

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Conference Call Board Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2014
10th Floor Conference Room**

Board Members Present

Joseph Swanderski
Mary Roland
Michael Kyle
Dr. Ronald Neufeld
Curt Steffy
Phil Consonery, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW)
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel

Board Members Absent

John Schombert

Non Board Members Present

Scott Noldy, BSDW

Mr. Swanderski called the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators (Board) to order at 10:03AM.

Criminal History Report (CHR)

Ms. Sansoni presented the CHR on behalf of the review committee regarding applicant client ID 306014, charged with theft by unlawful taking or disposition (F3 – Felony). The review committee determined this charge was unrelated to water or wastewater facilities and recommended issuing certification to this applicant. Ms. Roland motioned to issue the license. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval of August 13, 2014 Minutes

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the August 13, 2014 minutes as written. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval of New, Upgrades and Reciprocity Applications

New & Upgrade Applications

The new and upgrade applications were presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Steffy motioned to issue licenses for all new and upgrade applications. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Reciprocity Requests

The following reciprocity applications were presented to the Board.

Water

Jeffrey Dugan – Holds a Florida water distribution certification that expires on 4/30/15. He has 6 years, 11 months of experience working at Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, which is a Class AE facility using subclasses 1, 8, 10, 11, and distribution.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WE 8,10,11 certificate. Dr. Neufeld commented that distribution facilities in Florida transport treated water to lagoons that are part of building developments, and the level of treatment performed is higher than Pennsylvania distribution systems; therefore, distribution operators in Florida would be experienced in water treatment. Ms. Roland motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Robert Thompson – Holds an Ohio water class III certification that expires 12/31/14. He has 17 years' experience working at the City of Lancaster Public Water System in Ohio, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WA 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 certificate. Mr. Steffy motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Randall Simmons – Holds a New York water operator IIB-GW or SW with filtration avoidance plant, C-plant or distribution system certification. He has 2 years, 10 months' experience at Tioga Central School which is a Class DE facility using subclasses 8, 12, and WE distribution. He has 2 months' experience at Aqua PA Susquehanna, which is a Class BE facility using subclasses 8, 12, and distribution.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WDE 8,12 certificate. Ms. Roland motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Wastewater

Michael Anderson – Holds a Florida Class A Wastewater plant operator certification that expires 4/30/15. He has 9 years' experience at the City of Fort Lauderdale, which is a Class A facility using activated sludge WW1.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWA1 certificate. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Mark Jurgensen – Holds a New Jersey N2 Industrial wastewater certification that expires 9/30/15. He has 6 years' experience at various Class D systems using collections WWE4, and 2 years, 7 months of part-time time experience at a Class C system using subclasses WW1, WW2, WW3, and WWE4. He only has enough experience for a WWE4. Mr. Kyle requested clarification vis-à-vis the requirement to approve certification based on whether the facility is performing biological treatment as opposed to removal of industrial chemicals. Dr. Neufeld noted the lack of industrial wastewater certification in Pennsylvania and the possible demand for operators with this type of experience.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWE4 certificate. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Denials of Applications for Certification Renewal

There were no denials to present to the Board.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Sansoni presented the following extension requests:

Uzoma Ahiarakwe applied on October 7, 2014 for an extension of both his water (WAE 1-14) and wastewater (WWAE 1-4) certifications. Both expired on June 30, 2014. Mr. Ahiarakwe completed 27 of the 30 contact hours required to renew. Mr. Ahiarakwe noted illness of a family member from June 2012 to April 2014 as the reason for the extension request. He was the main caregiver and needed to travel out of the country to coordinate treatment and funeral arrangements. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve extension until December 31, 2014. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Kevin Haas applied on October 15, 2014 for an extension of his water (WAE 1-14) certification, which expired on September 30, 2014. Mr. Haas completed 19 of the 30 contact hours required to renew. He mistakenly completed an 18-hour wastewater course for which he did not receive credit towards the renewal of his water certification. Mr. Swanderski motioned to deny the request for extension. Mr. Steffy seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Ms. Roland suggested that Mr. Haas contact the Department's Training Section to inquire whether any of his completed professional engineering continuing education training could be applied towards renewing his water certification.

Mr. Kyle recommended compiling and maintaining a summary log of the Board's extension request decisions and reasons for approval or denial. This summary log would be updated and submitted to the Board prior to each future meeting. Mr. Consonery and Ms. Sansoni agreed and the extension request summary log will be presented at next Board meeting of December 10, 2014.

Old and New Business

Ms. Sansoni presented the proposed 2015 Board meeting dates:

February 11	10:00 a.m. – 12:00	10 fl. Conference Room in RCSOB
April 15	10:00 a.m. – 12:00	10 fl. Conference Room in RCSOB
June 17	10:00 a.m. – 12:00	10 fl. Conference Room in RCSOB
August 12	10:00 a.m. – 12:00	10 fl. Conference Room in RCSOB
October 29	10:00 a.m. – 12:00	10 fl. Conference Room in RCSOB
December 10	10:00 a.m. – 12:00	10 fl. Conference Room in RCSOB

Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the 2015 Board meeting schedule. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Program Staffing Update

Mr. Consonery updated the Board on operator certification staffing issues. Due to the elimination of vacant positions in various commonwealth agencies, the Department's operator certification program lost one position after the employee departed in December 2013. Program staff had discussions with Executive Staff regarding the intent of the fee structure within the Chapter 302 regulations to create complement. In addition, per Chapter 302, the three-year fee analysis report was presented to the Environmental Quality Board in late 2013, demonstrating sustainable revenue following the promulgation of Chapter 302 in 2010. In short, the Department was able to create two new positions that are solely devoted to supporting over 10,000 drinking water and wastewater operators through the operator certification program. These positions will also be assigned additional duties of annual system fee billing and available operator reporting. Another position will review, audit, and process payments made under the Chapter 302 requirements and ensure expenditures are eligible and do not exceed the appropriation for this program. Mr. Consonery projects that these positions will be filled in December 2014.

Ms. Sansoni commented that, as a result of the hiring and training process, the operator certification program workflow may be affected until the new staff becomes acquainted with the requisite duties.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:04AM.