

MINUTES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA WATER TREATMENT FACILITY OPERATORS CERTIFICATION BOARD

March 21, 2023

A meeting of the North Carolina Water Treatment Facility Operators Certification Board was called to order at 10:02 AM on March 21, 2023 by Sam Call, Chairman.

The following members and guests were present at the meeting:

Ann Wall	Rani Holland	Kim Greenwood	Sam Call
Orlando Coronell	La'Meshia Whittington		

Guests present at the meeting:

Stephen Denning	Jeff Talbott	Jay Frick	Heather Cagle
Alaina Strater	Alan Oldham	Victor Quick	Sarah Zambon
Chris Jones-Brown	Damon Young		

Sam Call read the Statement of Ethics and asked if anyone had any conflicts of interest with the day's agenda items. There were no mentioned conflicts.

The first item of board business was to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Ann Wall made a motion to accept the minutes. La'Meshia Whittington seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sam Call asked if there were any comments from the attending public. Stephen Denning introduced a new staff member, Chris Jones-Brown. Chris is currently training to take over as board secretary. Sam call introduced the newest member of the certification board, La'Meshia Whittington and then asked all the board members to go around and introduce themselves.

The next item of business was certification reinstatement requests.

The board received a letter from Joseph Blankenship requesting that he be able to obtain his C-Distribution certification again. Mr. Blankenship's C-Distribution expired in 2006. Staff recommended that Mr. Blankenship be allowed to obtain his certification again by paying two years of back fees, reattending the C-Distribution school, and taking and passing the C-Distribution exam. Ann Wall made the motion that Mr. Blankenship be allowed to obtain his certification again by paying two years of back fees, reattending the C-Distribution school, and taking and passing the C-Distribution exam. Kim Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board received a letter from Nathan Pendry requesting that he be able to obtain his C-Distribution certification again. Mr. Pendry's C-Distribution expired in 2020. Staff recommended that Mr. Pendry be allowed to obtain his certification again by paying two years of back fees and passing the exam again. Orlando Coronell made the motion that Mr. Pendry be allowed to obtain his certification again by paying two years of back fees and passing the exam again. Rani Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next item of business was ORC exception requests.

The board received a letter from Wagoner Porter requesting to be the ORC for the following systems:

CFPUA-Wilmington	0465010	A-Distribution	New Hanover Co.
CFPUA-Monterey Heights	0465137	B-Distribution	New Hanover Co.

Rani Holland made a motion that Mr. Porter be allowed to serve as the ORC for the requested systems. Kim Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board received a letter from Paul Isenhour requesting to be the ORC for the following systems:

Town of Seven Devils	0195118	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Town of Seven Devils	0195118	C-Distribution	Watauga Co.
Pebble Creek Apartments	0195127	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Appalcart Transit Facility	3095022	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Cove Creek Preservation & Devel.	0195424	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Smoketree Lodge	0195118	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Frontier Village 1 Well 1	0195145	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Frontier Village 1 Well 2	0195146	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Frontier Village 1 Well 4	0195148	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Frontier Village 2 Well 1	0195149	C-Well	Watauga Co.

Ann Wall made a motion that Mr. Isenhour be allowed to serve as the ORC for the requested systems. Orlando Coronell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board received a letter from Harold Shell requesting to be the ORC for the following systems:

Town of Banner Elk	0106015	C-Well	Avery Co.
Town of Banner Elk	0106015	B-Distribution	Avery Co.
Town of Newland	0106020	C-Well	Avery Co.
Town of Newland	0106020	B-Distribution	Avery Co.
Town of Crossnore	0106010	C-Well	Avery Co.
Town of Crossnore	0106010	C-Distribution	Avery Co.
Heritage of Sugar Mountain	0106121	C-Well	Avery Co.
Jonas Ridge Rest Home	0112149	C-Well	Burke Co.
Linville Heights	0106125	C-Well	Avery Co.
Grandfather Golf & Country Club	0106108	C-Well	Avery Co.
Grandfather Golf & Country Club	0106108	B-Distribution	Avery Co.
Mountain Spring Water System	0106114	C-Well	Avery Co.
Mountain Spring Water System	0106114	B-Distribution	Avery Co.
Grandfather Home For Children	0106422	C-Well	Avery Co.
Blue Ridge Village	0106116	C-Well	Avery Co.
Blue Ridge Village	0106116	B-Distribution	Avery Co.
Diamond Creek	1006002	C-Well	Avery Co.
Mill Ridge POA	0195115	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Mill Ridge POA	0195115	C-Distribution	Watauga Co.
Wildflower Well 1	0195151	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Frontier Village 2 Well 2	0195150	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Frontier Village 3 Well 1	0195158	C-Well	Watauga Co.

