

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2023  
Room 105 / Teams Call**

**Board Members Present**

Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator  
Mike Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision (via Teams)  
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  
Heath Edelman, Thaddeus Stevens College, Teaching Staff (via Teams)  
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee

**Non-Board Members Present**

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary  
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board  
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW  
Lori Weaver, BSDW  
Shalini Moola, BSDW  
Mahendra Patel, BSDW  
Vesna Nelson, BSDW  
Rod Nesmith, BSDW  
Victor Landis, Bureau of Clean Water  
Bill McNamara, BSDW  
Derik Dressler, BSDW  
Brian Chalfant, Policy Office (via Teams)

**Public Present**

Joel Jordan, PRWA (via Teams)  
Toby Teegerstrom (via Teams)  
Brandon Nelson (via Teams)  
Adam Charles (via Teams)

Meeting was called to order at 10:06am.

**Approval of April 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

A few Board members provided minor edits to the April 5, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the April 5, 2023 meeting minutes including the edits provided. Mr. Edelman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Approval of New and Upgrade Applications**

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

- 65 new water licenses
- 40 upgraded water licenses
- 58 new wastewater licenses
- 30 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 8 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve all the new and upgraded license applications. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Reciprocity Requests**

### *Water*

**Daryl Fithian** – Holds a Vermont Class 4C Public Water System Operator license that was issued on August 7, 2020 and expires on June 30, 2023. His application documents a total of 5 years, 7 months’ experience working at Town of Richford VT5126 for Simon Operation Services, Inc., which is a Class C system using subclasses 4,7,8,12,15 and distribution; his application also documents a total of 11 months’ experience working at Port Deposit WTF for Artesian Water Co., which is a Class D system using subclasses 1,2,7,8,9,11,15 and distribution.

Mr. Fithian’s experience was obtained at Class C and D facilities and an operator is required to have a minimum of 2 years’ experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class C license.

**Therefore, the Department’s determination is that Mr. Fithian has documented the adequate experience relative to a WD-1,2,4,8,9.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams that were developed by ABC and administered by WPI in the state of Maryland.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Fithian’s WD-1,2,4,8,9 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### *Wastewater*

**Daryl Fithian** – Holds a Vermont Domestic II wastewater license that was issued on December 8, 2016 and expires on July, 31, 2023. His application documents the following: 3 months’ experience working at No. & So. Chesapeake City, which is a Class D facility using subclasses 1 and 4; 4 months’ experience working at Frog Hollow WWTP, which is a Class D facility using subclasses 2,3 and 4; 1 year experience working at Middletown, DE Main WWTP, which is a Class B facility using subclasses 2,3 and 4; 4 months’ experience working at Beaver Creek WWTF, which is a Class D facility using subclasses 1 and 4; and 2 years, 9 months’ experience working at Town of Richford WWTP, which is a Class D facility using subclasses 3 and 4.

Mr. Fithian's experience was obtained primarily at Class D facilities and an operator is required to have a minimum of 1 year of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class D license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Fithian has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWD-2,3,4.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams that were developed by ABC and administered by WPI in the state of Delaware.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Fithian's WWD-2,3,4 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Toby Teegerstrom** – Holds an Arizona Grade 4 Wastewater Treatment license and a Grade 4 Wastewater Collections license that were issued on January 31, 2023 and expire on February 28, 2026. His application documents a total of 4 years, 7 months' experience working at Ocotillo Water Reclamation Facility, which is a Class A system using subclasses 1 and 4.

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

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams that were developed by ABC and administered by WPI in the state of Arizona.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Teegerstrom's WWA,E-1,4 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**James Huntington** – Holds a New Jersey C3 Collections license that was issued on August 6, 2016 and an S4 Public Wastewater license that was issued on August 17, 2007, both of which expire on September 30, 2023. His application documents a total of 5 years, 5 months' part-time, which comes to a total of 3 years' experience working Mapleton/Mansfield Farms, which is a Class C facility using subclasses 1 and 4.

