

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2024
Room 105 / Teams Call**

Board Members Present

Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator
Mike Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Wastewater Operator
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System
Autumn Crawford, Western Butler County Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee

Non-Board Members Present

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary
Bill McNamara, BSDW
Shalini Moola, BSDW
Mahendra Patel, BSDW
Jeff Schultz, BSDW
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board (joined at 10:30am)
Brian Chalfant, Policy Office (via Teams)
Leda Lacomba, BRC (via Teams)
Brad Baker, BSDW (joined at 10:30am)
Brandon Bettinger, BCW
Kevin Buss, BCW
Victor Landis, BCW

Public Present

Ed Farber, PA American Water, Norristown (via Teams)
Dominic Sonon, applicant (via Teams)

Meeting was called to order at 10:02am.

Approval of August 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the August 7, 2024 meeting minutes including the minor edits provided. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

Ms. Chambers presented the following new and upgraded licenses for Board consideration:

- 95 new water licenses
- 35 upgraded water licenses
- 70 new wastewater licenses
- 32 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 10 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve all the new and upgraded license applications. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reciprocity Requests

Water

Andrew West – Holds a West Virginia Class II drinking water license that was issued on July 3, 2024 and expires on July 31, 2028. His application documents 2 years and 6 months of experience working at the River Bend Membership in West Virginia, which DEP determined is a class C system using subclasses 8,9,12, and distribution.

The applicant also holds a Maryland Class T2 drinking water license that was issued on July 1, 2014, and expires on July 1, 2026. He is licensed to operate subclasses 8,11,12, and distribution. His application documents 8 months of experience at the I-70 Auto Mall, which is a Class D system using subclasses 9 and 13. Mr. West is not licensed for either of these technologies in Maryland and this experience is not included in the reciprocity determination.

Mr. West's experience was obtained at a Class C system and an operator is required to have 2 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class C license. Therefore, the Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. West has documented the adequate experience relative to a WC,E-8,9,12.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the Class II drinking water exam developed by ABC and administered by WPI in the state of West Virginia. The applicant also passed the T2 exam developed and administered by the state of Maryland.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. West for WC-8,9,12, and WE (distribution) certification. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Wastewater

Andrew West – Holds a Maryland a W5A (Wastewater Treatment) and a C2 (Collection) license that were issued on July 1, 2014, and expire on July 1, 2026.

His application documents the following experience at treatment plants in Maryland: 9 years and 10 months of experience working at MCI WWTP, which is a Class C system using subclasses 1 and 4; 8 months of experience working at Holcron, which is a Class D system using subclass 2; and 5 months of experience working at Funkstown, which is a Class C system using subclass 3. The applicant also holds a West Virginia Wastewater 4,S license that was issued on July 25, 2022, and expired on August 31, 2024. However, the applicant did not include any relevant experience in the reciprocity application.

Based on Mr. West's experience at the MCI WWTP (Class C-1,4) the Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. West has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWC-1 and WWE4.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed Wastewater 5A exams developed by ABC and administered by WPI in the state of Maryland.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. West for WWC-1 and WWE4 certification. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

William Roe, II – Holds a New York Wastewater 2A license that was issued on March 5, 2014 and expires on April 1, 2029. His application documents 15 years and 6 months of experience working at Town of Wallkill, which is a Class A system using subclasses 1 and 4.

Mr. Roe's experience was obtained at a Class A system and an operator is required to have 4 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. Therefore, the Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Roe has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWA-1.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed Wastewater 2A exams developed by ABC and administered by WPI in the state of New York.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Roe for WWA-1 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Aisha Durant – Holds a Massachusetts Wastewater Level 2 (municipal) license that was issued on February 4, 2015 and expires on December 31, 2025. Her application documents 8 years and 7 months of experience working at Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which is a Class B system using subclasses 1 and 4.

Ms. Durant's experience was obtained at a Class B system and an operator is required to have 3 years of experience in order to obtain a Class B license. Therefore, the Department's determination for Board consideration is that Ms. Durant has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWB-1.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed Grade 2 (municipal) exams developed and administered by the state of Massachusetts.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Ms. Durant for WWB-1 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding exams for 2024:

- Number of exam **sessions held** thus far in 2024: **40**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2024: **1,524**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2024: **1,138** (approx. 75%)
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2024: **17**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2024: **869**
 - Total number of computer exams for 2024: **30**
 - Total number of paper exams for 2024: **27**
 - Total number of exams for 2024: **57**

Old and New Business

Ms. Chambers agreed to email potential dates for 2025 Board Meetings to Board members so the dates can be voted on at the December 11, 2024 meeting.

Bill McNamara, BSDW, briefed the Board on a request DEP received from Grandparented Operator 235241 to have his license reinstated after it had expired due to his termination of employment at the only facility where he was grandparented to operate. The individual requested reinstatement of the grandparented license for a new housing development's collection system that is connected to the original grandparented system. DEP identifies the development's system as a new and separate collection system with its own unique facility ID and different ownership. After some discussion, Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the applicant's request to have their license reinstated. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:47am to review 8 criminal history applications and 1 extension request.

The Board reconvened for public session at 11:49am.

Extension Request

Operator 214121 – Has a WWA-2 and WWE4 license that expired on June 30, 2024. The applicant was required to obtain 15 hours of continuing education training for his wastewater certification and currently has completed zero hours. The application claims multiple health issues and related extenuating circumstances, which are specified within the documentation provided by the applicant's healthcare provider and the summary provided by the applicant. The applicant is requesting a 60-day extension to complete the additional training hours.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 214121 extension through December 1, 2024. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Criminal History Report

Criminal History Review Evaluations were conducted for the below applicants. It has been confirmed that charges were not related to the operation of a drinking water or wastewater treatment system. Therefore, the preliminary review committee recommended the below applicants for presentation and approval at the October 2, 2024, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 385245: WWE4 certification
2. Operator 373675: WWB-1, WWE4 certification
3. Operator 379829: WE certification
4. Operator 384567: WWD-2, WWE4 certification
5. Operator 370714: WWE4 certification
6. Operator 376931: WWC-1 certification
7. Operator 381207: WWA-3, WWE4 certification and WWA-1,2 OIT
8. Operator 386604: WE-12 certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 385245 WWE4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 373675 WWB-1, WWE4 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 379829 WE certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 384567 WWD-2, WWE4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 370714 WWE4 certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 376931 WWC-1 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 381207 WWA-3, WWE4 certification and WWA-1,2 OIT. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 386604 WE-12 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie motioned to adjourn. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:58am.