



STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:
Thursday, December 15, 2022 At 10:00 A.M
Virtual Video Conference Meeting via Google Hangouts

MISSION OF THE MARYLAND BOARD OF WATERWORKS & WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS

The Treatment Systems that provide drinking water for our citizens and handle the wastes generated by our daily activities play an important role in protecting Public Health and the Environment of Maryland. Through the Certification Program established by State Law, the “Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators” sets the education, experience and examination standards for Operators and Superintendents who work in these vital systems.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jay Price	Sanitary Districts; Board Chair; CSAWWA Liaison
Vacant	County Governments; Board Vice-Chair
Doug Abbot	Water Supervision:
Ed Hogan	Industrial Superintendents
Bruce Darner	Agriculture; WWOA Liaison
Joseph Wright	Maryland Environmental Service
Hiram Tanner	Public-At-Large
Eric Dutrow	Public-At-Large
Connie Luffman	Wastewater Supervision

LIASONS, GUEST & STAFF PRESENT

Dee Settar	Board Secretary
Jennifer Bowman	Board Counsel
Pamela Franks	Board Staff
Martin Fuhr	Board Staff
Victoria Arbaugh	Board Staff
Tara Jones	Liaison - MCET
Scott Harmon	Liaison- MRWA
Bill Shreve	TRE Committee Liaison
Rob Harley	Operator Hazen & Sawyer / Ashburton & Montebello Plants

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Clark Howells	Municipal Governments; CWEA Liaison (excused absence)
Tony Sierra	Maryland Department of the Environment (excused absence)

01. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Jay Price called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Roll Call was done by Victoria Arbaugh, Board Staff. The Board meeting was conducted online using Google Meet.

02. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA

Board Members reviewed the December Draft Agenda. Ed Hogan moved to adopt the proposed meeting agenda with amendments. Doug Abbott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Jay Price abstaining.

03. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT NOVEMBER 17, 2022 OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Board members reviewed the draft minutes and made several changes. Bruce Darner made a motion to adopt the minutes with changes. Joe Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Jay Price abstaining.

04. BOARD CHAIR’S COMMENT & GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chair Jay Price opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and contributing to the work of the Board. He apologized for the weather-related schedule change. He wished everyone a happy holiday and a joyous new year. Mr. Rob Harley introduced himself and provided his background as a licensed Pennsylvania Operator currently working for Baltimore City. Dee added that she met Rob at the Ashburton Water Treatment Facility where they discussed the processes and potential for many improvements.

05. BOARD STAFF’S REPORTS

A. Revenue & Expenditures Update

Dee Settar presented the unreconciled cumulative revenue for 10/31/2022 and 11/30/2022. In addition, Dee provided the encumbrance as of 10/31/2022 at \$34,681.97 explaining that it included both ABC Exams and MCET Training expenses. She also provided the Fiscal Year Appropriations for the past four fiscal years. The Board had no questions or comments.

FY2023 Appropriations	\$250,711.00
FY2022 Appropriations	\$390,093.00
FY2021 Appropriations	\$286,702.00
FY2020 Appropriations	\$290,891.00
Unreconciled Cumulative Revenue as of October 31, 2022	\$60,875.00
Unreconciled Cumulative Expenses as of November 30, 2022	\$71,775.00
Encumbrance as of October 31, 2022	\$34,681.97

B. Board Initiatives & Inquiries

i. Board Vice Chair Nominations

Dee Settar called for nomination for the Assistant Board Chair positions and also asked members to recommend applications for the open county government board seat. She noted that the county position could be filled by either water or wastewater operators and by elected officials. Martin Fuhr briefed the Board on the fact that MDE has started sending certificates via email. Victoria Arbaugh noted that

ii. Board Secretary Position

Dee Settar advised the Board that this would be her last meeting as Board Secretary. She expressed her honor at being a member since 2014 and that she will remain committed to the Board's success even after her departure. She also noted that she will remain active and provide support during the transition period. All of the Board Members expressed their gratitude to Dee for her service and the many initiatives and upgrades she made during her tenure as Secretary. Both Bill Shreve and Jay Price also thanked her and expressed how impressed they were with the many technological advances that she was able to implement as Board Secretary. Several Board members concurred with the sentiment.

6. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Martin Fuhr presented three applications.

Rob Harvey

Martin presented the reciprocity application for Mr. Harvey who is an employee of Hazen & Sawyer currently working to assist Baltimore City to improve operations and continuity at both the Ashburton and Montebello Water Treatment Plants. He currently holds Pennsylvania's highest water operator certification and nearly all of the state's subclassifications. He presented his resume and a summation of his current duties providing emergency staffing for the city. Bill Shreve noted it was an impressive resume but asked that Martin confirm the scope of Mr. Harvey's pending employment and subsequent certification requirements for each Baltimore City location. Joe Wright added that the matter was urgent due to the City's extreme short staffing but that he would like to review the permit and operations at his last plant if possible. Mr. Harvey's application was approved via a motion by Doug Abbot and seconded by Ed Hogan and passed unanimously with the Board Chair abstaining.