Orlando Coronell made a motion that Mr. Shell be allowed to serve as the ORC for the requested systems. Rani Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board received a letter from Jeremy Johnson requesting to be the ORC for the following systems:

Laurel Mountain Estates	0105107	C-Well	Ashe Co.
Laurelwood Development	0195137	D-Well	Watauga Co.
Samaritan's Purse Conference Center	3095018	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Blowing Rock Conference Center	0195566	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Blue Ridge Estates	3095004	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Mountain Pathways School and Annex	3095014	D-Well	Watauga Co.
Green Briar Apartments	0195160	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Bradford Park	0195106	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Valley View S/D	0195162	C-Well	Watauga Co.
Mount Vernon Baptist Church	3095006	C-Well	Watauga Co.

Kim Greenwood made a motion that Mr. Johnson be allowed to serve as the ORC for the requested systems. Ann Wall seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board received a letter from Lee T. Brown requesting to be the ORC for the following systems:

Town of Nashville	0464020	B-Distribution	Nash Co.
Town of Nashville	0464020	C-Well	Nash Co.
Town of Nashville	0464020	Cross-Connection	Nash Co.
Town of Selma	0351015	B-Well	Johnston Co.

Rani Holland made a motion that Mr. Brown be allowed to serve as the ORC for the requested systems. Orlando Coronell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next item of business was temporary certification requests.

There were none.

The next item of business was out-of-state requests.

The Board received an out-of-state application from Daniel Campbell requesting a surface certification. Mr. Campbell holds a Grade 4 Water Treatment Plant Operator license in Arizona and has 11 years of experience. Rani Holland recommended that Mr. Campbell be issued an A-Surface certification. Kim Greenwood made the motion that Mr. Campbell be issued an A-Surface certification. Ann Wall seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board received an out-of-state application from Willie Chaney requesting a well certification. Mr. Chaney holds a A-Water Treatment license in South Carolina and has 19 years of experience. Rani Holland recommended that Mr. Chaney be issued an A-Surface and an A-Distribution certification. Orlando Coronell made the motion that Mr. Chaney be issued an A-Surface and an A-Distribution certification. La'Meshia Whittington seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board received an out-of-state application from Robert Nichols requesting a well certification. Mr. Nichols holds a A-Water Treatment license in South Carolina and a Water Grade 4 oprator license in Alabama. He also has 16 years of experience. Rani Holland recommended that Mr. Nichols be issued an A-Well and an A-Surface certification. Kim Greenwood made the motion that Mr. Nichols be issued an A-Well and an A-Surface certification. Orlando Coronell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jeff Talbott let the board know about an inquiry that had been received from Damon Young regarding his desire to have reciprocity with North Carolina despite his previous out-of-state certifications being expired. Mr. Young previously worked in several different water treatment plants from April 2000 until October 2018 and held a class A Drinking Water

license in Pennsylvania with several subclass certifications. These certifications are now expired. Mr. Young requested to be able to sit for an advanced level of surface exam based on his experience and previous certifications. Rani Holland recommended that Mr. Young be allowed to sit for up to an A-Surface certification exam. Ann Wall made a motion that Mr. Young be allowed to sit for up to an A-Surface certification exam. La'Meshia Whittington seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next item of business was military training and experience requests.

The Board received a military reciprocity application from Joseph D Francom requesting a surface certification. Based on his military training and experience, Rani Holland recommended that Mr. Francom be allowed to sit for a C-Surface exam. Orlando Coronell made the motion that Mr. Francom be allowed to sit for a C-Surface exam. La'Meshia Whittington seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next item of business was other requests.

There were none.

The next item of business was classification of water treatment facilities.

There were none.

The next item on the agenda was Board Issues - Compliance.

There were no items.

The next item on the agenda was Board Issues – Rules

There were no items.

The next item of business was education.

The board asked Heather Cagle to speak to the board about the new regional certification schools they are offering in order for operators to have another option for certification schools. The regional schools use a combination of in-person learning and on-line training. Heather explained the model of learning, how it was developed, and how it had received positive feedback from many of those who have attended. Rani Holland made a motion to approve the hybrid model for certification schools. Orlando seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board reviewed the results from the February 21st and 23rd exams. There were no comments.

Sam Call asked for volunteers to proctor the May 25th, 2023 exams. Sam Call and La'Meshia Whittington volunteered to proctor the Hickory site. There were no volunteers to proctor the Raleigh site. There were no volunteers to proctor the Williamston site. Sam Call asked that staff contact the board members that were not in attendance to see if they would be available to proctor a site.

The next item of business was other.

Sam Call asked for any comments from the attending public. Jay Frick, Technical Services Branch Head announced that he would be retiring May 1st. He stated that his priorities over the next six weeks were to work on revisiting the penalty procedures for systems without operators and to revisit the points system for classifying treatment facilities. Jay urged any member that had any suggestions about what issues could be addressed before he retired, to bring them up at that time or to speak with him informally after the meeting.

Sam Call asked if there were any announcements or general discussion. There was neither.

Sam Call stated the next meeting date would be June 20, 2023.

Sam Call asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Orlando Coronell made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Wall seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:13 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Denning

Stephen Denning, Acting Board Secretary