

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

September 17, 2020

The meeting was called by email announcement dated on July 30, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Ryden at 9:31 a.m and was held online via Microsoft TEAMS.

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Earl Wuestnick and Alyssa Sarver

Consideration of July 30, 2020, Meeting Minutes

There were no comments on the meeting minutes.

Motion by Hatter to accept minutes as written, seconded by Veldkamp. Motion passed 5-0.

Review of August 20, 2020 Certification Exam Results and Recommendation for Certification, and Historical Exam Statistics Spreadsheet

Wuestnick and Board Members discussed the data sheets and statistics based on number of exams passed. Wuestnick mentioned that COVID may have played a role in less applications and examinee attendance. Hatter asked for clarification about our standard for pass rate and Wuestnick clarified that our acceptable passing grade for exams is 70% and overall pass rate is normal when compared to past years.

Ryden and Veldkamp thanked staff for the corrected 10-year sheet from the July 30, 2020, meeting.

Motion by Hatter to recommend to the Director of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy that appropriate certifications be issued to those who received a grade of 70 percent or greater on their written examinations, and denied certification at the requested classification to those who received a grade of less than 70 percent on their written examination. Seconded by Merricle. Motion passed 5-0.

Review Summary of Important Actions and Industrial Certification Practices Documents

Hatter suggested a revision to the A-1a, A-1h, A-1i, A-1j certification approval language from, "The Board of Examiners authorizes an Industrial Wastewater Board Member to meet with staff..." to "The Industrial Wastewater Board of Examiners authorizes one Board Member to meet with staff..." Sarver will update the "Summary of Important Actions" document to reflect this change and will send to the Board for final review.

The Board reviewed the updated language for "Procedures for Board Meetings without Quorum" and approved final language. Ryden and Hatter discussed the hierarchy of authority and agreed that the term "procedure" is appropriate for this type of decision-making process.

Other Items

Veldkamp asked about State offices reopening and continuing TEAMS meetings for our public meetings. Sarver noted it is unlikely the Board will be able to meet in-person until State employees have fully returned to work, and Merricle agreed. There was discussion about using TEAMS as a tool during inclement weather situations, post-pandemic, and Sarver said she would bring this thought to supervisor, Sarah Ehinger, for further discussion.

Veldkamp mentions Hatter's upcoming expiration date on the Board and wanted to take a moment to thank him for his service if he plans on stepping down. Hatter mentions he is willing to stay on the Board until staff find a replacement. Staff and Hatter will continue the conversation and decide how to move forward with his role on the Board within the next few months.

Ryden reminds staff of his upcoming renewal and asks about the status of his renewal letter. Staff discussed the process and told Ryden he can expect his renewal letter after the beginning of 2021.

Ryden revisits the informal Attorney General opinion that was discussed at the July 30, 2020, meeting and asked staff if the drafted or promulgated rules should be used moving forward. Veldkamp discussed that Water Resources Division does not have rule making authority and that we must use the promulgated rules. Ryden asked Wuestnick to send the promulgated rules to the Board Members so everyone has the same set of rules.

Important Dates

Ryden asked Wuestnick about the 2021 calendar of events and Sarver shared a new calendar outline.

Exam Announcement November 16, 2020
App. Deadline January 19, 2021
Board Meeting January 28, 2021
Exam Date February 18, 2021

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next Industrial/Commercial Board meeting is scheduled on January 28, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Alyssa Sarver