

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

Board Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2021

Teams Call

Board Members Present (via phone)

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
Rachel Brennan, Penn State University, Teacher/Professor of Engineering
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel
Laura Chambers, Board Secretary
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee

Non-Board Members Present (via phone)

Bill McNamara, BSDW
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW
Lori Wise, BSDW
Shalini Moola, BSDW
Mahendra Patel, BSDW
Vesna Nelson, BSDW
Anita Stabile, Bureau of Clean Water
Brian Chalfant, Policy Office
Leda Lacomba, DEP Legal Counsel

Public Present (via phone)

Mr. Chescattie took roll call to confirm all individuals participating in this Board meeting via conference call and Chairperson Roland called the meeting to order at 10:03a.m. Mr. Chescattie announced that the public participants on the call would be provided an opportunity for input prior to executive session portion of the meeting.

Approval of June 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the June 9, 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:

- 50 new water licenses

- 30 upgraded water licenses
- 66 new wastewater licenses
- 25 upgraded wastewater licenses

The Department received two additional upgrades that were not included on the new and upgrade report Ms. Chambers previously provided to Board members.

1. The Department received an additional water upgrade application for Dale E. Diehl, Client ID 207240.
 - a. *The Department's recommendation: The Board should please consider approving an upgrade to a WA,E – 4,7,8,11,12.*
2. The Department received an additional water upgrade application for Jesse R Propheter, Client ID 348304.
 - a. *The Department's recommendation: The Board should please consider approving an upgrade to a WB,E – 7,8,12.*

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

Reciprocity Requests

Wastewater

Valerie Bridges – Holds a New Jersey S2 public wastewater license that was issued on November 27, 2015 and expires September 30, 2021. Applicant also holds a California Grade 3 wastewater license, which was issued on December 8, 2012 and expires December 31, 2023. Her application documents the following: 2 years, 7 months' experience working at North Hudson Sewer Authority, NJ, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 2,4; 1 years, 10 months' experience working at Daly City Department of Water & Wastewater Resources, CA, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1,4; and 2 years, 7 months' experience working at Fairfield-Suisun Sewer, CA, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1 and 2.

Ms. Bridges experience was obtained at Class A facilities and an operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Ms. Bridges has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWA-1,2,4.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams developed by ABC and administered in New Jersey. California provided information on its exams, which was provided as a separate attachment. Passing score for California exams is 70%.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Ms. Bridges has documented that she has passed comparable examinations in the States of New Jersey and California.

Mr. Smith motioned to approve Ms. Bridges' WWA-1,2,4 license. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Nicholas Pietrefesa – Ms. Chambers noted that this is a new application and the information contained herein documents additional experience than what was provided within his application that was presented at the June 2021 Board meeting. The applicant holds a New Jersey S2 Public Wastewater license that was issued October 1, 2005 and expires on September 30, 2021. The applicant also holds a New Jersey C3 Collections Wastewater license that was issued on August 20, 2020 and expires on September 30, 2021. His application documents the following experience: 8 years, 4 months' working at BTSA Harrison Treatment Plant, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1,3,4; and 7 years, 2 months' working at Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1,4.

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. Pietrefesa has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWA – 1,3,4.**

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

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.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Pietrefesa's WWA-1,3,4 license. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Water

Valerie Bridges – Holds a California T2 Water Treatment license that was issued on November 1, 2012 and expires November 1, 2021; and a D2 (distribution) license that was issued on December 1, 2012 and expires on December 1, 2021. The applicant also holds a New Jersey W2 water distribution license and a T2 water treatment license that were both issued on November 27, 2015 and expire on September 30, 2021.

Her application documents the following: 2 years, 11 months' experience working at Passaic Valley Water Commission, Totowa, NJ, which is a Class A facility using 1,7,8,12,14 and distribution; and 1 year, 3.5 months' experience working at Daly City Department of Water & Wastewater Resources, California, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 8 and distribution.

Ms. Bridges experience was obtained at Class A facilities and an operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Ms. Bridges has documented the adequate experience relative to a WA,E-1,7,8,12,14.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams developed by ABC and administered in New Jersey. California provided information on its exams, which was provided as a separate attachment. Passing score for California exams is 70%.

