

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Conference Call Board Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2007**

Board Members Present

John Brutz, Chairman
Matthew Higgins
Nicki Kasi
Michael Kyle
Mary McElhinny
John Schombert
Cheri Sansoni, Board Secretary

Board Members Not Present

William Ross
Judy Rivera, Legal Counsel

Non Board Members Present

Duke Adams, Policy
Dawn Becker, BWSFR
Kevin Karmosky, BWSFR
John Poklembo, Operator

John Brutz called the meeting of the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators to order at 11:43 AM.

Election of Board Chairman

John Schombert made a motion to nominate John Brutz as the Board Chairman. Mike Kyle seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Criminal History Review

Kevin Karmosky presented background on a criminal history investigation involving an operator involved in a homicide by vehicle in 1989.

John Brutz motioned to issue the certificate. Nicki Kasi seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of October 17, 2007 Minutes

Mike Kyle made a motion to approve the October 17, 2007 minutes, as presented. Mary McElhinny seconded. The vote was unanimous.

New Applications, Upgrades, Downgrades, and Reciprocity Requests

The new and upgrade applications were presented to the Board for approval. The Board questioned inconsistencies on the experience and results columns of the evaluation report. Cheri Sansoni stated the report is reviewed by certification staff to ensure accuracy of license issued. John Schombert made a motion to approve to issue all new and upgrade certificates. Mary McElhinny seconded. The vote was unanimous.

John Brutz motioned to approve the downgrade for William Barnes from a WWAE 1,2,3,4 to a WWDE 1,2,3,4. Mike Kyle seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The following reciprocity applications were reviewed:

Corey Flythe holds a valid Level A water treatment license from South Carolina. The license was issued 7/8/04. He has 5 years 5 month experience at a WBE 1, 8, 11 system in South Carolina. Mr. Flythe previously held a WAE 1-14 water certification in Pennsylvania that expired 9/30/05. He completed his con-ed requirements but failed to renew the license 2 years after the expiration date. He failed to renew because he did not anticipate moving back to PA. Due to family illness he is now back in Pennsylvania and requesting reciprocity from South Carolina. His South Carolina license was issued through reciprocity from Pennsylvania. His application for reciprocity did not document any of his previous experience in Pennsylvania. John Brutz motioned to issue Mr. Flythe a WBE 1,8,11, certificate, based solely on the information provided in this application. John Schombert seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The following wastewater reciprocity application was reviewed:

Charles Colvin holds a valid Class C wastewater license in Florida issued 2/27/07. He has worked at several size BE & CE wastewater plants in Florida for over 14 years with experience in subclasses 1, 2, and 4. Mike Kyle motioned to issue Charles Colvin a WWCE 1, 2, 4 certificate. Mary McElhinny seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Dana Williams holds a valid Grade 3A Wastewater license in New York. He has 6 years 3 months experience at a Class B wastewater facility with subclass1. John Brutz motioned to issue Dana Williams a WWB 1 certificate. Nicki Kasi seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Issues with Grandparented Licenses

A cover letter dated November 5, 2004, that accompanied all the grandparented operator initial certificates, erroneously stated operators had until December 30, 2007, to meet their continuing education requirements. Renewal applications were sent 60 days before the actual expiration date of September 30, 2007. In addition, approximately 800 grandparented operators were sent letters of expiration on November 29, 2007, for not meeting continuing education requirements by the September 30, 2007, expiration date. Because of the discrepancy between the initial cover letter and the date on the renewal application, Nicki Kasi motioned to extend the continuing education cycle for all grandparented operators to March 31, 2008, and

reissue renewal applications with the extension notice. In addition, the renewal cycle for all impacted grandparented operators will be changed from October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2010, to April 1, 2008, through March 31, 2011. John Brutz seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Nicki Kasi stated water operators will be out of compliance with the EPA regulations. Ms. Kasi will include the number of impacted water operators in a report to the EPA. Cheri Sansoni will provide the breakdown of water and wastewater operators.

Denials of Applications for Certification Renewal

The following renewal applications were denied due to not enough continuing education within their renewal cycle:

Expired: September 30, 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Stephen Takacs	WBE 7-14	193606	0
Ralph Bucci	WBE 7-14	194806	0

Mike Kyle motioned to deny the above applications. John Schombert seconded. The vote was unanimous.

2008 Exam Schedule

Nicki Kasi stated that Board member input is required for exam development and testing issues. Board members agreed to provide two consecutive dates of availability prior to Christmas.

Mary McElhinny motioned to approve the 2008 exam schedule. John Brutz seconded. The motion carried. Exam dates will be posted to the public website prior to the end of December.

2008 Board Meeting Dates

Nicki Kasi stated the Board may not need to meet in March if the Board's review of proposed draft Chapter 302, Operator Certification regulations is finalized by the Board in February.

Nicki Kasi motioned to approve the 2008 Board meeting dates. Mike Kyle seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Act 11

Nicki Kasi recommended the Board draft a letter to the chairs of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee: Senator Mary Jo White, Chair; Senator Raphael J. Musto, Minority Chair; Representative Camille George, Chairman (Majority); and Representative Scott E. Hutchinson, Chairman (Minority). The purpose of the letter is to reinforce the Board's position and support policy established by Secretary McGinty in her November 1, 2007, letter to Representative Camille George. Nicki Kasi will present a draft letter using language from previous Board minutes and Secretary McGinty's

letter. The draft will be circulated for Board member approval, with the finalized version being signed by John Brutz.

Mike Kyle motioned to approve. Mary McElhinny seconded. Nicki Kasi abstained from voting. The motion carried.

Board Secretary Report

Nothing to report

Old and New Business

Nothing to report

Comments from the Public

No comments

Nicki Kasi motioned to adjourn. John Brutz seconded. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM.