

Meeting of Maine Board of Licensure of Water System Operators

January 20, 2017

Greater Augusta Utilities District WWTP, Augusta, ME

Present:

- Gregory Kidd- Chair, Educator Representative, Northeast Water and Wastewater Training Associates
- Mary Ellen Bowers – NTNC Representative, Waterworks Management LLC
- Brian Tarbuck – Professional Engineer Representative, Greater Augusta Utility District
- Kerry Smart – Class II Representative, Alfred Water District
- Brian McBride – Class IV Operator Representative, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells
- Roger Crouse – Maine DHHS Representative, Maine Drinking Water Program
- Terry Trott – Licensing Officer, Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program
- Julia Kimball- Board Clerk, Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program
- Deanna White – Maine Attorney General’s Office
- Mike MacDonald, Vice Chair – VSWS Representative, Contract Operator, New England Utility Management Enterprises
- Jeffery Day- Class III Operator Representative, Lincoln Water District

Absent:

- Jonathan Ziegler- Management Representative, Boothbay Water District

Guests:

Bruce Berger- Maine Water Utilities Association

Kirsten Hebert- Maine Rural Water Association

Cindy Wade- Maine Rural Water Association

Tom Bahun- Maine Rural Water Association

Meeting called to order at 9:07 AM by Greg Kidd

1. Review of Minutes

Kerry moved to accept minutes with corrected date. Mary 2nd.

Minutes unanimous to approve as amended.

2. ABC Conference

Mary attended the ABC Conference in Fort Lauderdale. At the meeting Mary presented a slideshow with some of the key important takeaways from the conference. ABC will be unveiling a new need to know criteria. Much of the conference focused on updating policies and procedures.

3. Online Licensing Renewal

Julia and Roger provided updates on online licensing. 80 people have renewed online so far. Many licensees were not satisfied with the online license format. It is being proposed to use a similar template to Professional Licensing. After a template has been finalized the new format will be mentioned in the Drinking Water Program Service Connection

4. Report on Conflict of Interest

Deanna presented information to the Board on potential conflicts of interest. When members of the Board act in a capacity on behalf of the Board they are seen as State of Maine employees.

Appearance of conflict of interest should be avoided. Board members can always abstain from voting.

Brian T motions to accept a conflict of interest policy at a future board meeting (March). Deanna will draft this policy. Brian M 2nd. Motion carries.

5. Renewal Language

On the 2015 and 2016 license renewals the phrase “ CPR and First Aid are not accepted for renewal credits”. CPR and first aid are now approvable courses.

Brian T motions to remove language from renewals going forward that excludes the acceptance of CPR and first aid. Kerry 2nd. Motion carries.

6. Election of Officers

The 2016 officers for the Board are as follows

Greg Kidd- Board Chair

Mike MacDonald- Vice Chair

Roger Crouse- Secretary

Kerry motions that Brian Tarbuck be nominated as Board chair. Mary 2nd.

Kerry motions that Mike MacDonald be nominated as Board Vice Chair. Mary 2nd.

Kerry motions that Roger Crouse be nominated as Board Secretary. Mary 2nd.

Brian Tarbuck for Board Chair votes: All voted for Brian (Brian abstained)

Mike MacDonald for Vice Chair votes: All voted for Mike (Greg and Mike abstained)

Roger Crouse for Secretary votes: All voted for Roger

7. Complaint

A potential complaint was brought forth involving Christopher Fisher of Pine Springs Water Company.

Mr. Fisher has pled guilty to charges related to assault on a homeowner of his water system.

(Kerry left at this point)

Roger motions that the Board doesn't have jurisdiction for this complaint. Brian M 2nd.

Unanimous decision

8. Rule Making

A draft of rule changes were presented at the meeting. A new fee structure was included to include fee increases. A decision must be made in March about rule changes.

Brian T motions to have subcommittee for rule making. Greg 2nd. Motion carries.

Committee consists of Roger, Greg and Brian M.

9. Board Acronym

The Board of Licensure of Water System Operators is often shortened to WOB (Water Operator Board) as this is not the official name of the board it was discussed that a different acronym be used.

Greg motions the acronym be Maine-BLWSO. Brian T 2nd.

Unanimous to approve.

10. TCH Approval Procedure

A revised training contact hour approval form was passed around. The new form reflects the need for trainers to cite ABC Need to Know Criteria for relevancy.

Adjourn – 11:30 AM

Mike moved to adjourn

Jeff Tarbuck 2nd

Motion carried by vote