

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

June 11, 2020

Meeting was called by announcement dated December 12, 2019. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Ross at 9:06 a.m. Roll call of Board members:

Members Present: Christine Veldkamp
Myron Erickson
Brian Ross
Louise Lieberman
Todd Sneathen

Staff Present: Sarah Ehinger
Alyssa Sarver
Earl Wuestnick

Nomination of Officers

Christine Veldkamp nominated Brian Ross as Chair, seconded by Myron Erickson. Louise Liberman nominated Erickson as Vice-Chair, seconded by Ross. Ross nominated Earl Wuestnick as Secretary, seconded by Todd Sneathen. Motion passed 5-0.

Introduction of Alyssa Sarver to Lieberman and Sneathen

Sarver introduced herself to the Board Members as the new EGLE member for Operator Certification replacing Bruce Lack after his retirement.

COVID19 Updates and Exam Changes

Sarver and Wuestnick explained that the July 30, 2020 exams are scheduled to take place unless COVID19 Governor's Directives and CDC social distancing requirements can not be met for the exam. The examinees will be pushed to the November 5, 2020 exam at no cost if the July exam is cancelled. Upon request, any operators not wanting to take the July 30, 2020 exam due to COVID19 concerns will be pushed to the November 5, 2020 exam.

Changes to exam locations due to hotel cancelations were discussed. The Romulus Wyndham Gardens location is moving to Novi Sheraton, the Marquette location is moving from NMU to the Holiday In, and the Midland location is moving from Delta college to the Great Hall Conference Center. The Grand Rapids Location is moving from WMU on Beltline to the WMU downtown on Ionia Avenue.

Opportunity to Amend Agenda

Veldkamp motioned to amend the agenda to include discussion from staff on Governor's Initiative on Public Meetings and email requirements for board members. Seconded by Sneathen. (See Other Items.)

Consideration of Minutes for December 12, 2019

Motion by Sneathen to accept December 12, 2019 minutes. Second by Erickson. Motion passed 5-0.

Applicant Eligibility – Advice/Appeals

There were no appeals to be heard regarding exam eligibility.

Applicant Eligibility – Industrial/Commercial

There were no applications with Industrial/Commercial experience.

Applicant Eligibility – Approval/Denial

Motion by Erickson to approve/deny all other applications received for examination based on staff recommendations. Second by Veldkamp. Motion passed 5-0.

Opportunity to review and provide comment on substance of July 2020 Municipal Wastewater Certification Exams

Examinations were not presented at the virtual meeting due to security and integrity of the exam as determined by EGGLE Management. The July 30, 2020 exam content was previously reviewed and approved by the Board in November 2018 and purposely chosen due the COVID19 exam delay.

Requests for Acceptance of Courses for CECs

Motion by Erickson to approve all courses presented for CEC values and categories as recommended by staff. Second by Liberman. Motion passed 5-0.

Bay College Course Program & Course Updates

Staff informed the Board Bay College will have a presentation at the October 8, 2020 board meeting to update the Board on curriculum changes. No action was taken as this was a preview of information for the October 8th meeting.

Other Items

Staff discussion by Ehinger and Sarver. Ehinger indicated that Sarver and Wuestnick are working on web compliance for Agenda & Meeting Minutes. She discussed the liability of using personal email versus a State email for FOIA and liability issues. A State email would protect personal/work computer accounts from FOIA and lawsuits. Erickson indicated he would prefer a State email to use as not to interfere with his employer's computer. This was unanimously supported 5-0 by all the board members for State emails to conduct board related business. Staff will work on getting Board Members State emails.

Next Meeting

Next Board meeting set for Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at Constitution Hall.
Starting time to be 9:00 a.m. (July post-exam meeting)

October meeting to be on October 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. (November pre-exam meeting)

Motion by Ross to adjourn meeting, second by Erickson.
Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Earl Wuestnick,
Recording Secretary