



STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:
Thursday, November 19, 2020 At 10:00 A.M
Virtual Video Conference Meeting via Google Hangouts

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.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

William Shreve	Joe Johnson
Jay Price	Partha Tallapragada
Hiram Tanner	

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dominic Deludos	Bruce Darner
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LIASONS, GUEST & STAFF PRESENT

Martin Fuhr	Board Staff
Pam Franks	Board Staff
Victoria Arbaugh	Board Staff
Jennifer Bowman	Board Counsel
Ben Thompson	Board Member Appointee
Rosann “Roxie” Ndebumado	Board Member Appointee
Tara Johnson	MCET Liaison
Sue Houghton	MRWA Liaison
Greg Busch	Guest, Deputy Director of Water Supply

NOT PRESENT

Dee Settar	Acting Board Secretary
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01. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Roll Call was done by Victoria Arbaugh.

The Board meeting was conducted virtually via Video conference in lieu of a live meeting due to the state of emergency proclaimed by Governor Larry Hogan due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

02. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA

It was moved by Joe Johnson and seconded by Jay Price to adopt the proposed meeting agenda. Motion passed unanimously with the Board Chair abstaining.

03. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Board Members reviewed the October 15, 2020 draft meeting minutes, it was moved by Jay Price and seconded by Joe Johnson to adopt the minutes as amended with corrections. Motion carried unanimously with Board Chair abstaining.

04. BOARD CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Board Chairman welcomed and thanked Board Members, Liaisons and Guests for attending today's meeting. The Board Chairman advised that if he had to leave the meeting before its conclusion, then Joe Johnson would act in his stead. After which, the Board Chair asked Mr. Busch to introduce himself to the Board and then asked all attendees to introduce themselves to our invited the guest.

05. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Board Member Update

The Board Chair noted that Board Member Appointees Ben Thompson and Roxie Ndebumado were still awaiting Senate confirmation. Roxie advised that she anticipates confirmation by the end of February, 2021. Ben Thompson concurred.

B. Administrative Activities (Revenue & Expenditures)

Martin Fuhr advised that the Board had not yet received the October revenue from MDE Fiscal. However, he was able to provide the Board with the fact that the September 2020 Revenue was \$11,315.00, the Expenditures were \$35,720.00.

C. Exam Updates

Martin Fuhr presented the examination pass / fail statistics by month and class. He explained, in detail, recent increasingly restrictive testing limitations. Mr. Furr discussed the examination statistics for the month of October, 2020. There were 78 total exams taken in October, with an overall pass rate of 33.33%. Thirty operators sat for the paper water

exams, scoring a pass rate of 37%; two operators sat for the online (AMP) water exam, scoring a pass rate of 100%. In October, forty five operators sat for the paper wastewater and industrial wastewater exams, scoring a pass rate of 27%; and one person sat for the online (AMP) wastewater and industrial wastewater exams, scoring a pass rate of 100%. No web-based exams were given at MDE in September. In addition, Martin Fuhr noted that the total passing rate remained at a steady 33% and requested that the Board please contribute any ideas for how to improve the pass / fail rate for all classifications.

D. Board Staff Initiatives – (Superintendent Training Course & Website Updates)

Martin Fuhr advised the Board that the Spring Superintendent Training Course date had not yet been set but that it would be a virtual course similar to the October course with some modifications.

06. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

- 1.) Kent Nicholson – Requesting both Education and Experience toward the required minimum time to obtain his Collection 2 Certification due to the fact he already has possessed a class 5A Wastewater Treatment Certification for over 5 years. Board Staff recommends that Mr. Nicholson be granted a Collection 2 Certification based on his experience working and maintaining a Wastewater 5A Certification since 11/1/2014. Joe Johnson made a motion to approve the Board Staff’s recommendation which was seconded by Jay Price. The Motion was carried with the Board Chair abstaining.

07. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. TRE Policy Update – Discuss Previously Distributed Document

The Board Chair suggested that Board Members and Liaisons review the TRE policy changes or proposals before the next meeting so the matter could be revisited at that time.

B. Training Review and Evaluation (TRE) Recommendations

There were no recommendations for course approval submitted by the TRE for this Board meeting.

08. ON-GOING BUSINESS

There was no ongoing business discussed.

9. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD LIAISONS AND GUESTS

- A. Sue Houghton** – Sue advised that MRWA’s training remains on-line and is very popular. They are currently working on scheduling classes for 2021.
- B. Tara Jones** – Advised that her transition into Karen’s former position has been going smoothly. She noted that MCET has its training schedule set for most of its Spring offerings. She indicated that are several Collection and Distribution classes starting in January, 2021.
- C. Jay Price** – Noted that the Short Course is offering virtual courses and is planning on focusing on offering more exam preparation courses considering. He also indicated that the Short Course is looking into options to make courses more affordable.
- D. Ben Thompson, Guest / Board Nominee** – Ben Thompson brought the Board up to speed on Anne Arundel County’s Virtual Career Fair and indicated that the county was working to resolve many Covid 19 challenges. He advised that almost 1/3 of the staff has been in quarantine due to extensive testing and contact tracing. He encouraged everyone to be diligent since one positive test can place dozens of people in quarantine. The Board Chair noted that Charles County was doing a good job by scattering hours / shifts and practicing social distancing.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Joe Johnson moved to adjourn the virtual conference meeting at 10:51 AM. The next meeting will be held on **December 17, 2020 Video Conference Meeting held via Virtual Google Hangouts.**