



STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:
Thursday, November 14, 2019 At 10:00 A.M
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Baltimore, MD, 21230

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 3 MISSION OF THE MARYLAND BOARD OF WATERWORKS & WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS
 4 The Treatment Systems that provide drinking water for our citizens and handle the wastes generated by
 5 our daily activities play an important role in protecting Public Health and the Environment of Maryland.
 6 Through the Certification Program established by State Law, the “Board of Waterworks and Waste
 7 Systems Operators” sets the education, experience and examination standards for Operators and
 8 Superintendents who work in these vital systems.
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 11 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

William Shreve	Joseph Johnson
Dee Settar	Bruce Darner
Joe Haxton	Dominic Deludos

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 13 **LIASONS, GUEST & STAFF PRESENT**

14 Neil Winner	Board Secretary
15 Martin Fuhr	Board Staff
16 Pam Franks	Board Staff
17 Jay Price	AWWA Liaison-Board Member Nominee
18 Hiram Tanner	Board Member Nominee
19 Partha Tallapragada	Board Member Nominee
20 Sue Houghton	MRWA Liaison
21 Laura Mayberry	Board Counsel
22 Stephanie Eatinger	MDE/ ETAD Maryland Department of the Environment
23 Virgiline Ongkingco	MDE/ ETAD Maryland Department of the Environment

24
 25 **Not Present**

26 Nancy Hausrath	Board Member
27 Dr. Russell Kelley	Board Member-Resigned November 2019
28 Karen Brandt	MCET Liaison
29 Scott Harmon	CWEA Liaison-Board Member Nominee

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 31 **01. CALL TO ORDER**

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 33 Board Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

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 35 **02. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA**

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 37 It was moved by Joseph Johnson and seconded by Dominic Deludos to adopt the proposed meeting
 38 agenda as written. Motion carried.
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40 **03. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

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42 Board Members reviewed the September 19, 2019 draft meeting minutes. After review, it was moved by
43 Joseph Johnson and seconded by Dee Settar to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.
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45 **04. BOARD CHAIR’S COMMENTS**

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47 Board Chairman thanked Board Members and Liaisons for attending today’s meeting.
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49 **05. SECRETARY’S REPORT**

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51 **A. Report on Board’s Administrative Activities**

52 Neil Winner reported that as of September 30, 2019, appropriations for fiscal year 2020 are
53 \$290,891.00, expenses are \$38,386.49, revenue is \$46,380.00, and the encumbrance is
54 \$25,584.00.
55

56 Neil Winner reported that as of October 31, 2019, appropriations for fiscal year 2020 are
57 \$290,891.00, expenses are \$48,690.71, revenue is \$58,075 .00, and the encumbrance is
58 \$25,584.00
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60 **B. Report on Examination Results**

- 61 1. Please refer to Attachment A.
62

63 Board Staff discussed the examination statistics for the month of September, 2019.
64 There were 45 total exams taken in September, with an overall pass rate of 24.44%.
65 Eight operators sat for the paper water exams, scoring a pass rate of 50%; one operator
66 sat for the online (AMP) water exam, scoring a pass rate of 0%; and ten operators sat
67 for the web-based water exams, scoring a pass rate of 0%. In September, eleven
68 operators sat for the paper wastewater and industrial wastewater exams, scoring a pass
69 rate of 18%; ten people sat for the online (AMP) wastewater and industrial wastewater
70 exams, scoring a pass rate of 30%; and five operators sat for the web-based wastewater
71 and industrial wastewater exams, scoring a pass rate of 40%.
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73 Board Staff then discussed the examination statistics for the month of October, 2019.
74 There were 71 total exams taken in October, with an overall pass rate of 43.66%.
75 Thirty-three operators sat for the paper water exams, scoring a pass rate of 48% and
76 three operators sat for the online (AMP) water exams, scoring a pass rate of 33%. In
77 October, thirty-two operators sat for the paper wastewater and industrial wastewater
78 exams, scoring a pass rate of 44% and three people sat for the online (AMP) wastewater
79 and industrial wastewater exams, scoring a pass rate of 0%.
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81 A total of 696 exams have been taken calendar YTD.
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- 83 2. Board discussed offering exams after training events at municipalities and water
84 systems to assist operators who struggle with passing exams, and suggested that
85 employers should offer some level of on-site training for operators before the exams.
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89 **06. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS – Martin Fuhr**

