



STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:
Thursday, December 19, 2019 At 10:00 A.M
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Baltimore, MD, 21230

MISSION OF THE MARYLAND BOARD OF WATERWORKS & WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS

The Treatment Systems that provide drinking water for our citizens and handle the wastes generated by our daily activities play an important role in protecting Public Health and the Environment of Maryland. Through the Certification Program established by State Law, the “Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators” sets the education, experience and examination standards for Operators and Superintendents who work in these vital systems.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

William Shreve	Joseph Jonhson
Dee Settarr	Bruce Darner
Joe Haxton	Dominic Deludo
Nancy Hausrath	

LIASONS, GUEST & STAFF PRESENT

Neil Winner	Board Secretary
Martin Fuhr	Board Staff
Pam Franks	Board Staff
Jay Price	CSAWWA Liaison- Board Member Nominee
Scott Harmon	MRWA Liaison- Board Member Nominee
Hiram Tanner	Board Member Nominee
Partha Tallapragada	Board Member Nominee
Laura Mayberry	Board Counsel
Dinorah Dalmasy	Maryland Department of the Environment

NOT PRESENT

Sue Houghton	Maryland Rural Water Liaison
Dr. Russell Kelley	Board Member (Resigned, November 2019)
Karen Brandt	MCET Liaison

01. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM. Introductions of Board Members, Staff and Guests.

02. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA

It was moved by Joseph Johnson and seconded by Nancy Hausrath to adopt the proposed meeting agenda as written. Motion carried.

03. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Board Members reviewed the November 14, 2019 draft meeting minutes. After review, it was moved by Joseph Johnson and seconded by Nancy Hausrath to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

04. BOARD CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Board Chairman thanked Board Members and Liaisons for attending today's meeting; acknowledged and expressed well wishes for Neil Winners' participation and departure as Board Secretary. Further acknowledgments included introducing Joseph Johnson as the new Vice Chair of the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators.

05. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Board Secretary

1. Neil Winner shared milestones of his tenure at (MDE) Maryland Department of the Environment; leading up to his participation and appointment as Board Secretary. Beginning in 1976 as a Water Treatment Plant Trainee progressing to a Design Engineer. Pending his departure as Board Secretary; the Board shall designate a point of contact until the official Board Secretary position is filled. It was moved by Joseph Johnson and seconded by Bruce Darner to approve the motion to draft letter requesting that the Board be notified by December 31, 2019 of who will serve as Interim or Acting Board Secretary.

2. Board Secretary moved to interrupt the meeting agenda for Guest Dinorah Dalmasy, Integrated Water Planning Program Manager from MDE/ WSA Maryland Department of the Environment / Water Supply Administration to outline plans for phase three of the Chesapeake Bay initiative to upgrade (67) major Wastewater Treatment plants to enhance performance by year 2025.

B. Exam Updates

Neil Winner reported that as of November 30, 2019, appropriations for fiscal year 2020 are \$290,891.00, expenses are \$60,433.53, revenue is \$75,875 .00, and the encumbrance is \$24,213.00

C. Report on Examination Results

1. Please refer to Attachment A.

Board Staff discussed the examination statistics for the month of November, 2019. There were 69 total exams taken in November, with an overall pass rate of 17.39%. Twenty-two operators sat for the paper water exams, scoring a pass rate of 22.72% and three operators sat for the online (AMP) water exams, scoring a pass rate of 33.33%. In November, thirty-seven operators sat for the paper wastewater and industrial wastewater exams, scoring a pass rate of 13.51% and six people sat for the online (AMP) wastewater and industrial wastewater exams, scoring a pass rate of 16.66%. A total of 933 exams have been taken in CY2019.

06. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS – Martin Fuhr

1). Travis L. Staub –Requested Reciprocity from the State of Virginia for Maryland Wastewater Treatment Class 5A and Water Treatment Class 4 Certifications. Board Staff recommended that Mr. Staub be denied request for reciprocity for a Maryland Wastewater Treatment Class 5 and Water 4 Operator Certifications. Nancy Hausrath moved to accept Board Staff’s recommendation and seconded by Dee Settar to accept Board staff recommendation to deny Mr. Staubs’ request for reciprocity due to a lack of information to evaluate his qualifications, it was decided that Mr. Staub should apply for temporary certifications in the requested categories and classes, pass the corresponding examinations and apply for experience credit after a period of one year. Motion carried.

2.) Douglas Strong – Requested Education Substitution towards his Class 5A Wastewater Treatment Certification. Based upon Mr. Strong’s 75 applicable college credits, Board Staff recommended Mr. Strong be granted one year of education substitution towards his Waster Treatment Class 5A Wastewater Treatment Operator certification, making him eligible for full Operator on May 1, 2020. Nancy Hausrath moved to approve Board Staff’s recommendation and was seconded by Dee Settar. Motion carried.

07. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Training Review and Evaluation (TRE) Committee

Neil Winner briefly outlined new Training programs submitted for approval and expressed the need for a committee member to fill vacancies on the (TRE) Training Review and Evaluation Committee, including replacing the MDE Committee member. Board Chair discussed the possibility of change in policy regarding the criteria for initiating and selecting committee members. Next TRE meeting to be held on March 11, 2020 at Anne Arundel Co.DPW, 445 Maxwell Frye Rd., Millersville, MD 21108.

08. ON-GOING BUSINESS

A. Board Appointments

Neil Winner, Board Secretary gave an update on the approval process. Board Secretary discussed the status of Board member nominees’ applications for the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators, adding another Public at Large vacancy due to the resignation of Dr. Russell Kelley. There are currently (4) four vacant positions. Board discussed proposed changes to include adding more diversity of having more small system Board representatives.

B. Operator Certification

Board Chair suggest implementing a committee to take a comprehensive look at the Operator Certification process; suggested creating a list of operators that repeatedly fail to renew certifications timely in accordance with regulations. Board discussed the possibility of adding an additional class and category for Maintenance personnel whose duties are limited to turning valves, and servicing water main breaks.

09. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair Positions

1. Board Introduced Joseph Johnson as new Vice Chair of the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators pending vote held on November 14, 2019.
2. Board Members discussed COMAR in regards to Temporary Operators and Superintendents cannot be reinstated, and that operators with expired certificates beyond the reinstatement period must reapply as Operators In Training.

10. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD LIAISONS AND GUESTS

A. Bruce Darner – WWOA Western Section meeting held at Mountain Gate on November 20, 2019 was a success exceeded the amount of attendees from previous years. WWOA is offering full scholarships for STEM course students for spring applicants.

B. Dinorah Dalmasy – MDE Maryland Department of the Environment / Integrated Water Planning Program Discussed Automation and upgrade plans for Wastewater Plants to include the need for additional Certified Operators to meet goals for year 2025.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Joseph Johnson moved to adjourn meeting at 12:26 PM. The next meeting will be held on **January 16, at (MDE) Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.**