

Unapproved Minutes
South Dakota Operator Certification Board Meeting
September 9, 2025
Matthew's Training Center - Pierre, SD

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tammie Hill - Secretary to the Board, Bill Thorson - Regal Systems

Call to Order Bill Sarringar (Chairman) at 2:00 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 Allen. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April 15, 2025, Board meeting minutes had been emailed previously to the Board members and available on the internet. Van Cleave moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Old Business: Hill provided the Board with the status of implementing a Computer Based Testing option for the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program. DANR has partnered with Water Professionals International (formerly ABC) and PSI to offer a new testing modality to South Dakota's water and wastewater operators, in addition to in-person testing at regularly scheduled exam sessions. The new testing modality is currently active and available to water and wastewater operators.

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.

Addie Camp - Allen moved to approve the contract between Addie Camp and Sage Water Works, Inc. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Angostura Reserve - Allen moved to approve the contract between Angostura Reserve and Sage Water Works, Inc. Seconded by Wagner. Motion passed.

Antelope Creek Ranch - Wagner moved to approve the contract between Antelope Creek Ranch and Sage Waterworks, Inc. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion passed.

Weston Heights - Wagner moved to approve the contract between Weston Heights and Sage Water Works, Inc. Seconded by Van Cleave. Motion passed.

KOA Hill City/Needles Hwy - Allen moved to approve the contract between KOA Hill City/Needles Hwy and Dakota Pump. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion passed.

Lewie's Burgers and Brews - Van Cleave moved to approve the contract between Lewie's Burgers and Brews and Kyte Enterprise. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion passed.

Powder House Pass - Schmit moved to approve the contract between Powder House Pass and Joe Barret. Seconded by Van Cleave. Motion passed.

Rock Ridge Court - Wagner moved to approve the contract between Rock Ridge Court (Yapsody Living Homeowner's Association) and Wright Well Service LLC. Seconded by Allen. Motion passed.

Preliminary Hearings:

Chamberlain - Chamberlain is required to have Class III Wastewater Treatment operator. A representative from the Chamberlain Wastewater facility has attempted to pass the exam multiple times without success. The City is looking at hiring a contract operator until a representative successfully passes the exam.

Henry - Henry is required to have a Class I Water Distribution operator. A representative recently attempted to pass the exam without success.

Hosmer - Hosmer is required to have Class I Water Distribution operator. A representative recently attempted to pass the exam without success.

Morristown - Morristown is required to have a Class I Water Treatment and Class I Water Distribution operator. The current operator(s) certificates are expired due to contact hours.

Final Hearings: None

Reciprocity:

Jon O'Brien - Holds an IA Grade 3 Water Treatment certificate which requires a high school diploma, two years of education, and four years of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class III Operator Requirements. Mr. O'Brien also holds an IA Grade 4 Water Distribution certificate which requires a high school diploma, four years of education, and four years of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class IV Operator Requirements. Mr. O'Brien also holds an IA Grade 2 Wastewater Certificate which requires a high school diploma and three years of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class II Operator Requirements. Wagner moved to grant a Class III Water Treatment certificate, Class IV Water Distribution certificate, and Class II Wastewater Treatment certificate. Van Cleave seconded. Motion Passed.

Ryan Wadsworth - Holds an IA Grade 1 Water Distribution certificate which requires a high school diploma and one year of experience. This aligns with South Dakota's Class I Operator Requirements. Van Cleave moved to grant a Class I Water Distribution certificate. Wagner 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 Alcester, Boulder Colony, Buffalo Gap, Canova, Happy Holiday Water Association, North Hermosa WUD, Horse Creek Resort, Pine Lake Hills, and Wind Cave NPS. Van Cleave 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. Mitchell seconded. 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: Schmit inquired if the South Dakota Water and Wastewater Operator Certification program had any legislative activity upcoming during the 2026 Legislative Session. Secretary Hill indicated that there is no activity pending or proposed at this time.

Next Meeting: TBD in April 2026, at the Matthew's Training Center in Pierre SD.

Van Cleave moved for adjournment. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM.



9/11/25

Tammie Hill

Date