

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 10, 2022  
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  
Autumn Crawford, Western Butler County Authority, Wastewater Operator  
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System (via Teams)

**Non-Board Members Present**

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary  
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board  
Leda Lacomba, Legal Counsel to BSDW  
Bill McNamara, BSDW  
Lori Wise, BSDW  
Bill King, BSDW (via Teams)  
Shalini Moola, BSDW  
Mahendra Patel, BSDW  
Heath Edelman, Thaddeus Stevens College (via Teams)

**Public Present**

Tony Thomas, Borough of Hanover (via Teams)  
Kristy Donaldson, Buffalo Township Municipal Authority (via Teams)  
Justen Novak, applicant (via Teams, joined the meeting late)

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

**Approval of June 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Kyle provided a minor edit, which others agreed with, then motioned to approve the June 8, 2022 meeting minutes with the suggested edit incorporated. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of New and Upgrade Applications**

Ms. Chambers presented the following new and upgraded licenses for Board consideration:

- 55 new water licenses
- 40 upgraded water licenses
- 45 new wastewater licenses

- 25 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 8 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

The Department received a complete application for the following operator, which was not included on the new and upgraded license summary:

1. David Dickmyer – Client ID 369432 – Wastewater Initial – DEP Recommendation WWA-1

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

The Department received applications for the following operators via email, which were not included on the new and upgraded license summary:

1. Daniel A Zukow – Client ID 193708 – Wastewater Upgrade in Class – DEP Recommendation WWC-1,2,3,
2. Thomas F Brown – Client ID 286580 – Water Initial – DEP Recommendation WA-2,6,7,8,10,11,12
3. Mark J Howard – Client ID 364069 – Wastewater Upgrade in Subclass – DEP Recommendation – WWA-1

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the above license applications, contingent upon receiving the notarized and signed originals which are identical to the emailed versions. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Reciprocity Requests**

*Water*

**Unity Oviasogie** – Holds an Arizona Grade 2 Water Distribution license and an Arizona Grade 3 Water Treatment license that were both issued in October 2013 and expire on October 31, 2022. His application documents 2 years, 5 months’ experience working at Wilkinsburg-Penn Joint Water Authority Filter Plant, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1,4,8,10,11.

An operator is required to have a minimum of 2 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class C license. **Therefore, the Department’s determination is that Mr. Oviasogie has documented the adequate experience relative to a WC-1.**

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

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

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

### **Board Secretary Report**

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding exams for 2022 (as of 8/9/22).

- Number of exam **sessions held** thus far in 2022: **34**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2022: **1343**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2022: **875**
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2022: **27**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2022: **1192**
  - Total number of computer exams for 2022: **33**
  - Total number of paper exams for 2022: **28**
  - Total number of exams for 2022: **61**

### **Old and New Business**

Chairperson Roland provided a brief summary of the June TAC meeting.

Mr. Chescattie motioned to discuss and attempt to finalize the resolution for Mr. Cody Gipprich, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on May 12, 2021. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. After Mr. Chescattie presented the draft resolution language and other Board members discussed, Chairperson Roland motioned to accept the resolution with the applicable edits. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The Board reconvened for public session at 12:59 pm.

### **Criminal History Report**

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 364292 WD,E-7,8,9,10,12 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 368405 WWC-1 certification. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 363954 WE certification. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 368410 WWC-1 and WD,E-9,12 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 369847 WWA-1 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 362694 WC-8,9 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 369411 WE certification. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Based on consideration of verbal explanation provided by Mr. Novak via Teams during public participation portion of Board meeting; and, written letter and upgrade application provided by this applicant via USPS mail, Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Novak's upgrade to WWC-1,2,4. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve WE OIT certification for Operator 369684. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve WE OIT certification for Operator 369682. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny upgrade request to a Class B for Operator 282429. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Extension Requests**

Operator 290279 has a wastewater license that expired on September 30, 2021. The operator requested an extension through September 2022.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the extension for Operator 290279. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie motioned to adjourn. Multiple Board members seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.