

**Unapproved Minutes**  
**Operator Certification Board Meeting**  
**September 15, 2020**  
**Meeting Held via Microsoft Teams**

**Members Present:** Chris Schmit, Dave Van Cleave, Robin Bobzien, Craig Wagner, Bill Sarringar, Ryan Allen

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Rob Kittay-Secretary to the Board, Kyle Ramynke and Nate Vander Plaats-Lennox, Jim Housiaux and Shane Dennis-Stockwell Engineers, Mark Mayer-DENR, Matt Oedekoven-DGR, Jason McVeigh

Call to Order by Chairperson Sarringar at 2:00 pm.

**Approval of Agenda:** An agenda had been sent previously. Kittay wanted to add Mayer to the agenda to speak about DENR raising the exam fees. Schmit wanted to add Stockwell Engineering to speak about accumulating operations experience via construction observation in order to get certified. These items were placed in "New Business". Allen moved to approve the amended agenda. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes had been emailed previously to the Board members and had been available on the internet. Bobzien moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

**Old Business:** There was no Old Business.

**Reciprocity:** Kyle Ramynke-He has a WW Treatment Class C from Minnesota. This certificate requires three years of experience and high school graduation. Bobzien moved to grant a Class II WW certificate from SD. Van Cleave seconded. Motion passed.

Robert Livermore-He has a WW Treatment Grade IV from Iowa. This certificate requires four years post-high school and four years of experience. Van Cleave moved to grant a Class IV WW certificate from SD. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Jason McVeigh-He has a WW Treatment Class 1 from Illinois. This certificate requires six years of experience and high school graduation. Schmit moved to grant a Class III WW certificate from SD. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Andrew Huggins-He has a Water Treatment Class 4AB from Montana. This certificate requires one year of experience and high school graduation. Bobzien moved to grant a Class I WT certificate from SD. Van Cleave seconded. Motion passed.

Dennis Eaton-He has a Water Treatment Class 4AB from Montana. This certificate requires one year of experience and high school graduation. Schmit moved to grant a Class I WT certificate from SD. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Sean Walker-He has a Water Distribution Grade 01 from North Dakota. This certificate requires one year of experience and high school graduation. Wagner moved to grant a Class I WD certificate from SD. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Brodee Stanford-He has a Water Supply Class D from Minnesota. This certificate requires one year of experience and high school graduation. Bobzien moved to grant a Class I WT certificate from SD. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Jesse Gage-He has a WD Operator Certificate Class D2 and a Water Treatment Class T2 from California. CA does not have an experience requirement for either of these certificates. SD has an experience requirement for every certificate. ARSD 74:21:02:56 states-

**Agreements for reciprocal certification.** Certificates of an equivalent grade may be issued, without examination, to any person who holds a certificate in any state, territory, possession of the United States, or any foreign country, or from the Association of Boards of Certification provided that the education and experience requirements for taking an exam and certification of operators under which the person's certificate was issued do not conflict with the provisions of SDCL 34A-3 and are of a standard not lower than those in this article and that reciprocal privileges are granted to South Dakota certified operators by the Association of Boards of Certification, state, territory, possession, or country.

Van Cleave moved that no certificate be granted as CA's requirements are lower than SD's. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Gregory Lingruen-He has a Water Distribution Level 2 and a Water Treatment Level 2 from Wyoming. Each of these certificates require one year of experience and high school graduation. Schmit moved to grant Class I WT and a Class I WD certificates from SD. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Caleb Mason-He has a WW Treatment Grade IV from California. This certificate requires six years of experience and high school graduation. Van Cleave moved to grant a Class III WW certificate from SD. Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

David Lewis-He has a WW Treatment Class A from Colorado. This certificate requires four years of experience and high school graduation. Wagner moved to grant a Class II WW certificate from SD. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Kittay also received a reciprocity request for a water certificate from Nebraska; however, Nebraska does not grant reciprocity for water certificates. They do grant reciprocity for wastewater certificates.

**Final Hearings:** Ramona-The city needs a SWT I and WD I operator. No exams have been taken by Paul Fischer. He was a "no show" for the July 11, 2019 exams in Huron. A contract was submitted by Kingbrook RWS.

Lake Andes-The city is lacking Class I Water Distribution and Wastewater Treatment certificates. Tim Medicine Horn has passed the Class I WW Collection exam. The city submitted a contract with Mark Fortuna who works for Pickstown and has the required certificates.

The Board decided to act upon these contracts within that section of the agenda.

**Preliminary Hearings:** Colome-The city is lacking a Class I Water Distribution certificate. Jeff Ohlmann passed the Class I Small Water Treatment exam on August 11, 2020. Schmit moved to hold a final hearing at the next Board Meeting. Van Cleave seconded. Motion passed.

Emery-The city is lacking a Class I Water Distribution certificate. No exams have been attempted. Wagner moved to hold a final hearing at the next Board Meeting. Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

Whispering Winds Cottages-This system is lacking a Small Water Treatment certificate. A contract with Rick Harris/Black Hills Septic/Pumping has been submitted. The Board decided to act upon this contract within that section of the agenda.

**Contract Approvals:** Kittay reviewed each contract for the Board.

Ramona/Kingbrook RWS-Allen moved to approve this contract. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Crooked Creek Resorts and Whispering Winds/Black Hills Septic & Pumping-Schmit moved to approve these contracts. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Boulder Canyon CC and Summerset Hotel (Formerly Ramada)/Clearwater Consulting & Water Management-Van Cleave moved to approve these contracts. Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

Golden Hills Subdivision, Centennial Vista Estates, and Sacora Station with Dakota Pump-Van Cleave moved to approve these contracts. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Timber Lake/Jason Voegele-Bobzien moved to approve this contract. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Lennox/Stockwell Engineering-Schmit moved to approve this contract. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Lake Andes/Mark Fortuna-Pickstown-Allen moved to approve this contract. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

**Status of Certification:** The Board reviewed the latest status information on systems without certified operators. Kittay updated the Board.

Van Cleave moved that the following systems have a preliminary hearing at the next board meeting-

<b>System</b>	<b>Lacking Certifications</b>
Country Club Estates	SWT I
DeSmet	WT I/WW I
Mystic Hills Hideaway-North	SWT I
Mystic Hills Hideaway-South	SWT I
Pine Hills Park	WD I

Prairiewood Properties	WD I
Vale	WD I
Valley Motel-Custer	SWT I

Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

**Public Comment Period:** This is now a requirement of public meetings as of legislative action. There were no public comments.

**Other Business-**Mayer briefed the Board on DENR’s plan to raise the exam fee. The current fee of \$10 has existed since the 1970’s. Previous attempts to make a change were thwarted as it currently needs to be a legislative change. DENR wants to put the fee amounts in rule. It currently costs around \$53 for an exam to be given. DENR will propose a fee of \$55-\$60. In addition, the \$6 per certificate renewal fee will be dropped.

Housiaux and Dennis of Stockwell Engineers asked the Board to consider engineers that work on construction projects to be eligible for operator certification exams. Their construction inspection time would be considered as “experience” in trying to qualify for an exam. The Board wanted to get more input on this subject so it could make a decision at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting-**The next meeting will be scheduled in April 2021. The WW Seminar is going to be scheduled for either April 14/15 or 21/22 in 2021 provided they can hold an in-person conference. The next OpCert Board Meeting will be scheduled in conjunction with that seminar. The Board was asked if it would like to continue to hold board meetings via Zoom or Teams.

Schmit moved for adjournment. Allen seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

*Rob Kittay*

September 16, 2020

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Rob Kittay

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Date