



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY & GEOSCIENCE

Water System Operations Element

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Board of Examiners for Water and Wastewater Licensing
Board Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2023
Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Approved by the Board on November 29, 2023

Board Members Present: Ronald Anastasio, Kauao-Eric Ekoue, David Fields, Robert Genetelli, Charles Jenkins, James Mastrokalos, JoAnn Mondsini, Linda Ofori,

There were 8 Board members present, constituting a quorum.

Board Members Absent: Wendy Simone

Board Legal Representatives Present: Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Kevin DeChristopher, NJ Division of Law

NJDEP Staff Present: Kristin Tedesco, Joseph duRocher, Malathi Prabhu, and Tyler Rowe

Members of the Public: Rick Howlett, Michael Rummel, Sean Irwin, Michael Lata, Joe Langel, Rick Howlett

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM, it was noted that there were enough Board members present to constitute a quorum.

R. Anastasio read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement (OPMA).

This virtual meeting was held via Microsoft Teams. Notice of the meeting and instructions on how to participate by phone were provided by public notice in advance of the meeting.

2. Adoption of February 8, 2023 and May 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The Board noted that the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes were inadvertently skipped and were not approved during the previous meeting held on May 24, 2023. R. Genetelli asked for a motion to approve the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes. J. Mondsini motioned and J. Mastrokalos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

R. Genetelli then moved to the May 24, 2023 meeting minutes and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. J. Mondsini motioned to approve with one suggested change to the notes:

The Call to Order section stated the meeting was held via a conference call; instead, it should say virtual meeting or via Microsoft Teams.

R. Anastasio motioned to approve the minutes with the suggested change, and E. Ekoue seconded the motion with the suggested change. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business:

Program Updates

J. duRocher began by providing monthly updates on the number of examination applications the Department has processed and has yet to process. Noted that the situation has improved drastically, and the month of July looked good as well.

R. Genetelli asked about the status of the back log of examination applicants. J. duRocher replied that the backlog was cleared about a month ago. Noted there were a few “in-house” that need to be sent to the Board still, but it was not a problematic number especially since the Board has begun to take on more applications at once.

J. Mondsini identified a potential trend in the pass/fail statistics, noting that in a small sample of examinations, longer extents of operating experience correlated with passing scores and applicants with less than two years’ experience correlated with failures. J. Mondsini also noted that she will continue to evaluate this potential trend.

J. Mastrokalos responded that he has access to data analysis tools and could use them to process pass/fail information but would need larger datasets. J. duRocher replied that he would be happy to send more data but clarified that there was only access to data from 2021 onward. Stated he would follow up with J. Mastrokalos after the meeting.

R. Genetelli noted that he has received more positive feedback from the testing centers and seems to be a better method than remote testing. J. duRocher responded that he has also received positive feedback from examinees on testing centers and stated that ABC has indicated that they will soon be switching to a new platform that will allow for both testing centers and remotely proctored exams.

4. New Business:

Reciprocity

Daniel Campbell (T-3).

The Board noted that the experience contained in Mr. Campbell’s application supported his request for a T-3 license, but he was lacking the Utilities Management course.



R. Genetelli motioned to conditionally approve Mr. Campbell for a T-3 license through reciprocity, contingent on the completion of the Utilities Management Course. E. Ekoue seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Peter Johnson (T-2; PA)

The Board discussed Mr. Johnson's application and ultimately felt that the experience included was indicative of a T-1 license rather than a T-2. J. Mastrokalos recommended a motion to deny the request for a T-2 license but to approve a T-1 through reciprocity and the ability to sit for the T-2 examination.

J. Mondsini pointed out that he would need the Advanced Course to sit for the T-2 examination, which the applicant does not have. After some discussion, the Board agreed and amended the motion. J. Mastrokalos motioned to deny Mr. Johnson a T-2 through reciprocity but granted a T-1 through reciprocity and upon the completion of the Advanced Course, the ability to sit for the T-2 examination. E. Ekoue seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Sean Irwin (T-4; NY)

The Board noted that Mr. Irwin's application was a resubmittal. After a considerable discussion, the Board decided to stand by their previous decision made in 2022. E. Ekoue motioned to deny Mr. Irwin's request for a T-4 through reciprocity, but also grant the ability to sit for the T-3 examination. R. Anastasio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously except for J. Mondsini, who abstained.

5. Subcommittee Update

R. Genetelli moved on to the Subcommittee Update.

J. duRocher noted that the revised examination application has been looked at by the Department and that the review is almost complete. J. duRocher also noted that the Board of Examiners Handbook has also had a preliminary review, but the examination application redesign has taken higher priority.

J. Mondsini stated that the Board of Examiners Handbook Subcommittee had no update.

R. Anastasio stated that the Exam Application Redesign Subcommittee had no update, and the package was with the Department for review. R. Anastasio also stated that the Subcommittee was open to answering any additional questions the Department may have.

J. duRocher stated that the Department was still exploring how to initiate the process for the Examination Question Review Subcommittee and will have an update in the near future.

R. Genetelli asked D. Fields if there was any update on the upcoming Licensed Operator Rules and Regulations changes. D. Fields answered that he is still receiving suggestions and comments about the changes and is going through internal review of the topics that would be discussed in the focus group sessions. Added that any additional proposed changes or comments could be sent directly to him.



6. Advisory Committee Update:

R. Genetelli moved on to the Advisory Committee Update. J. duRocher began by reviewing the events of the June 14, 2023 Advisory Committee meeting. Noted that the list for pre-approved instructors has grown to about 25-30 responses so far, and will be compiled for the August 23, 2023 Advisory Committee meeting, where there will also be the annual review of schools offering required courses.

M. Prabhu noted that she has kept up with all Training Contact Hour requests and are all up to date.

J. Mondsini asked if there are any lesson plans that were made up for the required operator courses. J. duRocher responded, stating that outlines and agendas can be found on the website which were developed by the Advisory Committee nearly thirty (30) years ago, but should still be accurate.

7. General Public Comment:

R. Genetelli asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

8. Adjournment:

R. Genetelli asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by R. Anastasio and seconded by J. Mondsini. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