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

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Huntington's WWC-1,4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Additional Applications for Board Discussion**

**Operator 348824** – DEP received an OIT upgrade application for the addition of subclass 13 (UV) on April 6, 2023. As of the date the application was signed (March 21, 2023), the applicant had 6 months of experience operating the UV subclass at a drinking water facility. Operator Certification staff emailed the applicant and explained that one full year of experience is needed in order to be eligible to upgrade and add a subclass. The applicant called and spoke with Laura Chambers on multiple occasions in April and May with questions relating to the earliest possible timing for eligibility to upgrade by adding subclass 13. A consensus was eventually reached that Ms. Chambers would reach out via email to the signing supervisor in September 2023 at which point the applicant would have the required 12 months of experience, to confirm that they were still employed at the same facility utilizing the UV treatment, and that the upgrade application would be presented at the October 2023 Board Meeting for consideration. On May 19, 2023, the applicant called Ms. Chambers and said that the signing supervisor had put in his two-week notice and he was the only properly certified operator with knowledge of the applicant's process control experience who could sign off on his application. Since the applicant is three months shy of reaching the required 12 months' experience, the applicant is asking that the Board consider his UV experience that was obtained at a wastewater facility and reflected on his initial wastewater application in 2019. Both applications have been provided to the Board members for review. After some discussion, the Board summarized that Chapter 302 regulations are clear on this matter and the operator's path forward is to gain the three additional months of experience operating drinking water UV treatment under the supervision of a properly certified operator holding subclass 13. Process control experience for UV at a wastewater treatment system is not parallel to process control of UV treatment for drinking water for numerous reasons.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the addition of subclass 13 to Client 348824's water license. Mr. Edelman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Department received three Industrial Waste applications for: Anthony Kauffman, Scott McCoy and William Schroder, which Mr. Chescattie presented to the Board. After review and discussion, the following motions were made:

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Kauffman's WWD-1,2,3 OIT certification; Mr. Kyle seconded. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. McCoy's WWD-1 OIT certification; Ms. Crawford seconded. Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Schroder's WWA,E-3,4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motions passed unanimously.

## **Board Secretary Report**

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding exams for 2023 (as of 6/12/23):

- Number of exam **sessions held** thus far in 2023: **28**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2023: **931**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2023: **695**

- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2023: **42**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2023: **1,714**
  - Total number of computer exams for 2023: **41**
  - Total number of paper exams for 2023: **29**
  - Total number of exams for 2023: **70**

### **Old and New Business**

Ms. Chambers shared that DEP Operator Certification staff have some concerns with the downgrade application. Staff do not believe the operators applying for a downgrade should have to provide specific details regarding their operating duties, but they should be required to reflect on their application that whatever hydraulic class license they are applying to downgrade to is the highest class they are currently working for. The overall goal of the revisions is to obtain from the applicant as efficiently as possible all of the information the Board is expecting during their downgrade review. After some discussion amongst the Board members, the Board agreed with DEP staff making the agreed-upon modifications to the downgrade application in order to streamline the process for downgrades. DEP staff will incorporate the modifications and present the updated draft application at the August Board meeting for the Board to vote on.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:28am to review sensitive information, extension requests, new criminal history reports, etc..

The Board reconvened for public session at 1:15pm.

Ms. Chambers reminded the Board that they had agreed to make a final decision on the Industrial Waste application for Operator 371573, which was originally presented to the Board at the April 6, 2023 Board Meeting but was tabled until the June 14, 2022 meeting because the Board needed additional time to review the application. After some discussion, Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 371573 WWB-1 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motioned passed unanimously.

### **Criminal History Report**

Criminal History Review Evaluations were conducted for the below applicants. It has been confirmed that charges were not related to the operation of a drinking water or wastewater treatment system. Therefore, the preliminary review committee recommended the below applicants for presentation and approval at the June 14, 2023, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 372131: WD – 8 certification
2. Operator 375559: WA,E – 7,8,9,11,12 certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 372131 WD-8 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 375559 WA,E-7,8,9,11,12 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Extension Requests**

Operator 304400 has a wastewater license that expired on December 31, 2022. The extension request documents a serious medical condition impacting the ability to participate in continuing education and was accompanied by a letter from the treating physician. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of continuing education training prior to December 31, 2022.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 304400 through June 30, 2023. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Crawford motioned to adjourn. Mr. Chescattie seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.