

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

DRAFT MINUTES

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM OPERATORS CERTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 4, 2022

Archdale Building, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Raleigh NC

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission was called to order at 10:00 AM, with Chairman W. Corey Basinger presiding. The following persons were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Mr. W. Corey Basinger
Mr. Chester Lowder
Ms. Martie Groome
Ms. Marchell Adams-David (On Phone)
Dr. Bob Rubin
Mr. Jonathan Russell (On Phone)
Mr. Ken Stines
Mr. Steve Barry
Mr. Jim Lynch

STAFF

Mr. Jeff Talbott
Ms. Maureen Kinney
Mr. Patrick Beggs
Ms. Jenee Williamston

GUESTS

Christine Ryan, NCDOJ
Cheri Proctor, NC RWA
Chris White, NC One Water, WWBOEE
Erin Gallimore, EG Worldwide
Jimmie Holland, EG Worldwide, McKim & Creed

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Call to Order – Chairman Basinger

Notice of North Carolina State Government Ethics Act Requirements

None

Revisions or Additions to Agenda

None

Review and Approval of Minutes for August 12, 2022 Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Vice-Chairman Lowder

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dr. Rubin

The vote was unanimous.

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ACTION ITEMS

#221101 Training Provider – Jimmy Holland/Erin Gallimore, EG Worldwide LLC (WW-II Certification School)

At the August 12, 2022, meeting of this Commission a request was made by Erin Gallimore with EG Worldwide LLC for approval to provide WW-II certification schools. The Action Item No. for that request was: 220801. Her request for approval was denied based on a precedent set requiring an applicant that wishes to be an approved provider of a wastewater certification school possess the appropriate level of certification. Ms. Gallimore, as the applicant did not possess a WW-II certification and her request was subsequently denied.

Ms. Gallimore has since partnered with Jimmy Holland, a NC WW-IV and Spray Irrigation certified operator and Professional Engineer. Ms. Gallimore and Mr. Holland have restructured how a WW-II certification school would be offered and administered honoring the precedent set by this Commission.

Mr. Holland will be the school administrator and on-site for the duration of each school. Ms. Gallimore will also be on-site to assist and instruct at all schools. Should Mr. Holland not be on-site there will be at least 2 WW-IV certified operators on-site and ready to step in to administer the course and provide coverage.

**Motion to approve Action Item #221101 was made by Commissioner Stines
Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dr. Rubin
The vote was unanimous.**

#221102 Requests for Reciprocal NC Wastewater Certification:

Candidates 1 – 6 possess wastewater/biological certifications in SC so I grouped them together. SC administers ABC exams for their wastewater operators at each level D, C, B, and A; A being the highest - which are equivalent to NC's I, II, III and IV. SC wastewater operators that possess active biological certifications meet 1 of the 2 requirements to receive a reciprocal certification in NC without an examination. Each applicant must also meet all other requirements of the NC eligibility rules.

#221103 Candidate #1 WW-II SC (D,C,B,A) ABC

Candidate #1 has a SC-B certification, equivalent to NC's WW-III. This applicant has applied for a NC WW-II certification and the experience details provided are appropriate for certification at the level requested.

Staff recommends approval for a NC WW-II certification, without exam.

**Motion to approve staff recommendation for Action Item #221103 was made by Commissioner Groome
Motion was seconded by Commissioner Barry
The vote was unanimous.**

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#221104 - #221108 Candidates #2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

#221104: Candidate #2 has a SC-A certification, equivalent to NC's WW-IV. This applicant has applied for a NC WW-IV certification and the experience details provided are appropriate for certification at the level requested.

Staff recommends approval for a NC WW-IV certification, without exam.

221105: Candidate #3 has a SC-B certification, equivalent to NC's WW-III. This applicant has applied for a NC WW-III certification and the experience details provided are appropriate for certification at the level requested.

Staff recommends approval for a NC WW-III certification, without exam.

