

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2018  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Board Members Present**

Joseph Swanderski, Chairman, Penn State University, Wastewater Operator  
Mary Roland, PA American Water, Water Operator  
John Schombert, General Public  
Curt Steffy, Aqua PA Inc., Official of Private System  
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel  
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee  
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary, BSDW

**Board Members Absent**

Rachel Brennan, Teacher/Professor  
Michael Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision

**Non-Board Members Present**

Scott Sykes, BSDW  
Bill Mcnamara BSDW  
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW  
Robert Digilarmo, Bureau of Clean Water (BCW)  
David Long, BSDW  
Shalini Lenka, BSDW  
Damien Bernstein, Reciprocity Applicant / Public Participant

Mr. Swanderski called the conference call meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators (Board) to order at 10:02 AM. Mr. Swanderski informed the Board that he would be leaving the call early and asked Ms. Roland to act as Chairperson.

**Approval of October 17, 2017 Minutes**

The October 17, 2017 Board meeting minutes had been tabled for revisions to the executive session formatting. Those revisions were completed, Mr. Steffy motioned to approve the October 17, 2017 minutes as amended. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Approval of December 14, 2017 Minutes**

The December 14, 2017 Board meeting minutes were approved with a change from Mrs. Roland to Ms. Roland in the last sentence under Criminal History Report. The Board members agreed that the language in the December 14, 2017 minutes which documents Board acknowledgement of Consent Order and Agreements (COA) is consistent with their previous discussion on how best to document this information in meeting minutes. This will be considered standard

formatting relative to the Board's acknowledgement of executed CO&As provided by the Department. Therefore, this language which will be used as applicable for similar future situations. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the December 14, 2017 minutes as amended. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried

### **Approval of New and Upgrade Applications**

The new, upgrade applications were presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue licenses for all new and upgrade applications. Mr. Schombert seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Reciprocity Requests**

One water and one wastewater reciprocity applications were presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Bernstein attended the meeting to discuss his criminal background and application. Mr. Schombert motioned to approve the reciprocity applications as recommended by the Department. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Water**

**Robert Maxson**-holds a Maryland water treatment 1 certification that expires March 1, 2020. He has 4 years, 2 months experience at various class C systems using subclasses 5,7,8,12. Since Mr. Maxson originally obtained his certification from Delaware, Ms. Sansoni also contacted Delaware certification to verify his license information.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WC 5,7,8,12 certificate.

### **Wastewater**

**Damian Bernstein** - currently holds an Arizona wastewater certification that expires September 30, 2018. He has 2 years, 4 months working at City of Somerton WWTP which is a class B system using WW1 activated sludge and collections. A letter of recommendation was provided by

The Department's recommendation is that, based on information provided, this individual qualifies for a WWCE 1,4 certificate.

### **Old and New Business**

Ms. Sansoni provided the exam statistics for year 2017. The numbers in the exam passing/fail rate are consistent with the other years. Ms. Sansoni also stated that the number of exams taken have gone down because of consistently saturating the state with exam opportunities in previous years. Mr. Chescattie briefly reviewed the pass rate trends for each individual subclass, and stated that there were not consecutive two or three year statistically significant trends that would indicate the need to conduct targeted subclass training or question re-evaluations.

Mr. Cantwell emailed the Pipito Reconsideration Order to the Board members on February 8, 2018, He instructed Board members to read, discuss and provide him with comments/revisions to the Order by February 28, 2018.

The Board went into executive session at 10:38 AM and came out of executive session at 11:14 AM.

### **Board Secretary Report**

Ms. Sansoni presented the following extension request:

Stephen Pletchan - DEP employee requested an extension due to his military deployment. Mr. Schombert motioned to extend his renewal cycle for one year and three months or until June 30, 2019. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion was carried. This is Mr. Pletchan's second extension request for military deployment.

Additional language was added on page 2 of the certification application to clarify that the certified operator who supervised the applicant, in addition to the applicant's supervisor (if the supervisor is not certified), is signing off on the operating experience. Occasionally, the existing application wording creates confusion. Most importantly, the overall need for the edits is to ensure that the information provided in the application is consistent with the requirements of applicable regulatory language in 302.704 relative to determining qualifying experience. The Board approved these clarification edits to the application.

### **Criminal History Report**

Ms. Sansoni presented the review committee's recommendation for the following reciprocity applicant with a criminal history record (CHR). Client ID 340978 was arrested 5/19/06 for one count false alarm to agencies of public safety (M1); arrested 5/19/06 one count tampering with or fabricating physical evidence (M2); arrested 5/19/06 one count flight to avoid apprehension (F3); arrested 5/19/06 one count person not to possess firearms (F2); arrested 8/22/06 one count tampering with public records (M2); arrested 8/22/06 false ID to law enforcement authorities (M3); Disposition was plead guilty, prison and fines, costs for all. Served approximately 5 years 10 months in state prison. Mr. Schombert motioned to approve the reciprocity application as recommended by the Department. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Schombert motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 AM.