

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

Board Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2022

Room 105 / Teams Call

Board Members Present

Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee (via Teams)

Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator (via Teams)

Mike Kyle, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision (via Teams)

Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public (via Teams)

Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System (via Teams)

Autumn Crawford, Western Butler County Authority, Wastewater Operator (via Teams)

Non-Board Members Present

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary

Brian Chalfant, Policy Office

John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board

Bill McNamara, BSDW (via Teams)

Lori Wise, BSDW (via Teams)

Bill King, BSDW (via Teams)

Shalini Moola, BSDW (via Teams)

Vesna Nelson, BSDW (via Teams)

Mahendra Patel, BSDW (via Teams)

Drew Hall, BCW (via Teams)

Public Present

Cameron Lynch, applicant (via Teams)

Casey Carver, applicant (via Teams)

Nicholas Selner, applicant (via Teams)

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Approval of April 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kyle provided a minor edit, which other agreed with, then motioned to approve the April 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

Ms. Chambers presented the following new and upgraded licenses for Board consideration:

- 55 new water licenses
- 35 upgraded water licenses
- 50 new wastewater licenses
- 25 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 6 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

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

Reciprocity Requests

Water

Gregg Bates – Holds a Maryland Water Treatment 4 license that was issued on April 1, 2003 and expires on April 1, 2024. His application documents 14 years, 11 months' experience working at Harford County Drinking Water Plant, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1,2,7,8,10,11,12,15 and WE.

Mr. Bates's experience was obtained at a Class A facility 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 Mr. Bates has documented the adequate experience relative to a WA-1,7,8,10,11,12 and WE.**

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

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Bates's WA-1,7,8,10,11,12 and WE license. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Penman, III – Holds a Delaware Water Supply Operator license that was issued on August 6, 2015 and expires on August 31, 2023. His application documents 7 years, 4 months' experience working at Veolia Water Delaware, Inc. (formerly Suez), which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1,7,8,10,12 and WE.

Mr. Penman's experience was obtained at a Class A facility 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 Mr. Penman has documented the adequate experience relative to a WA-1,7,8,10,12 and WE.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams developed and administered in the State of Delaware.

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Penman's WA-1,7,8,10,12 and WE license. Mr. Chescattie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Wastewater

Patrick Ealy – Holds a New York Grade 2A Wastewater license that was issued on November 20, 2014 and expires on December 1, 2024. His application documents 7 years, 4 months’ experience working at Fresh Kills Landfill Leachate Treatment Plant, which is a Class B facility using subclass 1.

Mr. Ealy’s experience was obtained at a Class B facility and 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. Ealy has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWB-1.**

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

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Ealy’s WWB-1 license. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding exams for 2022 (as of June 2):

- Number of exam **sessions held** thus far in 2022: **19**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2022: **742**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2022: **488**
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2022: **41**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2022: **1774**
 - Total number of computer exams for 2022: **32**
 - Total number of paper exams for 2022: **28**
 - Total number of exams for 2022: **60**

Old and New Business

Mr. Bickel provided a summary of the most recent Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Board meeting. Primary topic of discussion was the updated draft version of a Technical Guidance document from the Bureau of Clean Water which clarifies notification requirements for unauthorized discharges to waters of the Commonwealth, including when public water systems discharge chlorinated or chloraminated water.

The public was provided with an opportunity for comment. Three members of the public were present, each was interested in a summary of the Board’s actions on their recently submitted operator certification applications. Mr. Chescattie promised the applicant’s that Ms. Moola or Ms. Chambers would contact each applicant individually after the Board meeting to provide the requested summary. Ms. Moola summarized that the application for Casey Carver was received

the day prior to this Board meeting and was incomplete; therefore, the Board did not review or take an action on that application.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:45 am after a brief break.

The Board reconvened for public session at 12:49 pm.

Chairperson Roland motioned to endorse the development of written internal SOPs to document EHB appeals and Board Hearing processes. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 363380 WWD-1,2 and WWE4 certification. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Criminal History Report

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 368394 WB-1, WE certification. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 368405 WE and WWE4 certification. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 305683 WA-1,2,7,8,10,11,12 certification. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, with the exception of Mr. Bickel who abstained from voting.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 294180 WA-1 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to grant Operator 366482 WE certification. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Extension Requests

Operator 252321 has a water license that expires on June 30, 2022. The extension request documents that the operator was called to active military duty for the duration of this continuing education cycle. The operator provided copies of associated military orders.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the extension for Operator 252321 through August 31, 2022. Mr. Chescattie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chescattie motioned to adjourn. Multiple Board members seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm.