

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2019  
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  
Rachel Brennan, Teacher/Professor via conference call  
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public  
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee  
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel  
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary, BSDW

**Board Members Absent**

**Non-Board Members Present**

Brian Chalfant, Policy Office  
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 10:05 AM.

**Approval of December 12, 2018 Minutes**

Mr. Kyle requested the following revision to the December 12, 2018, Board meeting minutes. On page 2 under Reciprocity Requests, the sentence “Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the two reciprocities” shall be amended to “Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the two reciprocities as recommended by the Department”. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the December 12, 2018, minutes as amended. Mr. Kyle 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. Kyle motioned to issue licenses for all new and upgrade applications. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Reciprocity Requests**

Four water reciprocity applications were presented to the Board for approval. Ms. Sansoni informed the Board Mr. Snader had verbally provided additional experience for subclasses 6 and 9, while on the phone. Ms. Sansoni included the subclasses experience but had not received the additional page 3 with experience. The Board tentatively approved Mr. Snader's application contingent upon receiving his additional experience for subclasses 6 and 9. Additional experience documentation was obtained after the meeting, and Mr. Snader was granted the above certification.

### **Water**

**Joshua Piofer** – holds a West Virginia water class II license that expires June 30, 2020. He has 1 year, 3 months experience working for Weirton area water, which is a class B system using subclasses 1,7,8,9,10,11,13 and distribution.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WDE 1,7,8,9,10,11,13 certificate. Mr. Steffy motioned to approve as recommended by the Department. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**David Snader** – holds a Maryland water treatment 4 license that expired January 1, 2019. His application was received December 14, 2018. Mr. Snader was contacted, and he stated that he was not going to renew in Maryland, because he retired from Sharpsburg, and lives and works part-time in Pennsylvania. He has 28 years working experience at Sharpsburg WTP which is a class C system using subclasses 1,4,7,8,10,11,12,13 and distribution. He also has 1-year experience at the Borough of Waynesboro which uses subclasses 6,7,8,10,11,12. He also worked at Elk Ridge well system in Maryland using subclass 9.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WCE 1,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13 certificate. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the reciprocity application, as recommended by the Department, contingent on obtaining adequate documentation of additional subclass experience for subclasses 6 and 9, from Mr. Snader. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Additional experience documentation was obtained soon after the meeting, and Mr. Snader was granted the above certification.

**Nicole McBroom** – holds a Maryland water treatment 1 water license that expires January 1, 2020. She has 2 years, 4 months experience working at Prince George Hospital Center, which is a class C system using subclass 12.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WC 12 certificate. Ms. Roland motioned to approve as recommended by the Department. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Zachary Sloane** – holds a Maryland water treatment 4 license that expires January 1, 2020. He has 1 year and 7 months experience working for Evitts Creek Water Co., which is a class A system using subclasses 1,7,8,10,11,12,15 and distribution.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WDE 1,7,8,10,11,12 certificate. Ms. Roland motioned to approve as recommended by the Department. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Old and New Business**

Mr. Chescattie updated the Board on the DOC's proposed career development project. Mr. Chescattie and others met with DOC staff to address follow-up questions from DOC with regard to their implementation of their training program. The DOC staff informed Department staff that they will need time to work through multiple logistical obstacles before they are able to actually begin implementation of their proposed training program. More meetings will follow, and the Board will be updated at future meetings.

Mr. Chescattie updated the Board on a previously discussed project regarding workforce development initiatives in and near environmental justice communities. Allison A. Acevedo, the DEP Director of the Office of Environmental Justice is working diligently to improve career path opportunities for high school and technical school students relative to drinking water and wastewater. Mr. Chescattie requested Board input and suggestions for Ms. Acevedo regarding recruitment materials that may target high school age students. Several Board members provided suggestions and the common theme was to provide more details of what the industry really has to offer, in that it can be a career with solid pay and benefits. Mr. Chescattie will compile any related workforce development promotional information the Board members may offer, and email that to Ms. Acevedo.

Mr. Chescattie followed up with Ohio reciprocities, from the previous Board meeting. Mr. Chescattie continues to work with Ohio EPA staff regarding their request to establish reciprocity for operators from Pennsylvania who wish to work in the state of Ohio. Pennsylvania has been granting reciprocity for Ohio operators wishing to work within the Commonwealth.

The Board went into executive session at 10:55 AM to review confidential information relating to criminal histories of certification applicants and medical histories of individuals requesting an extension of their renewal cycle. The Board came out of executive session at 12:10 PM.

### **Board Secretary Report**

Operator ID 290320 requested an extension of his wastewater WWAE 2,4 certificate for medical circumstances. The Board approved a three-month extension or until March 31, 2019. His original expiration date is December 31, 2018, and he needs 14 hours to meet his training requirement.

### **Criminal History Report**

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

Wastewater applicant 343930 requested certification for a WWC1 certificate. This client was arrested 12/5/2000 one count driving under the influence (M2); arrested 11/15/2004 one count obtaining possession of a controlled substance by fraud (F); arrested 11/9/2010 one count of theft by deception (F3) and arrested 1/27/2017 one count drug paraphernalia (M) and one count driving under the influence (M). Disposition was always Plead Guilty, county prison 2 days to 1 year for the 12/5/2000 offense; probation for 3 years for the 11/15/2004 offense; county prison 3 months to 1 year, 11 months and restitution for the 11/9/2010 offense; probation for 6 months for

the 1/21/17 plus fines and costs. Ms. Roland motioned to approve the application as recommended by the Department. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Chescattie provided a handout for small water system resources entitled: Contracting a certified water operator. This is a Department booklet which is in need of updates and revisions. After review and discussion of the booklet, the Board expressed interest in assisting with revisions to this booklet. One area of focus of the revisions will be to include more detailed information regarding the frequency and duration of time that should be spent at various types of water and wastewater facilities based on the complexity of specific treatment types. The Board agreed to divide their efforts on this project into two review teams; one team focused on drinking water and the other focused on wastewater. The drinking water team will be Ms. Roland, Mr. Steffy and Mr. Smith, facilitated by Mr. Chescattie and Mr. Allgyer from the Bureaus of Safe Drinking Water. The wastewater team will be Mr. Swanderski, Mr. Kyle, and Ms. Brennan facilitated by Mr. Digilarmo from Clean Water.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 PM.