

Unapproved Minutes
South Dakota Operator Certification Board Meeting
September 13, 2022
Sioux Falls - Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tammie Hill - Secretary to the Board, Bill Thorson (SDARWS), Mark Mayer (DANR - Drinking Water Program, Carol Stoterau - Valley View Estates, and Rob Kittay

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. Schmit moved to approve the agenda. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April 19, 2022, Board meeting had been emailed previously to the Board members and available on the internet. Schmit moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

Reciprocity:

Larry Olson - Has a Grade V Wastewater Treatment certificate from California. This certificate requires six years of work experience with high school graduation. This is comparable to South Dakota's requirement for a Class III Wastewater Treatment certificate. Schmit moved to grant a Class III Wastewater Treatment certificate from South Dakota. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

William Schwenk - Has a Grade 2A Wastewater Treatment certificate and a Grade 2B Water Treatment certificated from New York. Both certificates require one year of work experience with high school graduation. This is comparable to South Dakota's requirement for Class I certificates. Schmit moved to grant a Class I Wastewater Treatment and Class I Water Treatment certificates from South Dakota. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Jesse Banek - Has a Class IV Water Distribution certificate from Colorado. This certificate requires four years of work experience with high school graduation. This is comparable to South Dakota's requirement for a Class II Water Distribution certificate. Wagner moved to grant a Class II Water Distribution certificate from South Dakota. Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

Final Hearings:

Fairburn Water - The system needs a Water Distribution I certificate. No exams have been taken by any representative of Fairburn Water and no contract has been submitted. Schmit moved for DANR to pursue enforcement. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

High Country East/West - These systems need a Small Water Treatment certificate. Previously Craig Pitt indicated that they had a certified operator that would be taking samples. He failed the exam on March 2, 2022, with a 64% and has not taken any additional exams. No contract has been submitted. Schmit moved for DANR to pursue enforcement. Bobzien seconded. Motion passed.

Wessington - The system needs Water Distribution I certificate. Jim Hanks has failed the exam multiple times: 8/15/21-43%, 10/5/21-52%, 2/3/22-54%, 5/19/22-54%, 7/14/22-58%, and 8/18/22-60%. Wesley Gilbert, a new employee, failed the exam on 9/1/22-65%. Wessington's Finance Officer called and indicated that they were going to have Mid-Dakota RWS assist them over the next three months and if an exam is not passed during that time, they would look at a long-term contract with Mid-Dakota RWS, until a representative passes the required exam. Schmit moved for DANR to pursue enforcement. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Preliminary Hearings:

Castlewood - The system needs a Class I Water Treatment, Water Distribution, Wastewater Treatment or Stabilization Pond, and Wastewater Collection certificates. Marc Lewno has passed the Water Distribution I exam on 3/2/22, and the Wastewater Collection I exam on 8/4/22. He is scheduled to take the Stabilization Pond exam at the upcoming exam session on 10/6/22. Schmit moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Allen 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. Schmit moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Triple T/Rock Ridge Court - The system needs a Class I Water Distribution certificate. No exams have been taken and no contract submitted. Schmit moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Allen seconded. Motion passed.

Valley View Estates (Sioux Falls) - The system needs a Small Water Treatment and Class I Water Distribution certificates. Carol Stoterau has passed the Small Water Treatment exam on 4/7/22 and failed the Water Distribution I exam on 4/7/22-61%, 7/14/22-54%, and 8/18/22-62%. She is scheduled to take the Water Distribution I exam at the upcoming exam session on 10/6/22. Wagner moved to hold a final hearing at the next board meeting. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Contract Approvals: Hill reviewed each contract for the Board.

AR Ranch Estates - Schmit moved to approve the contract between AR Ranch Estates and Clearwater Consulting contingent upon Clearwater Consulting submitting a revised contract to clarify that staff will be on-site at minimum of once per week. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Spearfish Meadows - Wagner moved to approve the contract between Spearfish Meadows and Farmer's Supply LLC. Schmit seconded. Motion passed.

Big Pine Campground, Plains View Manor MHP, Spokane Creek Campground, Whispering Willows, Wheels West Campground - Allen moved to approve the contracts between the noted entities and Dakota Pump. Bobzien seconded. Motion Passed.

Midland - Schmit moved to approve the contract between Midland and the City of Philip. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Status of Certification: The Board reviewed the latest status information on systems without certified operators. Hill updated the Board on status and enforcement on Dupree. The next system for enforcement is Country Acres - Yankton. Schmit moved to hold a preliminary hearing at the next board meeting. Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion on Amending South Dakota Administrative Rules 74:21:02:43-46: Representatives from South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) submitted a proposal to change South Dakota's Administrative Rules regarding the eligibility qualifications for Class I - IV certification. No motion forthcoming.

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 held between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022, and July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022.

Mark Mayer, Administrator, for the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources - Drinking Water Program discussed his vision of developing a Certified Operator Pool to temporarily assist small water and wastewater systems that have lost their certified operator to resignation or retirement, and a mentorship program to provide guidance to newly hired operators. The Board requested Mark Mayer to submit additional information regarding the development of the two programs with actionable items.

Other Business: No other business.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2023 @ 2:00 PM - Matthew's Training Center

Schmit moved for adjournment. Wagner seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.



September 13, 2022

Tammie Hill

Date