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91 1). Richard Padgett – Requested Reciprocity from Virginia for a Maryland Wastewater Treatment Class 5
92 and Water 4 Operator Certifications. Board Staff recommended that Mr. Padgett be denied his request
93 for reciprocity for a Maryland Wastewater Treatment Class 5 and Water 4 Operator Certifications.
94 Joseph Johnson moved to accept Board Staff’s recommendation and seconded by Dominic Deludos to
95 accept Board staff recommendation to deny Mr. Padgett’s request for reciprocity pending receipt of an
96 outline of duties and or additional information of current duties and experience. Motion carried.
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98 2.) Robert Kleeman – Requested Reciprocity from Pennsylvania, for a Maryland Wastewater Treatment
99 Class 5A and Wastewater Collection 2 Operator certifications. Board Staff recommended that Mr.
100 Kleeman be granted reciprocity for a Wastewater Treatment Class 5 and Wastewater Collection 2
101 Operator certification immediately, and award a Wastewater Treatment category “A” upon applying for a
102 Temporary certification, completion of one year of employment experience at Harford County
103 Department of Public Works and passing the Wastewater Treatment class A exam. Joe Haxton moved to
104 accept Board Staff’s recommendation and was seconded by Joseph Johnson. Motion carried.
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106 3.) Andrea Hahn – Requested Education Substitution towards her Class 4 Water Treatment Operator
107 certification. Board Staff recommended Ms. Hahn be granted one year of education substitution towards
108 her Water Treatment Class 4 Operator certification, making her eligible for certification immediately.
109 Joseph Johnson moved to approve Board Staff recommendation and was seconded by Bruce Darner.
110 Motion carried.
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112 **07. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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114 **A. Training Review and Evaluation (TRE) Committee**

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116 Neil Winner expressed the need for a committee member to fill vacancies on the (TRE)
117 Training Review and Evaluation Committee, including replacing the MDE Committee
118 member. Board Chair discussed the possibility of change in policy regarding the criteria for
119 initiating and selecting committee members. Next TRE meeting to be held on December 11,
120 2019 at Anne Arundel Co. Water O & M, Millersville MD 21108.
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122 **08. ON-GOING BUSINESS**

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124 **A. Board Appointments**

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126 Neil Winner, Board Secretary announced the resignation of Dr. Russell Kelley from the
127 Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators, thus creating another Public at Large
128 vacancy. There are currently (4) four vacant positions. Board Secretary gave an update on
129 the approval process. Board discussed proposed changes to include adding more diversity of
130 having more small system Board representatives.
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132 **B. Operator Certification**

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134 Creating a list of operators that repeatedly fail to renew certifications before the expiration
135 of their current certifications was discussed.
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137 **09. NEW BUSINESS**

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A. Board Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair Positions

1. Board discussed continuing education and training submission for the renewal process.
2. Reinstatement of Temporary Operators and Superintendents was discussed along with clarification the Operator – In – Training Temporary certification renewal process according to the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators Regulations 26.06.01.12 Section (B) Requirements for Renewal of All Certifications.
3. Nominations for and election of Board Chair and Vice Chair were held. William Shreve was re-elected Chair and Joseph Johnson was elected Vice Chair.

10. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD LIAISONS AND GUESTS

- A. Bruce Darner** – WWOA South Central section and Western Section meeting to be held at Mountain Gate on November 20, 2019. MCET is offering a 7-hour process training seminar for 31 attendees to be held on December 4, 2019 at Blue Plains, WWOA is offering full scholarships for STEM course students for spring applicants.
- B. Jay Price** – CSAWWA will hold two training events for Small system operators, one on December 3, 2019 in Dover, DE and the second on December 17, 2019 in Easton, MD.
- C. Stephanie Eatinger** –ETAD / MDE Maryland Department of the Environment expressed concerns from a compliance perspective with small systems and Water Treatment Class G and Class 1 Operators who lack proper certification; mostly with mobile home parks.
- D. Hiram Tanner** – CWEA informed the Board of two events to be held: “Introducing the “New Normal” event to be held on November 21, 2019 for Wastewater Collections Systems operators and the Storm Water Committee seminar to be held on December 11, 2019 at (MITAGS-MCC) Maritime Conference Center.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Joseph Johnson moved to adjourn meeting at 12:21 PM. The next meeting will be held on **December 19, at (MDE) Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.**