

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

DRAFT MINUTES

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM OPERATORS CERTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

August 11, 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. Marchell Adams-David (Teams)
Dr. Bob Rubin

Mr. Jonathan Russell (Teams)
Mr. Ken Stines (Via Teams)
Mr. Steve Barry
Mr. Jim Lynch
Mr. Matthew Haynes
Mr. Arnold Allred

GUESTS

Christine Ryan, NCDOJ
Carolyn Bynum, NCRWA
Trish Angoli DHHS
Doug Lassiter, NCSTA
Alan Oldham, NCRWA
Bill Toole, Secretary of the State

STAFF

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

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 May 12, 2023, Quarterly Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Vice Chairman Lowder

Motion was seconded by commissioner Russell

The vote was unanimous.

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Oath of Office by Bill Toole, Deputy Secretary of the State of North Carolina: **Jim Lynch, Arnold Allred, Matthew Haynes**

ACTION ITEMS REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL OF:

#230801 Approval of Animal Waste Biogas Digester Needs-to-Know Document

Dr. Rubin shared that they compiled data from other states and came up with about 6hrs worth of training which would include animal waste operator training for those who are operating animal waste digesters. The full course materials should be available in about a month or two. They will start with training extension agents in counties where they are hosting some of these digesters and make changes to training material as needed.

Motion to approve was made by commissioner Stines. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Lowder

The vote was unanimous.

Reciprocal Applications:

	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Certification Requested</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Exam Type</u>
#230802	Candidate #1	CS-II	TX (Collection II)	State

Did not sit for ABC exam.

Motion to approve to sit for CS2 exam was made by commissioner Stines. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes

The vote was unanimous.

#230803	Candidate #2	WW-IV	SC (D,C,B,A)	ABC
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Motion to approve WW4 certification made by commissioner Rubin. Motion was seconded by commissioner Allred.

The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2308 – A Op Cert Staff – Information on AW Fee Changes

The General Assembly passed session law 2023-63 with the goal was to align animal waste fees with wastewater fees. As a result, animal waste operator exam fees were increased to \$85. The renewal fee was increased from \$10 to \$25. Animal waste operators will now pay a late fee of \$50 if they miss the January deadline for renewals.

2308 – B Carolyn Bynum – NCRWA Workforce Development Coordinator – NCRWA Apprenticeship program: Creating a pipeline to the Next Generation of Water Industry Operators.

There will be 50% of operators retiring in the next 5 to 7 years. The NCRWA has developed a registered apprenticeship program to help address this issue. They are registered with the Federal Department of Labor and Apprenticeship program in NC to help train these new operators. This program helps utilities find talent that is truly interested in participating and working as an operator in a utility. There will be 4,000 hrs. of on-the-job training and 288 hrs. of related technical instruction. Each person will go through a vetting process to qualify and be placed with the system.

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2308 – C Trish Angoli – Environmental Engineer with the On-Site Water Protection Branch, Environmental Health Section, DHHS – New on-site wastewater rules and potential future issues.

Rule 15A NCAC 18E will replace the 1900 rules 15A NCAC 18A.

Changes have been made to 18E by session law 2023-77, but 18E is still on track to become effective on January 1, 2024. This new rule updates the list of systems that require an operator to better reflect the current systems that are in use within North Carolina. They removed some duplicates of systems, and added systems that weren't previously listed. A rule devoted to management responsibilities was also added. Rule 1711 is another new Rule, which deals with provisional and innovative approval renewal. These systems cover anything that's not specifically listed in a rule. Manufacturers need to submit a very simple renewal form for these systems. As there are more operators going to the private sector, they want to be able to make sure it is in place to ultimately protect the homeowner, public health, and the environment.

2308 – D Jeff Talbott – Exam pass rates by year

A historical bar graph was provided showing the pass rates from 2018-2023 for each exam type.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Chairman

Commission is currently in the vetting process for a new chairperson by November. He also reflects on his time and addresses different relationships and experiences with commission members.

Vice Chairman

Thanks the Chairman for his service and his excellent leadership. He reads a letter from the commission and presents him with a plaque.

Commission Members

None

Counsel

None

Staff

Jeff Talbott thanks the Chairman for his service and wishes him the best in his next chapter. He also solicits the commission regarding help with the Salisbury exam in September.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting of the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2023, at 10:00AM in the Ground Floor Hearing (Archdale Building - Raleigh NC).

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Lowder

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Barry

The vote was unanimous.