

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2018
10th Floor Conference Room**

Board Members Present

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

Non-Board Members Present

Scott Sykes, BSDW
Bill McNamara BSDW
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW
Roland Gensel, BSDW
David Long, BSDW

Mr. Swanderski called the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators (Board) to order at 10:02 AM. All Board member were present and introductions were made to welcome the new Board members.

Approval of April 11, 2018 Minutes

Mr. Kyle requested to add language under Reciprocity Requests to the sentence “Ms. Roland motioned to issue both reciprocal water licenses consistent with Department recommendations”. Ms. Roland motioned to approve the April 11, 2018 minutes as amended. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

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

Reciprocity Requests

Water

Dean Bullard – holds an Ohio water certification that expires December 31, 2019. He has 13 years working at various Class C systems using subclasses 8,9,11.

The Department’s recommendation is to issue a WC 8,9,11 certificate.

Randall Danford – holds an Ohio Class II water certification that expires December 31, 2018. He has 17 years working at various class B and C systems using subclasses 1,7,8,9,11,12 and WE distribution.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WBE 1,7,8,9,11,12 certificate.

Thomas Warner – holds a West Virginia Class IV water certification that expires December 31, 2019. He has 8 years working at Weirton Area Water Board which is a class B system using subclasses 1,7,8,10,11,12, 13,15 and WE distribution.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WBE 1,7,8,10,11,12,13 certificate.

Elizabeth Kinderman – holds a Massachusetts Grade VSS Full Operator certification that expires December 31, 2019. She has 1 year 5 months working at the VA Boston Healthcare system which is a class D system using subclass 8 chemical addition.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WD 8 certificate.

Wastewater

Robert Carpenter – holds a West Virginia Class S and Class II wastewater certification that expires February 28, 2020. He has 5 years' experience working at a class B system and has worked at several class C and A systems using WW1 activated sludge and WWE4 collections.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWBE 1,4 certificate. Tabled at 4-11-18 meeting. Still waiting for need to know criteria. I've contacted WV three times for the information.

Dean Bullard – holds an Ohio wastewater certification that expires December 31, 2018. He has 19 years working at various class C and class D systems using subclass WW1 activated sludge.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWC 1 certificate.

Randall Danford – holds a Ohio Class III wastewater certification that expires December 31, 2019. He has 23 years working at various class B and C systems using subclasses WW1, activated sludge and collections WWE4.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWBE 1,4 certificate.

Anthony Rivera – holds a New Jersey S2 public wastewater certificate that expires September 30, 2018. He has 14 years working for Stony Brook Sewage Authority which is a class A system using subclass WW1 activated sludge.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWA 1 certificate.

Four water and four wastewater reciprocity applications were presented to the Board for approval. After some discussion, the Board decided to hold off on a decision regarding Thomas Warner's and Elizabeth Kinderman's water applications, to allow time to obtain necessary additional information. Mr. Kyle motioned to issue the other six reciprocity applications consistent with Department recommendations. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Old and New Business

Mr. Chescattie presented the revised page two of the certification application. Previously discussed and agreed upon revisions were made to this page of the form. Mr. Chescattie explained that the revisions were approved by SDW Program legal counsel as consistent with Chapter 302.802 regulatory language. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the revisions to page 2 of the certification application. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Mr. Chescattie and Mr. Allgyer will update BSDW and CW program management staff in Central Office that these previously discussed page 2 revisions are completed, and will then notify Ms. Sansoni regarding the date to replace the previous version of page two of this application.

Mr. Sykes informed the Board that the 2018 Available Operator Reports and Annual System Fees will be mailed to drinking water and wastewater systems in the forthcoming week.

Mr. Kyle posed the issue regarding a reciprocity-type approval amongst multiple states for continuing education course approvals. Bill McNamara discussed various challenges and obstacles that currently exist; primarily, the need for PA to insure that the integrity of the course review and approval process is at a level where the amount of continuing education hours awarded are commensurate with the complexity of the course materials. The Department's review process is thorough; and, would need additional information and details on the level of review provided by other states. The Board will continue to discuss this issue in more detail at future meetings.

Ms. Sansoni informed the Board members that Ohio does not accept reciprocity with PA operator certification because DEP will not provide other states with copies of our operator exams. PA accepts Ohio reciprocal licenses. The Board discussed possible options that may help remedy Ohio's reciprocity concerns. Department staff will discuss with Management whether any of these options are appropriate and report back to the Board. One potential option would be a confidential on-site review of PA's exams by Ohio certification staff to determine if our exams meet their minimal exam criteria. Any such future actions need to be done in a manner that protects the integrity of our exam questions.

The Board requested to meet after the August 15, 2018 meeting to discuss Circuit Riders.

The Board went into executive session at 11:28 AM to review confidential information relating to medical histories of individuals requesting an extension of their renewal cycle. The Board came out of executive session at 11:40 AM.

Board Secretary Report

Jeff May – applied for his second medical extension request. His first extension request expired June 30, 2018. Since his last extension request was approved, he took 17.5 hours of training towards his 30-hour requirement. Ms. Roland motioned to extend his renewal cycle for three months or until September 30, 2018. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

James Hughes – applied for a medical extension request. His license expires June 30, 2018 and he has zero training hours completed towards his 30-hour requirement. Mr. Steffy motioned to extend his renewal cycle for three months or until September 30, 2018. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Criminal History Report

There were no criminal history reports.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 PM.