

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS**

Board Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2022

Room 105 / Teams Call

Board Members Present

Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee (via Teams)
Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator (via Teams)
Mike Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public (via Teams)
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System
Rachel Brennan, Penn State University, Teacher/Professor of Engineering (via Teams)

Non-Board Members Present

John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board
Laura Chambers, Board Secretary
Bill McNamara, BSDW (via Teams)
Lori Wise, BSDW (via Teams)
Bill King, BSDW (via Teams)
Shalini Moola, BSDW (via Teams)
Mahendra Patel, BSDW (via Teams)
Vesna Nelson, BSDW (via Teams)
Jeff Allgyer (via Teams)
Anita Stabile, BCW (via Teams)
Tami Opila, BCW (via Teams)
Leda Lacomba, Legal Counsel (via Teams)
Brian Chalfant, Policy Office

Public Present

Lisa Felix, Senate Democratic Caucus (via Teams)

Approval of October 6, 2021 and December 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the October 6, 2021 meeting minutes. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motioned passed unanimously.

Board members provided several edits for the December 8, 2021 meeting minutes which Laura Chambers agreed to complete. As a result, Board members agreed to table the vote for the December 8, 2021 meeting minutes until the April 13, 2022 meeting to enable them to review the revisions after they are completed.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

Ms. Chambers presented the following new and upgrade license for Board consideration:

- 74 new water licenses
- 32 upgraded water licenses

- 58 new wastewater licenses
- 22 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 5 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve all the new and upgraded license applications. Mr. Chescattie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reciprocity Requests

Wastewater

William Williams – Holds a New Jersey N2 Industrial Wastewater Operator License that was issued on September 30, 2021 and expires on September 30, 2022. His application documents 8 years, 1 month experience working at Mars Wrigley Confectionary US, which is a Class C facility using subclasses 1, 4 and 5.

Mr. Williams' experience was obtained at a Class C facility and an operator is required to have a minimum of 3 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class C license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Williams has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWC-1,4.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams containing questions developed by ABC and administered in New Jersey.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Mr. Williams has documented that he has passed comparable examinations in the State of New Jersey.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Williams' WWC-1,4 license. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Daniel Ayala – Holds a Florida Wastewater C license that was issued on October 5, 2021; no expiration date was provided. The applicant documents the following: 1 month experience working at PA American Water Exeter WWTP, which is a Class A facility using subclass 4; 1 year, 7 months' experience working at Eastern Water Reclamation Facility, which is a Class A facility using subclass 4.

Mr. Ayala's experience was obtained at Class A facilities and an operator is required to have a minimum of 1 year of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class E license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Ayala has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWE4.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the wastewater Collections exam administered in Florida.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Mr. Ayala has documented that he has passed comparable examinations in the State of Florida.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Ayala's WWE4 license. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kevin McClanathan, Jr. – Holds a Maryland Wastewater 3A license that was issued on July 1, 2011 and expires on July 1, 2023. Applicant also holds a Maryland Water W5, WA and T2 license that was issued on July 1, 2011 and expires on May 1, 2022. Applicant also holds a Maryland Water Treatment 4 license that was issued on July 1, 2011 and expires on May 1, 2022. The application documents the following: 4 years' experience working at Sod Run WWTP, MD, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1, 4; 5 years' experience working at Winebrenner WWTP (MD), which is a Class C facility using subclasses 1, 4, 5.

Mr. McClanathan's experience as applied for reciprocity consideration was obtained at Class A facility and an operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. McClanathan has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWA-1,4.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams containing questions developed by ABC and administered in Maryland.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Mr. McClanathan has documented that he has passed comparable examinations in the State of Maryland.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. McClanathan, Jr's WWA-1,4 license. Mr. Bickel seconded. Passed unanimously.

Donald Smith – Holds a Maryland W5, WA Wastewater license that was issued on January 1, 2015 and expires on January 1, 2024. His application documents 6 years, 10 months' experience working at City of Frederick Wastewater Plant, which is a class A facility using subclass 1.

