

President: Beth Richards  
President-Elect: Justin Clausen  
Past President: Kevin Hensley  
Treasurer: David Carney  
Secretary: Steve Johnson  
Delegate: Ron Knoche

W Reg Director: Baylor Bestgen  
C Reg Director: Sara Kappos  
E Reg Director: Tim Mroch  
At-Large Director: Shane McQuillan  
At-Large Director: Brian Stineman  
Alternate Delegate: Adam Smith



## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2026, at 10:00 am  
West Des Moines Public Services

### Board Members Present:

Beth Richards, David Carney, Steve Johnson, Ron Knoche, Baylor Bestgen (online), Tim Mroch, Adam Smith, Brian Stineman, Sara Kappos, Justin Clausen.

### Others Present:

Doug DeBolt, Eric Cowles, Scott Sovers, Jason Havel, Micah Loesch, Sarah Okerlund, Jon Cygan, Jeff May, Jerry Freestone, Nichole Sungren, Rob Kline, Mike Duffy, Jonathan Gano, Craig Shepherd, Shane McQuillan. Kim Pinegar (online), Katie Eickholt (online), Tracy Warner (online), Wilf Nixon (online), Aaron Granquist (online).

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Beth Richards.
- II. **Agenda Review/Modifications:** None.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve was made by Brian Stineman and seconded by Ron Knoche. Motion carried.
- IV. **Approval of Financial Report and Expenditures:** The financial report and list of expenses since the last meeting was emailed ahead of the meeting. Since there is over \$260,000 currently in the account, the treasurer suggested looking at moving money into a CD to earn interest. Expenses since the last meeting totaled \$3,711.34. Motion to approve the expenditures was made by Baylor Bestgen and seconded by Ron Knoche. Motion carried.
- V. **Officer Reports**
  - A. **Secretary Report:** No report.
  - B. **Treasurer Report:** See above.
  - C. **President Report:** Excited for the year. Working on the upcoming conferences.
  - D. **President-Elect Report:** Spring conference general session agenda is close to being completed. Started looking at locations for his fall chapter conference. Looking at options to host elsewhere since this year's fall conference will be in Ames.
  - E. **Director Report(s):** None.
  - F. **Delegate Report:** Regional meeting a couple of weeks ago. Received update from Government Affairs committee in DC. Getting ready for winter meeting in a couple of weeks in conjunction with other chapters.
- VI. **New Business**
  - A. **Alternate Chapter Directors:** The chapter bylaws require alternates for directors, secretary, and treasurer. Would like to establish alternates at the next meeting. Please submit suggestions to Beth for the next agenda.
  - B. **Spring Conference:**
    1. **Facilities and Grounds Certificate Program:** At this point, there are only 9 people signed up, which will equal around a \$5,000 loss for the chapter. National has announced they are hosting the same training online soon, which could be competing with our program. After

some discussion, Ron Knoche motioned to continue with the program as scheduled and David Carney seconded. The motion carried.

2. **Exhibitor Booths for Partners:** When the conference was at the Sheraton, we offered free exhibitor tables for our partners (such as LTAP, DMACC, etc.). The Iowa Events Center is willing to set partner tables inside the exhibit hall for \$55 per table. Beth proposed covering the cost of these tables. The motion to approve free booths for up to 6 partner agencies was made by Brian Stineman and seconded by Sara Kappos. Motion carried.
    - 1) The Stormwater Education Partnership group was interested in a partner booth and offered a reciprocal free booth at their upcoming [IStorm](#) event (April 22-23, Cedar Falls). The group agreed having a booth at IStorm would be a good idea and Sara Kappos volunteered to work at the booth since she's already attending.
  3. **Retiree Registration Rate:** The Scholarships and Grants Committee discussed qualifications for this rate. They decided to qualify, the person must be fully retired and have previously been an active APWA member (either National or chapter level). And the retiree registration rate will be determined prior to each conference. The spring conference retiree rate will be \$100. Sara Kappos motioned to approve the retiree rate and qualifications; David Carney seconded. Motion carried.
  4. **Lasagna Love Service Project:** This year's service project will be building lasagnas for Lasagna Love. Will occur at the Hilton from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesday prior to the conference.
  5. **Board Meeting and YP Social:** If registration for the YP social continues to be low, the Board meeting will be held somewhere close or within Smash Park.
- C. Alternate Delegate Attendance at CoC Winter Meeting:** APWA only covers the cost for the delegate to attend (not alternate). Justin Clausen motioned to cover the cost for the alternate delegate to attend the CoC winter meeting; Sara Kappos seconded. Motion carried.
- D. SUDAS Board Appointments:** Steve Naber, Jeff May, and Michelle Sweeney are APWA reps on the SUDAS Board. Their appointments have expired. The motion to reappoint those individuals was made by Ron Knoche and seconded by Justin Clausen. Motion carried.
- E. NASC Promo Booths:** We will have a booth at the snow conference in Cleveland, Mid-Am in Overland Park, and PWX in Houston. Need volunteers to sit at the booth at each event.
- F. City Rep on Iowa DOT IM Committee for Bridge Inspections:** Jason Havel and Justin Clausen are both willing to represent APWA on the committee. Ron Knoche made a motion to formalize the involvement of APWA with the committee including up to 3 representatives as presidential appointments; David Carney seconded. Motion carried.

