

Maine Board of Licensure of Water System Operators
Meeting Minutes

~ Friday, May 10, 2019 – 9:00 am ~

Maine Public Utilities Commission, Second Street, Hallowell, ME

Present:

- Brian Tarbuck – Chair, Professional Engineer Representative, Greater Augusta Utility District
- Mary Ellen Bowers – Vice Chair, NTNC Representative, Waterworks Management LLC
- Kerry Smart – Class II Representative, Alfred Water District
- Brian McBride – Class IV Operator Representative, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells
- Gregg Kidd – Educator representative
- Michael Abbott – Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program, Director

- Jim Jacobsen – Licensing Coordinator, Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program
- Tina Lemieux – Licensing Clerk, Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program

Guests:

- Cindy Wade – Maine Water Utilities Association
- Kirsten Hebert – Maine Rural Water Association
- Keith Levasseur – Class 3, Engineer works at Sanford Water

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Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by Brian Tarbuck.

1. Introduction of guests and board members
  - a. 6 members present, 2 DWP representatives, 3 guests
  
2. Public Comment
  - a. None
  
3. Agenda additions
  - a. None
  
4. Old Business
  - a. Approve minutes – February 8, 2019

MOTION: Move to approve February 8, 2019 minutes.

1st: Mary Bowers    2nd: Mike Abbott    Vote: Unanimous

- b. Financial report review – Michael Abbott
  - i. Financial report discussed
  - ii. Board Members would like to see report view modified.
    1. Printed in “landscape” view and in color.

## 5. New Business

- a. Address of concerns about system operators running systems – Mary Bowers
  - i. Use of licensure to fulfill system requirements using another’s license number, “paper operator”, and contract operator oversees system but may not be on-site.
    1. Possible ethical concerns
    2. Failure to monitor violations
    3. Compliance issues
  - ii. Issue discussion
    1. Review guidance document at next meeting
    2. Extend invitation to other contract operators to meeting for discussion
- b. Review options for a Bangor and/or Machias ABC test site in lieu of PSI – Jim Jacobsen
  - i. Re-cap: January 2019, Holden testing site was closed without notice, PSI is contracted by ABC to find testing sites for proctored exams
  - ii. Tom Healy, of ABC, reports PSI has not produced alternatives for our testing needs.
    1. No updates for this meeting
    2. It is important to accommodate new licensees across the state
    3. Will travel to proctor tests if necessary
  - iii. Brian Tarbuck and Jim Jacobsen; will write a letter to PSI
    1. addressing PSI’s lack of proficiency in finding new testing sites and possible contract termination
- c. Review of Section 5 subsection (E) (4) of the licensing rule per request – Jim Jacobsen
  - i. Request received from Mickey Hall of Maine Water Company for employee to present case to the Board
    1. Worked for MWC 30 years, recently passed class 1 Distribution exam, but does not meet minimum education requirements of high school diploma or GED.
  - ii. Issue: Cannot approve license under current rules of BLWSO.
    1. Education can be substituted for experience, but experience cannot be substituted for education.
  - iii. Discussion of Issue:
    1. Education requirement comes from EPA Guidelines
    2. Rule says can substitute education for experience but does not say you cannot substitute the experience for education
    3. May have to write general criteria for the substitution of experience for education

MOTION: Move to grant licensure based on extensive experience and documented training as a water operator.

1st: Mary Bowers    2nd: Greg Kidd    Vote: 3 in favor / 3 opposed; issue failed to move forward

\*A letter will be sent to inform the involved parties of the Board’s decision regarding the vote of issue.

- d. Consider adopting Conflict of Interest document language for Board – Brian Tarbuck
  - i. Conflict of interest is used in a Regulatory Board
  - ii. In a BLWSO policy document from 7-28-17, states that the BLWSO is an Occupational and Professional Licensing Board, and on the list in 5 MRSA Chapter
  - iii. Not listed on the Governor’s list of boards for occupational and professional licensing and do not need to have the Conflict of Interest document
  - iv. Board to review for next meeting
  - v. Brian will contact everyone when Tara has more information
  
- e. Water Operator Licensing Survey – Jim Jacobsen
  - i. Received approval from the Office of Information Technology to conduct a survey through SurveyMonkey
    - 1. Give water operators a feeling of more investment and participation
    - 2. 3 question survey, and comments
    - 3. 4 /101; 4 rated it difficult/very difficult, comments: submitting TCH documents online
    - 4. There were intermittent problems with the online renewal site, InforME
    - 5. Potential tool for the Board to receive input from the water operators

MOTION: Motion to adjourn.

1st: Kerry Smart      2nd: Mary Bowers      Vote: Unanimous

ADJOURN: 10:20 am