

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2015
10th Floor Conference Room**

Board Members Present

Joseph Swanderski, Chairman
John Schombert
Mary Roland
Mike Kyle
Curt Steffy
Phil Consonery, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW)
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary, BSDW

Board Members Absent

Dr. Ronald Neufeld
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel

Non Board Members Present

Roland Gensel, BSDW
Mary Zeigler, BSDW
Scott Sykes, BSDW

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

Criminal History Report (CHR)

Two CHR's were presented on behalf of the review committee.

Client #318423 was convicted of felony charges in 2002 for having possession and manufacture of a controlled substance at the age of 15 and was considered an adjudicated delinquent. He is currently working full-time at Lehigh County Authority and is requesting a WE classification in water. The review committee recommended that the Board approve certification for this applicant. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Client #305690 was convicted of felony charges in 1994 with 4 counts of burglary, 4 counts of theft, and 4 counts of criminal conspiracy. He plead guilty and served 5 months in prison and was placed on 1 year of probation. He was arrested in 2001, plead guilty for receiving stolen property, incurred fines, and was placed on probation. He was arrested again in 2002 for a misdemeanor of disorderly conduct and driving with a suspended license. He is requesting a WWD1 classification in wastewater. The review committee recommended that the Board approve certification for this applicant. Ms. Roland motioned to approve. Mr. Schombert seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval of June 17, 2015 Minutes

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the June 17, 2015 minutes as written. Ms. Roland seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval of New and Upgrade Applications

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

Reciprocity Requests

The following reciprocity application was presented to the Board.

Jordan McGregor – Holds a Louisiana wastewater treatment 3 certificate and a collections certificate that expires on December 31, 2015. He has 4 years working at various class D facilities and 2 years working at class C Delta Downs WWTP using activated sludge, treatment ponds and lagoons, and collections.

The Department recommendation is to issue a WWCE 1,3,4 certificate. Mr. Kyle motioned to issue the certificate as recommended by the Department. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Board Secretary Report

Ms. Sansoni presented the following extension requests:

Jennifer Werner – is requesting an extension of her wastewater WWAE 1,2,3,4 renewal cycle, which expired on June 30, 2015. She completed 27 of the required 30 hours to renew. She is requesting an extension for medical issues and provided medical documentation. Mr. Steffy motioned to approve an extension for three months until September 30, 2015. Mr. Swanderski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Curtis Saxton – is requesting an extension of his wastewater WWAE 1,2,3,4 renewal cycle, which expired on June 30, 2015. He completed 20 of the required 30 hours to renew. He is requesting an extension for medical issues and provided medical documentation. Ms. Roland motioned to approve an extension for three months until September 30, 2015. Mr. Kyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Greg Rissinger – is requesting an extension of his wastewater WWAE 1,2,3,4 renewal cycle, which expired on June 30, 2015. He completed 0 of the required 30 hours to renew. He is requesting an extension for medical issues and provided medical documentation. Mr. Swanderski motioned to approve an extension for three months until September 30, 2015. Mr. Schombert seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Ronald Shultz – is requesting an extension of his wastewater WWAE 1,2,3,4 renewal cycle, which expired on June 30, 2015. He completed 29.5 of the required 30 hours to renew. He is requesting an extension due to extenuating circumstances relating to the death of family members. Ms. Roland motioned to approve an extension until July 17, 2015, which was the date he completed his training requirement. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Ruth Knerr – is requesting an extension of her water WE renewal cycle, which expired on June 30, 2015. She met her 15-hour training requirement but needs to take the mandatory security training. As confirmed in electronic system audit records, she tried to access the security training course on June 28, 2015, but had issues with the Earthwise Academy refusing her corporate card. Earthwise accepts online credit card payment through the PayPal system, but some corporate cards do not allow payment via Paypal without special approval within the water and wastewater system organization. She was unable to access and take the training until July 6, 2015. Mr. Kyle motioned to approve an extension until July 7, 2015. Mr. Steffy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Consent Order and Agreement

The Board was presented with the Consent Order and Agreement for the indefinite suspension of Richard Morris' water operator's certificate number W15622. No action was taken by the Board.

The Board was presented with the Consent Order and Agreement for the 20 year suspension of Terry Gingrich's wastewater operator's certificate number T3329. No action was taken by the Board.

Old and New Business

The Peter Neeley hearing was cancelled and has not been rescheduled as of this date.

Mr. Sykes of the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water reported on two issues the Department is having with operator experience requirements for certification in the transient non-community, bottled water, and industrial waste facilities:

1. A "certification type required" data field is available for transient non-community and bottled water facilities, but not all staff currently have access to the tracking database (Pennsylvania Drinking Water Information System). The Department will explore options for ensuring staff can verify actual experience for operators at these facilities.
2. Many of the treatment processes in permitted industrial waste facilities are closely associated with water treatment technologies. Therefore, some operators have requested credit toward a water certificate for their experience at an industrial waste facility.

With regard to item #2, the Department wanted to alert the Board about the potential for appeals and asked for the Board's review. Mr. Swanderski requested that information regarding this issue be sent via email, along with an example, so the Board can provide input at the next meeting.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Swanderski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:03.