

# North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

## DRAFT MINUTES

### WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM OPERATORS CERTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

**February 10, 2023**

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  
Dr. Bob Rubin

Mr. Jonathan Russell  
Mr. Ken Stines  
Mr. Steve Barry  
Mr. Jim Lynch  
Mr. Matthew Haynes (on the phone)  
Mr. Arnold Allred

#### GUESTS

Christine Ryan, NCDQJ  
Keith Barringer, NCRWA

#### STAFF

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

#### 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 November 4, 2022 Quarterly Meeting**

- Motion to approve was made by Vice Chairman Lowder
- Motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams-David
- The vote was unanimous.

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## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **#230201 New Exam Venue in Western NC**

- Commissioner Stines was able to secure two locations. The MSD old admin building and Haywood Community College.
- Motion to approve Haywood CC as a new exam location to start in June 2023 by Commissioner Stines.
- Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dr. Rubin.
- The vote was unanimous.

### **#230202 New Biogas/Animal Digester – Certification of Operators?**

- The subcommittee has nothing to report at this time and will be seeking stakeholder input. The Chair hopes to have an update by the May 2023 meeting.

### **#230203 City of Belmont ORC**

- *Permittee is requesting relief of 15A NCAC 02H .0124 (4) by hoping to illustrate that continuous staffing with at least one certified operator is not necessary for reliable operation of the Belmont facility.*
- *Permittee states the plant has a telemetry system that monitors the influent pH, effluent pH, and effluent chlorine, all of which are viewable remotely with an internet connection. There is an additional monitoring system indicating the status of the bar screen and grit chamber.*
- *The City of Belmont WWTP has live cameras and secured entrances where guests must check in with staff to enter.*
- *Each week, an operator is on call from 4pm to 7am to assist with operations. Maintenance technicians are also available 24/7 for plant or lift station maintenance concerns.*
- *If granted relief, the plant will still be staffed continuously with trained personnel who will be working toward their necessary certifications. Any personnel on shift without a certified operator will be properly trained for at least two months before working such a shift.*
- *The ORC/BORC have not physically needed to report to the plant due to an emergency since January 2021, however both receive calls with questions or concerns from operators and most are handled via the call.*
- Motion to decline request put forth by Commissioner Stines.
- The Commission additionally requested further clarifying information about the City of Belmont's ability to reliably operate without a certified operator on site 24/7.
- Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lynch.
- The vote was unanimous.

### **#230204 Reciprocal NC Wastewater Certification requests:**

#### **#230205 Candidate #1 WW-II SC (D,C,B,A) ABC**

- Motion to sit for WW2 denied with approval to grant WW1 by Commissioner Stines.
- Motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams-David.
- The vote was unanimous.

#### **#230206 Candidate #2 WW-II NY (2A) ABC**

- Motion to approve staff recommendation by Commissioner Adams-David.
- Motion was seconded by Commissioner Russell.
- The vote was unanimous.

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### #230207 Candidate #3 PC-II SC "A" ABC

- Motion to approve staff recommendation by Commissioner Dr. Rubin.
- Motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams-David.
- The vote was unanimous.

### #230208 Candidate #4 WW-IV NY (4A) ABC

- Motion to approve staff recommendation by Commissioner Stines.
- Motion was seconded by Commissioner Allred.
- The vote was unanimous.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### **2302 – A December 2022 Exam Pass Rates & 2022 Pass Rate Summary**

*There were a total of 664 exams in December with 2 ADA accommodations. And there were 2165 exams taken in 2022, with a 65% pass rate.*

### **2302 – B Collections Needs to Know Committee Update**

*Sent out old and new documents with minimum responses back. Mr. Stines suggests we send the document back to TACU and invite NCWRA, NC One Water, and other players. He'll take the document, refine it, and send it to the school committee to let them develop a school curriculum around this.*

### **2302 – C Patrick Beggs Operator Map Demonstration**

*This could be a great tool for people looking for operators.*

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

### **Chairman**

*Formally welcome new counsel Christine Ryan*

### **Vice Chairman**

*None*

### **Commission Members**

*Commissioner Barry states that Subsurface rules are getting close to finalizing and hopes to have more information at the next meeting.*

### **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, May 12, 2023, at 10:00AM in the Ground Floor Hearing (Archdale Building - Raleigh NC).

## MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Rubin**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lynch**

**The vote was unanimous.**