

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

Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2008

Susquehanna Room A & B, DEP Southcentral Regional Office

Board Members Present

John Brutz, Chairman
Matt Higgins
Mary McElhinny
John Schombert
Joe Swanderski
Nicki Kasi
Michael Kyle conference by phone
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary

Public Present

Bill Jones, Swatara Township Authority
Ed Gillette, PWEA
Dean Miller, PWEA
Joe DiMatteo, EPWPCOA
Randy Hurst, EPWPCOA
Penny McCoy, PRWA
Guy Woodward, Proactive Operator Source

Non Board Members Present

Kevin Karmosky, BWSFR
Bill McNamara, BWSFR
Ken Parmlee, BWSFR
Michael Shoff, BWSFR
Matt Walderon, BWSFR
Dawn Becker, BWSFR

John Brutz called the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators to order at 10:15 AM.

Criminal History Report

Kevin Karmosky recommended 3 criminal history cases for approval:

- Client 255684 had a DUI in 2008
- Client 266076 had 2 counts of DUI and a drug violation in 2000 and an unauthorized use of vehicle in 1979, (all misdemeanor offenses)
- Client 265836 had a DUI in 2006

Nicki Kasi motioned to approve the applications. Mary McElhinny seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approvals of New and Upgrade Applications

Nicki Kasi motioned to approve new and upgrade applications. John Schombert seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Operator Certification Fee Structure

Nicki Kasi presented an overview of three options developed by the Department to address a projected shortfall of \$655,000 per year using the current fee structure. She also provided an overview of comments and changes presented at two previous meetings held with the Certification Program Advisory Committee and the Small

Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board. A summary of the attendees comments is attached. John Schombert motioned to endorse Option 3(d), contingent upon the Department making appropriate revisions based on comment and input received during the meeting. The motion was not seconded. The motion failed. Members felt additional information on how the Department came up with the numbers was needed in order to take a formal position.

Nicki Kasi suggested that one comment received from the audience concerning the collection of examination fees could be addressed under the existing Board authority to administer the examinations. After some discussion, John Schombert motioned to implement an administrative policy to collect examination fees, contingent upon the programmability of eFACTS, after an applicant has attended four examination sessions without applying for certification. Attendance at future examination sessions would be contingent upon the Department receiving this payment, either ahead of time or at the examination site. Joe Swanderski suggested amending the motion that beginning with the first examination of the 2009 schedule, applicants who sit for either four water or four wastewater exam sessions will be required to pay the examination fees prior to being permitted to sit for a fifth examination session. The amended motion was accepted by John Schombert. Joe Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Board Secretary Report

Cheri Sansoni stated AMP testing information is being provided to individuals seeking to take certification exams. At this time, no test results have been received from AMP.

A Consent Order and Agreement was issued against Curt DiGiovine from the Southwest Regional Office. Mr. DiGiovine surrendered his license for falsifying experience on his water application.

There are currently three pending petitions, which may lead to hearings. Two previous petitions have been closed.

The 2009 operator exam request deadline is at the end of December. Cheri Sansoni will meet with lead proctors to develop the schedule. Once the schedule is approved by the Board, it will be posted to the public website.

Old and New Business

Cheri Sansoni stated Warren Harris is seeking recertification of his water license due to Military deployment. Mr. Harris was deployed July 2002 and again in January 2005. His certification expired in September 30, 2002. Nicki Kasi indicated the Board cannot grant an extension. EPA federal guidelines do not allow for the renewal of a operator certificate that expired over two years ago. Joe Swanderski motioned to deny the request, noting the EPA requirement must be included in the denial letter. Mary McElhinny seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Joe Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:42 PM. Motion carried.