## VI. Old Business

### A. Winter Maintenance Certificate Programs and SPOT/Rodeo

- a. Approach to combine the two programs together. Location will be in Cedar Rapids.
- b. Bring in more regional trainers as well as people from Cedar Rapids.
- c. Certificate training for supervisors would be the bulk of the costs.
- d. Anticipation will be 50 participants for supervisors and over 200 for the operators.
- e. September 23<sup>rd</sup> is training and September 24<sup>th</sup> is the Rodeo.
- f. Proposed budget request is up to \$5,000. The motion to approve was made by Ron Knoche and seconded by Justin Clausen. Motion carried.

## VII. Committee Reports

- A. Awards** - Eric C. - Nomination form is on the webpage. Expanded project division - projects between \$2.5M and \$5M and projects over \$5M. Due date for submission is August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.
- B. Government Affairs** - Nichole S. - League of Cities is coming to the spring conference to speak. Will try to get the Governor to sign the proclamation this year; have been unsuccessful in recent years.
- C. Membership** - Jordan K. - 519 current members. 5 new members and 9 expired in the last quarter.
- D. Mid-American Conference** - Rob K., Jason H., Scott S. - Scott is part of the programs committee. He would like to get more people from Iowa to speak. Panel opportunity - women in APWA and successful implementation of grants.

## VIII. National Liaison/Committee Reports

### A. APWA Board of Directors - Wilf N. - Board met earlier this week.

1. Approved Strategic Plan outline for the next 3 years. The Pillars are People, Purpose, and Presence. Input is requested for workplan items.
2. Started the Public Works Radio Podcasts. Looking to see if chapters would like to do podcasts.
3. Career zone is now active on the APWA website
4. Disaster Relief fund is in the works, hopefully answering the question "How can I help?"

### B. Facilities and Grounds - Shane M. - They started their manual. Anticipate it to be available for purchase at PWX 2026

### C. Government Affairs - Jeff M. - Survey will be coming out looking for ideas for where they should focus their efforts. Top 10 are invited to Washington DC to work with national reps.

### D. National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices - David C. - Dave recently traveled to DC for winter meeting. Looking at changes to signage and how those affect the rules of the road.

### E. New Initiatives - Ron K. - April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, is deadline for applications.

### F. Solid Waste Management- Craig S. - Working with OSHA for toolbox. Click Listen and Learn on March 18.

### G. Winter Maintenance Subcommittee - Mike D. - In process of review materials for operator's certificate. This fall will be revised version after the reviews.

### H. Technology - Tracy - Working on two documents on strategy. Future Ready PW webinar in May. Creating a data center toolbox for utilization when data centers are proposed.

### I. Workforce Development - Jonathan Gano. - Catalog of videos for different types of tasks will be developed. Participating in the same webinar in May along with Leadership and Management. Hosting a series of education sessions at PWX.

## IX. Partners

### A. IHRB - Ron K. (Rudy K., Matt C., Brenna F.) - Next meeting is March 27 at the University of Iowa.

### B. LTAP - Keith K.

- a. Please reach out to Paul Albritton very soon if you have someone that needs the 2-week bridge inspection training in May. Due to changes at NHI, once we open it to the public, it's available nationwide.
- b. Work zone safety workshops are scheduled through March 12
- c. On-site flagger training has also started. Please use online form to request.
- d. Webinar on 2/26 about protected species habitat review, next month on the soy transportation groups rural bridge program, and on cybersecurity for non-IT people in April.
- e. NEPA related training on 3/3-3/4 is waitlisted. This course is being paid for through additional funds won from FHWA. Registration for the Section 4f in April is currently open.
- f. Culvert and Bridge backwater program training starts March 10 in Ames. Also being offered in Harlan on 3/31 and Iowa City on 4/9.
- g. County Research Focus Group is 3/11, followed by the Spring ISAC meeting the next day.
- h. AutoCAD Basics on 3/18 in Boone is open for registration.
- i. Accessible Sidewalks/Curb Ramps in Ames on 4/7.
- j. We continue to work toward setting up a meeting leadership/management meeting with city/county reps to plan out efforts in this area for the coming year.

### C. SUDAS/PWSB - David C./Beth R. - February meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## X. Announcements

None.

## XI. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Justin Clausen and seconded by Sara Kappos. Motion carried. Adjourned at 11:55 am.