

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

**Board Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2017
12th Floor Conference Room**

Board Members Present

Joseph Swanderski, Chairman
Michael Kyle
Mary Roland
John Schombert
Curt Steffy
Rachel Brennan
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW)
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary, BSDW
John Cantwell, Board Counsel

Non Board Members Present

David Long, BSDW
Mary Zeigler, BSDW
Scott Sykes, BSDW
Shalini Lenka, BSDW
Robert Digilarmo, Bureau of Clean Water (BCW)

Mr. Swanderski called the conference call meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators (Board) to order at 10:02 AM.

Criminal History Report

Ms. Zeigler, presented the review committee's recommendation for the following wastewater operator certification applicant Client ID 31599, with a criminal history record (CHR). In 12/28/96 one count each of accident involving death or personal injury which was a felony three, driving under the influence that was a misdemeanor two. He plead guilty, county prison 5 to 23 months, 30 days to 23 months and fines, costs and restitution. It was a traffic accident where an individual was injured while the driver was DUI. The injured individual made a full recovery. None of these charges were related to a water or wastewater facility, and all are more than five years old. The review committee recommended that the Board approve the certification for this applicant. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue the license. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval of December 14, 2016 Minutes

Mr. Kyle requested to add a.m. to the last sentence "adjourned at 11:50 a.m". Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the December 14, 2016 minutes as amended. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

The new and upgrade applications were presented to the Board for approval. Ms. Roland motioned to issue licenses for all new and upgrade applications. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Timothy Bennett – holds a water WAE 11, 12, 13, 14 which expires March 31, 2017. Mr. Bennett is requesting a downgrade to a Class D and is not employed at a water or wastewater system at this time. Mr. Sykes disagrees with providing the class D downgrade until Mr. Bennett can prove he is employed at a class D system. Mr. Moyer was not present at the meeting, but reviewed the request prior to the meeting. Cheri explained that his opinion is if an operator is unemployed, that operator should be eligible to downgrade. The Board discussed this issue at length, reviewing applicable guidance and regulatory language. Overall, Board members requested to table the application until a legal opinion could be obtained. Mr. Cantwell arrived to the meeting after the discussion. He was provided with a summary and said he would further research this issue for the next meeting.

Reciprocity Requests

One water and four wastewater reciprocity applications were presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the water reciprocity application. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the wastewater reciprocity applications. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Sansoni presented the following extension requests:

Richard Lauer – is requesting an extension of his water WAE 1-14, renewal cycle which expired March 31, 2016, due to his medical condition. He completed 4 hours of the required 30 training hours to renew. The medical documentation received states no limitations. Mr. Kyle motioned to deny the extension. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Jerome R. Setlock – is requesting an extension of his wastewater WWBE 1-4 renewal cycle which expired December 31, 2015, due to extreme circumstances. He completed 29.0 training hours of the required 30 hours to renew. Mr. Kyle motioned to deny the extension due to insufficient information. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Board Chairperson, Secretary Election

Mr. Kyle motioned to reelect Mr. Swanderski as the Chairman of the Board. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to reelect Ms. Sansoni as the Secretary of the Board. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Old and New Business

Mr. Chescattie gave an update on the process of paying ABC membership renewal. Mr. Chescattie had a discussion with ABC regarding reducing the membership rate of \$1800 since we do not use their test questions. ABC's membership rate is based on the number of operators in the state. Mr. Chescattie requested that ABC determine if a lower membership rate was more applicable for PA. ABC management was not able to provide a reduced rate. He explained that it does not appear that the Department is receiving or utilizing any significant benefits from the ABC membership. Based on cost/benefit analysis, he suggested that we may want to pull back from the membership. He requested the Board's opinion on this matter. Board members agreed with this assessment and suggestion.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m.