

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

Board Meeting Minutes

April 14, 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

John Cantwell, Legal Counsel

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary

Non-Board Members Present (via phone)

Bill McNamara, BSDW

Jeff Allgyer, BSDW

Lori Wise, BSDW

Bill King, BSDW

Shalini Moola, BSDW

Mahendra Patel, BSDW

Theia Hofstetter, Bureau of Clean Water

Brian Chalfant, Policy Office

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 10:04a.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 public participants identified themselves or appeared to be on the call.

Approval of February 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Roland noted that she did not see where we notated a motion for Travis Steimle. Ms. Chambers looked into it after the meeting and confirmed that at the end of Travis Steimle's summary, we do reflect "*Mr. Kyle motioned to issue Mr. Steimle a WWD - 1, 2. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*" Therefore, no additional edits needed to address Ms. Roland's comment.

Mike Kyle motioned to approve the February 3, 2021 meeting minutes as edited. 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:

- 45 new water licenses
- 24 upgraded water licenses
- 43 new wastewater licenses
- 20 upgraded wastewater licenses

The Department received additional information from Hector Rosado, whose reciprocity for WWD – 1,2,3 was approved at the February 3, 2021 Board Meeting. Mr. Rosado questioned why he was approved for a class D and not approved for a class C license. The plant at which Mr. Rosado has worked for the past several years was incorrectly listed by Mr. Rosado on his initial application as a Class D; the Department verified that it was a Class C as documented by Mr. Rosado in the revised application. Therefore, this additional documentation from Mr. Rosado is presented for Board consideration as an addendum to his original reciprocity request.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please consider approving a Class C license for Mr. Rosado, given the additional documentation to his reciprocity application.

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

Mr. Kyle motioned to modify the reciprocity request to issue Mr. Rosado a WWC – 1,2,3. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Department received a downgrade request for William Douglas.. Ms. Chambers provided a summary of the downgrade request for William Douglas The downgrade request is based on the small size of the systems where applicant works.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Douglas's downgrade to a WD – 11, 12. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reciprocity Requests

Wastewater

Robert Giovanetti – Holds a New Jersey S2 Public Wastewater operator license, and an Industrial N2 wastewater license, both of which expire on September 30, 2021. The issue dates were not documented. His application documents 9 months’ experience working at Wawa – Red Roof Campus WWTP, Permit No. 2315401, in Wawa, PA, which is a class D facility using subclass 1. His application documents 9 months’ experience working at Wawa Food Market #909, Permit No. NJ0140767 in Millstone, NJ, which is a Class D facility using subclass 1. His application documents 9 months’ experience working at Wawa Food Market #8300, Permit No. NJ0169030, in Southampton, NJ, which is a Class D facility using subclass 1. His application documents 9 months’ experience working at Wawa Food Market & Gasoline Sales, Permit No. NJ0170330, in Mullica Hill, NJ, which is a Class D facility using subclass 1.

The part-time employment at these 4 facilities occurred during the same period of time and equates to a total of 3 years of operating experience.

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. Giovanetti has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWD – 1.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams developed by ABC and administered in New Jersey. Please see the verification form completed by New Jersey Operator Certification staff, which details the experience requirements for the S2 level of certification in that state.

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

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. Giovanetti’s WWD – 1 license. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Karl Stephens – Holds a Grade 3 Arizona Wastewater Treatment license, which was issued November 17, 2015 and expires September 30, 2021. His application documents 6 months experience working at Tall Timbers, which is a class B facility using subclasses 1, 2, 4. His application documents 4 months experience working at Woodmark, which is a class B facility using subclasses 1, 2, 4. His application documents 4 months experience working at Big Eddy, which is a class B facility using subclasses 1, 2, 4. His application documents 2 months experience working at Holly Lake Ranch, which is a class B facility using subclasses 1, 2, 4. His application documents 2 years, 11 months’ experience working at Northwest Valley Reclamation Facility, in Sun City, AZ, which is a class B facility using subclass 1. His application documents 2 years, 3 months’ experience working at City of Conroe WWTP, which is a class A facility using subclass 1.

The part-time employment at the 4 facilities (Tall Timbers, Woodmark, Big Eddy, and Holly Lake Ranch) occurred during the same period of time and equates to a total of 1 year, 3 months' of operating experience.

An operator is required to have a minimum of 3 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class B license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Stephens has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWB – 1, 2, 4.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams developed by ABC and administered in Arizona.

