Unapproved Minutes
South Dakota Operator Certification Board Meeting
September 15, 2026
Ramkota Hotel – Aberdeen, SD

Members Present: Ryan Allen, Craig Wagner, Craig Mitchell, Jeremy Casteel

Members Absent: Bill Sarringar and Faculty Member-Vacant

Others Present: Tammie Hill – Secretary to the Board, Tim Donovan – SD Rural Water

Call to Order Allen (Chairman) at 2:16 pm.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from April 14, 2026, Board meeting minutes had been emailed previously to the Board members and available on the internet. Wagner moved to approve minutes from the last meeting. Seconded by Casteel. 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 July 1, 2026)* that was provided by the SD Attorney Generals' Office. All members present indicated they reviewed the document and are aware of the requirements. Mitchell motioned to acknowledge South Dakota's Open Meeting laws and requirements. Seconded by Casteel. Motion passed.

Contract Approvals: Hill reviewed each contract for the Board.

BHNF Campgrounds – Casteel moved to approve the contract between Red Ridge Adventure Hospitality, LLC and Dakota Pump for the BHNF campgrounds located in South Dakota only and regulated under the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Riverside Mobile Home Court – Allen moved to approve the contract between Riverside Mobile Home Court and Patt Hasson. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Hermosa – Wagner moved to approve the contract between Hermosa and Sage Water Works, Inc. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion passed.

Rebee Ranch Estates – Mitchell moved to approve the contract between Rebee Ranch Estates and Sage Water Works, Inc. Seconded by Allen Motion passed.

Preliminary Hearings:

Jobee Acres – Jobee Acres is required to have a Class I Water Distribution operator. No exams have been attempted. Casteel moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Vivos xPoint – Vivos xPoint is required to have a Class I Water Distribution operator. No exams have been attempted. Allen moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion passed.

Wessington Springs – Wessington Springs is required to have Class I Water Distribution, Class I Wastewater Collection, and Class I Wastewater Treatment operator. Current operator (Lambert) has passed the Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection exam. He is also scheduled to take the Class I Wastewater exam on September 24, 2026. Wagner moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Seconded by Casteel. Motion passed.

Final 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 has passed the Class I Small Water Treatment exam in Aberdeen in June 2026. The representative has not registered for the Class I Water Distribution exam. Mitchell motioned to refer Boulder Colony for further enforcement by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Seconded by Casteel. 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. Casteel motioned to refer North Hermosa Water Users District for further enforcement by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Seconded by Allen. Motion Passed

Reciprocity:

Tyler Clarke – Holds an Idaho Wastewater Treatment I certificate which requires a HS Diploma and 1600 hours of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class I Operator requirements. Wagner moved to grant a Class I Wastewater Treatment certificate. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion Passed.

Bobby Conerly – Holds an Alabama Wastewater Treatment Grade IV certificate which requires a HS Diploma and two years of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class II Operator requirements. Allen moved to grant a Class II Wastewater Treatment certificate. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion Passed.

Jadrien Irwin – Holds a Minnesota Wastewater Treatment Grade A certificate which requires a HS Diploma and eight years of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class IV Operator requirements. Wagner moved to grant a Class IV Wastewater Treatment certificate. Seconded by Allen. Motion Passed.

Luke Stock – Holds a Minnesota Water Supply certificate which requires a HS Diploma and one year of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class I Operator requirements. Minnesota's Water Supply certificate is issued to cover both water treatment and water distribution areas Applicant prefers to receive a Class I Water Treatment. Mitchell moved to grant a Class I Water Treatment certificate. Seconded by Casteel. Motion Passed.

Justin Von Diezelski – Holds a Florida Water Treatment Grade A certificate which requires a HS Diploma and five years of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class II Operator requirements. Mitchell moved to grant a Class II Water Treatment certificate. Seconded by Wagner. Motion Passed.

Roger Whittlesey – Holds an Arizona Wastewater Treatment Grade II certificate which requires a HS Diploma and one year of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class I Operator requirements. Casteel moved to grant a Class I Wastewater Treatment certificate. Seconded by Allen. 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 Central Meade School, DOT-Glacial Lakes, Horseshoe Acres, Water Association, Howard, and Worthing. Wagner 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 Casteel. Motion passed.

Tim Donovan of South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems provided a general update on their apprenticeship program and additional training that is being developed to provide an Intermediate Wastewater Treatment course to be held in the fall of 2027.

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: TBD

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.

Tammie Hill

9/17/2026

Tammie Hill

Date