Mr. Smith's experience was obtained at a Class A facility and an operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Smith has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWA-1.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams developed by ABC and administered in Maryland.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Mr. Smith has documented that he has passed comparable examinations in the State of Maryland.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. Smith's WWA-1 license. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Water

Nicholas Fiorentino – Holds a Mississippi B Water license, which was issued on November 3, 2020 and expires on November 3, 2023. His application documents the following: 6 months'

experience working at PA American Water Pittsburgh Hays Mine WTP, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1, 7,8,10,12; 3 years, 8 months' experience working at City of Starkville, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 7,8,10,11.

Mr. Fiorentino's experience was obtained at Class A facilities and an operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Fiorentino has documented the adequate experience relative to a WA-7,8,10.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams developed by ABC and administered in Mississippi.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Mr. Fiorentino has documented that he has passed comparable examinations in the State of Mississippi.

Mr. Bickel motioned to approve Mr. Fiorentino's WA-7,8,10 license. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Wright – Holds an Ohio Class 3 Water license, which was issued on December 8, 2003 and expires on December 31, 2023. His application documents 6 years, 1 month experience working at East Liverpool Water Department, which is an A facility using subclasses 1,7,8,10,11,12, and Distribution.

Mr. Wright's experience was obtained at a Class A facility and an operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Wright has documented the adequate experience relative to a WA,E-1,7,8,10,11,12.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams developed by ABC and administered in Ohio.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Mr. Wright has documented that he has passed comparable examinations in the State of Ohio.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Wright's WA,E-1,7,8,10,11,12 license. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Chambers noted that the Department received an additional reciprocity for an initial applicant, which was incomplete. After several attempts to obtain specific information on the number of hours worked at various facilities listed on the application, Ms. Chambers reached out to the signing supervisor for confirmation on the hours worked at each facility and was told that the applicant had left employment at their facility and that the employer who paid the reciprocity application fee wished to rescind the application. Ms. Chambers attempted to contact the applicant by phone but the number was no longer in service; the email he listed on his application was his work email at the employer who requested the application be rescinded; therefore, that work email provided by the applicant was no longer valid. Considering all of the above, this application is considered withdrawn and no Board action can be taken.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding exams for 2022:

- Number of exam **sessions** scheduled to be offered in 2022: 57
- Number of exam **seats** scheduled to be offered in 2022: 2496

Old and New Business

Chairperson Roland provided a brief update from the February 8, 2022, Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Board meeting.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Chairperson Roland as Board Chair, Ms. Chambers as Board Secretary, and Mr. Bickel as the alternate for TAC. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie provided an update regarding the nominations that were received for Dr. Rachel Brennan's replacement on the Board. This Board seat is specifically for an individual who is on the teaching staff of the civil, environmental or sanitary engineering department of an accredited Pennsylvania university or college.

Mr. Kyle informed the Board that the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) has changed its name to "Water Professionals International." Mr. Chescattie inquired and Mr. Kyle confirmed that despite the name change, the primary activities and mission of this organization will not change.

Public meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:00 am.

The Board reconvened for public session at 12:23 pm.

Criminal History Report

Water Applicant 365229 requested certification for WA – 1,8,10,12,13.

Wastewater Applicant 362600 requested certification for WWA,E – 1,4.

Wastewater Applicant 314351 requested certification for WWE4.

Water Applicant 197638 requested certification for WB,E – 8,12.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 365229 WA-1,8,10,12,13 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 362600 WWA-1, WWE4 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 314351 WWE4 certification. Mr. Chescattie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 197638 WB-8,12, WE certification. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Extension Requests

Operator 199901 has a water license that expires on March 31, 2022. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training and has currently obtained 12 hours. The extension request claims extreme health-related circumstances and the operator submitted supporting medical documentation.

Operator 197074 has a water license that expires on March 31, 2022. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training and has currently obtained 12 hours. The extension request claims extreme health-related circumstances and the operator submitted supporting medical documentation.

Operator 199418 has a wastewater license that expires on March 31, 2022. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training and has currently obtained 0 hours. The extension request claims extreme health-related circumstances and the operator submitted supporting medical documentation.

Operator 276315 has a water license that expired on December 31, 2021. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training and has currently obtained 14 hours. The extension request claims that the operator moved and was under the impression that his license expiration date was December 31, 2022, instead of December 31, 2021.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 199901 through September 30, 2022. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 197074 through September 30, 2022. Mr. Chescattie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 199418 through March 31, 2023. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the extension for Operator 276315. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kyle motioned to adjourn. Multiple Board members seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:27 pm.