

Washington State Environmental Health Association Board of Directors Meeting Agenda



Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Time: 7:00 am – 8:00 am
Location: **Zoom:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82577592808?pwd=51PfcEJ5k9PPI9WJlavS2EIh1OQNj.1>

PRESIDENT	Sammy Berg	X	CENTRAL V-P	James Rivard	
PRESIDENT ELECT	Jeremy Simmons		OLYMPIC V-P	Heather Watts	X
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT	Susan Shelton	X	SOUTHWEST V-P	Katie Lott	X
SECRETARY	Jen Garcelon	X	EASTERN V-P	Vikki Barthels	X
TREASURER	Jesse Smith	X	NORTHWEST V-P	Ethan Schmidt	X
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY*	Megan McNelly	X	NEHA REP*	Bill Emminger	

*non-voting positions

7:00 am	Call to Order, Roll Call, Approve Agenda	<i>S. Berg</i>	Action
	Treasurer's Report Owe another \$20K/another \$40K for deposit, \$120K in savings, investments \$200K; IRS and SOS charity reports about to be submitted. We'll talk annual budget next meeting.	<i>J. Smith</i>	Action
	2026 AEC Discussion	<i>M. McNelly</i>	Discussion
	2025 AEC Discussion ~\$3K was raised for IH/Water1 st 240 registered for this year's AEC (normal #'s; pre-FPHS) Having memberships with conference rate helped increase membership. Discussion on the amount distributed for scholarships. Currently, WSEHA provides \$5K in scholarship+travel stipend. Emily from UW talked about students' perspective of coming to the conference; it is during Spring quarter. Tom K talked about scholarships and increasing the amounts or	<i>Layken/Megan</i>	Discussion

using reserves, if have any, to improve or increase the students, etc. Maybe a student version (WSBRS) board discussion yesterday. Having conference in person is really valuable. The goal of the AEC isn't to make money for the organization. Should we use the funds to off-set conference costs, or other programs, etc. Shawn U asked if students that attend have a positive experience, is there a feedback loop? Emily: yes, definitely promote afterwards at UW about student experience. Plus, scholarship recipients talk to Emily's freshman class. Sometimes get a lot of pre-med students applying for scholarships so that may account for lower overall # of applicants. It is a challenge to get students to AEC because of timing, usually mid-terms at UW, but the networking opportunity is encouraged. Shawn asked if we have we looked at timing of conference to help accommodate the student timing? Emily said students are free during summer, but LHJ are always too busy.

Sammy said Jaime Bodden is interested in a potential co-conference (with WSPHA? And was it Megan Moore?); would it be beneficial to do a joint again? They do in October though. Shawn said EH wasn't overly represented in joint conference, historically.

Discussion on membership. Tom K reminded of the 80/20 rule; 20% that do the work are dedicated and do the work, as the rule goes. Same old faces but also some new faces; however, there are people who are eager but with no follow-through. The participation we see is reliable and capable. We need to be selective when recruiting to make sure people will do the work. Sammy said the organization is looking for people who will do it even though it is a minimal commitment. Tom said the PC roles can be more of a time consuming role, as well treasurer. Heather W-G said it's not that people that don't want to be included, it's that they don't feel included. It was seen in the Planning Committee because the same people are doing the work and may be used to doing the work. More effort in reaching out to the new members needs to be done.

Heather asked what else does the organization do? Most of the monthly meetings are AEC related; is there more that we do?

Emily said we're in unprecedented time and it's time for PH/EH to be louder about what we do. Usually EH doesn't get attention until something goes wrong.

Is there a way we can move more into politics, acknowledging we can't lobby wholeheartedly.

Sammy said Jaime offered to help advocate since they have more leeway to do so that WSEHA has. The challenge would be bandwidth and figuring out audience. Emily said education is geared toward EH folk, less toward general public. Susan reminded WSEHA affiliation with NEHA is understated as well. Emily said communicating with people about why EH matters and figuring out how to communicate with community for EH, such as newspaper articles. Tom said advocacy is limited from political activity but we can do public education. Maybe we should choose some reserves for education. Emily stated education vs lobbying vs advocacy can be confusing and it would be useful for people to know. Jaime has given presentations as well as others. What is the role as an org, what does the membership want?

Sammy said we have funds; how can we support membership; how we can encourage new participation, and how can we make ourselves more visible.

Mark asked if the WSEHA meeting can be moved to the plenary? Jesse said generally it was not good participation at the meetings during the plenary sessions which was why it was moved. Emily/Susan suggested to maybe do it during breakfast in the ballroom, not a separate room Layken reminded CE/CEUs are also important so sessions where they can get those. Sammy said to design as more of a townhall/brainstorming/contact time with members rather than just business. Dayna reminded the need to avoid conflict with WSBRS morning meeting. Don't wait a year to promote.

