

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2015
10th Floor Conference Room**

Board Members Present

Mary Roland
Mike Kyle
Phil Consonery, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW)
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary, BSDW
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel

Board Members Present via Conference Call

Joseph Swanderski, Chairman
Curt Steffy
John Schombert

Board Members Absent

Dr. Ronald Neufeld

Non Board Members Present

Wendy Lloyd, BSDW
William McNamara, BSDW
Scott Sykes, BSDW
Roland Gensel, BSDW
Mary Zeigler, BSDW
Robert Digilarmo, Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management (BPNSM)

Public

Perry Mason

Mr. Swanderski called the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators (Board) to order at 10:05 a.m.

Criminal History Report (CHR)

There were no criminal histories to report.

Approval of October 29, 2015 Minutes

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the October 29, 2015 minutes as written. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Appeal of Operator-In-Training Certification

Perry Mason presented an appeal of his Operator-In-Training status for drinking water. Mr. Mason applied for drinking water subclasses using his experience at the University Area Joint Authority wastewater treatment facility. He explained that the University Area Joint Authority's Beneficial Reuse Process utilizes treatments that are found in some drinking water systems. The Board will discuss this and notify Mr. Perry of their decision.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

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

Reciprocity Applications

One water and two wastewater reciprocity applications were presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Sansoni gave an overview of each application and asked for questions or comments. Ms. Roland clarified that the Board does not grant reciprocity for the lab supervisor subclass. Mr. Swanderski made a motion to approve all reciprocity applications. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Five-Year External Review Report

Doug Pike, Chairperson of the Certification Program Advisory Committee (CPAC), gave an overview of the results of the Five-Year External Review Report of the Operator Certification Program for calendar years 2011-2015. The Board discussed the report. Mr. Kyle made a motion to accept the report and thanked the CPAC for their efforts. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Sansoni presented the following extension request:

James Gecelosky– is requesting an extension of his water WE 7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 renewal cycle, which expired on September 30, 2015. He completed 8.5 hours his required 15 hours to renew. He is requesting an extension because he was given incorrect training hours information by certification staff. Ms. Sansoni informed the Board Mr. Gecelosky met his 15 hours training requirement in past cycles and should know what his required hours are. Ms. Roland made a motion to deny the request. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

2016 Operator Certification Exam Schedule

Ms. Sansoni presented the 2016 operator certification exam schedule to the Board. Ms. Roland made a motion to approve the exam schedule for 2016. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Old and New Business

William McNamara gave an update on the ethics course that was discussed at the last Board meeting. Mr. McNamara and staff met with water and wastewater section chiefs to look at a general code of ethics course applicable to both water and wastewater. The classroom version of the training will tentatively be available by the end of 2016 and the web-based version some time in 2017. Mr. Cantwell recommended renaming the course to “Best Practices” rather than “Code of Ethics.” Mr. Consonery suggested having the Board review the text before the department publishes the “Best Practices.”

At 11:45 a.m., the Board went into executive session to discuss the Perry Mason appeal. At 12:21 p.m., the Board came out of executive session. Mr. Steffy made a motion to deny the appeal based on past practices and regulatory language. After discussion, Mr. Steffy amended his motion to deny the appeal based on past practices and regulatory language in PA Code Title 25, Chapter 302, Section 704. Section (e) specifies that an applicant for a water certificate may

apply experience as defined in subsection (c) as follows and it lists all water subclasses and their definitions. Subsection (i) specifies that an applicant's experience at a wastewater system may be used to meet no more than half the experience requirement for a drinking water certification of the same classification level or a level alphabetically lower. The remaining experience must involve operating experience at a drinking water system as defined in subsection (c). Ms. Roland seconded the motion. Mr. Kyle opposed. Motion carried.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 p.m.