

Approved Minutes
Operator Certification Board Meeting
April 13, 2005
Pierre Matthew Center

Members Present: Del DeBoer, Greg Merrigan, Clint Jost, Tom Lesselyoung, John Scheltens, Pete Hesla

Others Present: Rob Kittay, Secretary to the Board; Jim Zeck, SDARWS; Randy Hilding, Darron Busch and Joe Nadenicek, DENR; Karla Scott and Francis Ferguson, Mni Wiconi RWS; and Marty Wirkus, Pierpont.

Call to Order by Chairperson DeBoer at 11:06.

The Board introduced themselves to those present.

Approval of Agenda: Kittay added a contract approval for Brandon to operate the Corson Sanitary District water system. As Francis Ferguson was present, his matter was moved up on agenda. Scheltens moved to approve the amended agenda. Merrigan seconded. Motion passed

Approval of Minutes-Minutes were previously emailed and were available on internet. Jost moved for approve the minutes of the last meeting. Scheltens seconded. Motion passed.

Appeal of Eligibility to Take Exam-DeBoer turned meeting over to Merrigan. Ferguson requested that Kittay leave the room as his wife previously worked at the Mni Wiconi WTP. Merrigan stated that Kittay does not participate in votes of the Board and provides factual support. Kittay was permitted to stay. April 1999 is when Ferguson moved up here to work at Mni Wiconi. He took water samples, went to classes, and learned many things in this period. Ferguson mentioned that there was a filter plant at Red Shirt (possibly a Class II system) that he operated. This did not appear on his application nor mentioned in previous conversations with Kittay or Busch. Scheltens moved that Ferguson be allowed to take the Class III Water Treatment exam based on new evidence that he had operated a Class II plant that was not shown on application. Lesselyoung seconded. Motion passed with DeBoer abstaining.

Meeting was turned back to DeBoer.

Reciprocity-Jon Ambrose was asking for reciprocity for his CO Industrial Wastewater Treatment Grade C. This certificate is most similar to SD's Class II. Merrigan moved to grant a Class II Wastewater Treatment certificate. Jost seconded. Motion passed.

He also asked for reciprocity for his CO Water Operator Grade D. Only one month of experience is required for the certificate that he holds. All certificates in SD require at least one year of experience. Jost moved that no certificate be granted. Lesselyoung seconded. Motion passed.

Victor Byerly was asking for reciprocity for his AZ Water Treatment Class IV. Only three years of experience are required for this certificate and is most similar to SD's Class II. Hesla moved that a South Dakota Class II Water Treatment certificate be granted. Merrigan seconded. Motion passed.

Formal Hearings-Country Acres-The system submitted an email today, and it was read to Board. Merrigan moved that the system have enforcement taken by DENR. Lesselyoung seconded. Motion passed.

Grenville-A letter was received from MFO on April 11 and was given to the Board. Merrigan moved for that DENR take enforcement on this case. Hesla seconded. Motion passed.

Hidden Valley Campground-This system was sold and will go back to the start of the enforcement scheme.

Pierpont-Marty Wirkus, Water Superintendent, appeared on behalf of Pierpont. He will be testing on April 28 in Aberdeen. He is having problems with math; however, he has not taken a new ABC exam. The last exam was taken in May 2004. Merrigan moved to continue this hearing to September 2005. Jost seconded. He has attended training since last exam-a one day new system orientation class. Zeck offered some one-on-one training in Aberdeen prior to the April 28 exam. Sid Munson has done this previously. Motion passed.

Meeting recessed at 12:05 for lunch and reconvened at 1:03.

Informal Hearings-Bear Country-The system has submitted a contract with Ed Streibel. Scheltens moved for approval of the contract. Lesselyoung seconded. Scheltens amended motion to approve the contract with the provision that the system is visited every week. Lesselyoung amended his second. Motion passed.

Country Village Park-Jost moved that this case be continued to the meeting in September. Scheltens seconded. Motion passed.

