

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

Board Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2021

Teams Call

Board Members Present (via phone)

Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee
Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator
Mike Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System
Joe Swanderski, Certified Wastewater Operator
Rachel Brennan, Penn State University, Teacher/Professor of Engineering
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board
Laura Chambers, Board Secretary

Non-Board Members Present (via phone)

Bill McNamara, BSDW
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW
Bill King, BSDW
Shalini Moola, BSDW
Mahendra Patel, BSDW
Vesna Nelson, BSDW
Theia Hofstetter, Bureau of Clean Water (BCS)
Brian Chalfant, Policy Office
Leda Lacomba, Counsel for BSDW

Public Present (via phone)

Chairperson Roland took roll call to confirm all individuals participating in this Board meeting via conference call and called the meeting to order at 10:02a.m. Mr. Chescattie announced that the public participants on the call would be provided an opportunity for input towards the end of the meeting. No participants identified themselves as members of the public.

Approval of April 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the April 14, 2021 meeting minutes with a few minor suggested edits. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

Ms. Chambers presented the following new and upgrade license for Board consideration:

- 16 new water licenses
- 14 upgraded water licenses
- 15 new wastewater licenses
- 10 upgraded wastewater licenses

Ms. Chambers provided a summary of two additional upgrades the Department received that were not included on the new and upgrade report that was provided earlier this week.

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

Reciprocity Requests

The Board reviewed and considered the following reciprocity request:

Wastewater

Nicholas Pietrefesa – Holds a New Jersey S2 Public Wastewater license, which was issued October 1, 2005 and expires on September 30, 2021. The applicant also holds a New Jersey C3 Collections Wastewater license, which was issued on August 20, 2020 and expires on September 30, 2021. His application documents the following experience: 6 months working at Wawa – Red Roof Campus WWTP, which is a class D facility using subclass 1; 6 months working at Wawa Food Market #909, which is a class D facility using subclass 1; 6 months working at Wawa Food Market #8300, which is a class D facility using subclass 1; and 6 months working at Wawa Food Market & Gasoline Sales, which is a class D facility using subclass 1.

The part-time employment at the 4 facilities (Wawa – Red Roof Campus WWTP, Wawa Food Market #909, Wawa Food Market #8300, Wawa Food Market & Gasoline Sales) equates to a total of 2 years of operating experience.

Mr. Pietrefesa's experience was obtained at Class D facilities and 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 Mr. Pietrefesa has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWD – 1.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams developed by ABC and administered in New Jersey. (New Jersey has conveyed that they do not license on specific treatment type.)

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Mr. Pietrefesa has documented that he has passed a comparable examination in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. Pietrefesa WWD – 1 license via reciprocity. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Small Water Systems TAC Board Update

Chairperson Roland provided a summary of the January 28, 2021 and April 29, 2021 Small Water Systems Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings. Mr. Smith and Mr. Bickel, who also attended the TAC Board meetings had no additional information to add; they both agreed Ms. Roland's update was very thorough. Board members agreed to keep this TAC Board update as a standing agenda item moving forward.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers had nothing new to report.

Old and New Business

Chairperson Roland wanted to confirm that we received everything we needed for the extension request for Operator 194008, for which we required additional information at the April board meeting. Ms. Chambers confirmed that we did receive the information.

Chairperson Roland asked whether, for dual-certified operators, the mandatory security training needs to be taken twice for both water and wastewater certifications. Mr. McNamara said no; clients only need to take that specific training once and the training is tied to their Client ID, and all operators (including those that are dual-certified) are only assigned one client ID.

Comments from the Public

The Board went into executive session at 11:05am to discuss extension requests.

The Board came out of executive session at 12:48pm.

Criminal History Report

Wastewater Applicant 345874 requested certification for WE (distribution).

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 345874 WE certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Extension Requests

The Board had a discussion regarding reverting back to the pre-COVID protocol of reviewing and considering extension requests. Ms. Chambers provided details on each extension request received for this meeting.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 275736 through April 4, 2021. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with Mr. Chescattie abstaining from voting due to conflict with his DEP duties.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 316390 through April 22, 2021. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the extension for Operator 197044. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 244849 through July 30, 2021. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 342878 through June 30, 2021. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned that the Board cannot vote on the extension for Operator 199939 due to lack of medical documentation. Therefore, the request is tabled until the August Board meeting. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 197966 through July 30, 2021. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie motioned that for all extension requests received by the Department after June 8, 2021, the Board will review those applications consistent with the extension review process utilized by this Board prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie motioned that the Board has reviewed and provided edits to a revised version of the Seating, Writing Areas and Table Arrangements utilized for drinking water and wastewater operator certification exams throughout PA. The Board approves this revised version with incorporation of the edits they provided. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:54pm. Meeting adjourned at 12:54pm.