

Minutes
Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Board of Examiners for the Certification of Industrial/Commercial Wastewater Operators

July 29, 2021

The meeting was called by announcement dated March 18, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Ryden at 9:31 a.m. and was held at the Lansing Center in Lansing, Michigan.

Roll Call

Members Present: Tom Ryden, Sierra Brown, Greg Merricle, Henry Hatter

Members Absent: Chris Veldkamp

Staff Present: Earl Wuestnick, Alyssa Sarver, Sarah Ehinger

Consideration of March 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes

No amendments were made to the meeting minutes.

Motion by Hatter to accept minutes, seconded by Brown. Motion passed 4-0.

Review of August 19, 2021, Industrial / Commercial Exam Applications

Wuestnick provided a brief overview of the current and historical exam statistics. Brown asked if staff have noticed any changes in the operator exam applications or license renewals with many older operators leaving the industry. Staff stated that exam applications have remained steady over the years, but renewals may be down.

Discuss Operator Supervisory Duties and Oversight at Several Facilities

Ehinger provided an overview of an ongoing EGLE discussion to implement an operator oversight policy and procedure along with a code of conduct. The discussion centered around the definition of competent operations/operator competency and what this looks like in the field. Ehinger described expectations of the Board in forming this policy and procedure and asked the Board to provide feedback later when a draft is made available. The Board agreed this is a good idea and supported its development.

Review of the 2022 Calendar and Confirmation of Board Contact Sheet Information

Staff confirmed the 2022 calendar dates for the Board and the Board agreed with the dates. Sarver confirmed that all contact information is up to date on the current contact sheet and no additional action was required.

Other Items

Ryden shared a letter that he wrote and sent to EGLE Director Clark and Water Resources Division (WRD) Director Seidel, which thanked Staff for their exam preparation efforts during the February 2021 exam cycle. Ehinger mentioned that wastewater and drinking water exam efforts were one of the top three accomplishments shared by EGLE during 2020-2021.

Brown, the Board, and Staff discussed outreach in the wastewater field and how to get younger people interested and involved.

Staff shared their efforts towards modernizing the operator certification program and discussed current and future process changes with exam applications, payment, and operator database management.

Ehinger discussed the upcoming sunset of wastewater fees and potential change to the current exam fees. Staff have provided the necessary information to WRD Management, and the Legislature and additional fee information is forthcoming.

Next Meeting Date and Time and Next Exam Date

The next Industrial/Commercial Board meeting is scheduled on September 16, 2021 (Post-Exam Meeting), at 9:30 a.m. Location TBD.

Next Exam Date: February 17, 2022
App. Deadline: January 17, 2021
Board Meeting: January 27, 2022
Exam Announcement December 17, 2021

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



Respectfully submitted:

Alyssa Sarver