

REGION VIII BY-LAWS

(November 6, 1999 / Revised April 30, 2017)

CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, DESOTO, GLADES, HENDRY & LEE COUNTIES

INTRODUCTION

These by-laws have been prepared in accordance with Article VI, paragraph D, of the by-laws of the Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association, Inc. which shall henceforth be referred to as the Parent Organization.

The purpose and intent of these by-laws shall in no way conflict with or supersede the constitution and by-laws of the Parent Organization.

ARTICLE I – OBJECT

The objectives of Region VIII shall be the same as the State association; specifically as follows:

1. To protect the health of the citizens of Florida.
2. To help preserve the natural resources and beauty of Florida without obstructing the inevitable growth of population.
3. To promote a better public understanding of water and wastewater treatment and related environmental occupations.
4. To promote the concepts: That water treatment includes the collection, treatment, and distribution of water and the handling, treatment and disposal of related sludge. That wastewater treatment includes the collection and treatment of wastewater and the proper disposal of both the solids (biosolids), and reuse or disposal of the liquid fractions resulting from that treatment with each fraction being routed to a proper sector of the environment. That stormwater runoff be collected and treated when necessary for the protection of the environment.
5. To advance the occupational and professional status of those engaged in the treatment of water and wastewater and related environmental occupations.
6. To support the Florida statutes and administrative code regulations pertaining to certification of operators according to such established standards of training, experience and examination as are related to an operator's competency and proficiency.
7. To respect the objectives of regulations pertaining to effluent limitations, permitting, sampling, inspection, submission of reports, and utilization of certified operators and related technicians.
8. To support training, research, and education in the environmental occupations.

9. To arrange educational and training programs for those persons whose endeavors are in water and wastewater treatment and related environmental occupations.
10. To disseminate freely among the members technical information regarding the operation and performance of treatment processes, methods of control, evaluation of equipment and design, and the means and ways of managing and maintaining the facilities entrusted to the members.
11. To provide public information in a regularly printed publication of all the official actions and positions taken by the Board within which the corporate charter resides.
12. To support a unified and standardized program for the training and education of those persons in environmental occupations, and in concurrence with the applicable regulatory certification programs.
13. System Operators will include those as provided in the FW&PCOA by-laws, Article I-13.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

1. Definitions of classes of membership, admissions, dues, expulsions, and resignations are provided for in the FW&PCOA Inc. by-laws Article II.
2. The fiscal year of the Region shall begin on January 1st of each year and end on the following December 31st.
3. The annual dues shall be as determined from time to time by the State Board of Directors, payable in advance at the beginning of the fiscal year, except that Honorary Life Members shall be dropped from the region rolls. The State Secretary shall notify each delinquent member at least two weeks prior to March 1st, of the member's delinquency in dues.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

1. The management of Region VIII shall be vested in the Regional Executive Board which shall include the following: State Director, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, Secretary/Treasurer Elect and the latest living Past Chairman.
2. All elected Officers shall be "active" members of the Association, and must have been so for at least two years prior to election. They must be licensed as a Systems Operator by the Association, be a Certified Operator prior to election.
3. Terms of Office:

Director - 3 years - may serve two terms.

Chairman - 1 year - He/She shall serve for a period of one year and may be re-elected an additional one year term.

Vice-Chairman - 1 year - automatically assumes Chairman position at the end of their year.

Secretary/Treasurer - Serves 1 year at a time - may be re-elected.

Secretary/Treasurer - Elect - Serves 1 year at a time - may be re-elected.

All terms will coincide with fiscal year.

4. Whenever any office of the Region's Executive Board, other than the Director, shall be declared vacant by death, resignation, or other cause, the remaining members of the Executive Board shall elect a person by majority vote to fill the unexpired term of that office. The State Directors' office shall be filled as provided in the FW&PCOA by-laws, Article VI, C.

ARTICLE IV – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The Chairman shall preside over all meetings, conduct the business of the organization, carry out the instructions of its members as voted upon at any regular or special meeting and shall appoint members to all necessary committees.
2. The Vice-Chairman shall carry out the duties of the Chairman in his/her absence and shall generally assist the Chairman in his/her duties.
3. The Director's duties shall be the same as those outlined by the parent organization and as outlined by the constitution. The Director shall also keep the members of the Region informed on the operation and business of the parent organization thru regular business meetings of Region VIII.
4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Region and perform such other duties incidental to this office as may be prescribed in the Articles of Incorporation and by-laws or from time to time by the Chairman of this Region, and shall keep accurate accounting to the Association as prescribed by the by-laws.
5. The Secretary/Treasurer Elect shall assist the Secretary/Treasurer in their duties and shall perform other duties as assigned by the Chairman.

