

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

Board Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2023

Room 105 / Teams Call

Board Members Present

Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator (via Teams)
Mike Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision (via Teams)
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public (via Teams)
Autumn Crawford, Western Butler County Authority, Wastewater Operator (via Teams)
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System (via Teams)
Heath Edelman, Thaddeus Stevens College, Teaching Staff (via Teams)
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee (via Teams)

Non-Board Members Present

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board
Lori Weaver, BSDW
Bill King, BSDW
Shalini Moola, BSDW
Mahendra Patel, BSDW
Victor Landis, Bureau of Clean Water (via Teams)
Andrew Hall, Bureau of Clean Water (via Teams)
Bill McNamara, BSDW
Derik Dressler, BSDW
Selina Prettner, BSDW
Doug Macik, BSDW

Public Present

Joel Jordan, PRWA (via Teams)

Meeting was called to order at 10:01am.

Approval of June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Board members verbally provided minor edits to Ms. Chambers relative to the draft Meeting Minutes. Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the June 14, 2023 meeting minutes including the edits provided. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

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

- 60 new water licenses
- 45 upgraded water licenses

- 66 new wastewater licenses
- 30 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 7 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

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

Reciprocity Requests

Water

Robert Farrell – Holds a New Jersey T2 Water Treatment license and a W2 Water Distribution license, both of which were issued on 1/25/06 and expire 9/30/23. His application documents the following:

1. A total of 4 months working at **Victoria Classics Ledgewood**, which is a Class D facility using subclasses 7,8,10;
2. A total of 8 months working at **Englewood Hospital**, which is a Class C facility using subclasses 5,7,8,9,12.
3. A total of 9 months working at **Thomas B. Conely School**, which is a D facility using subclasses 1,7,8,13.

Mr. Farrell's experience was obtained mostly at Class D facilities; specifically, 2 of the 3 facilities were D plants and one was a C where he worked part-time for a total of 8 months. 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. Farrell has documented the adequate experience relative to a WD-7,8.**

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Farrell's WD-7,8 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Stone – Holds a Maryland T2 Water Treatment license that was issued on August 1, 2017 and expires on August 1, 2023. His application documents a total of 9 months' experience (5 hours per week for 4 years, 11 months') working at Fort Frederick State Park WTP, which is a Class D system using subclasses 8 and 12.

An operator is required to have a minimum of 1 year experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class D license. Therefore, the Department's determination is that the applicant does not meet the minimum experience requirements to obtain a drinking water license at this time.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny Mr. Stone's water certification, due to his being 3 months short of the 12 months of required operating experience. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Wastewater

Robert Farrell – Holds a New Jersey C2 Wastewater Collection license and an S2 Public Wastewater license, both of which were issued on 1/25/06 and expire 9/30/23. His application documents a total of 5 years, 11 months' experience working at multiple facilities using subclasses 1,2,3 and Collections.

*Ms. Chambers confirmed via phone and email that all signing supervisors hold appropriate certifications in New Jersey.

Mr. Farrell's experience was obtained at mostly Class D facilities; specifically, 6 of the 7 facilities were D plants and one was a B where he worked part-time for a total of 1 year, 7 months. An operator is required to have a minimum of 1 year of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class D license. In order to be eligible for a Class B license, an operator must have at least 3 years of experience at a Class B facility. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Farrell has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWD-1,2,3 and WWE4.**

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. Farrell's WWD-1,2,3 and WWE4 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Daniel Tekula – Holds a New Jersey S3 Public Wastewater System Operator license and a New Jersey C2 Wastewater Collection license that were both issued on November 23, 2021 and expire on September 30, 2023. His application documents a total of 3 years, 1 month experience working at Linden Roselle Sewerage Authority, which is a Class A system using subclass 1; his application also documents a total of 5 years, 9 months' experience working at Phillipsburg Sewer, which is a Class B system using subclasses 1,2,4.

*Ms. Chambers confirmed via phone and email that all signing supervisors hold appropriate certifications in New Jersey.

Mr. Tekula's experience was obtained at Class A and Class B facilities and an operator is required to have a minimum of 3 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class B license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Tekula has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWB-1,2 and WWE4.**

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. Tekula's WWB-1,2 and WWE4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Stone – Holds a Maryland 5A Wastewater license that was issued on August 1, 2017 and expires on August 1, 2023. His application documents a total of 4 years, 11 months' experience working at MCI Hagerstown WWTP, which is a Class B facility using subclass 1.

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

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Stone's WWB-1 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding exams for 2023 (as of 8/8/23):

- Number of exam **sessions held** thus far in 2023: **45**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2023: **1,555**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2023: **1,136**
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2023: **25**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2023: **1,090**
- Projected 2023 Calendar Year Exam Session Totals:
 - Total number of computer exam sessions for 2023: **41**
 - Total number of paper exam sessions for 2023: **29**
 - Total number of computer + paper exam sessions for 2023: **70**

Old and New Business

There were no items discussed under Old and New Business.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:36am to review sensitive information, extension requests, new criminal history reports, etc.

The Board reconvened for public session at 11:23am.

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 August 9, 2023, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 358631: WWB,E – 1,4 certification
2. Operator 376787: WE certification
3. Operator 376597: WWC-1 OIT

4. Operator 372253: WWC1 certification
5. Operator 376819: WWD – 1,3 certification
6. Operator 342340: WWE4 certification
7. Operator 376955: WE certification
8. Operator 366024: WWA – 1 certification
9. Operator 377710: WWE4 certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 358631 WWB,E – 1,4 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 376787 WE certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 376597 WWC-1 OIT certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 372253 WWC-1 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 376819 WWD – 1,3 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 342340 WWE4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 376955 WE certification. Mr. Chescattie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 366024 WWA – 1 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 377710 WWE4 certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Extension Requests

Wastewater Operator 336301 (received via email on 7/27/23) was required to obtain 30 hours of continuing education training for their wastewater certification prior to their expiration date of 6/30/23 and has currently obtained 3 hours. The application claims extenuating circumstances. The applicant is requesting an additional 3 months to obtain the remaining required continuing education training hours.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the extension for Operator 336301. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board recognizes a Consent Order and Agreement (COA) executed on July 19, 2023 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection and Client ID 248927. As specified within this COA, Client ID 248927 waives the hearing to which he otherwise would be entitled under the Operators' Certification Act, 63 P.S. §§ 1001-1015.1, and Section 501 of the Operators' Certification Regulations, 25 Pa. Code § 302.501.

Additionally, at any time hereafter, Client ID 248927 shall not act as, or perform duties of, a certified operator or operator as set forth in the Operators' Certification Act, 63 P.S. §§ 1001-1015.1, and Chapter 302 of the Operators' Certification Regulations, 25 Pa. Code Ch. 302.

Additionally, at any time hereafter, Client ID 248927 shall not apply for certification or recertification as a certified operator under the Operators' Certification Act, 63 P.S. §§ 1001-1015.1, and Chapter 302 of the Operators' Certification Regulations, 25 Pa. Code Ch. 302.

Chairperson Roland motioned to order the revocation of Client ID 248927 wastewater system operator certification S15152, including wall certificate and pocket card, to the Board. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie motioned to adjourn. Several other Board Members seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:28am.