Sammy said we need dedicated people or sub-committees to keep this conversation going.

Election Results

M. McNelly

Action

Ann Moen was elected as Olympic V-P

Dayna Katula was elected as President Elect

There were very few ballots submitted; looking at electronic voting to get more participation. It's in the works now. Suggestion to have names printed on ballot. Write-in votes are strange because the person may not necessarily want the position.

Discussion on getting more people involved in the organization or making people feel their time is valued.

7:58 am

Adjourn

S. Berg

Action

Recap - membership, inclusion, visibility, promote to broader audience, how can we use our funds.

Sammy moves to adjourn; Vikki seconds; all approved.

tom is talking about scholarships and increasing the amounts or using reserves, if have any, to improve or increase the students, etc
Messages addressed to "meeting group chat" will also appear in the meeting group chat in Team Chat

- WSEHA - 7:20 AM

or other activities

Emily: current scholarships are \$5k

+ travel stipend based on travel distance; fewer applications overall for scholarships

if a lower scholarship, may not be worth to them to apply

RS - maybe a student version (WSBRS) board discussion yesterday

having conference in person is really valuable

Sammy: goal isn't to make money for the organization

should we use the funds to off-set conference costs, or other programs, etc

Shawn U: if students that attend have a positive experience, is there a feedback loop?

E: yes, definitely promote afterwards at UW about student experience. Plus scholarship recipients talk to Emily's freshman class

- WSEHA - 7:26 AM

Sometimes get a lot of pre-med students applying for scholarships so that may account for lower overall # of applicants

challenge to get students to conference because of timing, usually mid-terms at UW, but the networking opportunity is encouraged

Shawn: have we looked at timing of conference to help accommodate the student timing?

Em: Students are free during summer but LHJ are always too busy

Sammy: Jaime B is interested in a potential co-conference; would it be beneficial to do a joint again? They do in October though

Shawn: EH wasn't overly represented in joint conference, historically

Shawn: need to promote organization; Board, etc during the conference

Mark: write-in can cause hesitation to vote and then it's forgotten

- WSEHA - 7:31 AM

Sammy: should have names on ballots so increase the recruitment before the ballots go out.

Tom: 80/20 rule; 20% that do the work are dedicated and do the work, as the rule goes

Same old faces but also some new faces; however, there are people who are eager but with no follow-through. The participation we see is reliable and capable. We need to be selective when recruiting to make sure people will do the work

Sammy: we are looking for people who will do it even though it is a minimal commitment.

Tom: the PC roles can be more of a time consuming role, as well treasurer

Heather: it's not that people that don't want to be included, it's that they don't feel included. It was seen in the Planning Committee because the same people are doing the work and may be used to doing the work. More effort in reaching out to the new members needs to be done.

Jeremy Simmons (he/him) joined as a guest

- WSEHA - 7:37 AM

Shawn: increase visibility and availability of Board

Mark: it was during the plenary time

*historically, the annual meeting

Heather: what else does the organization do? Most of the monthly meetings are AEC related; is there more that we do?

Emily: we're in unprecedented time and it's time for PH/EH to be louder about what we do

Usually EH doesn't get attention until something goes wrong.

Is there a way we can move more into politics, acknowledging we can't lobby wholeheartedly.

Sammy: Jaime offered to help advocate since they have more leeway to do so that WSEHA has

Challenge would be bandwidth and figuring out audience

Emily: education is geared toward EH folk, less toward general public

Susan: WSEHA affiliation with NEHA is understated as well

Emily: communicating with people about why EH matters and figuring out how to communicate with community for EH, such as newspaper articles

Tom: advocacy is limited from political activity but we can do public education

maybe we should choose some reserves for education

Emily: education vs lobbying vs advocacy can be confusing and it would be useful for people to know. Jaime has given presentations as well as others. What is the role as an org, what does the membership want?

Sammy: we have funds; how can we support membership; how we can encourage new participation, and how can we make ourselves more visible

- **WSEHA** - 7:50 AM

Mark: can we move it to the plenary?

Jesse: generally it was not good participation at the meetings during the plenary sessions which was why it was moved

Emily/Susan: maybe do it during breakfast in the ballroom, not a separate room

Layken: CE/CEUs are also important so sessions where they can get those

Sammy: design as more of a townhall/brainstorming/contact time with members rather than just business

Dayna: need to avoid conflict with WSBRS morning meeting

don't wait a year to promote

- **WSEHA** - 7:55 AM

Sammy: need dedicated people or sub-committees to keep this conversation going

Ethan 7:56 AM

Nothing to add. Thanks for the discussion.

Jeremy Simmons (he/him) 7:56 AM

Nothing to add. Thanks for the notes Dayna.

- **WSEHA** - 7:57 AM

Sammy: recap - membership, inclusion, visibility, promote to broader audience, how can we use our funds

Sammy moves, Vikki seconds

Thank you!