

Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission NC Department of Environmental Quality

WPCSOCC Meeting Summary – May 10, 2024

Archdale Building, Raleigh NC, 10 AM

Roster

MEMBERS Present

Marchell Adams-David
Arnold Allred
Steve Barry
Mark Brantley - Chair
Martie Groome
Matthew Haynes
Chester Lowder
Jim H. Lynch
Bob Rubin
Jonathan Russell, via Teams
Ken Stines

STAFF

Patrick Beggs, DWR
Ashley Coleman, DWR
Christine Ryan, NCDOJ
Jeff Talbott, DWR

GUESTS

Cheri Proctor, NCRWA
Alan Oldham, NCRWA

MEMBERS Absent:

none

Preliminary Matters

P1. Call to Order – Mark Brantley – Chair

P2. Notice of NC State Government Ethics Act Requirements – None noted.

In accordance with the NC State Government Ethics act, it is the duty of every commissioner to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest. The Chairman for today's Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission meeting hereby asks:

“Does any commissioner have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest with respect to any matter coming before this commission today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from participation in that matter.”

P3. Revisions or Additions to Agenda

None.

P4. Review and Approval of Summary for February 9, 2024.

Commissioner Lynch noted he was not present in November and please remove his name from the roster.

Approve February 9, 2024 Summary.

Motion: Lynch

Second: Barry

Motion passed unopposed.

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Action Items

Requests for Approval of Reciprocal NC Wastewater Certifications

	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Certification Sought</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Exam Type</u>
240201	Candidate #1	WW-I	WA (<u>I</u> , II, III, IV)	ABC
240202	Candidate #2	WW-4	MD (I, II, III, IV, <u>V</u>)	ABC
240203	Candidate #3	WW-4	MD (I, II, III, IV, <u>V</u>)	ABC
240204	Candidate #4	CS-3	NJ (<u>I</u> , II, <u>III</u> , IV)	ABC
240205	Candidate #5	WW-3	FL (D, <u>C</u> , B, A)	State
240206	Candidate #6	CS-3	FL	-
240207	Candidate #7	CS-2	FL	-
240208	Candidate #8	PC-2	SC (D, C, B, <u>A</u>)	ABC
240209	Candidate #9	WW-4	PA (C, <u>B</u> , A)	State
		CS-4		

240501 – Candidate #1

Grant applicant Biological Wastewater 1 Certification.

Motion: Stines

Second: Adams-David

Motion passed unopposed.

240502 – Candidate #2

Grant applicant Biological Wastewater 4 Certification.

Motion: Barry

Second: Haynes

Motion passed unopposed.

240503 – Candidate #3

Grant applicant Biological Wastewater 4 Certification.

Motion: Stines

Second: Lowder

Motion passed unopposed.

240504 – Candidate #4

Grant applicant Collections 3 Certification.

Motion: Rubin

Second: Haynes

Motion passed unopposed.

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240505 – Candidate #5

Grant applicant approval to sit for Biological Wastewater 2 Exam

Motion: Stines

Second: Adams-David

Motion passed unopposed.

240506 – Candidate #6

Grant applicant approval to sit for Collections 2 Exam.

Motion: Stines

Second: Adams-David

Motion passed unopposed.

240507 – Candidate #7

Grant applicant approval to sit for Collections 2 Exam.

Motion: Rubin

Second: Barry

Motion passed unopposed.

240507 – Candidate #8

Grant applicant Physical/Chemical 2 Certification.

Motion: Adams-David

Second: Stines

Motion passed unopposed.

240509 – Candidate #9

240509-1

Grant applicant approval to sit for Biological Wastewater 4 Exam.

Motion: Stines

Second: Lynch

Motion passed unopposed.

240509-2

Grant applicant approval to sit for Collections 4 Exam.

Motion: Barry

Second: Groome

Motion passed unopposed.

240510 – Remote Continuing Education Authorization

Remote (virtual) Continuing Education for wastewater and animal waste approved through December 31, 2026.

Motion: Barry

Second: Haynes

Motion passed unopposed.

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Information Items

2405A - March 2024 Exam Pass Rates

Exam Date: March 14, 2024
Wastewater Certification Exam Pass Rates

	Took	Pass	Fail	%	Historical
AWA	28	23	5	82	79
AWB	4	2	2	50	90
CS1	83	75	8	90	81
CS2	55	35	20	64	75
CS3	22	16	6	73	69
CS4	19	11	8	58	75
LA	5	3	2	60	69
SI	5	4	1	80	76
SS	2	2	0	100	82
WW1	111	58	53	52	58
WW2	60	21	39	35	48
WW3	32	19	13	59	43
WW4	12	9	3	75	60
PC1	40	26	14	65	62
PC2	8	2	6	25	64

Overall, 486 operators took March 2024 exams, 306 passed, resulting in 63% pass rate.

Exam pass rates **above or equal** to the historical average:

AWA / CS1 / CS3 / SI / SS / WW3 / WW4 / PC1

Exam pass rates **below** historical average:

AWB / CS2 / CS4 / LA / WW1 / WW2 / PC2

Staff is developing reports of training providers versus student exam pass rates.

Staff is reviewing questions with a pass rate under 50%, with assistance from subject matter experts where necessary.

2405 B - Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

The ECBI committee consists of Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Groome, General Counsel Ryan Doctor Rubin, and Jeff Talbott. NC rules require operational experience at NC classified facilities to be able to sit for a NC wastewater operator exam. The Cherokee Wastewater Treatment Plant is not permitted through NC and therefore not classified by NC.

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2405 C - Wastewater Operator of the Year Award

A news release is being sent to Animal Waste and Wastewater Operators to remind them of the June 1 nomination deadline. Three nominations have been received so far. (June 2024 update: 11 nominations were received.)

Staff will organize the nominations and submit them to the Commission in June for a first draft of voting. Staff will vet the top vote getters and a final on the award will take place at the August 2024 Commission meeting. Presentation of the award will take place at the appropriate wastewater/animal waste professional event in the Fall or Spring.

Concluding remarks

The Collections NTK review is underway and we expect a final NTK for the next Commission meeting.

Matt Haynes said he can research the Maryland superintendent training program and report back at August meeting.

Steve Barry: Can we pin down the difference between who is on the registry and who is not.

Stines: Is it possible for staff to look at the ABC exam details and have ABC staff present to us?

Announcement of next scheduled meeting

The next meeting of the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission is scheduled for **Friday, August 9, 2024 at 10:00AM** in the Archdale Building Ground Floor Hearing, Raleigh NC.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Haynes

Second: Lowder

Motion passed unopposed.