

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2019
10th Floor Conference Room**

Board Members Present

Mary Roland, PA American Water, Certified Water Operator, via phone
Rachel Brennan, Teacher/Professor via phone
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel, via phone
Curt Steffy, Aqua PA Inc., Official of Private System
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

Board Members Absent

Joseph Swanderski, Chairman, Penn State University, Wastewater Operator
Michael Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision

Non-Board Members Present

Brian Chalfant, Policy Office
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW
David Long, BSDW
Shalini Moola, BSDW
Mahendra Patel BSDW
Laura Chambers, BSDW
Gary Moyer, BSDW
Lori Wise, BSDW
Bill McNamara, BSDW
Anita Stabile, BCW

Ms. Roland agreed to chair the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators Board in Chairman Swanderski's absence and called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Mr. Chescattie offered a brief introduction of Laura Chambers, the new Board Secretary; and Lori Wise, the new drinking water specialist in Jeff Allgyer's section.

Approval of June 12, 2019 Minutes

Mr. Steffy asked whether the applicant ID number should be included in the Criminal History Record (CHR) due to privacy concerns. Mr. Chescattie and Mr. Cantwell confirmed that anything included in a CHR is public record, including the applicant ID number, so this information will continue to be included. Mr. Chescattie motioned to approve the minutes with no changes. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

The new and upgrade applications were presented to the Board for approval. More specifically:

- Wastewater: 53 new licenses, and 17 upgrades were presented.
- Drinking Water: 47 new license, and 38 upgrades were presented

Mr. Steffy motioned to approve them all as is. Ms. Roland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Mr. Chescattie stated that there was one additional upgrade that was not previously included in the information that got emailed out just prior to the meeting and asked the Board members to take a moment to review the application. Following a discussion regarding this upgrade application for Mr. Eysoldt, the Department's recommendation is that Mr. Eysoldt is eligible for an A license. Ms. Roland recommended that when we open the regulation up for modifications in the future, we should look at changing the upgrade criteria to reflect only a one-class upgrade or even require experience in the class being requested, rather than a two-class upgrade, as the regs currently reflect. Mr. Roland made a motion to approve Mr. Eysoldt for an upgrade to a class WAE 1,2,7,8,9,10,11,14. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Reciprocity Requests

Water

Shaun E. French – Holds a Maryland T1 Water treatment license and D1 Water Distribution that expires on September 01, 2020. He has 1 year, 4 months' experience working at Mahawoman Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is a Class D facility using subclasses 12, and Distribution. He was granted Maryland license through reciprocity from Massachusetts. He has 3 years, 6 months' experience working at White Pines Condominiums in Massachusetts, which is a Class D facility using subclass 6, 7, 8 and Distribution.

The Department's recommendation: this individual is eligible for a WDE 6,7,8 and Distribution certificate. The Board needs clarification regarding Mr. French's subclass 12 prior to determining whether he is eligible. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Department's recommendation. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Wastewater

Shaun E. French – Holds a Maryland wastewater 5 & A license that expires March 01, 2020. He has 4 years, 11 months' experience at Mahawoman wastewater Treatment Plant, which is a Class A facility using Activated Sludge WW1 and Collection System WWE4.

The Department's recommendation: this individual is eligible for a WWAE 1,4 certificate.

Albert R. Liwanag, III – Holds a California Grade III wastewater certification that expires on December 27, 2021. He has 2 years' experience at City of Sunnyvale WPCP, which is a class A facility using Fixed Film Treatment WW2 and Treatment Ponds and Lagoons WW3. He has a bachelor's degree in marine biology which can be used for Track II experience requirement.

The Department's recommendation: this individual is eligible for a WWA 2,3.

Aurthur T. Priester – Holds a Georgia Water and Wastewater treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analyst license that expires on 06/30/2021. He has 3 years, 6 months' experience at Pilgrims Processing Plant, Athens, GA, which is class B Facility using Collection Systems WWE4 and Laboratory Supervisor WW5. He has 12 years, 3 months' experience at FPL

Processing Plant, Augusta, GA, which is Class B facility using Collection Systems WWE4 and Laboratory Supervisor WW5.

The Department's recommendation: this individual is eligible for a WWE4 certificate.

Mr. Steffy made a motion to approve the Department's recommendations for the Wastewater reciprocity requests for Mr. French, Mr. Liwanag and Mr. Priester. Ms. Roland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Board Secretary Report

There is no significant information to provide under the Board Secretary Report.

Old and New Business

Mr. Cantwell provided a summary of the ongoing Ohio reciprocity issue involving an agreement between the Department and Ohio EPA. While Mr. Chescattie had been working to resolve this issue with his counterpart in Ohio EPA, the discussions on this matter are now between Mr. Cantwell and Ohio EPA's counsel.

Mr. Cantwell presented information regarding a draft MOU between the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of State, which would allow for a hearing examiner to be specifically designated to handle logistics for any appeal cases. The purpose of the MOU would be to absolve Department counsel from that role in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest if counsel is also providing legal advice to the Board.

The Board would like to discuss this matter further and requested that Mr. Cantwell provide a detailed explanation to the Board members who are not present at today's meeting. No motion is necessary at this time.

Mr. Smith relayed a question he received from a retired veteran operator regarding whether the 30 hours of continuing education credits is necessary for someone in his position with a fixed income in order to maintain his/her license. Ms. Roland noted that she received the same question from someone and replied that the 30 hours of continuing education credits is a requirement. Mr. Chescattie mentioned that the Board could look into the possibility of offering reduced course rates for seniors who want to maintain their licenses. Mr. Steffy, Mr. Smith and Ms. Roland expressed their concurrence. Mr. McNamara noted that he has a mailing list for all the training providers, and that we could reach out to them to start the conversation. Mr. Cantwell confirmed that he sees no legal issues with this proposal. Mr. Chescattie stated that this should be driven by that Board members and not the Department, and that the Board will work on drafting language for the letter that will be sent out to the training providers. Mr. Chescattie asked Ms. Brennan to research whether the state universities' extensions, such as Penn State, would be willing/able to contract with exam providers to lower the cost of training. Ms. Brennan agreed to look into whether grant funding might be available.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

The Board went into executive session at 11:42 AM to review confidential information relating to criminal histories of certification applicants, ADA and extension requests.

Criminal History Report

Ms. Roland presented the following CHR on behalf of the review committee:

Water applicant 342299 requested certification for WAE-7,8,12. This client was arrested 03/14/2007 for Offense Date 01/01/2007 for one count Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse (F1). Disposition on 01/01/2007 offense was State Prison 4 years to 8 years, fines and cost. Served 4 years in prison and is on the Sexual Offender Registration.

The Board came out of executive session at 11:52 PM.

Ms. Roland made a motion to approve the CHR for water applicant 342299. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Operator ID 255740 requested an extension of his WE license, which expired on June 30, 2019, due to medical circumstances. Ms. Roland made a motion to approve a six-month extension until December 31, 2019. Mr. Chescattie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Ms. Roland motioned to approve Mr. J. Wolfe's ADA request. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Ms. Roland motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 AM.