

NEWEA Executive Committee Recommends Bylaws Amendments

The New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) Executive Committee voted on September 7, 2022 to recommend amendments to the NEWEA Constitution and Bylaws to address the adoption of the Water Environment Association (WEF) and NEWEA-Member-Only (for our non-WEF members) Codes of Conduct. The background of this recommendation is described below.

Background

The reason for the Bylaws change is that NEWEA is adopting the Water Environment Association (WEF) Code of Conduct in its entirety to address matters of WEF member conduct (along with a NEWEA-only version to cover our few non-WEF NEWEA members), and the current section 13.2 of the NEWEA bylaws does not fit well within the framework of the more extensive and reasoned WEF Code of Conduct. Rather than the current Section 13.2 clauses, which identify a single drastic disciplinary action (expulsion) within the bylaws, section 13.2 is being changed to refer to: in section 13.2.1, the latest WEF Code of Conduct as published and administered by WEF and referenced in the NEWEA Organization Manual; and in section 13.2.2, the proposed NEWEA Association-only Member Code of Conduct, to be published by NEWEA and referenced in the NEWEA Organization Manual pending final review and approval by the NEWEA Executive Committee. The Organization Manual will be revised to include a reference by link to the WEF Code of Conduct and its disciplinary procedures and a separate reference by link to the latest Executive Committee-approved NEWEA Association Member Only Code of Conduct. The NEWEA website Committee Resource Center webpage will also be updated to include the links to these Codes of Conduct and reference to the pertinent sections or appendices of to the Organization Manual.

NEWEA Bylaws Section 13, Admission and Code of Conduct, is proposed to read as follows (new language shown in bold):

- 13. **ADMISSION AND CODE OF CONDUCT**
 - 13.1 Admission
 - 13.1.1 Applications for membership will be reviewed by the Executive Director in accordance with the policies established by the Executive Committee.
 - 13.1.2 There shall be no admission fee.
 - 13.2 **Codes of Conduct**
 - 13.2.1 **NEWEA members who are also WEF Individual Members or Group Member authorized representatives, as defined under Sections 11.1 and 11.2 of these Bylaws, shall abide by the latest WEF Code of Conduct as published by WEF and referenced in the NEWEA Organization Manual.**
 - 13.2.2 **NEWEA Association-only Members, as defined under Section 11.4 of these Bylaws, shall abide by the latest Executive Committee-approved NEWEA Association-only Member Code of Conduct as published by NEWEA and referenced in the NEWEA Organizational Manual.**

In conjunction with the revisions to Section 13, as noted above, Section 11, Membership Classification, Qualifications, and Privileges is proposed to be amended as follows (new language shown in bold):

11. MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND PRIVILEGES

11.1 Individual Member

11.1.1 Qualifications

11.1.1.1 Any Individual interested in the advancement of knowledge relating to the objectives of the WEF and the ASSOCIATION.

11.1.2 Rights and Privileges

11.1.2.1 Shall be an eligible voting member of the ASSOCIATION

11.1.2.2 Shall have all the rights and privileges granted by the WEF and ASSOCIATION including the rights to hold office and serve on committees.

11.1.2.3 Shall be entitled to receive publications of the WEF, as authorized by its Board of Trustees, and publications of the ASSOCIATION, as authorized by its Executive Committee, for the specific Individual member package.

11.1.2.4 **Shall agree to abide by the WEF Code of Conduct as published by WEF and referenced in the NEWEA Organization Manual.**

11.2 Group Member

11.2.1 Qualifications

11.2.1.1 Any group or organization interested in the advancement of knowledge relating to the objectives of WEF and the ASSOCIATION.

11.2.2 Rights and Privileges

11.2.2.1 Shall have all the rights and privileges granted by the WEF and the ASSOCIATION including the right of its ASSOCIATION-recognized authorized representative(s) to vote as provided for in this Constitution and Bylaws

11.2.2.2 **Shall agree to abide by the WEF Code of Conduct as published by WEF and referenced in the NEWEA Organization Manual.**

11.3 ASSOCIATION-Only Memberships

11.3.1 Qualifications

11.3.1.1 Any Individual or group interested in the advancement of knowledge relating to the objectives of the ASSOCIATION

11.3.2 Rights and Privileges

11.3.2.1 Shall be an eligible voting member of the ASSOCIATION, but shall not be a certified Member of WEF.

11.3.2.2 Shall have all the rights and privileges granted by the ASSOCIATION including the rights to hold ASSOCIATION office and serve on ASSOCIATION committees.

11.3.2.3 Shall be entitled to receive publications of the ASSOCIATION, as authorized by its Executive Committee, for the specific

- ASSOCIATION-Only member package.
- 11.3.24 Shall be ineligible to receive WEF member benefits or publications or to hold WEF-related offices unless, and until such time as, the ASSOCIATION-Only membership is upgraded to an Individual or Group Membership as defined in sections 11.1 and 11.2 above.
- 11.3.25 **Shall agree to abide by the latest Executive Committee-approved NEWEA Association-only Member Code of Conduct as published by NEWEA and referenced in the NEWEA Organizational Manual.**

The above amendments have been reviewed and approved by the NEWEA Bylaws Committee, the WEF Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the NEWEA Executive Committee. This announcement will serve as the formal notification to the NEWEA membership of the recommended amendments. Please note that the WEF Constitution and Bylaws Committee, in its response to the proposed amendments noted above, recommended that NEWEA amend “Constitution and Bylaws” to “Bylaws” to be consistent with a similar change made by WEF. That change has also been made, and there have also been corrections to minor typographic errors and omissions discovered elsewhere in the Bylaws. **The amended Bylaws will be submitted to the membership for an adoption vote at the Annual Business Meeting on January 23, 2023 as per the requirements of Article 18 of the NEWEA Bylaws.**

Questions regarding these amendments may be directed to the NEWEA Executive Director, or to James Barsanti, chair of the NEWEA Bylaws Committee, at jbarsanti@hazenandsawyer.com. Please visit the NEWEA member website to review the annotated version with the changes noted, and the annotated version with the changes accepted, of the NEWEA Bylaws at <https://www.newea.org/resources/latest-news/>, or if preferred, a printed copy of the Bylaws with annotated changes may be requested from the NEWEA office.