The Department's recommendation: The Board should please review the examination information provided and vote on whether Ms. Bridges has documented that she has passed comparable examinations in the States of New Jersey and California.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Ms. Bridges WA,E-1,7,8,12,14. Mr. Chescattie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jackson Marshall – Holds a Colorado Class S Water Operator License that was issued on June 29, 2020 and expires June 29, 2023. His application documents 2 years, 1 month experience working at Town of Granby North Service Area, Granby, Colorado, which is a Class C facility using subclasses 1, 8, 11 and distribution.

Mr. Marshall's experience was obtained at a Class C facility and an operator is required to have a minimum of 2 years' experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class C license. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Marshall has documented the adequate experience relative to a WC,E – 8.****

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

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

***On July 7, 2021, Ms. Chambers called and spoke with the signing supervisor for Jackson Marshall's reciprocity application—Stanley (Andrew) Magas. Mr. Magas confirmed that Mr. Marshall worked at Town of Granby North Service area approximately 40+ hours per week during the period of 7/19 – 6/21 and worked at Moraine Park approximately 4 hours per week during the period of 7/19 – 6/21. Mr. Magas also confirmed that Moraine Park is a Class C facility.*

Additionally, even though Mr. Marshall reflected on his application that he had experience using subclasses 1 and 12 for the Town of Granby, the verification form completed by Colorado operator certification staff Nancy Horan, only reflects that Mr. Marshall is licensed in Colorado to operate subclasses 8, 13 and distribution.

Ms. Chambers agreed to reach out to operator certification staff in Colorado to confirm whether Mr. Marshall's is licensed to operate subclass 11 (gaseous chlorine disinfection) and/or subclass

12 (nongaseous chemical disinfection), and whether he passed an exam including questions relating to these subclasses.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. Marshall's WC, E – 8 and with the possibility of 11 and/or 12 conditioned on the Department receiving adequate written documentation from Colorado licensing staff regarding both exam content passed and what treatment processes he is licensed to operate. Chairperson Roland seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pending Reciprocity Applications -

Ms. Chambers noted that there is a pending application for William Cole (water applicant from Texas), which is considered incomplete because there is additional information needed from both the applicant and the accrediting State. Mr. Cole is working on properly completing and resubmitting the application and Ms. Chambers has reached out to the accrediting state requesting information.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers had nothing new to report.

Old and New Business

Mr. Smith provided a summary of last week's TAC Board meeting.

Chairperson Roland suggested the October Operator Certification Board meeting be in person at the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street Harrisburg. Board members agreed.

Mr. Chescattie provided summary of an upgrade application the Department received for Mr. David Gessner – Client ID 314330. Mr. Gessner submitted a letter to the Board along with this application, requesting that his experience with UV at a wastewater treatment facility should be credited as UV operating experience for a wastewater license. After considering the letter, Board members agreed that process control and compliance reporting requirements for UV at drinking water treatment plants are considerably different than for wastewater treatment; and Chapter 302 regulations specify that experience working at an ultraviolet *water* system qualifies an applicant for the *water treatment* subclass 13. Mr. Chescattie motioned to issue subclass 9 and deny the subclass 13 license. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public

No participants on the call identified themselves as members of the public. There were no comments from the public. Public portion of the meeting adjourned at 11:11am.

Executive Session called to order at 11:16am.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 12:41pm.

Criminal History Report

Wastewater Applicant 240970 requested certification for WW-2,3 and the associated Criminal History Report indicates a conviction(s) which may be related to the operation of a wastewater treatment system. Chairperson Roland motioned to request the Department complete a full investigation into the criminal history for Applicant 240970 and to follow the requirements under §302.403(d) with this request. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Extension Requests

Operator ID 201361 – Has a wastewater license that expired on June 30, 2021. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training and has currently obtained 0 hours. His extension request claims extenuating circumstances.

Operator ID 197074 – Has a water license that expires on September 30, 2021. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training and has currently obtained 16 hours. His extension request claims extreme health related circumstances. He has included medical documentation with his extension request.

Operator ID 193848 – Has a wastewater license that expires on June 30, 2021. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training and has currently obtained 0 hours. His extension request claims extenuating circumstances.

Operator ID 194385 – Has a water license that expired on March 31, 2021. The operator was required to obtain 30 hours of training and has currently obtained 24 hours. His extension request claims extenuating circumstances.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the extension for Operator **201361**. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to **approve** the extension for Operator **197074 through March 31, 2022**. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the extension for Operator **193848**. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the extension for Operator **194385**. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie motioned to adjourn, multiple Board members seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:44pm.