

**Unapproved Minutes  
Operator Certification Board Meeting  
April 14, 2020  
Meeting Held via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Chris Schmit, Dave VanCleave, Robin Bobzien, Craig Wagner, Bill Sarringar, Ryan Allen

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Rob Kittay-Secretary to the Board; Jim Zeck-SDARWS; Deb Houseman-Lake Andes; Lisa Byer-Ramona; Joe Stonesifer, Toby Huisenga, Dustin Preheim-Harrisburg; and Mark Mayer-DENR

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

**Approval of Agenda:** An agenda had been sent previously. VanCleave moved to approve the amended agenda. Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

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

**Old Business:** There was no Old Business.

**Reciprocity:** Lloyd Green-He has WW Treatment Grade II, Water Distribution Grade D3, and a Water Treatment Grade T3 certificates from California. All of these certificates require two years of experience and high school graduation. VanCleave moved to grant Class II WT, WD, and WW certificates from SD. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Courtney Leising-She has a WW Treatment Grade I certificate from California. This certificate requires one year of experience and high school graduation. VanCleave moved to grant Class I WW certificate from SD. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Tom Lamars-He has a WW Operator Certificate-Advanced from Wisconsin. WI does not have an education requirement for this certificate. SD has an education requirement for every certificate. ARSD 74:21:02:56 states-

**Agreements for reciprocal certification.** Certificates of an equivalent grade may be issued, without examination, to any person who holds a certificate in any state, territory, possession of the United States, or any foreign country, or from the Association of Boards of Certification **provided that the education and experience requirements for taking an exam and certification of operators under which the person's certificate was issued do not conflict with the provisions of SDCL 34A-3 and are of a standard not lower than those in this article** and that reciprocal privileges are granted to South Dakota certified operators by the Association of Boards of Certification, state, territory, possession, or country.

Allen moved that no certificate be granted as WI's requirements are lower than SD's. Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

Billy Hebert-He holds a Virginia Waterworks Operator License Class 1. Virginia does not grant reciprocity to other states' operators. Again referring to ARSD-

**Agreements for reciprocal certification.** Certificates of an equivalent grade may be issued, without examination, to any person who holds a certificate in any state, territory, possession of the United States, or any foreign country, or from the Association of Boards of Certification provided that the education and experience requirements for taking an exam and certification of operators under which the person's certificate was issued do not conflict with the provisions of SDCL 34A-3 and are of a standard not lower than those in this article and **that reciprocal privileges are granted to South Dakota certified operators by the Association of Boards of Certification, state, territory, possession, or country.**

VanCleave moved that no certificate be granted as VA does not grant reciprocity. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Richard Morris-He has a WW Treatment Class C and a Water Treatment Class C Surface Water certificate from Texas. Both of these certificates require two years of experience and high school graduation. VanCleave moved to grant Class II WT and WW certificates from SD. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Kyle Ramynke-MN PCA never responded to our request for info on this certificate so the Board could not act. This case will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Kittay mentioned that he had received a reciprocity application from Tim Bron. His certificate from Wisconsin had expired in 2006 and could not be transferred. He also had a certificate from Illinois but that certificate was obtained thru reciprocity.

**Final Hearings:** Ramona-The city needs a SWT I and WD I operator. No exams have been taken by Paul Fischer. He was a "no show" for the July 11, 2019 exams in Huron. A contract was finalized today and will be submitted to DENR. No action was taken.

**Preliminary Hearings:** Bicentennial TC-The water system is lacking a Class I WD certificate. No exams have been attempted. A contract has been submitted.

Lake Andes-The system is lacking Class I WD and Class I WW certificates. Tim Medicine Horn passed the Class I WWC exam on December 5, 2019. He has also failed the Class I SP exam on December 5 (58%) and the Class I WD exam on February 27, 2020 (63%). He also did not show up on one occasion. He also had two exams lost in December 2018 when the USPS lost a package of exams being sent to ABC. Deb Houseman spoke on behalf of Lake Andes. Contracts w/ Randall RWS or Pickstown are possible. VanCleave moved to hold a final hearing at next Board Meeting. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Tulare- The water system is lacking a Class I WD certificate. The city has submitted a contract.

**Contract Approvals:** Kittay reviewed each contract for the Board.

Spearfish Valley Mobile Estates/Frank Karas-Wagner moved to approve this contract. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Elkhorn Ridge/Sage Water Works-Wagner moved to approve this contract. Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

D&E Water/Dakota Pump- VanCleave moved to approve this contract. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Cedar Gulch I/Jonathan Ambrose-Bobzien moved to approve this contract. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Bestgen Water/Sage Water Works-Wagner moved to approve this contract. VanCleave seconded. Motion passed.