Custer-Mt Rushmore KOA-This system has just been sold and will have to start over in the enforcement scheme.

Deer Mountain-This is a surface water system in the Black Hills. No exams have been attempted. Scheltens moved to hold a formal hearing in September. Jost seconded. Motion passed.

Gregory-Only one exam is left to pass at Gregory. Merrigan moved to continue this hearing. Lesselyoung seconded. Motion passed.

Guadalajara's-Kittay has had some contact with this system but it has been quite a while since that happened. Scheltens moved to have formal hearing. Merrigan seconded. Motion passed.

Contract Approval—Prairiewood-Aberdeen-A contract for Sewer Duck to operate this system was submitted. Merrigan moved to approve this contract contingent on an itemized list of job duties be submitted. System visits had to be weekly. Jost seconded. Motion passed.

Rolling Dice Subdivision contract with Al Sage-Scheltens moved to approve this contract. Jost seconded. Motion passed.

Thrall Mtn/Pine Cliff-Contract were submitted by Ed Striebel and were similar to other contracts he has submitted. Scheltens moved to approve contracts with the stipulation that weekly visits be made. Lesselyoung seconded. Motion passed.

Valley Springs-Former UM Steve Harstad is going to contract with Valley Springs until the new hire passes his exams. Merrigan moved to approve contract on the condition that a list of specific job duties be submitted. Jost seconded. Motion passed.

Roslyn contract with Adrian Rumpza-Scheltens moved to approve contract. Merrigan seconded. Motion passed.

Lakside Estates-Aberdeen-Sewer Duck submitted a contract for this system also. Scheltens moved for approval. Jost seconded. Motion passed.

Corson Sanitary District—Brandon submitted a contract to run this system. Jost moved for approval on this contract. Lesselyoung seconded. Motion passed.

Concern over Stipulations on Approved Contracts—Ed Striebel had contracts approved at the last meeting that had stipulations that systems must be visited weekly. He wanted the frequency reduced. Letters were presented to the Board. Hesla moved that the contracts continue to have weekly visits. Merrigan seconded. Motion passed.

New Systems for Enforcement-The enforcement program is catching up with systems out of compliance. Scheltens moved that Dupree, Pine Hills Park, and Tabor have informal hearings in September. Jost seconded. Motion passed.

Operator Wanting to Substitute On-the-Job Learning for Contact Hours-Donovan Broberg submitted a request to sub on-the-job learning for formal classroom contact hours. Also, he wanted to get credit when a sanitary survey is done as he learns during that. The Board spoke about the ample opportunity in a four year period to get the hours at classes or on-line. The operator should realize that contact hours are required when they take job. Jost moved that the request be denied. Merrigan seconded. It was felt that during a survey, most of the time is spent with the operator telling DENR about system. Motion passed.

Operators on Vacation-This question was leftover from last meeting. Kittay gathered information from some other states. Lesselyoung moved that an operator can be away from their system for one month. If they are gone for more than that another certified operator must be in charge of the system. Jost seconded. Motion passed.

Next Meeting-Tuesday before SDWWA Conference in Brookings at 2:00 pm.

Other Business—Merrigan mentioned about granting experience for administration work versus actual operational work. Also there was talk about start-up of systems and when experience actually begins. They asked Kittay to do some research on this.

Review of Wastewater Exams-Kittay mentioned that perhaps all stabilization pond questions should be removed from the WW I exam as beginning operators at mechanical plants do not need to know that information to do their jobs. Any operator at a pond system could take the SP I exam. The Board decided to leave some pond questions on WW I exam.

Merrigan left meeting at 3:28.

The Board reviewed the ABC wastewater treatment exams. Kittay will submit them to ABC to get the final SD exams.

Lesselyoung and Jost left meeting at 3:30.

Hesla moved for adjournment. Scheltens seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Rob Kittay

May 3, 2005

Rob Kittay

Date