

APPROVED

**Kentucky Board of Certification of Wastewater and  
Drinking Water System Operators**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 21, 2025**

**I. Call to Order**

Robin Strader called to order the regular meeting of the Kentucky Board of Certification of Wastewater & Drinking Water System Operators at 1:10 p.m. EDT, on October 21, 2025, in Frankfort, Kentucky and via Zoom.

**II. Roll Call**

Robin Strader conducted a roll call for the attendees. The following persons were present:

Robin Strader, Chairperson  
Jason Marion, Vice Chairperson  
Tony Hatton, Cabinet Representative  
John Cruse  
Carl Groce

Jessica Wilhoite, Certification & Licensing Branch (CLB)  
Veronica Roland, CLB  
Afua Martin, CLB

Guests

BJ Bland, Certification & Licensing Branch (CLB)  
Heather Stevenson, KY Rural Water Association (KRWA)  
Madeline Trayler, Inspector, Paducah Field Office, (PFO)  
Taylor Ballard, Mayfield Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWTP)  
Russell Gills, (MWTP)

**III. Introduction of Guests and Guest Comments**

BJ Bland, CLB, Heather Stevenson, KRWA, Madeline Trayler, PFO, Taylor Ballard, MWTP, and Russell Gills, MWTP, were introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

John Cruse entered a motion to approve the minutes as presented for the September 16, 2025, regular board meeting. Carl Groce seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**V. New Business**

1. Exam and Reciprocity Requests (Addendum 1)
2. John Cruse entered a motion to release today's exam requests and list of approved trainings (Addendum 2). Carl Groce seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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### **VI. Unfinished Business**

Apprenticeship Program – Jason Marion made a motion to accept KY Rural Water Association’s Apprenticeship Program as substitution in the certification process with a limit of 36 elective hours per semester. Carl Groce seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **VII. Communication and Announcements**

A financial summary of the wastewater certification account and drinking water certification account was distributed to the board members in their packets for their information.

Jessica gave a general update on the Certification and Licensing Branch.

### **VIII. Operator Disciplinary Discussion – Taylor Ballard**

At about 1:35 p.m., BJ Bland, CLB, began presenting information to the board from his briefing sheet regarding the referral received from the Division of Water pertaining to certified operator Taylor Ballard at the Mayfield Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The board members concluded their questioning of Mr. Bland at 1:52 p.m.

The board members then began speaking with Mr. Taylor Ballard at 1:52 p.m. The board members asked Mr. Ballard a series of fact-finding questions related to the information presented in the briefing sheet.

The board members concluded their questions of Mr. Ballard at 2:47 p.m.

The board members then began speaking with Mr. Ballard’s supervisor, Russell Gills, at 2:47 p.m.

The board members concluded their questioning at 2:56 p.m.

### **IX. Executive Session**

John Cruse made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the disciplinary case for Taylor Ballard. Carl Groce seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The board entered executive session at 2:56 p.m.

John Cruse made a motion to exit executive session. Carl Groce seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The board came out of executive session at 3:44 p.m.

A motion was made by Jason Marion for the Board to make the following recommendation to the Cabinet.

Whereas, based upon the information provided and received by this Board, today, October 21, in written and oral formats,

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Be it resolved, the Board recommends to the Cabinet revocation of the Drinking Water IVB license currently held by Taylor Ballard; and

Be it further resolved, the Board recommends to the Cabinet that the Wastewater Collections III license of (held by) Taylor Ballard be suspended for two years or up to two years *during which* 960 hours\* of collections experience must be documented and submitted to the Operator Certification Program for the suspension to be lifted; and

Be it further resolved, failure to provide the documented collections experience within the time period (two years) will result in the license being terminated; and

Be it further resolved, additional training in 'ethics and recordkeeping' be obtained with the Operator Certification Program, in addition to CEUs required for the renewal of other licenses, within one year to maintain eligibility to have the Collections license suspension being lifted.

John Cruse seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Be it approved by this Board on this day (October 21, 2025).

\*It was made clear after the motion passed in the meeting by the Board Chair, that the 960 hours referenced in the motion are new hours (from this date forward) to be obtained and documented during the period of up to two years from the meeting – and we are not going backwards and not to obtain documentation of previous 960 hours, as the Board was crediting the undocumented time that has occurred in Collections based upon the testimony and information obtained during the meeting.

### **X. Adjournment**

Jason Marion entered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carl Groce seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. EDT.

Minutes submitted by: Veronica Roland

Minutes approved by: JC/CG

| AI ID  | AI Name              | License Requested  | Reciprocity | State | Determination | Comments | 1st | 2nd | Motion Passed |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|---------------|----------|-----|-----|---------------|
| 181958 | James Vinson         | DW Distribution IV | N           |       | Approved      |          | RS  | JM  | Y             |
| 182012 | Nathan Carter        | DW Distribution IV | N           |       | Approved      |          | JM  | CG  | Y             |
| 181271 | Dalton Muscovalley   | DW Distribution IV | N           |       | Approved      |          | RS  | JM  | Y             |
| 179486 | Benjamin T Bishop    | DW Treatment IVA   | N           |       | Approved      |          | RS  | JM  | Y             |
| 186650 | Charles G Hungler IV | WW Treatment I     | Y           | OH    | Approved      |          | JM  | JC  | Y             |

**October****List of Approved Trainings****Addendum 2**

| AI#                             | Training Provider                     | Name of Training                                     | Date       | Hours Requested | Hours Approved |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Wastewater Trainings</b>     |                                       |  |            |                 |                |
| 109539                          | Office of Water Programs CSUS         | Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants Volume 3A   | 9/4/2025   | 23.0            | 20.5           |
| 109539                          | Office of Water Programs CSUS         | Industrial Waste Treatment Volume 1C                 | 9/4/2025   | 33.0            | 30.75          |
| 109539                          | Office of Water Programs CSUS         | Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants Volume 3B   | 9/4/2025   | 35.0            | 32.0           |
| 109539                          | Office of Water Programs CSUS         | Industrial Waste Treatment Volume 1A                 | 9/4/2025   | 42.0            | 37.5           |
| 109539                          | Office of Water Programs CSUS         | Industrial Waste Treatment Volume 1B                 | 9/4/2025   | 38.0            | 35.0           |
| <b>WW/DW Combined Trainings</b> |                                       |  |            |                 |                |
| 108617                          | KY Rural Community Assistance Program | Cybersecurity, AI, &Emergency Planning for Utilities | 10/7/2025  | 6.0             | 6.0            |
| 108573                          | KY TN Section AWWA                    | Pumps 101:Problem Solving and Performance 101        | 9/17/2025  | 8.0             | 8.0            |
| 108602                          | KY Division of Water                  | Kentucky Lake Monitoring Program                     | TBD        | 15.5            | 15.5           |
| 82582                           | KY Water & Wastewater Operators Assoc | KWWOA - Eastern Chapter Fall Conference              | 10/14/2025 | 12.0            | 12.0           |
| 108571                          | KY Rural Water Assoc                  | CE for Operators- Ashland Bus Depot                  | 10/16/2025 | 6.0             | 6.0            |
| <b>Drinking Water Trainings</b> |                                       |  |            |                 |                |
| 108571                          | KY Rural Water Assoc                  | CE for Water Operators - Allen Co.                   | 9/9/2025   | 6.0             | 6.0            |
| 108571                          | KY Rural Water Assoc                  | CE for Water Operators-BGMU                          | 10/29/2025 | 6.0             | 6.0            |

**Certified Training Provider Approval****Approval Expires****AI #****Training Provider**