Amanda Lo

Ms. Lo is requesting Education Substitution for her class 5A Wastewater Treatment operator certification. She is employed by the City of Aberdeen where she works as a lab tech and as an operator in their advanced treatment facility. Ms. Lo has taken and passed the Wastewater Treatment 5A examination, scoring 76%. The experience requirement for the Wastewater 5A operator certification is three years, or

5400 hours. Board Staff recommends that Ms. Lo be granted one year of education substitution towards the remaining time required for the Wastewater Treatment 5A Operator certification. This would make her eligible for full operator certification on November 1, 2023. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that she was eligible for the education credit. However, the Board also specified that she would need to log her hour specifically working in the operator capacity to obtain the remainder of the 5400 hours of experience to convert to a fully certified Operator. Bruce Darner made a motion to adopt the Board's recommendation as amended and Joe Wright second that motion. The motion passed unanimously with the Board Chair abstaining.

Nicholas Pietrefesa

Mr. Pietrefesa is employed by M&B Environmental in Harleysville, Pennsylvania as a project manager. and is requesting Maryland Wastewater 3 Certification. He wishes to operate the Wawa store on Churchville Road in Bel Air, Maryland. Board Staff has requested a drawing of the site Mr. Pietrefesa plans to operate, however given Mr. Pietrefesa's background in Wastewater treatment and the fact he has operated similar units at other Wawa sites, Board Staff has recommended granting his request. There a discussion and Bill Shreve and Doug Abbott both emphasized their concerns about reviewing the permit prior to making a determination. Joe Wright concurred advising that he had tried several time to access the permit and was unsuccessful in his attempts. Doug Abbott added that it appears to be a package groundwater discharge system but we need access to the permit to verify his educated hunch. It was determined that this application would be set aside for another month until access to the permit could be secured.

07. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Amendments CY 2023 Board Meeting Schedule

Dee asked members to review the proposed schedule for comment prior to a vote. A single change was made to move the in-person meeting from December to November of 2023. Bruce Darner made a motion to adopt the schedule with the amendment. Ed Hogan seconded the motion which passed unanimously with the Board Chair abstaining.

B. Exam Committee Update

The Committee is intersted in resvisiting the Wastewater 5A Exam. Jay Price specifically noted that this exam is longer and covers more information than most of the other certification exams. As a result, it requires more intensive training to bolster the passage rates. He noted that unlike other exmainations, even the short course does not seem to make a signifigant bump in the passage rate. It is simply not the tyoe of exam that can be passed even after a full week of cramming and intense study. Many board members concurred and the consesus was that Martin will investigate the costs to update the 5A exam. Once the cost is determined, the Board will determine whether the exam will be overhauled and if just the Exam Committee or the entire Board will review this particular exam. Bill Shreve added that he is willing to particpate in the development of a study guide to improve the passage rate. Bruce Darner commended the

idea and advised that he would take the prospect to WWOA to see if they were able to assist.

C. Vice Chair Election Results

Dee announced that all vote were received and that Doug Abbott was the new Vice Chair Elect. Dough thnak everyone for thier confidence in him and for the honor of being elected to the position. Dee cogratulated him and so did the rest of the board memebers.

07. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD LIAISONS AND GUESTS

Bruce Darnner (WWOA) – Advised that WWOA did not hold a December meeting but that the Western Section held a very successful training session on 12/6/2022 and there were over 25 operators in attendance. They also enrolled 9 new members and he thanked Eric Dutrow for getting the word out and bolstering interest and increasing the attendance to a great event. He also noted that several attendees also signed up to join the main body and that interest and engagement is on the rise. He closed by advising all in attendance, if you have not yet joined then please join. He would love to have your input and and expertise.

Scott Harmon for (MRWA) – Advised that MRWA has started an Energy Efficiency Program. Mr Dennis Bartholomew will be assisting small systems is saving money and becoming more eco-friendly. He added that he sat in on the Exam Committee’s recent review of the 5A Examination and only three (3) questions were changed for obscure wording. He emphasized that while difficult, the exam is both reasonable and passible as written. He emphasized that it required study and time to pass and was not an exam that operators could just wing or cram to pass.

Bill Shreve (TRE Committee) – Advised that TRE Committee will meet in January and noted that both MCET and WWOA have expressed interest in assisting the development of updated study guides since the current version is probably over 15 years old. oard that he appreciated the efforts of all who participated in a very successful Short Course and that he was soon headed to Florida for vacation. He also encouraged everyone to attend the National Conference Rural Water from September 26 through 29 of this year at the National Harbor.

Jay Price for (CWEA) – Advised that the Short Course was a success but that there were staffing and internet connectivity issues at the facility. He noted that attendees enjoyed the meter madness contest, water trivia and karaoke. He continued by advising that CWEA is offering 10 scholarships to the short course and asked those in attendance to spread the word to deserving small systems operators.

and hopes they can be resolved and the Short Course can return sometime in the future. Next year the Short Course will be held at Mt. St. Mary’s College. He also reminded everyone that Tri-Con is returning to Ocean City and it will be a great conference.

Jennifer Bowman (MDE) – Advised the Board that she will circulate Heather Barthel’s comments on proposed regulations. She also noted that several other environmental boards have a reciprocity spreadsheet reflecting the classes in neighboring states. Bill Shreve noted that there is a record kept by

Martin of historical decisions and other information. It is informally referred to as the Matrix. Jen advised that a historical record is a good tool but she wanted to develop a chart with up to date laws and classification from other states to assist in expediting reciprocity decisions. Scott Harmon advised that he has access to the governing law and regulations for all 50 states and will be happy to provide information as needed.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Bruce Darner moved to adjourn the open meeting. The next meeting will be held on **January 19, 2023**
Video Conference Meeting held via Google Meet.