

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2018
10th Floor Conference Room**

Board Members Present

Joseph Swanderski, Chairman, Penn State University, Wastewater Operator
Mary Roland, PA American Water, Water Operator
John Schombert, General Public
Michael Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision
Curt Steffy, Aqua PA Inc., Official of Private System
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary, BSDW

Board Members Absent

Rachel Brennan, Teacher/Professor

Non-Board Members Present

Scott Sykes, BSDW
Bill Mcnamara BSDW
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW
Robert Digilarmo, Bureau of Clean Water (BCW)
David Long, BSDW
Shalini Lenka, BSDW

Mr. Swanderski called the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators (Board) to order at 10:00 AM.

Approval of February 8, 2018 Minutes

Mr. Kyle requested to add a sentence to the standard language for Executive Session minutes. The Board went into executive session at 10:38 AM “to review confidential information relating to medical histories of individuals requesting an extension of their renewal cycle”. Mr. Schombert motioned to approve the February 8, 2018 minutes as amended. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

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

Reciprocity Requests

Two water and one wastewater reciprocity applications were presented to the Board for approval. Robert Carpenter’s wastewater application was tabled for the next meeting to obtain the exam need to know criteria from West Virginia. Ms. Roland motioned to issue both reciprocal water licenses. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Water

Wanda Rios Martinez – holds a Puerto Rico potable water operator certification that expires May 16, 2018. She has 4 years’ experience at Guaynabo WTP in PR which is a class A system using subclass W1. She also holds a PA wastewater operator certificate she obtained through reciprocity from PR.

The Department’s recommendation is to issue a WA1 certificate.

Jonathan Berenson – holds a Rhode Island DO (distribution) Class 2-Full and a TO (treatment) Class 1-Full certificates which expire April 28, 2020. He has 1 year and 6 months experience at several Class D systems using subclass 12.

The Department’s recommendation is to issue a WDE 12 certificate.

Old and New Business

Mr. Chescattie presented the revised page 2 of the certification application; revisions, which were previously discussed and agreed upon were made to the form. The Board reviewed the revised form and suggested adding “and/or loss of certification” after the statement “I have reviewed this application and attest that the information provided by the applicant and by me is true and accurate. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations “and/or loss of certification”. It was also suggested to add “If the supervisor is certified, only one signature is required” under the signature line Client ID of supervising certified operator.” The Board discussed the importance of having a certified supervisor or certified operator sign off for the applicant’s experience. The Board must ensure information provided in the application is consistent with the requirements of applicable regulatory language in 302.704 relative to determining qualifying experience. Mr. Chescattie will complete the suggested revisions and forward the revised page 2 and Operator application instructions to the Board members for their final review. Certification applicants who do not obtain a certified operator’s signature verifying their experience, will be contacted by Department staff.

Mr. Allgyer is preparing to do a mailing to systems owners and an email to all operators to advise certified operators of the new Disinfection Residual Rule.

The Board went into executive session at 11:30 AM to review confidential information relating to medical histories of individuals requesting an extension of their renewal cycle.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Sansoni presented the following extension request:

Eric Guarrasi – applied for his second medical extension request, his last extension request expired March 31, 2018. Since his last extension was approved, his transcript indicates completion of zero hours of continuing education towards his 30-hour requirement. Mr. Guarrasi did indicate he took several courses (probably in excess of 30 hours) provided as in-house training by his employer PA American Water Company (PAWC); but, he did not provide records to verify course completions. If PAWC, as the training provider, cannot verify Mr. Guarrasi’s successful course completions, then his license will be expired and he cannot renew.

He did not provide medical documentation to support his extension request. Therefore, the Board considers this to be an issue regarding the need for Mr. Guarassi to obtain verification of completion of the training he has referenced. Department staff have already, and will continue to reach out to PAWC, the training provider, to request course completion records for Mr. Guarassi. Mr. Kyle motioned to deny Mr. Guarrasi's extension request. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Cantwell discussed the Pipito Adjudication Reconsideration Order with the Board members.

Criminal History Report

Ms. Sansoni presented the review committee's recommendation for the following wastewater applicant with a criminal history record (CHR). Client ID 329378 was arrested 4/5/09 for one count manufacture of controlled substance (F), arrested 5/18/09 for one count use of drug paraphernalia (M) arrested 8/2/09 one count use of drug paraphernalia (M), arrested 8/2/09 one count of driving under the influence (M), arrested 5/10/10 one count possession of marijuana (M), and arrested 6/12/15 one count disorderly conduct (S). Pled guilty, county prison 4 months, 24 days to 1 year 11 months for the 4/5/09 felony offense, and probation for all other offenses and fines, costs for all. Since the charges are not related to water or wastewater facility, the review committee recommended that the Board approve certification for this applicant. Ms. Roland motioned to approve and Mr. Schombert seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Swanderski presented Mr. Schombert with a certificate of resolution congratulating him for his 15 years serving on the Board. Mr. Schombert has officially retired from the Board.

The Board came out of executive session at 12:43 PM.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:43 PM.