

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2024  
Room 105 / Teams Call**

**Board Members Present**

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

**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  
Victor Landis, BCW  
Derik Dressler, BSDW  
Drew Hall, BCW  
Victor Landis, BCW (via Teams)  
Brian Chalfant, Policy Office (via Teams)  
Leda Lacomba, BRC (via Teams)

**Public Present**

Max Harvat, applicant (via Teams)  
Brandon Kutos, applicant (via Teams)

Meeting was called to order at 10:03am.

**Approval of April 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the April 3, 2024 meeting minutes including the minor edits provided. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of New and Upgrade Applications**

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

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

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

### **Downgrade Applications**

**Operator 197069** – holds a WWA,E - 1,2,3,4 license that expires on June 30, 2024 and is requesting to downgrade to a WWE4.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 197069 WWE4 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Reciprocity Requests**

#### *Wastewater*

**Raul Feria Gomez** – Holds a New Jersey N4 Industrial Waste license that was issued on May 8, 2019 and expires on September 30, 2024. His application documents the following: 7 years and 7 months working at Consumer Products, Inc., which is a Class C system using subclass 1; and 7 years and 4 months working at Bristol-Myers Squibb, which is a Class C system using subclass 1.

Mr. Gomez's experience was obtained at Class C facilities and an operator is required to have a minimum of 2 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class C license. Therefore, the Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Gomez has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWC-1.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed Biological Industrial Waste Treatment exams developed by ABC and administered by WPI in the state of New Jersey.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Raul Feria Gomez WWC-1 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Brian Kocher** – Holds a Delaware Level 3 wastewater OIT license that was issued on March 7, 2024 and expires on March 6, 2026. His application documents the following: 2 years and 1 month working at Port Penn WWTP, which is a Class D system using subclass 1; 8 months working at Delaware City WWTP, which is a Class C system using subclass 1; 1 year and 3 months working at Middletown-Odessa-Townsend (MOT) WWTP Spray, which is a Class B system using subclasses 1 and 3; and 1 year and 3 months working at Middletown-Odessa-Townsend MOT WWTP (Water Farm #1), which is a Class B system using subclasses 1 and 3.

Mr. Kocher's experience was obtained at Class D, C, and B facilities 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. Kocher has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWC-1,3.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed Levels 1, 2 and 3 exams developed and administered by the state of Delaware.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Brian Kocher WWC-1,3 certification. Mr. Edelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Board Secretary Report**

There was no new information provided for the Board Secretary Report.

## **Old and New Business**

Mr. Bickel provided a brief summary of the most recent Small Water Systems Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Board members collaborated on a date to discuss and develop an SOP for Criminal History Record review.

Applicant Max Harvat asked a question regarding Industrial Waste experience. Mr. Chescattie provided clarification to Mr. Harvat's satisfaction.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:53am to review sensitive information.

The Board reconvened for public session at 11:22am.

## **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 June 12, 2024, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 370225: WB-1,2,7,8,10,11,12 certification
2. Operator 380436: WE certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 370225 WB-1,2,7,8,10,11,12. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 380436 WE certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed with one opposition.

## **Additional Item for Executive Session**

After investigation from regional staff, it was determined that Operator 380465 should have been given WD,E-7,8,12 certification rather than WE-7,8,12 at the October 14, 2020 Board meeting.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 355387 upgrade to WD,E-7,8,12. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Extension Request**

**Operator 200163** – Has a wastewater A,E - 1,2,3,4 license that expires on June 30, 2024. The applicant was required to obtain 30 hours of continuing education training for his wastewater certification and currently has completed zero hours, although he is currently working on Sacramento course “Safety, Beginning Treatment, and Lagoon Systems, Vol 1, Ed 8,” which is worth 40 contact hours. The application claims multiple health issues, which are specified within the documentation provided by the applicant’s healthcare provider. The applicant is requesting a one year extension to complete the additional training hours.

The applicant relayed during a phone call with Ms. Chambers on June 5<sup>th</sup> that he is not currently working but is hoping to maintain his license in the event that he is eventually cleared to return to work. Applicant also confirmed during that call that he is requesting a one year extension to complete the Sacramento course he is currently working on.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension through November 10, 2024, which is the day after the course expires. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to adjourn. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:24am.