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 Traylor, 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.

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,

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 with 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