ARTICLE V – NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The Chairman shall appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of the last three living past chairmen at the regular September meeting for the purpose of presenting names in nomination for the elective offices.
2. The Nominating Committee shall submit to the Secretary not later than two weeks prior to issue date of the October Newsletter, the names of candidates for each office to be filled and such nominations shall be published in the October issue of the Newsletter.
3. On the dates of the October & November meetings, any nominations for each of the offices to be filled may be made from the floor if followed by a duly seconding vote. At the end of the November meeting, all nominations shall be closed. Absentee ballots shall be received by the Secretary by the December meeting, in a manner approved by the Executive Board. Elections shall be held during the December meeting.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

1. Region shall hold a minimum of four (4) General Membership meeting a year, at least quarterly, on a date announced by the Chairman prior to adjournment at each meeting.
2. The Chairman may call special meetings when he/she deems it expedient, stating the purpose of such meetings. No business other than that stated shall be transacted at a special meeting. Advance notice of such special meeting shall be furnished to the membership at least 10 days prior to such meeting stating the time and place.
3. At the discretion of the Chairman, the Region 8 Executive Board will be permitted to meet on a regular, at least quarterly, basis and may set the meeting time and location either at a regular business meeting or by contact through electronic means to establish the monthly meeting agenda and/or develop/revise procedures for membership approval.
4. Opening ceremonies may consist of Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, Recognition of Visitors and Director's Welcome.
5. The order of Business following opening ceremonies at regular meetings shall be as follows:

Introduction and presentation of vendor and/or guest speaker. Motion and second to approve Minutes of previous regular business meeting. Motion and second to accept Treasurer's Report as printed. Report by Standing Committees. Report by Special Committees. Unfinished business. New business. Election of Officers. Adjournment.

6. The producing of a monthly newsletter and the subsequent distribution to the Region 8 membership may be extended to a different frequency. The contents of the newsletter will consist of but not be limited to the following:

Minutes of previous month's meeting. Financial report of previous month's meeting. Messages from the Region Officers.

Date and location of next Region meeting. Job vacancies available in Region.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

1. Education Committee: It shall be the duty of this committee to establish the dates and arrange the program for the Annual Regional Short School and coordinate other training programs.
2. Membership Committee: It shall be the duty of this committee to motivate qualified persons who are members of the Region to join.
3. Program Committee: It shall be the duty of this committee to arrange for a program of interest to the general membership to be presented at regular meetings. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of this committee to see that the program is announced in the Newsletter issue preceding the meeting date.
4. The Chairman may appoint such special committees as are deemed necessary and advisable and shall be ex-officio member of each. All special committees shall expire with the annual meeting following their appointment.

ARTICLE VIII – BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

An amendment or change may be made in these by-laws with approval of two-thirds of the members present at any regular business meeting; provided written notice of such proposed amendment is given the members prior to said meeting. However, all amendments shall be sent to the Board of Directors of the parent organization for approval before Amendments are effective.

ARTICLE IX – FISCAL YEAR & DUES

1. The fiscal year to be the same as the parent organization.
2. Financing of Region shall be by dues in accordance with parent organization and surplus (if any) obtained from Training, and Sponsors. All funds are to be used for authorized expenses of the region recommended by the Executive Board and approved by the general membership of the region. Financial records will be examined and reconciled by the Past Chairman, Incoming Chairman, Past secretary/Treasurer and Incoming Secretary/Treasurer before releasing to incoming Secretary/Treasurer.

ARTICLE X – INTENT

It shall not be the intent of these by-laws to, in any way, conflict or supersede the Articles of Incorporation and by-laws of the Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association.

ARTICLE XI – SPONSORS & REVENUE ENHANCEMENT

1. The Region shall be permitted to procure region sponsors for advertising in the newsletter, providing meals and refreshments at region's business meetings or events, or general donation to the region for support of the region as specified by the donor.
2. The Region shall be permitted to procure sponsors for Internet web page related services as determined by the region's designee or webmaster. All proposed services and procedures shall be in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations.