

MINUTES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA WATER TREATMENT FACILITY OPERATORS CERTIFICATION BOARD

June 15, 2021

A meeting of the North Carolina Water Treatment Facility Operators Certification Board was called to order at 10:00 AM on June 15, 2021 by Jon Pons, 1st Vice-Chairman.

The following members and guests were present via the Webex meeting application:

Jon Pons	Orlando Coronell	Kim Greenwood	Ann Wall
Sarah Long	Tiffanie Hawley	Linda Raynor	

Guests Present via the Webex meeting application:

Stephen Denning	Steve Reid	Jennifer Gardner	Jonathan Himsworth
Heather Cagle	Allen Oldham	Jill Weese	Cheri Proctor
Amanda Berger	Mike Richardson	Daniel Wilson	

Jon Pons read the Statement of Ethics and asked if anyone had any conflicts of interest with the day’s agenda items. Tiffanie Hawley stated she had a conflict of interest with the Out-of-State application for Christopher Giesting and with the revised class schedules presented by NCWOA. Ms. Hawley stated she would recuse herself from those items.

The first item of board business was to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Jon Pons called for a motion to accept the minutes. Ann Wall made a motion to accept the minutes and Orlando Coronell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jon Pons asked if there were any comments from the attending public. There were no comments.

The next item of business was certification reinstatement requests.

The board received a letter from Tommy Blackwell requesting that he be able to obtain his C-Distribution certification again. Mr. Blackwell’s C-Distribution certification expired in 2014. Ann Wall made the motion that Mr. Blackwell be allowed to sit for the C-Distribution exam again within one year after paying \$120 in back fees and repeating the C-Distribution school. Orlando Coronell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board received a letter from James Brown requesting that he be able to obtain his C-Well and B-Distribution certifications again. Mr. Brown’s certifications expired in 2017. Orlando Coronell made the motion that Mr. Brown be allowed to sit for the C-Well exam again within one year after paying \$120 in back fees for that certification. Linda Raynor seconded the motion. The motion passed. Orlando Coronell also made the motion that Mr. Brown be allowed to sit for the B-Distribution exam again within one year after paying \$120 in back fees for that certification and re-attending the B-Distribution school. Tiffanie Hawley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board received a letter from Nick Seeba requesting that he be able to obtain his B-Distribution certification again. Mr. Seeba’s B-Distribution certification expired in 2018. Tiffanie Hawley made the motion that Mr. Seeba be allowed to sit for the B-Distribution exam again within one year after paying \$120 in back fees. Ann Wall seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board received a letter from James Aaron Miller requesting that he be able to obtain his B-Surface certification again. Mr. Miller’s B-Surface certification expired in 2008. Tiffanie Hawley made the motion that Mr. Miller be allowed to sit for the B-Surface exam again within one year after paying \$120 in back fees and repeating the B-Surface school. Orlando Coronell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The board reviewed a tabled request from the March 16, 2021 board meeting. Stephen Denning of the Certification Board staff had previously requested that the staff be given authority to issue decisions regarding certification reinstatement requests. Jill Weese provided information that indicated that the authority to make decisions on those request must remain with the Certification Board and that her office would not recommend that the authority be given.

The next item of business was ORC exception requests.

The board received a letter from Carley White requesting to be the ORC for the following systems:

Asheboro Country Club Estates	3076008	C-Well	Randolph Co.
Carriage Way No 1	3041045	C-Well	Guilford Co.
Spencer's Grove	3041015	C-Well	Guilford Co.
Ashcroft Park S/D	3041103	C-Well	Alamance Co.
Rachel's Landing	3041060	C-Well	Guilford Co.
Kensington Place S/D	3041085	C-Well	Guilford Co.
Autumn Ridge	3041109	C-Well	Guilford Co.
Bank of Oak Ridge Operations	3041084	D-Well	Guilford Co.
Thatcher Woods	3041113		Guilford Co.
Carriage Cove S/D	3041111		Guilford Co.
Dogwood Acres MH S/D	0279153	C-Well	Rockingham Co.
Weatherstone at Olde Forest S/D	3041022	C-Well	Guilford Co.
Shiloh Subdivision	3041104	C-Well	Guilford Co.
Knight's Landing S/D	3041101	C-Well	Guilford Co

Ann Wall made a motion that Ms. White be allowed to serve as the ORC for the requested systems. Tiffanie Hawley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next request was for the board to review Aqua NC's bi-annual spreadsheet. Amanda Berger was in attendance to answer any questions. There was no action needed on this item.

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

The Board received a tabled out-of-state application from Walter Roy Hall requesting permission to take a distribution exam. Mr. Hall holds Water Distribution Operator "B" license in South Carolina, and has 5 years of experience. Mr. Hall submitted additional information verifying his distribution experience to address concerns that board members had at the March 16, 2021 meeting. Sam Call recommended, by e-mail to Jon Pons, that Mr. Hall be allowed to take up to the B-Distribution exam. Tiffanie Hawley made the motion that Mr. Hall be allowed to take up to a B-Distribution exam. Orlando Coronell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board received an out-of-state application from Christopher Giesting requesting permission to take a surface and a well exam. Mr. Giesting holds a class 4 water treatment plant operator 4 license in Washington and has 13 years of experience. Sam Call recommended, by e-mail to Jon Pons, that Mr. Giesting be allowed to take up to an A-Surface exam and a C-Well exam. Ann Wall made the motion that that Mr. Giesting be allowed to take up to an A-Surface exam and a C-Well exam. Kim Greenwood seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board received an out-of-state application from Sarah Elizabeth McAvoy requesting permission to take a distribution exam. Ms. McAvoy holds a water distribution license in Georgia and has 7 years of experience. Sam Call recommended, by e-mail to Jon Pons, that Ms. McAvoy be allowed to take up to a B-Distribution exam. Tiffanie Hawley made the motion that Ms. McAvoy be allowed to take up to a B-Distribution exam. Linda Raynor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next item of business was temporary certification requests.

The board received a request for temporary certification from Michael Weir of Davie County. Mr. Weir was requesting an A-Surface Temporary license for Mr. Steven Corriher in order to help give relief to shift operators that have been working long hours at the water plant. Mr. Corriher was previously certified, but currently his A-Surface certification is expired. Tiffanie Hawley made the motion that Mr. Corriher be granted the A-Surface Temporary license. Orlando Coronell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

There were none.

The next item of business was other requests.

There were none.

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

The Wilmington regional office submitted a classification form for the Wilmington Clinic Water System classifying it as a C-Surface and C-Distribution system. The board staff stated that they did not agree with the classification because it was not a surface water plant, but a distribution system with supplemental treatment. Board staff stated that if the system was classified as a C-Surface system, then the system would be required to have a C-Surface operator as ORC and not the ability to choose between a well or surface operator as provided for in the board's policy on supplemental treatment operators (6/6/12). Board staff recommended that the system classification form be revisited in order to provide for proper documentation of supplemental treatment without the form appearing to require a particular type of treatment operator. Tiffanie Hawley made a motion to table the item until the September meeting. Ann Wall seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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 reviewed the results from the May 27th exams. There were no comments regarding the results.

Jon Pons asked for volunteers to proctor the August 26, 2021 exams. Jon volunteered to proctor the Hickory site. Tiffanie Hawley, Orlando Coronell, and Kim Greenwood volunteered to proctor the Raleigh site. Stephen Denning of the board staff stated that sites were still being researched for the Eastern NC site, but there would not be enough staff to man all three sites until the first of 2022 at the earliest.

Heather Cagle submitted a revised schedule of classes for well and surface certification schools. Some of the individual class lengths were shortened or lengthened, but the overall school hours remained the same. Linda Raynor noticed a few of the reference books for the rules categories were incorrect and needed to be fixed before being distributed. No board action was needed on this item.

Pat Irwin, chair of the NCWOA Board of Examiners, submitted a revised Needs to Know document for well and surface examinees. The document was streamlined in an attempt to make it easier for operators to understand at a glance. No board action was needed on this item.

At the March 16, 2021 meeting, Tiffanie Hawley had requested an agenda item to allow virtual schools and training to be made a permanent option. Jon Pons made a motion to table the discussion in order to give the training providers a

chance to submit reports before the June meeting in order to provide the board with more information about the virtual training option. Jon Pons revisited this item and asked for further discussion. The board members were e-mailed comments from training organizations and members of the operator community who all had positive comments regarding virtual training. Ann Wall made a motion to make virtual training and schools a permanent option. Sarah Long seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next item of business was other.

There were no items.

Sam Call asked for any comments from the attending public. There were no comments.

Sam Call asked if there were any announcements or general discussion. Steve Reid introduced Jennifer Gardner as a returning staff member that would be taking over as the board secretary. Jennifer is taking over from Stephen Denning who has served as board secretary for 13 years. Stephen will be helping Jennifer during the transition process.

Jon Pons stated the next meeting date would be September 21, 2021.

Jon Pons asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tiffanie Hawley made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Raynor seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:38 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Denning".

Stephen Denning, Board Secretary