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Kentucky Board of Certification of Wastewater and Drinking Water System Operators

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024

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 1:01 p.m. EDT, on November 19, 2024, 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

Guests

Jarrold Bell, Division of Enforcement (DENF)

Donna McNeil, University of Kentucky (UK)

Derek Bozzell, Department for Environmental Protection (DEP)

BJ Bland, Certification and Licensing Branch (CLB)

III. Introduction of Guests and Guest Comments

Jarrold Bell, DENF, Donna McNeil, UK, Derek Bozzell, DEP, and BJ Bland, CLB, were introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Tony Hatton entered a motion to approve the minutes as presented for the October 15, 2024, regular board meeting. John Cruse seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

V. New Business

a) Exam and Reciprocity Requests (Addendum 1)

b) HB40 Discussion:

The board members along with guests discussed the different aspects of HB40 in an open forum.

Jason Marion made a motion to change the voluntary certification to voluntary accreditation. Tony Hatton seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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Collaborate with certified training providers and stakeholders to create courses for the voluntary accreditation for supervisors.

Jason Marion moved to recommend striking a Volunteered Shared Services Certification Program and replacing it with optimizing existing resources and the statewide certifications Kentucky operators currently possess. Tony Hatton seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Jessica Wilhoite spoke on recruitment strategies. The cabinet plans to collaborate with the Department of Education and the Kentucky Community Technical College System (KCTCS), to leverage relevant post-secondary education and attract operators to these programs. This will reduce licensure experience requirements by up to 50%, using the substitutions stated in the cabinet's regulations.

The board recommended to enhance apprenticeship, paid internship, and mentorship programs through partnerships with the Department of Workforce Development, Veterans Affairs, and professional organizations.

Jason Marion added a comment about sharing opportunities to other organizations to communicate to students and veterans.

Jessica spoke on community outreach plans. Develop community outreach efforts, such as open houses and media campaigns, to raise awareness about water industry careers. Continue presentations to water districts emphasizing clear career paths, mentorship, competitive salaries, and targeted recruitment of veterans and underrepresented groups. Review presentations to address the unique needs of systems statewide.

Jason Marion recommends that the Certification and Licensing Branch attend career fairs with the inclusion of local utilities being included. Carl Groce seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

- c) Carl Groce entered a motion to release today's list of approved trainings (Addendum 2). John Cruse seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

VI. Unfinished Business

- a) Distribution manual: Donna McNeil updated the board on the status of the remaining chapters. Chapter 3 and 9 are ready and will be uploaded to the Dropbox.

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.

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John Cruse made a motion to approve the 2025 board meeting schedule. Carl Groce seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

VIII. Executive Session

Jason Marion made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a possible disciplinary case. John Cruse seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The board entered executive session at 2:28 p.m.

Carl Groce made a motion to exit executive session. John Cruse seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The board came out of executive session at 3:00.

A motion was made by Jason Marion to have Mr. Mark C. Julian attend the December meeting of the Board, in-person, for an interview regarding a complaint received by the Board, and to have the Cabinet's inspector on the complaint join by Zoom or in-person, and to have a representative of Mr. Julian's management team or Board attend the meeting by Zoom or in-person. John Cruse seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IX. Adjournment

Jason Marion entered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carl Groce seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Veronica Roland

Minutes approved by: JC/CG

AI ID	AI Name	License Requested	Reciprocity	State	Determination	Comments	1st	2nd	Motion Passed
183882	David C Ortiz	DW Operator Certification-3D	Y	CA	Approved for IID.		RS	JM	Y
183882	David C Ortiz	DW Operator Certification-3A	Y	CA	Approved.		RS	JM	Y
183850	Steven T Dixon	DW Operator Certification-4B	Y	AZ	Approve for IIIA.		JM	CG	Y
172621	Dustin F Cloyd	DW Operator Certification-4A	N		Approved.		JM	TH	Y
184284	Marc P Gibert	DW Operator Certification-4A	N		Approved.		JM	TH	Y
119257	Mitchell R Harthun	WW Treatment IV	N		Approved.		RS	JM	Y