

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2024
Room 105 / Teams Call**

Board Members Present

Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator (via Teams)
Mike Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision (via Teams)
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public (via Teams)
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System (via Teams)
Heath Edelman, Thaddeus Stevens College, Teaching Staff (via Teams)

Non-Board Members Present

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary
Shalini Moola, BSDW
Jeff Schultz, BSDW
Mahendra Patel, BSDW
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board
Bill King, BSDW
Lori Weaver, BSDW
Victor Landis, Bureau of Clean Water
Kevin Buss, Bureau of Clean Water
Brandon Bettinger, Bureau of Clean Water
Derik Dressler, BSDW
Leda Lacomba, BRC (via Teams)
Laura Griffin, Policy Office

Public Present

Ryan Gerlach, applicant (via Teams)

Meeting was called to order at 10:04am.

Approval of February 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the February 7, 2024 meeting minutes including the minor edits provided. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

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

- 55 new water licenses
- 45 upgraded water licenses
- 40 new wastewater licenses
- 30 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 8 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

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

Downgrade Applications

Operator 276107 – holds water certification WA,E-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14 that expires on 09/30/2024 and is requesting to downgrade to WD,E-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14.

Operator 276107 – holds wastewater certification WWA,E-1,2,3,4 expires on 06/30/2024 and is requesting to downgrade to WWD,E-1,2,3,4.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Operator 276107 WD,E-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14 certification. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Operator 276107 WWD,E-1,2,3,4 certification. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reciprocity Requests

Wastewater

Jacob Jones – Holds a New York 2A Wastewater license that was issued on June 23, 2015 and expires on October 1, 2025. His application documents 2 years' part-time experience (for a total of 1 year, 2 months) working at Platte Clove Community, which is a Class A system using subclass 1.

Mr. Jones's experience was obtained at a Class A facility and an operator is required to have a minimum of 1 year of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class D license. **Therefore, the Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Jones has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWD-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 Jacob Jones WWD-1 certification. Mr. Smith 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: **5**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2024: **217**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2024: **177**
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2024: **52**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2024: **2,176**
 - 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

Mr. Bickel provided an update from the most recent Small Water Systems TAC meeting.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:55am to review sensitive information.

The Board reconvened for public session at 11:01am.

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 April 3, 2024, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 380264: WE certification
2. Operator 380472: WWE4 certification
3. Operator 366483: WA,E-8 certification
4. Operator 375600: WWD,E-3,4 certification
5. Operator 358329: WB-12 certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 380264 WE certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 380472 WWE4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 366483 WA,E-8 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed with one opposition.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 375600 WWD,E-3,4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 358329 WB-12 certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed with one opposition.

Chairperson Roland motioned to adjourn. Several Board members seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:03am.