

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

**Board Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2017  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Board Members Present**

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

**Non Board Members Present**

Mary Zeigler, BSDW  
Scott Sykes, BSDW  
Shalini Lenka, BSDW

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

**Approval of February 8, 2017 Minutes**

Mr. Kyle requested a revision to the motion for Jerome R. Setlock's denied extension request. The third sentence should read "Mr. Kyle motioned to deny the extension request because it did not meet the Board's criteria." rather than due to insufficient information". Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the February 8, 2017, minutes as amended. Ms. Roland 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. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Reciprocity Requests**

One water and two wastewater reciprocity applications were presented to the Board for approval.

Robert Barnhardt - holds a South Carolina water certification. He has over 12 years' experience at various class A systems using subclasses 1,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 and distribution. Ms. Roland motioned to issue a WAE 1,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 certificate. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Jeffrey Shultz - holds a New York wastewater certification. He has 5 years 7 months' experience at a system using activated sludge. It was recommended to issue a WWAE 1,4 certificate. Mr. Kyle stated that Mr. Shultz did not test for the collection system certification. Ms. Roland made a motion to issue a WWA1 certificate. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Brent Herring holds an Arizona wastewater certification and has 8 years 6 months' experience at an activated sludge system. It was recommended to issue a WWAE 1,4 certificate. Ms. Roland questioned the WWE4 certification because Mr. Herring did not request it on his application. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue a WWA1 certificate and get further clarification on the WWE4 certificate and issue it if he had experience. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Board Secretary Report**

Timothy Bennett holds a water WAE 11,12,13,14 which expired on March 31, 2017. At the February 8, 2017 Board meeting, Mr. Bennett requested a downgrade to a Class D because he was no longer employed at a system and was semi-retired. The Board members requested to table the application for the April 12, 2017 Board meeting, until a legal opinion could be obtained. Mr. Cantwell advised the Board that his interpretation of the Chapter 302 is an operator may downgrade to a class D if the operator is not employed. Ms. Roland motioned to approve the downgrade effective February 8, 2017. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Downgrade applications will be determined on a case by case basis until the regulations are revised.

Ms. Sansoni presented the Jason Sheaffer Consent Order and Agreement to the Board for informational purposes.

### **Old and New Business**

Mr. Chescatti presented an annual overview of operator certification statistics. Since 2006 there has been a decline in the number certified water and wastewater operators. The decline is most likely due to a combination of retirements and operators working at multiple systems (circuit riders). Mr. Sykes stated that 50% of small water systems utilize circuit riders. The Board's concern is making sure that a circuit rider is not taking on more responsibility than they can handle. Examinee numbers are on the decline over the past two years. The goal has been to increase the on-line exams and decrease the number of written exams. There are now over 3,000 water/wastewater courses approved for continuing education purposes.

### **Criminal History Report**

There were no criminal history reports.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

The Board went into executive session at 11:01 AM

The Board came out of executive session at 12:37 PM

Mr. Kyle motioned to grant the Department's Memorandum in Support of Petition for Reconsideration for Anthony Pipito. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. Ms. Roland opposed. The motion carried. Mr. Cantwell will provide the Board all documents involved in the Pipito hearing for their review for reconsideration.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:38 PM.