

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 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 (via conference call )  
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland Grubic, Inc., General Public  
Michael Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision  
Curt Steffy, Aqua PA Inc., Official of Private System  
Rachel Brennan, Teacher/Professor, Penn State University  
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  
Anita Stabile, Bureau of Clean Water (BCW)  
David Long, BSDW  
Shalini Lenka, BSDW  
Roland Gensel, 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 August 15, 2018 Minutes**

Mr. Kyle requested the following amendments, on page 2 after “requested that he provide documentation” to” requested and presented additional documentation”, at the bottom of page 2, change “the above two water and three wastewater” to read “the above five”, and on page 4 change the word tentatively to conditionally. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the August 15, 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**

Six water and four wastewater reciprocity applications were presented to the Board for approval. After some discussion, the Board decided to table William Douglas’s water application for the next meeting to obtain additional details regarding treatment processes he has experience operating as well as more details regarding subject matter of the exams Mr. Douglas passed in West Virginia. Also, after discussion by the Board, Nathan Pennisi’s water application was tabled to obtain more detailed information on the exam criteria in New York. Department staff

will contact West Virginia Certification contact to request more specifics on their exams. The Board discussed a unique situation where one of the applicants, Mr. Paul Henry, possessed an active license from their state when he submitted for Pennsylvania reciprocity; but, that license just recently expired on September 30<sup>th</sup> before the Board meeting. After considerable discussion, the Board approved this Reciprocity application because said application was complete and the applicant's license was verified to be active and in good standing at time his application was submitted. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the remaining eight reciprocities, Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Mr. Kyle suggested dedicating time and resources to ultimately compare exams and exam criteria to complete a crosswalk between States.

## **Water**

**Ryan Wedge** – holds a New Jersey W1 distribution license that expires September 30, 2019. He has 3 years, 5 months experience at Aqua America, NJ using distribution. He has 11 months experience working at Lehigh County Authority using distribution.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WE certificate. Board approved.

**Robert Barnhart** – holds a Maryland water treatment 1,4,5,6 license that expires April 1, 2019. He has 22 years' experience working at Myersville water treatment plant, which is a class C system using subclasses 1,2,5,6,8,9,11,12 and distribution.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WCE 1,2,5,6,8,9,11,12 certificate. Board approved.

**Kelsey Hale** – holds a Maryland T1 water license that expires September 1, 2021. He has 2 years, 2 months experience working at Lutheran Village which is a class D system using subclasses 8 and 12. Paperwork indicates he worked at Proasys, but this system is not in the eFACTS database.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WD 8, 12 certificate. Board approved

**William Douglas** – holds a West Virginia water class IV license that expires October 31, 2019. He has 7 years and 5 months experience working for Weirton area water and 4 months at Fullunsbee. Both are class B systems using subclasses 1,7,8,9,10,11,13.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WB 1,7,8,9,10,11,13 certificate. Board tabled for future discussion after more information is obtained.

**Nathan Pennisi** – holds a New York water grade IA-SW/GUI filtration plant license that expires February 28, 2021. He has 4 years 11 months experience at Troy water treatment plant which is a class A system using subclasses 1,7,8,11,12 and distribution. The Board tabled for future discussion after more information is obtained.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WAE 1,7,8,11,12 certificate. Board approved.

**Paul Henry** – holds a T2 New Jersey water treatment and a W2 distribution license that expired on September 30, 2018. He worked part-time and has 3 years, experience working at Burlington City Water and Medford Township. Both are class B facilities using subclasses 1,7,8,11,12. At the time he applied, his license was current. His application was received 5 days after the August 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting and had to wait for the October Board meeting, in which the license was then expired, and he stated that he could not afford the \$200 to renew in New Jersey.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WB 1,7,8,11,12 certificate. Board approved

### **Wastewater**

**Robert Barnhart** – holds a Maryland wastewater A treatment 4 and 5, collections 2, and an industrial 7 license that expires April 1, 2019. He has 22 years' experience working at Myersville wastewater treatment plant which is a class C system using subclasses 1,2,3, and collections E4.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWCE 1,2,3,4 certificate. Board approved.

**Paul Henry** – holds a New Jersey S2 public wastewater and C2 collections license that expired on September 30, 2018. He worked part-time and has 3 years, experience working at Burlington City Water and Medford Township. Both are class B facilities using subclasses 1,2,4. At the time he applied, his license was current. His application was received 5 days after the August 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting and had to wait for the October board meeting, in which the license was then expired, and he stated that he could not afford the \$200 to renew in New Jersey.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWBE 1,2,4 certificate. Board approved.

