

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2015
10th Floor Conference Room**

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Michael Kyle

Non Board Members Present

Roland Gensel, BSDW
Dorena Tenaglia, BSDW
Mary Zeigler, BSDW

Mr. Swanderski called the conference call meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators (Board) to order at 10:08 A.M.

Criminal History Report

There were no criminal history reports to present to the Board.

Approval of February 11, 2015 Minutes

Ms. Sansoni reported that she withdrew the minutes because she identified the need for edits. The minutes will be deferred until the June 17th Board meeting for approval.

Approval of New, Upgrades and Reciprocity Applications

Ms. Sansoni reported that the Executive Director of Downingtown Municipal Authority (not listed on the report) is requesting certification. He has no prior experience but has a Ph.D. in Geology. Although he does not qualify for certification due to insufficient experience, he requested certification to motivate his employees. The Board declined to consider this request.

New applications were presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Steffy motioned to approve new applications; Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

The following water reciprocity applications were presented to the Board:

Gregory Fanny – Holds a Delaware water class 3 certification that expires on May 18, 2015. He has 10 years', 4 months' experience working at the City of Wilmington, which is a Class A facility using subclasses 1, 7, 8, 12.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WA 1, 7, 8, 12 certificate. Mr. Schombert motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department; Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Lance Gayer – Holds a California water Grade T2 certificate that expires on July 1, 2018. He has 2 years' and 2 months' experience working at a class D facilities using subclasses 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, and distribution. He has a water/wastewater degree from Cuyamaca College.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WDE 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 certificate. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department; Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Richard Mathieu – Holds a Maryland water treatment 3 certification that expires on August 1, 2016. He has 3 years' and 2 months' experience working at Delta Borough, which is a Class CE facility using subclasses 7, 8, 12 and distribution. He also works for Giorgio Fresh, Farm Foods for 5 months, which are WC and WD facilities using subclasses 10, 11, 12. He does not have one year experience in subclasses 10 and 11.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WCE 7, 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.

The following wastewater reciprocity applications were presented to the Board:

Joshua Fitzwater – Holds a Texas Class D wastewater certification that expires on September 20, 2015. He has 1 year 10 months' experience at Kingsland Municipal Utility District, which is a Class C facility using activated sludge WW1 and fixed film WW2.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWD 1, 2 certificate. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department; Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Brian Frischolz – Holds a Colorado Class C wastewater certification that expires on July 15, 2017. He has 5 years' experience working for various Class C facilities using activated sludge WW1 and treatment ponds and lagoons WW3.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWC 1, 3 certificate. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department; Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Zachary Clift – Holds an Ohio Class D wastewater certification that expires on December 31, 2016. He has 6 years' experience working for Class D facilities using activated sludge WW1 and collections WWE4.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWDE 1, 4 certificate. Ms. Roland motioned to issue certificate as recommended by the Department; Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Lance Gayer – Holds a California wastewater and collections Grade III certificate that expires on February 18, 2017. He has 1 year and 2 months' experience working at a Class D facility using activated sludge WW1 and collections WWE4. He has 1 year of experience working at a Class C facility using fixed film WW2. He has a water/wastewater degree from Cuyamaca College.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWDE 1, 2, 4 certificate. Mr. Swanderski motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department; Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

William Bassett – Holds a New Jersey S1 Public Wastewater and a C1 collections certificate that expires on September 30, 2015. He has 16 years' experience working part-time at a Class D facility using collections. He worked part-time (20 hours a week) for one year at various class C facilities using activated sludge WW1, fixed film WW2, and collections WWE4. He does not have a full year of experience with the above subclasses.

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

Richard Mathieu – Holds a Maryland wastewater treatment 5, A certification that expires on February 1, 2016. He has 3 years' and 2 months' experience working at Delta Borough, which is a Class CE facility using activated sludge WW1 and collections WWE4.

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

Darrell Clark – Holds a Virginia wastewater Class 3 certification that expires on February 29, 2016. He has 2 years' and 2 months' experience working at a Class C facility using activated sludge WW1.

The Department's recommendation is to issue a WWC 1 certificate. Ms. Roland motioned to issue the license as recommended by the Department; Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Starting with the next meeting, Board members will adjust procedures by approving reciprocity requests as a single batch so long as there are no questions raised by Department staff or Board members. This process will be similar to the current procedures for approving new applications.

Revocation/Suspension/CO&A History

Mr. Consonery reported that during the Department's latest regional managers meeting for the Safe Drinking Water Program, the managers indicated that field staff has seen a rise in the

number of operators who are not recording correct data or are falsifying data. The managers solicited the Board's thoughts on these and other types of actions that warrant decertification, as the Board may take action to suspend, revoke, modify, or reinstate an operator's certificate upon petition by the Department. Mr. Consonery suggested that the Department assemble a newsletter and website article that includes recently closed criminal cases and the resulting punishments to operators for their improper actions. This information will also be included in the Department's ethics training course for operators, which will likely be developed and rolled out in 2016. The Board supported both of these endeavors.

CPAC Update

Mr. Consonery reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires state agencies to initiate an external review of the Operator Certification Program once every 5 years. In conformance with federal requirements, Pennsylvania's external review was initiated on March 11, 2015 at the Certification Program Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting, where 10 of 17 members were present. Paul Zielinski was voted as CPAC's Chair; John Ackerman as Vice Chair. The committee members received a list of EPA's 15 elements for the external program review process. CPAC members voted to focus on the following three elements during the 2015 external review:

1. Status of Certified Operators and Trends
2. Compliance Rate Determination/Enforcement
3. Strategic Planning – where the program needs to go in the next 5 years.

Mr. Consonery asked if there was any input today concerning strategic planning. Mr. Schombert suggested that more efforts be initiated to develop Pennsylvania's certified operator workforce, such as promoting the program in high schools. Mr. Steffy recommended focusing on sustainability of the program. Mr. Consonery proposed that the Department's training staff create and provide a presentation to third-party organizations that would be willing to present to schools.

Board Bylaws

Mr. Consonery reminded everyone about the need to take action on the Board's bylaws. After the February 2015 meeting, Board members provided input on any needed revisions to the 2002 version of the bylaws. In March, Board Counsel reviewed and commented on the draft revised bylaws, and the Board received the proposed revisions on March 25. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve the updated Board bylaws; Ms. Roland seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Sansoni informed the Board that the new suggested language for the renewal application and page 2 of the certification application was reviewed and approved by Board Counsel. Ms. Roland motioned to add the new language; Mr. Steffy seconded. Dr. Neufeld opposed; motioned carried.

Old and New Business

Ms. Sansoni reported that she will be going to a hearing this week to testify against a drinking water operator who falsified his certificate.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 A.M.