

Maine Board of Licensure of Water System Operators
Meeting Minutes

~ Friday, February 8, 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
- Jonathan Ziegler – Management Representative, Boothbay Region Water District
- Brian McBride – Class IV Operator Representative, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells
- Michael Abbott – Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program, Director
- Kerry Smart – Class II Representative, Alfred Water District
- Gregg Kidd – Educator representative

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

Guests:

- Kirsten Hebert – Maine Rural Water Association
- Tom Bahun – Maine Rural Water Association
- Keith Levasseur – Class 3, Engineer works at Sanford Water

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**Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM by Brian Tarbuck.**

1. Introduction of guests and board members
  - a. 7 members present, 2 DWP representatives, 3 guests
2. Public Comment
  - a. None
3. Agenda additions
  - a. Update on ABC testing facility in Holden. – Jim Jacobsen
4. Old Business
  - a. Approve minutes –
    - i. December 7, 2018 – minutes approved, unanimous

MOTION: Move to approve December 7, 2018 minutes.

1st: Jon Ziegler            2nd: Kerry Smart            Vote: Unanimous

- b. Financial report review – Michael Abbott
        - i. Financial reports updated and detailed
        - ii. Streamlining of reports necessary to include: i.e. expenditures over the fiscal year.
5. New Business
  - a. ARTICLE IV OFFICERS – VOTE
    - i. First meeting of the year vote for Chair of the BLWSO.

MOTION: Motion to vote for BLWSO Chair – Brian Tarbuck

1st: Jon Ziegler            2nd: Kerry Smart            Vote: Unanimous

- b. Maine Rural Water Association – Kirsten Hebert and Tom Bahun
  - i. Concerns regarding testing vendor At Your Own Pace (AYPO).
    - 1. Claims that layout and timing of exams of courses do not reflect time spent on coursework and that courses can be taken in less time than approved at.
    - 2. Claims that courses do not hold persons accountable for attention to coursework online.
  - ii. Solutions and Resolutions
    - 1. Jim Jacobsen will be addressing concerns with providers of online coursework.
    - 2. ABC guidance is important for seeking standardization of online courses.
    - 3. Possibility of board “scholarship” to audit coursework by different vendors.
- c. JETCC applications for course approval – Greg Kidd
  - i. Cold Climate – approved 2015, 6 TCHs
    - 1. Seems to be slanted toward subsurface wastewater information.
    - 2. Wants to see coursework reflect more Water Operator information especially for use with Licensure.
  - ii. Microscopic Examination – approved 2018, 6 TCHs
    - 1. Majority of information slanted toward subsurface wastewater information.
    - 2. Claims coursework only spend small amount of time for Water Operator information.
  - iii. Solutions and Resolutions
    - 1. Jim Jacobsen will address issues with LeeAnn from JETCC.
- d. Discussed issues about the ABC testing sites including 10 extra fielding questions that do not count toward grade.
  - i. Some concern for test candidates causing more test anxiety.
  - ii. Proctors and test prep facilitators should inform test candidates about the +10 questions.
  - iii. ABC has changed approach to inform test candidates of the extra questions prior to taking test.
- e. Updates from Jim Jacobsen
  - i. ABC testing site – Holden, closed abruptly.
  - ii. Contacted ABC, waiting on update.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn.

1<sup>st</sup>: Kerry Smart

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jon Ziegra

Vote: Unanimous

ADJOURN: 10:17 am