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

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. Stephens' WWB – 1, 2, 4 license. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Charles Nester – Holds Class H and Class IV wastewater licenses, which were issued August 5, 2020 and expires July 31, 2022. His application documents 16 years, 9 months' experience working at Morgantown Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is a class A facility using subclass 1.

An operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Nester has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWA – 1.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed Class IV Wastewater Exams in West Virginia. Please see the bottom portion of page 2 of the verification form for exam details.

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Nester's WWA – 1 license. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motioned passed unanimously.

Water

Wayne Buller – Holds a New Jersey T2 Water Treatment license and a New Jersey W2 Water Distribution license, both of which expire on September 30, 2021. The issue dates were not documented. His application documents 3 years, 4 months' experience working at Allamuchy Twp. Water/Sewer, which is a class D facility using subclasses 7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14. 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. Buller has documented the adequate experience relative to a WD,E – 7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams developed by ABC and administered in New Jersey. Please see the verification form completed by New Jersey Operator Certification staff, which details the experience requirements for the T-2 level of certification in that state.

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Buller's WD,E – 7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 license. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeremy McDowell – Holds a New York IIB and D license that was issued to him on April 12, 2018 and expires on June 30, 2021. His application documents 1 year, 1 month experience working at Crosby Water Association, in Crosby, PA, which is a class D, E facility using subclasses 8 and 12. His application documents 4 years, 3 months' experience working at Village of Little Valley, in Little Valley, NY, which is a class C,E facility using subclasses 8 and 12. 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. McDowell has documented the adequate experience relative to a WC,E – 8,12.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant took the Class IIB and D Water exams in New York. Please see the PDF attachments entitled "2011 Grade B" and "2011 Grade D" for details on the associated New York test content area. For a comparison of applicable Pennsylvania exams, please see the PDF attachment entitled "Operator Certification Examination Summary Overview."

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. McDowell's WC,E – 8,12 license. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motioned passed unanimously.

David Hogrebe – Holds a Delaware Water Supply Operator license that was issued to him on August 19, 2016 and expires on August 31, 2022. Mr. Hogrebe also holds a Maryland Water Treatment 3 license that was issued to him on September 1, 2020 and expires September 1, 2023. He obtained his Maryland license via reciprocity through Delaware. His application documents 5 years, 6 months' experience working at Artesian Water Main System, in Newark, Delaware, which is a Class A Facility using subclasses 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11, and 12. His application documents 5 months experience working at Harborview Water Treatment Plant in Chesapeake City, Maryland, which is a class E system using subclasses 4,6,7,8,9,12. An operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Hogrebe has documented the adequate experience relative to a WA,E – 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant took the Water Supply Operator exams in Delaware. The verifier from Delaware (Keith Harrison) provided exam information via

appendix A. Mr. Harrison indicated in his email that the applicant took and passed exams in categories A, B, C, F, and G.

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Hoglebe's WA,E – 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 license. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Hough – Holds a Virginia Class I Waterworks Operators license that was issued to him on September 30, 2005 and expires on February 28, 2023. His application documents 15 years, 10 months' experience working at Town of Leesburg, which is a class A facility using subclasses 1, 7, 8, 10, and 12. An operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Hough has documented the adequate experience relative to a WA – 1,7,8,10,12.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams developed by ABC and administered in Virginia.

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

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. Hough's WA – 1,7,8,10,12 license. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Braeden Luciano – Holds a West Virginia Class 4 Drinking Water license that was issued to him on February 2, 2021 and expires on November 30, 2022. His application documents 6 years, 7 months' experience working at Berkeley County Public Service Water District Potomac plant, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1,6,7,8,9,11,12,13. An operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Luciano has documented the adequate experience relative to a WA – 1,6,7,8,9,11,12,13.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant took the Class IV Water exams in West Virginia. Please see the last page of the completed verification form for the associated West Virginia test content area. For a comparison of applicable Pennsylvania exams, please see the PDF attachment entitled "Operator Certification Examination Summary Overview."

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Luciano's WA – 1,6,7,8,9,11,12,13 license. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers introduced Vesna Nelson, our new Management Technician in Operator Certification who was hired to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Dave Long. Ms. Nelson brings much applicable experience from her previous employment and BSDW is happy to have her onboard as part of the team!