221106: Candidate #4 has a SC-A and a GA-1 biological certification, both equivalent to NC's WW-IV. Both are the highest-level biological certification in each state. This applicant has applied for a NC WW-IV certification and the experience details provided are appropriate for certification at the level requested.

Staff recommends approval for a NC WW-IV certification, without exam.

221107: Candidate #5 has a SC-A and an AL-III biological certification, the SC-A is equivalent to NC's WW-IV, the AL-III certification is equivalent to NC's WW-III. This applicant has applied for a NC WW-IV certification and the experience details provided are appropriate for certification at the level requested.

Staff recommends approval for a NC WW-IV certification, without exam.

221108: Candidate #6 has a SC-C and a FL-C biological certification, both are equivalent to NC's WW-II. This applicant has applied for a NC WW-II certification and the experience details provided are appropriate for certification at the level requested.

Staff recommends approval for a NC WW-II certification, without exam.

Motion to approve staff recommendation for Action Items #221104-221108 was made by Commissioner Stines

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dr. Rubin

The vote was unanimous.

#221109 Candidate #7 WW-II FL (D,C,B,A) State Developed

Candidate #7 has a FL-C certification, equivalent to NC's WW-II. This applicant has applied for a NC WW-II certification and the experience details provided are appropriate for certification at the level requested. Florida's Dept. of Environmental Protection confirmed that their certification exam was not developed by or administered by ABC so this applicant would be required to sit for a NC certification exam.

Staff recommends approval to sit for the NC WW-II exam.

Motion to approve staff recommendation for Action Item #221109 was made by Commissioner Stines

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams-David

The vote was unanimous.

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#221110 2023 WPCSOCC Quarterly Meetings: **Feb 10 – May 12 – August 11 - Nov 3**
Motion to approve quarterly meeting dates was made by Vice-Chairman Lowder
Motion was seconded by Commissioner Barry
The vote was unanimous.

#221111 2023 WPCSOCC Exam Dates: **March 9 - June 8 - Sept. 14 - Dec. 14**
Chairman discussed the challenges experienced during COVID-19 regarding venue restrictions. There was also an official request made to start a new exam site in the west (Asheville). May discuss this at the February meeting.

Motion to approve 2023 exam dates was made by Commissioner Dr. Rubin
Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lynch
The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2211 – A September 2022 Exam Pass Rates

The WW2 exam percentage pass rate were significantly lower than normal. In March it was 50%, in June 59% and in September it plummeted to on 29%. Historical pass rates have not changed all year and remain consistent. There were 2 ADA accommodations.

Exam Review Attendance %

- Raleigh 17%
- Newton 11%
- Williamston 36%
- Kenansville 28%
- Salisbury 24%

Commission wants to develop a report in BIMS to show what provider an operator used.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Rubin to approve for Chairman to draft a letter to send to trainers soliciting input on how to improve certification training
Motion was seconded by Commissioner Barry
The vote was unanimous.

2211 – B 2022 Wilbur E. Long Operator of the Year Award: No nominations received

Commissioner Stines suggest we reach out to the nominee from last year.

2211 – C Collections Needs to Know Committee

Commissioner Stines sent out the proposed “Needs to Know” that was developed and finished in 2017 and has yet to receive any feedback. Has tried to put a team together with not a lot of success. He is the only member left who has not retired. The new “Needs to Know” is an outline talking about different processes and what they need to be familiar with. The intent is to get it developed and accepted and then send to the schools committee, and then they would develop a curriculum around it. It would then go out for sample questions to be developed.

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CONCLUDING REMARKS

Chairman

Subcommittee met a week ago about the animal facilities general permit. They are in the process of obtaining some additional information and hope to have more to report by February.

Vice Chairman

None

Commission Members

None

Counsel

None

Staff

None

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting of the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2023, at 10:00AM in the Ground Floor Hearing (Archdale Building - Raleigh NC).

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Dr. Rubin

Motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Lowder

The vote was unanimous.