence
- In-person Meetings and Site Visits
 - Upcoming Meeting is Friday, February 14th at 10 am. This will be a virtual meeting.
 - There won't be a meeting in March due to the Technical Conference
 - Working on an in-person meeting for April 11th.
 - Westfield WWTP (SBRs) - Madison will contact CEG Westfield.
 - Trico – Tyler will reach out.

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