Approved Minutes
South Dakota Operator Certification Board Meeting
April 14, 2026
Joe Foss Building Large Conference Room – Pierre, SD

Members Present: Chris Schmit, Ryan Allen, Bill Sarringar, Craig Wagner, Craig Mitchell, Jeremy Casteel

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tammie Hill – Secretary to the Board, Robert Sachen – SDSU Engineering

Call to Order Bill Sarringar (Chairman) at 2:00 pm.

Welcoming of Newest Board Member: The Boad of Operator Certification welcomed its' newest board member Mr. Jeremy Casteel. Secretary Hunter Roberts approved Mr. Casteel to complete the remaining term appointment of retired board member Mr. Van Cleave end on June 1, 2026. Secretary Roberts also appointed Mr. Casteel to an additional three-year term.

Approval of Agenda: An agenda has been sent previously, and copies were also available at the meeting. Schmit moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Casteel. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from September 9, 2025, Board meeting minutes had been emailed previously to the Board members and available on the internet. Mitchell moved to approve minutes from the last meeting. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Old Business: None

Review and Acknowledgement of SD Open Meeting Laws – SDCL Ch. 1-25: Hill provided all Board Members with the *Conducting the Public's Business in Public – A Guide to South Dakota's Open Meeting Laws (Revised 2025)* that was provided by the SD Attorney Generals' Office. All members indicated they reviewed the document and are aware of the requirements. Van Cleave motioned to acknowledge South Dakota's Open Meeting laws and requirements. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Contract Approvals: Hill reviewed each contract for the Board.

Three Peaks Water System – Schmit moved to approve the contract between Three Peaks Water System and Clearwater Consulting. Seconded by Allen. Motion passed.

Happy Trails HOA – Schmit moved to approve the contract between Happy Trails HOA and Clearwater Consulting. Seconded by Casteel. Motion passed.

Golden Nuggett Lodge – Wagner moved to approve the contract between Golden Nuggett Lodge and Brandon Powles. Seconded by Allen. Motion passed.

Rockerville Lodge and Cabins – Wagner moved to approve the contract between Rockerville Lodge and Cabins and Brandon Powles. Seconded by Allen. Motion passed.

Ridge on Lookout Mountain - Schmit moved to approve the contract between Ridge on Lookout Mountain and Mike Kyte. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion passed.

Pete Lien Shooting Complex – Wagner moved to approve the contract between Pete Lien Shooting Complex and Sage Water Works, Inc. Seconded by Schmit. Motion passed.

Hermosa - Schmit moved to approve the contract between Hermosa and ATAC Consulting contingent upon ATAC Consulting amending contract to clarify the minimum about of time staff will be on-site and frequency. Seconded by Allen. Motion passed.

Preliminary Hearings:

Boulder Colony – Boulder Colony is required to have a Class I Small Water Treatment and Class I Water Distribution operator. A representative from the colony is scheduled to take the Small Water Treatment exam in Aberdeen in June 2026. Schmit moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Horse Creek Resort – Horse Creek Resort is required to have a Class I Small Water Treatment operator. The owner of the system is scheduled to take the Small Water Treatment exam in Rapid City in May 2026. Schmit moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

North Hermosa Water Users District – North Hermosa Water Users District is required to have Class I Water Distribution operator. No representatives of the water system have registered for an exam currently. Schmit moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Final Hearings:

Hosmer – Hosmer is required to have a Class I Water Distribution operator. A representative from Hosmer took the Class I Water Distribution exam on 8/7/25 without success. No additional exams have been attempted. Casteel motioned to refer Hosmer for further enforcement by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion Passed

Reciprocity:

Kendal Linton – Holds a UT Collection 4 wastewater certificate which requires a high school diploma and six years of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class III Operator requirements. Mitchell moved to grant a Class III Wastewater Collection certificate. Seconded by Schmit. Motion Passed.

Richard Robinson – Holds an MN Class C Water Supply certificate which requires a high school diploma and three years of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class II Operator requirements. Given that MN's Water Supply Certificate covers both water treatment and water distribution, Mr. Robinson is seeking preference for a Class II Water Treatment certificate. Mr. Robinson also holds an MN Class D Wastewater Treatment certificate which requires a high school diploma and one year of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class I Operator requirements. Schmit moved to grant a Class I Wastewater certificate. Seconded by Casteel. Motion passed.

Status of Certification: The Board reviewed the latest status information on systems without certified operators and those that are working toward complying with SD's Operator Certification Laws.

The next systems for enforcement are Darlington Estates, Jobee Acres, Vivos xPoint, and Wessington Springs. Allen moved to hold preliminary hearings for the above referenced systems at the next board meeting if these systems have not complied with South Dakota's Operator Certification Laws. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Public Comment Period: This is now a requirement of public meetings as of legislative action pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1. No public comments were received during the board meeting.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: **September 15, 2026 - Aberdeen, SD preceding the SDWWA Annual Conference**

Casteel moved for adjournment. Seconded by Schmit. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.

Tammie Hill

4/14/2026

Tammie Hill

Date