

**Maine Board of Licensure of Water System Operators
Meeting Minutes**

~ Friday, August 23, 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 Representative, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells
- Gregg Kidd – Educator Representative;
- Michael Abbott – Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program; Director
- Keith Levasseur – Class III Representative; Sanford Water District – (membership pending)

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

Guests:

- Kathleen Brill – MRWA, (call-in)

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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, 1 guest
2. Public Comment
  - a. None
3. Agenda additions
  - a. None
4. Old Business
  - a. Approve minutes – May 10, 2019

Motion to approve meeting minutes from May 10, 2019.

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

- b. Financial report discussed with budget handout
  - i. Financial report discussed

## 5. New Business

- a. Recap: PSI subcontractor of ABC Exam Testing to find testing sites in the Bangor area
  - i. Met with Jim Jacobsen and Brian Tarbuck in Lowell, MA to discuss issues
  - ii. Tom Healy, ABC, indicated that they will sign a contract within the week; more to come
  - iii. Some states had concerns about the inclusion of state specific rules and regulations their exams
  - iv. College Computer Lab – Proctored Test
    1. Jim Jacobsen – offered to proctor exams
  - v. New: AWWA Water Operator Certification Exam Prep
    1. study guide; aligned with ABC’s need to know criteria
  
- b. Problems with “paper operators”, or general operator negligence
  - i. Looking for clear direction
    1. Multiple violations, failure to monitor, noncompliance
    2. Course of action
    3. Currently no oversight of owners
  
  - ii. How to address repeat offenders
    1. Only course of action is to refer them to the board
    2. Referrals first for investigation, then enforcement process
    3. Informal vs. formal
    4. Rules and Regulations are vague about process
  
  - iii. Will discuss more in December, Nate Saunders to attend
  
- c. Conference: January 14-17, 2020:
  - i. Announcement about conference and possible interest in attending
  
- d. ADJOURN – **10:15 AM**

### Motion to adjourn.

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