

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

Board Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2023

Room 105 / Teams Call

Board Members Present

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)
Autumn Crawford, Western Butler County Authority, Wastewater Operator (via Teams)
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System (via Teams)
Heath Edelman, Thaddeus Stevens College, Teaching Staff (via Teams)
Ed Chescattie, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee (via Teams)

Non-Board Members Present

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board
Lori Weaver, BSDW (via Teams)
Bill King, BSDW (via Teams)
Shalini Moola, BSDW (via Teams)
Mahendra Patel, BSDW (via Teams)
Vesna Nelson, BSDW (via Teams)
Victor Landis, Bureau of Clean Water (BCW)
Leda Lacomba, Legal Counsel to BSDW (via Teams)
Bill McNamara, BSDW (via Teams)
Derik Dressler, BSDW (via Teams)
Andrew Hall, Bureau of Clean Water (BCW) (via teams)

Public Present

Chris Roelke, Barton and Loguidice Consulting

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Approval of February 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes with two minor edits. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

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

- 45 new water licenses
- 35 upgraded water licenses
- 40 new wastewater licenses

- 25 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 6 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

Ms. Chambers provided the following verbal overview and edit to the New and Upgrade License Summary:

Client ID 370670 – Submitted application for WD,E-8 and is listed on the New and Upgrade License Summary as such. However, on April 3rd, the signing supervisor, emailed Ms. Moola stating that he would like to withdraw his consent from this application because he believes the applicant needs a little more training and experience. Ms. Chambers and Mr. Allgyer had a call with Mr. Ruddy the afternoon of April 4, 2023 and described the Operator-In-Training (OIT) process. Mr. Ruddy stated that he was fine with the Board considering OIT for the applicant.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve all the new and upgraded license applications. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reciprocity Requests

Water

Ms. Chambers noted that DEP received a water application from Patrick Branson (who also submitted a wastewater application), but that after a thorough review by the internal reciprocity review team including Jeff Allgyer, Lori Wise and Bill King, it was determined that Mr. Branson did not document adequate experience to obtain his drinking water certification. He is licensed in South Carolina only to operate Non-gaseous Chemical Disinfection (12) but his experience only pertains to Aeration and Activated Carbon Adsorption (subclass 10) and Ozone Disinfection (subclass 14). After several lengthy phone conversations between Ms. Chambers and the applicant, he has confirmed that he will register to sit for water exams in PA and then reapply for his license, but that he still wanted his water application to be reviewed by the Board.

Patrick Branson – Holds a South Carolina Water Treatment level E license that was issued on November 12, 2013 and expires on June 30, 2023. His application documents a total of 11.8 months' experience working at Crystal Geysers Roxanne, which is a Class D facility using subclasses 5,10,14.

Mr. Branson's experience documented within his application totals 11.8 months at a Class D facility. An applicant is required to have a minimum of one year experience at a Class D or higher facility in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class D license via reciprocity. **Therefore, the Department's recommendation is that Mr. Branson has not documented adequate experience to obtain his drinking water certification at this time.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams that were developed and administered by WPI (formerly ABC) in the state of South Carolina.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny Mr. Branson's water certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Raymond Jensen – Holds a Colorado Class S license that was issued on February 19, 2021 and expires on February 18, 2024; and also a New Jersey Class T1 license that was issued via reciprocity from Colorado on March 5, 2022 and expires on September 30, 2023. His application documents 1 year, 1 month experience working at East Cherry Creek Valley Water & Sanitation District, CO, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 7,8,9,10,12 and Distribution.

Mr. Jensen's experience was obtained at a Class A facility; his experience totals 1 year 1 month. An operator is required to have a minimum of 1 year of experience at a Class D or higher facility in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class D license via reciprocity. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Jensen has documented the adequate experience relative to a WD-8,12,WE.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed water exams administered in the state of Colorado. Associated examination information obtained via Colorado operator certification program staff has been provided for Board review and consideration.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Jensen's WD,E-8,12 certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Wastewater

Patrick Branson – Holds a South Carolina Wastewater D license that was issued on November 12, 2021 and expires on June 30, 2023. His application documents the following experience: 11.8 months' working at Town of Williamston, which is a Class D facility using subclass 1; 1 month experience working at Delta Borough, which is a class C facility using subclass 1.

