

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2019  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Board Members Present**

Joseph Swanderski, Chairman, Penn State University, Wastewater Operator  
Mary Roland, Certified Water Operator  
Michael Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision  
Curt Steffy, Aqua PA Inc., Official of Private System  
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public  
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee  
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel

**Board Members Absent**

Rachel Brennan, Penn State University, Teacher/Professor

**Non-Board Members Present**

Bill Mcnamara, BSDW  
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW  
Gary Moyer, BSDW  
David Long, BSDW  
Shalini Lenka, BSDW  
Mahendra Patel, BSDW

Mr. Swanderski called the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators Board to order at 10:04 AM.

**Approval of December 12, 2018 Minutes**

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the April 3, 2019 minutes as written. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Approval of New and Upgrade Applications**

The new, upgrade applications were presented to the Board for approval. More specifically:

- Wastewater: 64 new licenses, and 21 upgrades were presented.
- Drinking Water: 79 new license, and 52 upgrades were presented

Mr. Kyle motioned to issue licenses for all new and upgrade applications. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Mr. Chescattie mentioned that this was an exceptionally high volume (216 total) of applications to review. Ms. Lenka made an extra effort, working until noon on June 11, in order to include as many applications as possible for Board review.

**Reciprocity Requests**

Five water and five wastewater reciprocity applications were reviewed by Gary Moyer and Shalini Lenka, and a summary of their review was presented to the Board for their discussion

and consideration. After considerable Board review and discussion, Mr. Kyle motioned to approve five water reciprocity application, and four wastewater reciprocity applications. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Information pertaining to each Water and Wastewater reciprocity application is summarized below.

## **Water**

**Gregory C Dickinson** – Holds a New Jersey T2 Water treatment license and W1 Distribution that expires on September 30, 2019. He has 2 years’ 1-month experience working at Sparta Township, which is a Class D facility using subclasses 7,8,11, and Distribution. He has 4 years, 7 months experience working at Chester Borough, which is a Class D facility using subclass 8. He has 6 years’ 2 months experience working at EMRE, which is a Class D facility using subclasses 8,11, and Distribution.

The Department’s recommendation: this individual is eligible for a WDE 7,8,11 certificate.

**Allen Richard Webb** – holds a Maryland water treatment 4 license that expires on November 1, 2020. He has 22 years 4 months experience working for Harford county Government Water System which is a class A system using subclasses 1,2,7,8,10,11,12 and distribution.

The Department’s recommendation: this individual is eligible for a WAE 1,2,7,8,10,11,12 certificate.

**Alice M Davis** – Holds a Virginia Class 3 waterworks operator license that expires on February 28, 2020. She has 7 years’ experience at Town of Edinburg which is a class C facility using Membrane Filtration W6 and Gaseous Chlorine Disinfection W11.

The Department’s recommendation: this individual is eligible for a WC 6,11 certificate.

**Russell B Sanders** – holds a Maryland Class 1 water treatment license that expires on August 1, 2021. He has 4 years 10 months experience working for Town of Thurmont Water System which is a class C system using subclasses 3,8,9,10,12 and distribution.

The Department’s recommendation: this individual is eligible for a WCE 3,8,9,10,12 certificate.

**Thomas P Danley** – holds a West Virginia Class II water treatment license that expires on February 28, 2020. He has 19 years 11 months experience working for The Newell Company Water System which is a class B system using subclasses 7, 11 and distribution.

The Department’s recommendation: this individual is eligible for a WBE 7, 11 certificate.

## **Wastewater**

**Abner Bido** – Holds a Puerto Rico wastewater plant operator 1 license that expires March 15, 2020. He has 7 years, 7 months experience at Bristol Myers Squibb WWTP which is a Class C facility using Activated Sludge WW1.

The Department's recommendation, this individual is eligible for a WWC 1 certificate.

**Gregory C Dickinson** – Holds a New Jersey S2 Public Wastewater and a C1 Collections certificate that expires September 30, 2019. He has 4 years 2 months experience working at Liverpool WWTP, which is a Class A facility using Activated Sludge WW1. He has 1 year 7 months experience working at City of Strongsville, which is a Class A facility using Fixed Film Treatment WW2. He has 2 years 7 months experience working at Rio Grande, which is a Class A facility using Fixed Film Treatment WW2. He has 2 years, 1-month experience working at Sparta Plaza which is a class D facility using subclass Activated Sludge WW1. He has 4 years, 7 months experience working at Chester Borough which is a Class D using subclasses Activated Sludge WW1 and Collection System WWE4. He has 5 years, 6 months experience working at Honeywell which is Class D facility using subclass Fixed Film Treatment WW2. He has 6 years, 2 months experience working at EMRE which is a Class D facility using subclasses Activated Sludge WW1, Treatment Ponds and Lagoons WW3 and Laboratory Supervisor WW5.

The Department's recommendation, this individual is eligible for a WWAE 1,2,3,4 certificate.

**Paul A Evan** – Holds a South Carolina Class A wastewater certification that expires on June 30, 2019. He has 10 years 4 months experience at George R. Vereen WWTP which is a class A facility using Activated Sludge WW1 and Treatment Ponds and Lagoons WW3. He has 4 years' experience at Bucksport WWTP which is a class A facility using Activated Sludge WW1. He has 10 years 4 months experience at Conway WWTP which is a Class B facility using Activated Sludge WW1 and Treatment Ponds and Lagoons WW3. However, Paul Evan cross-walked and received a PA license WWAE 1,2,3,4 which was issued on 7/27/2002. That license was inactivated on 6/30/2006 due to lack of continuing education. Due to the specifications of 302.304(c)(2), this operator does not appear eligible for issuance of a certificate through reciprocity.

Department recommendation is for Board review, discussion and vote on Mr. Evan's reciprocity application request. After significant discussion, consensus of Board members and counsel was that 302.304(c)(2) applies to the current 3-year renewal cycle within the State for which the operator currently holds a valid license. Mr. Evan's application verified this was the case. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve WWA 1, 3 licenses. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Alice M Davis** – Holds a Virginia Class 2 wastewater works operator license that expires on February 29, 2012. She has 7 years' experience at Town of Edinburg which is a class C facility using Fixed Film Treatment WW2.

The Department's recommendation, this individual is eligible for a WWC 2 certificate.

**Thomas P Danley** – holds a West Virginia Class I water treatment license that expires on February 28, 2020. He has 19 years 11 months experience working for The Newell Company Water System which is a class B system using subclasses Activated Sludge WW1.

The Department's recommendation, this individual is eligible for a WWB 1 certificate

**Albert R Liwanag III** – Holds a California Grade III wastewater certification that expires on December 27, 2021. He has 1 year 11 months experience at City of Sunnyvale WPCP which is a class A facility using Fixed Film Treatment WW2 and Treatment Ponds and Lagoons WW3.

He has a bachelor's degree in marine biology which can be used for Track II experience requirement. Mr. Liwanag does not currently have enough experience for a Class A license. He currently does not have enough experience; however, Mr. Liwanag will have 2 years total experience, the minimum needed via Track II on July 12, 2019, if he remains employed at the same wastewater treatment facility.

Department recommendation is for the Board to consider two options: voting to approve this reciprocity request contingent upon Mr. Liwanag submitting written verification on/after July 13, 2019 that he has obtained additional experience needed; or, tabling the Board's vote for the August meeting after the additional experience documentation has been obtained from Mr. Liwanag.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to table Mr. Liwanag's wastewater reciprocity application until the Board receives the documentation to verify additional experience was successfully obtained. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Old and New Business**

Mr. Kyle summarized his recent discussion with Mr. Paul Bishop of ABC. Mr. Bishop is interested in engaging with Pennsylvania Operator Certification Board to discuss what services ABC may be able to provide to Pennsylvania. Mr. Swanderski suggested it may be most beneficial if the discussion with Mr. Bishop occurs during the Board's next in-person (as opposed to conference call) meeting. Board members decided to schedule the next in-person meeting on October 9, 2019 and Mr. Kyle agreed to extend a verbal invitation to Mr. Bishop regarding this upcoming meeting.

Board members also requested future detailed discussion regarding reciprocity application requirements and Department review of these applications. Reciprocity review is a complex process that has become increasingly challenging due to lack detailed information from other States relative to exams and subclasses; therefore, the Board wants to discuss this process in more detail. Mr. Chescattie agreed to do his best work to develop reciprocity review presentation, hopefully for the Board during their October 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Gary Moyer will assist with this effort.

### **Board Secretary Report**

Mr. Chescattie summarized an issue of concern with the Board regarding how the Department, when administering examinations collects the examination fee. While all approved training providers charge the examination fee at the time of the exam, the Department had not been

collecting the examination fee until an operator actually submits an application for certification. At that time, the Department combines the examination fee with the certification application fee. In some cases, operators take several exams prior to submitting a certification application. This creates an extremely difficult tracking issue for the Department and has created a significantly larger fee for operators when they actually apply for certification. The Department believes it would be better for operators and easier to track if operators simply pay the examination fee separately at the time of each examination, the same payment logistics applied by other approved training providers. Mr. Chescattie requested Board input on this issue, the Board members concluded that the Department's proposed modification makes more sense and offered their support. Mr. Kyle motioned to agree to the modification for operators to "pay as they go" with the examination fee. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

The Board went into executive session at 11:27 AM to review confidential information relating to criminal histories of certification applicants and medical histories of individuals requesting an extension of their renewal cycle. The Board came out of executive session at 12:10 PM.

Mr. Chescattie presented the following extension requests:

Dustin Armstrong – Applied for an extension of his WE license which expired on 03/31/2019 due to extreme family and medical circumstances. He has 4 training hours completed towards his 15 hours requirement. After some discussion, Mr. Steffy motioned to extend his renewal cycle to the end of the month or 06/30/2019. Mr. Chescattie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion was carried.

Brien Readinger – Applied for extension for his WCE- 1,7,8,10,11 license which expired 03/31/2019 due to extreme financial hardship circumstances. Mr. Readinger has zero training hours completed towards his 30 hours requirement. After considerable discussion, the Board concluded that Mr. Readinger had not enrolled in any of the free training courses available and provided inadequate documentation of circumstances that would prevent completion of free training courses. Ms. Roland motioned to deny Mr. Readinger's extension request. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

### **Criminal History Report**

Mr. Moyer presented the following CHR on behalf of the review committee.

Wastewater applicant 348838 requested certification for a WWCE- 1,4 certificate. This client was arrested 02/28/2013 for offenses committed 10/15/2009 one count Theft By Unlawful Taking or Disposition(F3) and 10/15/2009 one count Theft By Unlawful Taking or Disposition(F3). Disposition 12/31/2013 was Intermediate Punishment Program for 2 years and Nolo Contendere for both counts. Since the charges are not related to a water or wastewater facility, the review committee recommended that the Board approve certification for this applicant. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the application as recommended by the Department. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Wastewater applicant 348129 requested certification for a WWD- 1,2,3,5. This client was arrested 06/12/1982 for one count Burglary(F3) and arrested 04/27/1987 one count Driving Under the Influence(M2). Disposition on 03/06/1983 offense was County Prison 4 months to 23

months, fines and cost; and the 04/27/1987 offense was County Prison 30 days to 23 months, fines and cost. Since the charges are not related to a water or wastewater facility, the review committee recommended that the Board approve certification for this applicant. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the application as recommended by the Department. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 PM.