**Clifford Keiderling** – holds a New York grade 2 wastewater license that expires July 1, 2019. He worked at Woodcrest WWTP for 2 years and 3 months which is a class D system using subclass 2. He also presently works in PA at Spring Valley WWTP for 2 years, system is class D using subclass 1.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWD 1,2 certificate. Board approved.

**Dean Bullard** – Awarded reciprocity from Ohio on June 13, 2018 for a WWC1. He is now applying for an upgrade in class and subclass, WWB2, with 4 years' experience from the 1990's with the city of Geneva, OH which is a class B facility using subclass WW2 fixed film. His information was just verified by OH in June, so they were not contacted again.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWB 1,2 certificate. Board approved.

### **Old and New Business**

Since the last Board meeting, Mr. Chescattie, Mr. Allgyer, and Mr. Digilarmo have worked with other Department staff in the Office of Environmental Justice - Allison A. Acevedo - who is promoting workforce development in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities. Details on the overall needs for certified operators was discussed with Allison who plans to focus efforts on colleges near EJ communities with certificate programs as well as area high schools.

Another workforce development effort is underway between DEP and the Department of Corrections. Patrick McDonnell, Tim Schaeffer, Bob Digilarmo, and Ed Chescattie recently met with Department of Corrections management to discuss establishing a training program for a

select group of inmates who are first time offenders with felony drug charges. The tentative plan for the program, managed by the Department of Corrections, would include partnering with Community Colleges (with a strong operator certificate training curriculum) to develop a water and wastewater operator training program for select inmates. This training program could include hands on and detailed training over an extended period-of-time; therefore, it could potentially result in highly qualified operators entering the field. In response to a request from the Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Mr. Cantwell and Mr. Chescattie will draft a statement from the Board relative to this project. Board members will have an opportunity to review and comment on this draft statement, in the near future.

A DEP employee, classified as a Geologist who performs a wide variety of Safe Drinking Water related field activities, requested to have the detailed description he provided of his job duties reviewed by the Board for qualifications of an Operator. The Board felt that the job duties were in line with the classifications approved for certification, similar to an Engineer, and conditionally approved the duties; but requested the employee's supervisor send an email indicating his approval of those duties and his employees' intentions to obtain certification.

### **Board Secretary Report**

Ms. Sansoni had no extension requests to present.

### **2019 Board Meeting Dates**

Ms. Sansoni worked the Board members to obtain dates for the 2019 calendar year Board meetings. The 2019 Board meeting dates are: February 6th, April 3rd, June 12th, August 7th, October 9th, December 4th. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the 2019 Board meeting dates and Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

The Board went into executive session at 11:13 AM to review confidential information relating to criminal histories of certification applicants. The Board came out of executive session at 12:00 PM.

### **Criminal History Report**

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

Applicant client ID #343892 was identified as having a Criminal History. This operator is applying for his initial water certification and his application is being evaluated for the following certifications; Class E (Distribution). This operator was charged with a Misdemeanor 1 in Jan. 2012 for DUI (Costs, Plead Guilty, County Prison 3 days to 6 months); in November 2012, this operator was charged with a Summary 1 for Public Drunkenness & Similar Misconduct, a Felony 2 for Trespass Breaks Into Building, a Misdemeanor 2 for Simple Assault, a Misdemeanor 3 for Disorderly Conduct and a Felony 3 for Criminal Mischief, Intentional Damage to Real or Personal Property of Another & Disorderly Conduct (Nolo Contendere, County Probation 4years); In July 2014, this operator was charged with a Summary for Disorderly Conduct (Plead Guilty).

Applicant client ID #342606, was identified as having a Criminal History. This operator is applying for his initial water certification and his application is being evaluated for the following certifications; D,E - 7,8,9,10,12. His supervisor indicated that he has been employed full-time for about 1.25 years with the Scottview Terrace MHP in Lawrence County (PWSID #6370026), which is currently classified as a WDE-9,12. This operator had a Felony conviction 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 Prohibited Offensive Weapons (Plead Guilty – State Correctional Facility 9 months) and a Felony in 2001 for Receiving Stolen Property (Plead Guilty – State Correctional Facility 12 months).

Ms. Roland motioned to approve both applications as recommended by the Department. Mr. Kyle 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 12:00 PM.