Mr. Branson's experience totaled 12.8 months and was obtained primarily at a Class D facility. An operator is required to have a minimum of one year experience at a Class D or higher facility in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class D license via reciprocity. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Branson has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWD-1.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams that were developed and administered by WPI (formerly ABC) in the state of South Carolina. Associated examination information obtained via South Carolina operator certification program staff has been provided for Board review and consideration.

Mr. Edelman motioned to approve Mr. Branson's WWD-1 certification. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rebecca Abram – Holds a New York Wastewater 3A license that was issued on August 21, 2013 and expires on September 1, 2028. Her application documents a total of 11 years', 1 month experience working at Village of Liberty WWTF, which is a Class B facility using subclasses 1,4.

Ms. Abram's experience was obtained at a Class B facility and totals 11 years, 1 month. An operator is required to have a minimum of 3 years' experience at a Class B or higher facility in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class B license via reciprocity. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Ms. Abram has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWB-1.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams that were developed and administered by WPI (formerly ABC) in the state of New York. Associated examination information obtained via New York operator certification program staff has been provided for Board review and consideration.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Ms. Abram's WWB-1 certification. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nicolas Alexander – Holds a West Virginia Class 1 wastewater license that was issued on January 5, 2023 and expires on June 30, 2024. His application documents 4 years' experience working at Morgantown Utility Board WWTP, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1,4.

Mr. Alexander's experience was obtained at a Class A facility and totals 4 years. An operator is required to have a minimum of 4 years of experience at a Class A facility in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license via reciprocity. **Therefore, the Department's determination is that Mr. Alexander has documented the adequate experience relative to a WWA-1.**

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed wastewater exams administered in the state of West Virginia. Associated examination information obtained via West Virginia operator certification program staff has been provided for Board review and consideration.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve Mr. Alexander's WWA-1 certification. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed with support from all Board members, except Ms. Crawford, who opposed.

Additional Applications for Discussion

Operator 345787 – On 9/22/22, Department staff received an upgrade request application to have subclasses 7 and 11 added to this applicant's existing license. On 9/23/22, Ms. Chambers emailed applicant to request additional information (specifically a complete page 2). On 11/15/22 Ms. Moola sent follow-up email reminding applicant and supervisor that DEP was still

waiting for this information. On 11/28/22, after the applicant complained about having to provide the additional requested information, Ms. Chambers followed up with an email specifying why this information is needed. To date, the Department has not received any response or additional information from the applicant and it remains incomplete.

Ms. Crawford motioned to deny the application for Operator 345787. Chairperson Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Operator 353277 – On 1/31/23, Department staff received an initial wastewater application from this applicant. On 2/15/23, Ms. Moola emailed applicant requesting additional information (specifically, the completed CHR and complete page 2 including specific operating duties). On 3/29/23, applicant provided somewhat updated page 2, with minimal additional information regarding operating duties. Also on 3/29/23, Ms. Chambers emailed applicant again requesting complete CHR. Applicant went to PSP website on 3/29/23 and requested the CHR, which they had not done previously, and emailed Ms. Chambers only the receipt and control number; but did not provide a copy of the actual CHR. Since applicant had provided the Control # for the CHR, Ms. Moola was able to access the complete CHR on PSP's website on 3/30/23.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny the application for Operator 353277. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding exams for 2023 (as of 3/23/23).

- Number of exam **sessions held** thus far in 2023: **9**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2023: **260**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2023: **59**
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2023: **61**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2023: **2,411**
 - Total number of computer exams for 2023: **40**
 - Total number of paper exams for 2023: **31**
 - Total number of exams for 2023: **71**

Old and New Business

Mr. Cantwell made the Board aware of an Executive Order that was issued by Governor Shapiro on January 31, 2023 to improve Commonwealth licensing, permitting and certification processes.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:25am.

The Board reconvened for public session at 1:00pm.

Criminal History Report

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 372125 WA,E-1,7,8,10,11 certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 372982 WE certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 369907 WC-12 certification. Mr. Chescattie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 373005 WE certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 373325 WWA-1 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 353657 WWB-1 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 362293 WA,E-7,8,12 certification. Ms. Crawford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Applications for Review

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 357168 upgrade to WWC,E-1,2,3,4 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Operator 373020 OIT for WW-3. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approved Operator 370670 OIT for WD,E-8. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Extension Requests

There were no extension requests received for this meeting.

Chairperson Roland motioned to adjourn. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm