

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS**

**Board Meeting Minutes  
June 18, 2013  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Conference Call Meeting**

**Board Members Present**

Joseph Swanderski, Chairman  
Michael Kyle  
Mary Roland  
John Schombert  
Curt Steffy  
Phil Consonery, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW)  
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary

**Board Members Absent**

Dr. Ronald Neufeld  
William Shakely, DEP Legal Counsel

**Non Board Members Present**

Sean Gimbel, Policy Office  
Scott Noldy, BSDW  
Julianne Burke, BSDW

Mr. Swanderski called the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators (Board) to order at 10:05 AM.

**Criminal History Report**

There were no Criminal History Reports to present to the Board.

**Approval of April 16, 2013 Minutes**

Mr. Kyle noted an error in the April 16, 2013 minutes. On page 3, fourth paragraph, "Curt Michael Kyle" should be changed to "Michael Kyle". Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Approval of New and Upgrades Applications**

The new and upgrade applications were presented to the Board for approval. Ms. Roland motioned to issue licenses for all new and upgrade applications on the Evaluation Summary Report. Mr. Steffy seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Reciprocity Requests**

The following reciprocity applications were presented to the Board.

### **Wastewater**

Mark Ciccone – Holds a Class III and IV wastewater certificate in Ohio that expires 12/31/13. He has 19 years, 11 months working at the City of Struthers which is a class A system using subclasses WW1 Activated Sludge, Fixed Film WW2 and Collections WWE4.

The Department recommendation is to issue a WWAE 1,2,4. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue the WWAE 1,2,4 license. Mr. Kyle seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Nicholas Jordan – Holds a Wastewater Operator Certification in Ohio that expires 12/31/14. He has 26 years working at Struthers wastewater plant which is a class A system using subclasses WW1 Activated Sludge, Fixed Film WW2 and Collections WWE4.

The Department recommendation is to issue a WWAE 1,2,4. Mr. Kyle motioned to issue the WWAE 1,2,4 license. Mr. Swanderski seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Water**

Edward Rapciewicz - Holds a water certificate in Delaware that he obtained through Reciprocity with New Jersey that expires 5/12/15. He has 5 years' experience working at the Tidewater Utilities in Dover which is a class A system using subclasses 1,7,8,9,12 and 13. He has one year experience at United Water Delaware, which is a class AE using subclasses 6,7,8,12, and distribution. Still waiting for verification from New Jersey since that is where he obtained his original license.

The Board recommended tabling this application for the next meeting until we receive verification from New Jersey.

Wayne Clendaniel – Holds a Water Supply Operator license in Delaware that expires 6/20/14. He has 27 years in the water field but only submitted information for 2 years of experience at a Class DE size plant with experience in subclasses 1,5,7,8,12 and distribution. Ms. Sansoni spoke with him initially and told him to provide the highest flows, years of experience and treatment information.

The Department recommendation is to issue a WDE 1,5,7,8,12. Mr. Schombert motioned to issue the WDE 1,5,7,8,12 license. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Frederick Costanzo – Holds a T2 Water treatment license in New Jersey that expires 9/30/13. He has 5 years 3 months working at Erie Water works which is a class A system using subclasses 1, 6,7,8,11,12 and distribution. He also worked at many other facilities in NJ. NJ has thus far not responded to verify valid certification.

The Board recommended tabling this application for the next meeting until we receive verification from New Jersey. Ms. Roland also noted that Mr. Costanzo did not answer the section regarding Education, and recommends that this would also need to be clarified.

### **Denials of Applications for Certification Renewal**

There were no denials to present to the Board.

### **Certificate Program Credit Toward Opposite Industry Experience Requirements**

Donald Kline, Client ID 287366, is applying for a Water Class B system since he works at a B. He only has 2 years' experience at a Class B system which would normally only qualify him for a Class C. He submitted a Montgomery County Certificate Program for wastewater program with his water application. He was told from someone at DEP that the wastewater certificate program would give him some experience for his water license for educational credit. DEP has not previously encountered this situation and it was not clear if he should receive credit for a wastewater certificate program for a water certification and per Section 302.703, (d) (1) page 302-29 under Section 302.704 (9) (j), it states an applicant's experience at a water system may be used to meet no more than 50% experience requirement of a wastewater certification of the same classification level or lower. The remaining experience must be operating experience at a water system. If an operator receives credit for experience for the other type license, should the operator receive credit for a certificate program for the other type license? The Board agreed that there was adequate crossover between water and wastewater certificate programs to set policy that will allow up to half of the 50% educational credit to apply towards the requirements for certification in the opposite industry of which the operator holds a certificate program diploma. As an example, if an operator submits a wastewater certificate program and is applying for a water license as in Mr. Kline's case, he will only receive one year educational credit toward the water license instead of two years.

Mr. Steffy made the motion to accept the certificate program experience credit as detailed above. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Kyle then motioned to accept Mr. Kline's wastewater certificate program as 50% education requirement towards his certification, and to issue the WB1,7,8,11 license. Mr. Swanderski seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Industrial Wastewater Certification – Michael Shoup**

Mr. Shoup, Client ID 304403, applied for a WWC1 license. He is an operator at an Industrial Waste facility that does not use biological treatment processes. The Board stated that the criterion for Industrial waste operators to be eligible for wastewater certification is to have experience working at a biological treatment system. Mr. Schombert motioned to deny certification due to lack of experience at a biological treatment system. Mr. Kyle seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **ADA Accommodation Request**

Mr. Zachary Kaufer submitted further documentation supporting his ADA accommodation request to take certification exams. After discussion, the Board agreed to accommodate the request, and Ms. Sansoni will instruct Mr. Kaufer to contact an exam provider in 2014 to register for an exam session. A proctor will be provided to read the exam questions to him for four hours only. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the request. Mr. Consonery seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Operator Falsification**

During the reciprocity application process, it was discovered that Mr. Peter Neely had allegedly altered his water license to obtain a wastewater license through reciprocity from New Jersey, which was granted. He then applied for a PA wastewater license through reciprocity application using the NJ certification. A letter was mailed to Mr. Neely to provide the opportunity for him to appear before the Board to discuss this issue. Mr. Neely was not present for the June 18, 2013 Board meeting. Mr. Kyle motioned to deny the wastewater reciprocity application, and to suspend Mr. Neely's water license for 50 years. The Board is also recommending this case be referred for criminal investigation. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Board Secretary Report**

Ms. Sansoni presented the following extension requests:

Tobey Aldridge's WWA1-3 certification expires on 6/30/13 and he is requesting extension due to military deployment. He completed 0 contact hours of the 30 required. Ms. Roland motioned to extend his renewal cycle to 12/31/2013 to obtain 30 hours of training. Mr. Swanderski seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Old and New Business**

Mr. Consonery asked the Board if they would oppose providing the conversion formulas handout that is used in the Operator Exam sessions in training sessions and possibly posting this on the Department's website. The Board did not voice any concerns regarding this. No motion was required.

Ms. Sansoni informed the Board that Mr. Bair is now retired, and William Shakely will be replacing him as the Board Counsel, but could not be present for this meeting due to a prior commitment.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 AM.