

Unapproved Minutes
South Dakota Operator Certification Board Meeting
April 18, 2023
Pierre, SD - Matthew's Training Center

Members Present: Chris Schmit, Dave Van Cleave, Craig Wagner, Bill Sarringar, Ryan Allen, and Robin Bobzien (Remote)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tammie Hill - Secretary to the Board, Bill Thorson - SD Rural Water, Chad Bachman - Brookings Municipal Utilities

Call to Order by Chairperson Sarringar at 2:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda: An agenda had been sent previously and copies were also available at the meeting. Chris Schmit moved to approve the agenda. Ryan Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the September 13, 2022, Board meeting had been emailed previously to the Board members and available on the internet. Ryan Allen moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Craig Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

Reciprocity:

Zachary Brown - Currently holds a CO Class 4 Water Distribution, Class 3 Wastewater Collection, and a Class D Wastewater Treatment certificate. CO's Class 4 Water Distribution certificate requires high school graduation and 4 years of experience, Class 3 Wastewater Collection requires high school graduation and 3 years of experience, and the Class D Wastewater Treatment requires high school graduation and 1 month of experience. The Class 4 Water Distribution and Class 3 Wastewater Collections certificates are comparable to South Dakota's Class II certificates. The Class D Wastewater Treatment certificate requirements do not meet the minimum requirements for a South Dakota Class I Wastewater Treatment certificate. Chris Schmit moved to grant a Class II Water Distribution and Class II Wastewater Collection certificates from South Dakota. Robin Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

Brooke Nelson - Currently holds a TX Class C Surface Water Treatment certificate. Texas requires high school graduation and 2 years of experience. It is recommended that South Dakota grant Brooke Nelson a Class II Water Treatment certificate. Dave Van Cleave moved to grant a Class II Water Treatment certificate. Chris Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Christopher Satter - Currently holds a MN Class C Water Supply System Operator certificate. The State of MN has what is referred to as a "Revisor" certificate that covers both water treatment and water distribution. This certificate requires high school graduation and three years of work experience. South Dakota's Operator Certification Program will only issue either a water treatment or water distribution certificate, but not both. This certificate is comparable to South Dakota's requirement for a Class II certificate. Mr. Satter indicated that should the Board approve his reciprocity request he would prefer the Water Distribution certificate be granted as that is the area he is employed in at WEB Rural Water. Robin Bobzien moved to grant a Class II Water Distribution certificate from South Dakota. Ryan Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Final Hearings:

Castlewood - The system needs a Class I Water Treatment, Water Distribution, Wastewater Treatment or Stabilization Pond, and Wastewater Collection certificates. Marc Lewno passed the Water Distribution I exam on 3/2/22, Wastewater Collection I exam on 8/4/22, and Stabilization Pond on 10/6/22. This system is scheduled to connect to Sioux Rural Water system in the Fall of 2023. Craig Wagner moved for DANR to pursue enforcement. Chris Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Cottonwood Grove MHP - The system needs a Class I Water Distribution certificate. No exams have been taken by a representative of Cottonwood Grove MHP and no contract has been submitted. Chris Schmit moved for DANR to pursue enforcement. Dave Van Cleave seconded. Motion passed.

Preliminary Hearings:

No systems scheduled for preliminary hearings.

Contract Approvals: Hill reviewed each contract for the Board.

Agropur - Ryan Allen moved to approve the contract between Agropur and Organic Solution Management LLC. Dave Van Cleave seconded. Chris Schmit abstained. Motion passed.

Cedar Berry Canyon - Chris Schmit moved to approve the contract between Cedar Berry Canyon and Sage Water Works, Inc. Craig Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Golden Hills Water Association - Chris Schmit moved to approve the contract between Golden Hills Water Association and Sage Water Works, Inc. Craig Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Mountain Plains 2 HOA - Dave Van Cleave moved to approve the contract between Mountain Plains 2 HOA and Agar Enterprise. Chris Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Triple T/Rock Ridge Ct. - Craig Wagner moved to approve the contract between Triple T/Rock Ridge Ct. and Dakota Pump. Ryan Allen seconded. 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 Avon, De Smet, Eureka, Flandreau, Parkston, and Rushmore Candy. Chris Schmit moved to hold preliminary hearings for these systems at the next board meeting. Robin Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

Dupree - Has complied with SD's Operator Certification Laws and the enforcement case has been closed.

Fairburn Water - Enforcement action has been drafted and is in the routing process for approval.

High Country Water System - Enforcement action has been drafted and is in the routing process for approval.

Public Comment Period: This is now a requirement of public meetings as of legislative action.

Bill Thorson, Training Specialist, for the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) provided the Board with a review of in-person and on-line attendees for certification training classes that have been held since the last board meeting on September 13, 2022.

Bill Thorson also informed the Board Members that several operators have inquired if South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems could develop an Intermediate Wastewater Training Course. Current training courses for wastewater treatment are limited to Basic Wastewater Treatment and Advanced Wastewater Treatment. Bill Thorson indicated he would look into the development of an Intermediate Wastewater training class and the possibility of adding it to the training schedule and training contract with approval from the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR).

Other Business:

Chad Bachman with Brooking Municipal Utilities asked for clarification on 'plant maintenance' personnel being eligible to take operator certification exams. This has been addressed in previous meetings, with many of the Board Members recognizing that many 'plant maintenance' personnel may troubleshoot and maintain equipment but are not responsible for the finished product that is leaving a water or wastewater treatment facility. The Board Members suggested Mr. Bachman cross train their maintenance personnel to provide them with actual operational experience and track their operating hours.

Board Members Ryan Allen and Dave Van Cleave current terms expire on June 1, 2023. Each expressed the desire to renew their individual terms for an additional three years. A memorandum was submitted to Hunter Roberts, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture recommending renewing their individual terms. Secretary Roberts approved the recommendation to extend their terms for an additional three years to expire on June 1, 2026.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2023 @ 2:00 at the Spearfish Holiday Inn.

Chris Schmit moved for adjournment. Ryan Allen seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:16 PM.



Tammie Hill

May 18, 2023

Date