

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

**Board Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2014
10th Floor Conference Room**

Board Members Present

Joseph Swanderski
Michael Kyle
Mary Roland
John Schombert
Curt Steffy
Phil Consonery, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW)
Cheri Sansoni, BSDW Board Secretary
William Shakely, Legal Counsel

Board Members Absent

Dr. Ronald Neufeld

Non Board Members Present

James Bohan, Legal Office
Laura Henry, Policy Office
Scott Noldy, BSDW

Public

Brook Darkes

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

Criminal History Report (CHR)

Ms. Sansoni presented the CHR on behalf of the review committee regarding applicant client ID 290067, charged with reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct in 2001; and in 2007, he was charged with DUI. The review committee recommended that the Board approve certification for this applicant. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue the license. Mr. Schombert seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Operator Extension Request Appeals

Brook Darkes

Mr. Darkes attended the meeting to request that the Board reconsider the decision to deny an extension of his water certification renewal cycle at the October 16, 2013 meeting. Mr. Darkes stated that, after further searching, he located the letter informing him of the necessity to complete the mandatory security course, but he had filed this away. He stated it did not register in his mind and related this uncharacteristic behavior to a terminal illness in the family and other extenuating issues that preoccupied much of his thoughts and time from fall 2012 through 2013.

He did not relate these issues at the October 16, 2013 meeting due to the personal nature of the situation. The Board questioned him at length regarding these circumstances. The Board entered Executive Session at 10:20AM for further discussion and exited at 10:30AM. Mr. Schombert motioned to grant an extension until October 7, 2013. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Gary Stankevich

Mr. Stankevich was scheduled to attend this meeting but canceled due to emergency surgery of a family member. He requested that Ms. Sansoni present further documentation to request reconsideration of the Board's decision to deny an extension of his water renewal cycle at the October 16, 2013 meeting and denial of his appeal at the December 10, 2013 meeting. Mr. Stankevich produced email correspondence with Department staff regarding NIMS courses and stated that staff did not inform him that he was required to complete the mandatory security course. It had previously been noted at the October 16, 2013 and December 10, 2013 meetings that Mr. Stankevich received written notification of this special requirement but did not think the security training pertained to him. The Board indicated that the previous motions remain unchanged in regards to denial of extension and denial of appeal. No further motion by the Board is required.

Approval of December 10, 2013 Minutes

Mr. Kyle noted on page 2 "Approval of October 16, 2013 Minutes" that "Vote was unanimous" and "Motion carried" were not reflected in the minutes for this section. The minutes will be amended to include this.

In addition, on page 4, "Denials of Applications for Certification Renewal", there was no indication that a motion was made or vote taken. Ms. Sansoni will review this meeting's notes to verify that these took place. However, in the case that a motion was not made, Mr. Schombert motioned to formally deny the application for certification renewal. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the December 10, 2013 minutes as amended. Ms. Roland seconded. 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 on the Evaluation Summary Report. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Reciprocity Requests

The following reciprocity application was presented to the Board.

Wastewater

Ed Santamaria – Holds a Maryland Wastewater 3 & 5 certification that expires on August 1, 2014. He has over 16 years working at various size facilities with collections and activated

sludge. He has 6 years and 1 month experience working at the Deep Creek Lake WWTP which is a Class B plant using activated sludge WW1 and collections systems WWE4.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWBE 1,4 certificate. Mr. Kyle motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department. Mr. Swanderski seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

John Blough – Holds a New York Grade 1 Wastewater certification that expires December 1, 2017. He has 1 year and 4 months working at Bellevale Community WWTP, which is a class D facility using WW2 fixed film treatment.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWD 2 certificate. Mr. Kyle motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Water

Ed Santamaria – Holds a Maryland Water Treatment 4 certification that expires on March 1, 2015. He has over 16 years working at various size facilities with various treatments of W1,8, 9, 11, 12. He has 6 years and 1 month experience working at the McHenry water system which is a class C system.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WC 1,8,9,11,12 certificate. Ms. Roland motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department. Mr. Steffy seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Operator Experience Requirements

Ms. Sansoni requested clarification from the Board in circumstances when certification applications are received with only one or two Operator Duties checked off on page 3. Ms. Sansoni requested input from Mr. Jerome Yeasted, a Department Water Program Specialist. Mr. Yeasted provided a guideline that Ms. Sansoni presented to the Board. Discussion ensued regarding possible alternative formulas, for example assigning a percentage value to each duty, or ordering the duties in level of importance. Ms. Sansoni stated that currently the operator certification staff consults with the water and wastewater technical experts to determine if the experience requirements are sufficient. The Board also recommended changes to clarify the instructions on this section.

Annual Status Report for the Operator Certification Program

Mr. Consonery presented to the Board information entitled Community Systems without a Certified Operator, Community and Non-Community Systems without a Certified Operator, Licensed Operators 2006-2013, New Certificates Issued 2008-2013, Reciprocities and Upgrades Issued 2008-2013, Course Approvals 2006-2013, Cumulative Total Approved Courses at End of Calendar Year 2006-2013, Approved Training Providers 2006-2013, and other statistical data on water and wastewater examinations. It was determined through discussion that the operator exam questions need to be reviewed in the near future.

Denials of Applications for Certification Renewal

There were no denials to present to the Board.

Consent Order and Agreement

The Board was presented with the Consent Order and Agreement for the surrender of Mr. Joseph Baker's wastewater operator's certificate license number S9308. No action was taken by the Board.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Sansoni presented the following extension requests:

Mark Sloan – He is requesting an extension of his grandparented wastewater license, which expired on September 30, 2013. He completed 8 contact hours of the required 15 contact hours to renew. He is requesting extension due to medical issues that occurred in late 2011 and November 2012. Ms. Roland motioned to deny the request for extension due to having ample time to complete the continuing education requirements despite the medical issues. Mr. Schombert seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Richard Edmonston – He is requesting an extension of his grandparented water license, which expired on September 30, 2013. He completed 31 contact hours of the required 15 contact hours to renew. He did not complete the mandatory security course until January 27, 2014. He is requesting an extension due to not receiving the renewal application and family medical issues. He states the only notification he received was the notice of expiration letter. Mr. Kyle motioned to deny the request for extension due to not completing the mandatory security course prior to his expiration date. Ms. Roland seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Old and New Business

There was no old or new business to report.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:42PM.