

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2021
Room 105 / Teams Call**

Board Members Present

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

Non-Board Members Present

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

Public Present

Joe Swanderski
John Brunette, Westview Water (via phone)
Phillip Evankovich, Westview Water (via phone)
Mark Valenty (via phone)
Kenny Chester (via phone)

Approval of October 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The motion to approve the October 6, 2021 meeting minutes was tabled until the February 9, 2022 Board meeting.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

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

- 72 new water licenses
- 27 upgraded water licenses
- 66 new wastewater licenses

- 34 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 5 OIT upgrades

The Department received 5 additional applications that were not included on the new and upgraded license summary:

1. Gregory Kurtz, Client ID 363508
 - a. *The Department's recommendation: The Board should please consider approving applicant for a WWA-1, WWE4*
2. Page Rodgers, Client ID 356504
 - a. *The Department's recommendation: The Board should please consider approving applicant for a WWA-1*
3. Robert J. Graber, Client ID 353662 (received via email; waiting for hard copy)
 - a. *The Department's recommendation: The Board should please consider approving applicant for a WWB-1*
 - b. *The Department's recommendation: The Board should please consider approving applicant for a WB,E-1,2,8,11*
4. Alec K. Engleman, Client ID 338676
 - a. *The Department's recommendation: The Board should please consider approving applicant for a WA,E-1,2,5,6,7,8,10,11,12*
5. Raymond G. Hinze, Client ID 363916
 - a. *The Department's recommendation: The Board should please consider approving applicant for a WWE4*

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

Downgrade Request – The Department received a downgrade application for Ms. Jacklyn Wise, Client ID 313690. Ms. Wise held a WWB-1 license, which was issued on 6/12/15 and expired on 3/31/21 due to lack of con ed. She was required to obtain a total of 30 hours of con ed and only obtained 16.5 hours as of 3/24/21. According to her application, Ms. Wise is requesting to be downgraded to a Class D license due to the facility where she is employed having been decommissioned and converted to a collection system.

Considering that the license has been expired for more than eight months, inactivated for more than two months, and an operator has a maximum of 90 days from the license expiration to request an extension, the Department and all Board members unanimously agreed to deny this downgrade request to a WWD-1.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny Ms. Wise's WWD-1 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reciprocity Requests

Wastewater

Jessica Aleprete – Holds a Nevada Grade IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator license that was issued on February 12, 2020 and expires on February 1, 2022. The application documents a total of 5 years, 1 month experience working at City of Las Vegas Water Pollution Control Facility, which is a Class A facility using subclass 1.

Ms. Aleprete's experience was obtained at a 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 Ms. Aleprete 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 by the state of Nevada.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Ms. Aleprete has documented that she has passed comparable examinations in the state of Nevada.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Ms. Aleprete's WWA-1 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Charles Downs – Holds a Florida Class C Wastewater Treatment Operator license that was issued on January 6, 2020 and expires on April 30, 2023. His application documents the following: 11 months' experience working at Fiesta Village WWTP, which is a Class A facility using subclass 1; 1 year, 7 months' experience working at East Port WRF, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1 and 4.

Mr. Downs' experience was obtained at Class A facilities and an operator is required to have a minimum of 2 years of experience in order to obtain a Class C license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Downs has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWC-1, WWE4.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams developed and administered by the state of Florida.

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Downs' WWC-1 and WWE4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Matthew Foy – Holds an Arizona Grade 2 Wastewater Treatment System Operator license that was issued on November 3, 2020 and expires on October 31, 2023. The application documents the following: 7 years, 4 months working at Jacobs Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility, which is a Class A facility using subclass 1; 4 years, 10 months' experience working at Marana Water Reclamation Facility, which is a Class A facility using subclass 1; and 2 years' experience working at Tres Rios Water Reclamation Facility, which is a Class A facility using subclass 1.

Mr. Foy's experience was obtained at Class A and Class C facilities 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. Foy has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWA-1.**

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

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

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

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding exams through 12/7/21:

- Number of exam **sessions held** thus far in 2021: 60
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2021: 2002
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2021: 1594
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2021: 2
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2021: 80

Ms. Chambers reminded the Board members of the 2022 meeting dates that were previously emailed for consideration:

February 9
April 13
June 8
August 10
October 5
December 7

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the 2022 meeting dates. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Chambers reminded the Board members that they will need to have their annual vote for the Board Chair and noted that this would be on the February agenda.

Old and New Business

Ms. Roland explained that the Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Board did not meet since the previous Operator Certification Board meeting; therefore, she does not have a TAC Board update to provide at this time.

Ms. Roland asked about the exam schedule for 2022. Ms. Chambers explained that she has received proposed exam information from the majority of exam providers, and is working to finalize the schedule with an anticipated posting of the final exam schedule on the Department's website by January 15, 2022.

Mr. Chescattie presented Joe Swanderski with a resolution certificate on behalf of the Department and Board members. The certificate was signed by DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell, which stated,

“*WHEREAS*, Joseph G. Swanderski has provided outstanding service as a Board Member of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators for thirteen years and four months from April 30, 2008, to September 1, 2021, and;

WHEREAS, during Joseph G. Swanderski’s term on the Board, he participated in efforts to establish Act 11; helped draft associated guidelines and regulations; ensured that examinations for wastewater certification were fair and accurate; provided consistent, strong and unwavering leadership as Board Chair; and acted as a role model of integrity and ethical standards for the wastewater industry, and;

WHEREAS, to accomplish this he devoted many hours of his personal time to Board activities and to furthering the interests of the regulated community and;

WHEREAS, Joseph G. Swanderski has ended his tenure with the Board and the members of the Board desire that his contributions can be recognized and made part of the record of the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators on its own behalf, and on behalf of the grateful citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wishes to thank and commend Joseph G. Swanderski for the outstanding leadership and service he has provided to the Board and the community, and extends its best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.”

Public meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:20 am.

The Board reconvened for public session at 2:18 pm.

Criminal History Report

Wastewater Applicant 365893 requested certification for WWE4.

Water Applicant 365418 requested certification for WE.

Wastewater Applicant 364401 requested certification for WW-1.

Water Applicant 227294 requested certification for W-11, WE.

Extension Requests

No extension requests were received for this meeting.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 365893 WWE4 OIT certification. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 365418 WE certification. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 364401 WWD-1 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 227294 WA-11, WE certification. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned that the Board recognizes that Jon P. Hall, Water Certificate No. W6111, failed to file an answer within the applicable period after receipt of the Department's petition for suspension that was sent via certified mail. Therefore, the Board considers Mr. Hall to be in default and all basic facts stated in the Department's petition dated December 21, 2021 is admitted as fact. The Board approves indefinite suspension of Jon P. Hall's Water Certificate No. W6111 effective December 8, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Bickel. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to request the Department of State's Chief Hearing Examiner for an officer to be designated as a hearing examiner in the matter of Board Docket No. 2021-02, Patrick J. Watkavitch, Water Certificate No. W22060. Upon hearing examiner being assigned, Board Chairperson will send a delegation letter specifying the requirements for Board members to be present to ask clarifying questions and determine how the hearing will be conducted. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie motioned to adjourn. Multiple Board members seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm.