

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2018  
10<sup>th</sup> 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  
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public  
Rachel Brennan, Penn State University, Teacher/Professor  
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee  
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel  
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary, BSDW

**Non-Board Members Present**

Scott Sykes, BSDW  
Bill McNamara, BSDW  
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW  
Anita Stabile, BCW  
Roland Gensel, BSDW  
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 10:04 AM. All Board member were present and introductions were made to welcome the new Board members.

**Approval of June 13, 2018 Minutes**

Mr. Kyle requested to revise page 2 under Robert Carpenter “I’ve contacted” to “Ms. Sansoni contacted.” Ms. Roland motioned to approve the June 13, 2018, minutes as amended. Mr. Swanderski 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. 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**

**Water**

**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. This application was tabled at June 13,

2018, meeting because WV certification staff indicated he has a full license, but only checked application boxes indicating subclass experience for W1, W8, W11 and W12. WV certification staff email stated that they cannot specify this individual's experience with treatment processes. Ms. Sansoni contacted Mr. Warner and requested that he provide documentation of their permitted treatments processes.

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

**Eric Reinhart** – holds a New Jersey T2 water treatment and W2 distribution certifications that expire September 30, 2018. He has 5 years' experience at Phillipsburg which is a Class B facility using distribution, subclasses 12 and 13. He has 5 years' experience at Califon using subclasses 5, 7, 8, 12, and distribution.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WBE 5,7,8,12,13 certificate

### **Wastewater**

**James Kondracki** – holds a Maryland wastewater 3 certification that expires January 1, 2020. He has 10 years' experience working at Elk Neck WWTP which is a class D system using WW1 activated sludge and WWE4 collections.

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

**David DeMilio** – holds a Maryland wastewater 5 certification that expires January 1, 2019. He has 7 years' experience working at Elk Neck WWTP which is a class D system using WW1 activated sludge and WWE4 collections.

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

**Krzysztof Lazewski** – holds a New Jersey S2 public wastewater certificate that expires September 30, 2018. He has 11 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.

Overall, the above two water and three wastewater reciprocity applications were presented to the Board for approval. After discussion and consideration by the Board, Mr. Kyle motioned to issue five reciprocity applications consistent with Department recommendations. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Board Secretary Report**

Ms. Sansoni informed the Board of Richard Kozy's continuing education situation. Two training providers, who worked together to present a course at a conference, both entered training hours for the same course with two different course IDs into Mr. Kozy's training records. When he checked his training records online via Earthwise, the total was 30 hours, with the same course entered under two different course IDs, so he thought he had met his overall minimum contact hours requirement. After a short period of time, training providers realized the error, they removed the duplicate course credit from the Earthwise system but did not notify Mr. Kozy of the change. Since the mistake was made by the training providers, and two different course IDs were entered into Earthwise, Mr. Kozy was allowed to take a free NIMS course in order to meet

his minimum training requirements. The Board approved this training decision, which was extremely unique and specific to the fact that two different course IDs were designated. Department staff stressed, and Board agreed, that this particular decision does not apply to duplicate course entries for the same course ID which are automatically flagged by the Earthwise system to call operator and training providers attention to the error.

### **Old and New Business**

The Board had previously planned to discuss the Statewide increasing trend of circuit riders being employed at approximately 53% of the systems; but, since the meeting was a conference call, this topic will be further discussed at the next in-person meeting.

Ohio Certification staff responded to Ms. Sansoni's inquiry to meet with Ohio staff for their review of PA Operator exams. Ohio suggested PA staff travel to meet their subject matter experts to review PA exams or provide a webinar for their council members to review the PA exams. Mr. Chescattie stated we will need more staff time and resources for the two options that Ohio has given. Mr. Kyle stated while he approved of staff meeting with Ohio's council members, he did not agree with the webinar option. Mr. Steffy also feels uncomfortable about the webinar. Mr. Chescattie explained that the overall issue requires further discussion (e.g. determine maximum number of Ohio council staff / staff titles who would participate) before agreeing to a meeting with the Ohio council. The Department would also need to discuss with legal counsel, the potential need for a non-disclosure agreement, before meeting the Ohio council. Mr. Chescattie suggested, a valuable first step may be evaluating exam pass rates with neighboring reciprocity States.

Ms. Roland discussed creating a separate subclass for nutrient removal. DEP would need a regulation change to add more subclasses. The Board agreed this subject should receive further attention and Board discussion in the future.

Board Bylaws – John Cantwell suggested a revision to the Board Bylaws Article 7. Voting to add section f. Ms. Sansoni raised concerns that this potential revision should first be reviewed by the Policy Office to make sure it does not conflict with their guidelines. Mr. Cantwell did not share this with DEPs' Policy office prior to the meeting. After some discussion, the Board's consensus was that the revision would be valuable, if it did not conflict with DEP policy. Mr. Chescattie will follow-up with Policy Office staff and provide an update at the next Board meeting.

### **Criminal History Report**

Ms. Sansoni presented the following CHR's on behalf of the review committee

Client ID 341151 was arrested in 2006 for one count driving under influence (M1); arrested in 2009 one count criminal conspiracy theft by unlawful taking (F3); Disposition was always plead guilty, county prison 90 days to 24 months for the 2006 M1 offense and county probation for 7 years for the 2009 (F3) offense and fines, costs for all. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the application as recommended by the Department. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

Client ID 342606 had felony convictions in 1996 for theft by unlawful taking (Adjudicated); a Misdemeanor in 1998 for false reporting to law enforcement (Plead Guilty-county prison 4 months); a misdemeanor in 2000 for prohibiting offensive weapons (Plead Guilty- State Correctional facility 9 months) and a felony in 2001 for receiving stolen property (Plead Guilty- State Correction Facility 12 months). Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the application as recommended by the Department. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **ADA Request**

Ms. Sansoni was contacted by Michele Hatbob, Office Manager, requesting an ADA accommodation for Zachary Shoop. Mr. Shoop is in the process of getting his ADA paperwork from his doctor. Ms. Sansoni arranged to have a proctor read to Mr. Shoop at the October 16<sup>th</sup> exam in Greensburg and asked the Board to provide a provisional approval of the ADA request, since the exam date is the day before the next Board meeting on October 17, 2018. The Board tentatively approved this request with the stipulation that the completed ADA application / proper documentation is received prior to the exam date. Mr. Swanderski motioned to tentatively approve this request contingent on the stipulation noted above. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 AM.