Old and New Business

Chairperson Roland provided an update on a discussion from the last Board meeting where both Mark Smith and Jeff Bickel expressed interest in serving as the Operator Certification Board alternate to the TAC Board (Ms. Roland is the primary representative). The summary of the most beneficial path forward would be for Mark Smith and Jeff Bickel to alternate years serving as alternates to the Small Water Systems TAC Board. Mr. Chescattie motioned to appoint Mark Smith as the TAC Board alternate for calendar year 2021, and Jeff Bickel as the TAC Board alternate for calendar year 2022. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie recommends having a TAC Board update as a standing agenda item for briefing from Ms. Roland, Mr. Smith and Mr. Bickel for recent and upcoming TAC board meetings. Ms. Roland agreed this would be a good idea.

Comments from the Public

The Board went into executive session at 11:30am to discuss one Criminal History Report and five extension requests.

The Board came out of executive session at 12:29pm.

Criminal History Report

Wastewater Applicant 359040 requested certification for WWB,E – 1,4. Client was arrested September 29, 1992 for one count of Robbery (F1) offense date September 4, 1991. Disposition: Plead No Contest/Regional Correctional Facility/2 years, 6 months - 5 years/Costs. Paroled January 14, 1993 to July 15, 2003. One count of Receiving Stolen Property offense date November 15, 1991. Disposition: Plead Guilty/Regional Correctional Facility/Costs. Arrested August 12, 1992 for: One count of Receiving Stolen Property offense date November 26, 1991. Disposition: Plead Guilty/Regional Correctional Facility/Costs/Restitution. One count of Receiving Stolen Property offense date December 9, 1991. Disposition: Regional (NOTE: Disposition cut off on CHR page 2 of 3). Two counts of Receiving Stolen Property offense date June 1, 1992. Disposition (1st count): Plead Guilty/Regional Correctional Facility/6 months - 2 years/Restitution. Disposition (2nd count): Plead/Guilty/Regional Correctional Facility/11 months, 15 days - 2 years/Costs/Restitution. Paroled November 13, 1992 to July 15, 2003.

Recommendation: Based on the nature of the offenses (not related to water or wastewater), and the length of time since the offenses, it is recommended that the certificate be approved for this applicant.

Extension Requests

Operator ID 194008 (Chris Meredith) – Has a water and a wastewater license, both of which expired on March 31, 2021. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training for his water and 30 hours of training for his wastewater and has currently obtained 22 hours for his water and 22 hours for his wastewater. His extension request claims that he sustained a serious workplace injury which impacted his ability to obtain his required training hours within his renewal cycle. His application does not specify a timeframe for the requested extension.

Operator ID 244857 (Walter Niedzwiecki) – Has a water license which expired on March 31, 2021. The operator was required to obtain 15 hours of training, and currently has obtained 6.5 hours. His extension request claims that he was unable to attend in-person classes due to COVID and that his home computer has not been working properly. He is requesting “a couple months” to obtain his remaining training hours.

Operator ID 263919 (John Bodge, Jr.) – Has a water license which expired on December 31, 2020. The operator was required to obtain 15 hours of training, and currently has obtained 9 hours. His extension request claims that due to COVID his company (PA American Water) did not provide contact hours as they normally do. His application claims that he is registered for 15 hours’ worth of classes, which will put him over the required amount of training hours. His application does not specify a timeframe for the requested extension.

Operator ID 251493 (Joseph Chrostowski) – Has a water license which expired on December 31, 2020. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours for his water license and currently has obtained 4 hours. His extension request claims that he had had a career change but is now looking to get back into the water and wastewater field, and also mentions class rescheduling issues due to COVID. His application does not specify a timeframe for the requested extension.

Operator ID 194179 (Eugene Hankee III) – Has a water license which expired on March 31, 2021. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training, and currently has obtained 13 hours. His extension request claims that his family business suffered the loss of two service technicians in short succession and that the COVID crisis added to his inability to hire new employees or take training classes. His application does not specify a timeframe for the requested extension.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve extension for Operator 194008 through April 30, 2021 contingent upon the Board Secretary receiving a legible copy of his extension request AND medical documentation from a medical professional by Monday, April 19, 2021. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 244857 through June 30, 2021. Mr. Chescattie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 263919 through March 31, 2021. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 251493 through March 31, 2021. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 194179 through June 30, 2021. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 359040 a WWB,E – 1,4 license. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Chescattie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:33. Meeting adjourned at 12:33.