Spring Creek Ranch/Kyte Enterprises and Bicentennial TC/Kyte Enterprises-Wagner moved to approve these contracts. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Agropur/HOH Water Technologies- VanCleave moved to approve this contract. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Tulare/Curt Dykstra-Bobzien moved to approve this contract. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Country Club Estates-Hot Springs/Mark Frevert-It should be noted that Frevert has a WD I certificate only. The water system will still be out of compliance w/ the approval of this contract. Schmit moved to approve this contract. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

**Exam Eligibility-Harrisburg:** Personnel from Harrisburg joined the meeting to determine eligibility to take the Class III WW exam for their new plant. The background is that Harrisburg is building a new wastewater plant that is going to be a Class III. They currently have stabilization ponds for wastewater treatment. They are a Class I system. To be eligible to take a Class III exam, an operator must have some experience at a Class II or higher plant which right now none of their operators have.

The requirements for a Class III exam are-

*Completion of two years of college or vocational school majoring in engineering, environmental sciences, or related fields and four years of experience including at least two years of experience in a Class II or higher facility.*

OR

*Graduation from high school and six years of experience including at least three years of experience at a Class II plant or higher.*

Harrisburg wants Dustin Preheim to be eligible to take the Class III exam ASAP. When they submitted an application, Kittay determined that a degree in Landscape Design is not "engineering, environmental sciences, or related fields" so that Preheim would have to wait three years until he could be certified as a Class III under the 2<sup>nd</sup> scenario above. Their argument is Landscape Design is a related field, and he should be eligible to be certified as a Class III in two years under the 1<sup>st</sup> scenario above. Bobzien moved to allow Landscape Design to be designated "as a related field". Allen seconded. Kittay indicated experience would start when major construction of the system began. Motion passed.

**Status of Certification:** The Board reviewed the latest status information on systems without certified operators. Kittay updated the Board.

Schmit moved that the following systems have a preliminary hearing at the next board meeting-

<b>System</b>	<b>Lacking Certifications</b>
Colome	SWT I/WD I
DemKota Ranch Beef	WW II
Emery	WD I
Klein School	SWT I
Sunshine Bible	WD I
Timberland Park-Yankton	WD I
Whispering Winds Cottages	SWT I

Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

**Status of OpCert Exams/Training During Pandemic:** Kittay has obtained a number of test dates in Pierre in June and July to perhaps offer exams if conditions warrant. He also has developed some alternate exam proceedings as follows-

- Probably no more than 10 examinees for a session at least in beginning using Matthew Center
- Assuming a 1:00 start w/ instructions/etc. starting at 12:45
- In confirmation email, examinees will be told to stay outside of bldg. until 12:40
- Arrange tables in two columns of five tables each w/ chairs situated so that social distance is provided between examinees
- Proctor will arrive before anyone else enters test room/wipe off tables
- Examinees will then enter room one by one and be assigned a table or exams will already be placed and examinees will be shown to correct seat
- Instead of one table for proctor, an extra table will be put in front of the regular table to provide a buffer zone between the examinees and proctor
- Pencils/calculators/pencil sharpeners will not be provided. Examinees must bring their own
- No receipts/exam applications/schedules will be available. Applications/schedules are on-line. If anyone wants a receipt, they can email DENR after exams.
- Proctor will hand out exams by reading off their name and exams will be put on buffer zone table for them to pick up maintaining social distance from proctor or exams will have already been placed at tables prior to the seating of examinees
- When they are done w/ exam, they come up to front and hold up their exam booklet and answer sheet so proctor can see which exam they took to be sure codes on answer sheet are correct. After proctor gives OK, they will put answer sheet inside booklet and leave on buffer zone table.
- Further exams will just be placed on each other by examinees---Proctor won't touch each individual exam.
- After all exams are handed in, w/ gloves, proctor will sort out exams and work on ABC summary sheet. After this is all done, exams/answer sheets/summary are all placed in mailing box and it is sealed.
- Box is then mailed w/ no-one else being exposed to exams/etc.

- Any examinees showing any symptoms will not be allowed to take exam and anyone showing symptoms while taking exam will be told to leave w/ exam being confiscated.
- Have a bottle of hand sanitizer available

Zeck discussed training also. First on-line course went well. No technical problems were experienced. He discussed attendance issues and contact hours.

**Public Comment Period:** This is now a requirement of public meetings as of legislative action. There were no public comments.

**Other Business-**Van Cleave and Allen's terms on Board expire on June 1, 2020. VanCleave indicated at the last meeting that he would like to be reappointed. Allen also desired such.

**Next Meeting-**The next meeting will be in conjunction with the SDWWA Conference in Aberdeen and will be held at 2:00 pm on September 15, 2020 at the Aberdeen Ramkota.

Schmit moved for adjournment. VanCleave seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm.

*Rob Kittay*

April 15, 2020

---

Rob Kittay

---

Date