

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
December 6, 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
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW
Bill King, BSDW
Shalini Moola, BSDW
Victor Landis, Bureau of Clean Water
Andrew Hall, Bureau of Clean Water
Bill McNamara, BSDW
Derik Dressler, BSDW (via Teams)
Selina Prettnner, BSDW (via Teams)
Leda Lacomba, BRC (via Teams)

Public Present

Anthony Kauffman, applicant
Mike Kuzar, applicant

Meeting was called to order at 10:01am.

Approval of October 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the October 11, 2023 meeting minutes including the minor edits provided. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

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

- 45 new water licenses
- 40 upgraded water licenses
- 50 new wastewater licenses
- 25 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 10 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

Mark Stone – Holds a West Virginia Class 1D Drinking Water license that was issued on December 4, 2017 and expires on December 31, 2023. His application documents a total of 1 year of experience (10 hours per week for 3 years, 6 months) working at River Bend Membership Corp., which is a Class C system using subclass 12.

Mr. Stone's experience was obtained at a Class C facility 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 for Board consideration is that Mr. Stone has documented the adequate experience relative to a WD-12.**

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Stone's WD-12 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding exams for 2023 (as of 11/15/23):

- Number of exam **sessions held** thus far in 2023: **67**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2023: **2,505**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2023: **1,907**
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2023: **2**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2023: **90**
 - 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 provided the Board Members the 2024 following Board Meeting dates as previously voted upon by the Board Members. Those dates are as follows:

February 7, 2024
April 3, 2024
June 12, 2024
August 7, 2024
October 2, 2024
December 11, 2024

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the 2024 Board Meeting dates. Mr. Edelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:40am to review sensitive information.

The Board reconvened for public session at 12:32pm.

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 December 6, 2023, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 377794: WWD,E – 1,4 – OIT certification
2. Operator 363236: WA,E – 7,8,12 – OIT certification
3. Operator 346562: WC,E – 1,5,6,7,8,10,11,12 certification
4. Operator 200977: WWC-1 certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 377794 WWD,E–1,4 – OIT certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 363236 WA,E–7,8,12 – OIT certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 346562 WC,E–1,5,6,7,8,10,11,12 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 200977 WWC-1 certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Extension Requests

Water Operator 251626 – Has a drinking water license that expired on June 30, 2022. The applicant was required to obtain 15 hours of continuing education training for his drinking water certification. The application claims extenuating circumstances, as detailed in the below summary provided by John Thomas, Environmental Group Manager in DEP’s Southwest Regional Office:

March 9, 2022 – Sanitarian Eric Norman informed the system’s certified operator (Steve Presto) that certification is not required for Transient Non-Community (TNC) Water Systems and as such that Four Seasons Resort would not need to maintain a certified operator per existing regulations. Additionally, Mr. Norman noted it might be advantageous to maintain certification in case the system was ever recategorized. No mention of permit revisions was indicated in those conversations. In response, Mr. Presto did not continue obtaining continuing education nor did he apply for license renewal. His license expired a few months later.

October 20, 2023 – In preparation for the November Filter Plant Performance Evaluation, Pam Russell (FPPE), Eric Norman (Sanitarian), and John Thomas (Operations Chief) discussed the requirements for the facility to have a certified operator. At that time Mr. Norman noted that Steve Presto let his license lapse since a TNC system.

November 14, 2022 – Operations Chief John Thomas informed the system’s formerly certified operator that neither Chapter 109.704 nor the system’s permit at that time required a certified operator; however, informed him that as a surface water system a certified operator should ideally still be available and that future permit revisions would most likely require such.

December 2, 2022 – The facility’s permit was updated to require a certified operator within 30-days of the permit.

November 1, 2023 – A Field Order was issued to the system requiring obtaining a certified operator within 10-days. In response the owner and operator explained that they never had received the December 2, 2022 permit and therefore were unaware of the requirement. As such, the Department rescinded the Order on November 8, 2023.

November 8, 2023 – The rescission letter from the Department requested that a certified operator be obtained within 30-days per the original intent of the permit.

Upon review of this information and the discussions which occurred prior to Mr. Presto’s license expiring, the Department recognizes if he was informed of the intended permit revisions and the operator certification requirement contained within that Mr. Presto most likely would have obtained the necessary continuing education and applied for license renewal prior to the expiration date. Therefore, the Department requests approval of reinstatement for his license.

Wastewater Operator 257439 – Has a wastewater license that expired on September 30, 2023. The applicant was required to obtain 30 hours of continuing education training for his wastewater certification and as of September 30, 2023 had obtained 0 hours. The application

claims that he thought his license expired on October 23, 2023, and completed his 30 hours of training on October 3, 2023, immediately upon realizing that his license actually expired on September 30, 2023.

The applicant is requesting through October 3, 2023 to complete the additional training hours.

Operator 248691– Has a wastewater license that expired on March 31, 2023. The applicant was required to obtain 30 hours of continuing education training for his wastewater certification and as of March 31, 2023, had obtained 0 hours but did complete 36 hours of training on June 22, 2023. The application claims extenuating circumstances regarding a family matter and moving out-of-state.

The applicant is requesting through June 22, 2023 to complete the additional training hours.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 251626 through January 31, 2024. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the extension for Operator 257439. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the extension for Operator 248691. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to adjourn. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:37pm.