

**Minutes of the Advisory Board of Examiners
for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
Certification
May 19, 2005**

Present for the meeting on May 19th were: Deborah Metz chair; Richard Lorenz, member; Kirk Leifheit, member; Chris Clark, member; Vui Chung, member; Dail Hollopeter, member; Chris Bowman, OEPA; David Bornino, OEPA; Andrew Barienbrock and Susan Parkins, Certification Unit.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:39 a.m. Richard Lorenz made a motion, seconded by Kirk Leifheit, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2005 meeting. Motion carried.

1) Class IV, Applications

The Board received notification that the Division of Drinking Water, the Division of Surface Water and the Office of Legal Services have reviewed and recommended the following actions related to Part I applications:

WASTEWATER

NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE	ACTION
John A. Clark	Portage County	Wastewater	DSW and Office of Legal Services Recommend Approval
Larry Scanlan	Hamilton Co Metro Sewer Dist	Wastewater	DSW and Office of Legal Services Recommend Approval
Ronnie Spencer	Montgomery Co	Wastewater	DSW and Office of Legal Services Recommend Approval

2) Class IV, Examination Actions

WASTEWATER

NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE	ACTION
Lowell E. Eisnaugle	NEORS, Southerly WWTP	Wastewater	Recommended approval
Mike Heilman,	City of Kenton	Wastewater	Return for additional information
Paul Sandstrom,	Delaware Co WRD	Wastewater	Recommended approval
Charles Yannucci - Resubmittal	Trumbull Co.	Wastewater	Recommended approval

WATER

NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE	ACTION
Timothy Newland	City of Bellefontaine	Water	Return and request a meeting with the Advisory Board

Dail Hollopeter made a motion, seconded by Kirk Leifheit recommended approval of the Class IV Wastewater examinations of Lowell E. Eisnagle, Charles Yannucci, Paul Sandstrom and recommended the return of Tim Newland's Water and Mike Heilman's Wastewater examinations. Motion carried.

3) Class IV, Examination (in review)

WATER

NAME, LOCATION	KL	CC	VC	RL	DH	DM	BB
Terry Huber, City of Lima (1 copy) (resubmittal)	X			X		**	

** denotes who currently has package
 x denotes who has reviewed package

WASTEWATER

NAME, LOCATION	KL	CC	VC	RL	DH	DM	BB
Douglas P. Clark, City of Van Wert (resubmittal - 3 copies)			**		**	**	

** denotes who currently has package x denotes who has reviewed package

4) OIT's - Actions

NAME	EXAM TYPE	ACTION
Robert L. Blackburn	WS1	Recommended approval
Brandon D. Fox	WW1	Recommended approval
Michael D. Judson	WW1	Hold until next meeting
Milan R. Steiner	WC1	Recommended approval
Billy A. Tackett	WS1	Recommended approval

Richard Lorenz made a motion, seconded by Vui Chung, that Michael D. Judson's application be held until the June 9, 2005 meeting and recommended

the issuance of certificates to the remainder of the operators above. Motion carried.

5) Reciprocity

Chris Clark made a motion, seconded by Dail Hollopeter to grant reciprocity to Amy K. Lester upon documentation of employment in Ohio and payment of exam fee, who holds a West Virginia WW Class II, based on the fact that West Virginia's examination was submitted and was deemed equivalent to the Ohio Wastewater Class II. Motion carried.

6) Strategic Plan

The Board continued to discuss Class IV exam revisions.

7) Other Business

The Board reviewed Gary Hyding's request for an extension of time to submit his Wastewater IV examination. Kirk Leifheit made a motion, seconded by Richard Lorenz, recommending that a one year extension be granted. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the addition of security questions to the examinations in 2006. Andy Barienbrock provided members ABC's questions, for discussion and classification into proper certification levels at the June meeting.

Susan Parkins provided information about the measures being taken to assist operators who have been serving active duty with the military in maintaining their certifications. Needs are addressed on a case-by-case basis and operators and/or employers are encouraged to contact the Certification Unit.

Operator Training Committee of Ohio (OTCO) met with the Advisory Board to discuss mutual concerns and questions including addition of security questions to the exams in 2006, collection systems, water distribution systems, question references and reference books. Representatives attending were, Karen Hawkins, AWWA Trustee, Karen Kovolo, AWWA Trustee, Carolyn O'Neil, OEPA Trustee, Gary Taylor, OTCO Staff, Erin Moore, OTCO Staff, and Curtis Truss, Jr., OTCO Staff. OTCO's Specific questions and the answers are listed below:

1. What is the status of regionalizing certification exams? Any update?

OEPA would eventually like to regionalize the examination process. However, they do not currently have the resources to administer exams away from one centralized location. The Class A certification program will begin with regionalized training and exams and will serve as when that process begins.

2. If OEPA is looking for submission of questions for the certification exams, would they want copies of AWWA district study materials?

AWWA district study materials would be a great source of questions. Ohio EPA would

ask that potential exam questions be submitted using the question submittal format on the certification website.

3. **Are “Contact Hours” verifications going to be conducted during sanitary surveys?** No.

4. **Would the OEPA consider small wastewater system certification like the water Class A?** Yes, Ohio EPA would consider this, especially for systems less than 250 people/25,000 gal/day. Comments may be sent to Chris Bowman, DSW.

5. **Is OEPA looking at utilizing ABC examinations in the near future?** That may be possible for the Class A Water exams, but OEPA currently does not have plans to use ABC examinations. However, we will continue to evaluate the current testing process with tests provided by outside vendors such as ABC.

Dave Bornino provided an update on the Class A training. Work continues on the Request For Proposals. Dave anticipates requests for proposals in September or October of 2005, return of proposals by end of this year, hiring of a trainer in early 2006, and training beginning by July, 2006.

OEPA anticipates reference books for each examination will be listed on the OpCert Website by the end of the summer.

Curtis Truss, Jr. discussed the Water and Wastewater workshops held recently with 450+ participants. OTCO does not want to lose the personal interaction provided during current workshop settings. In the future, OTCO will be limiting their workshops to the first 375 participants but will be planning additional, perhaps more regional workshops. In addition, OTCO and OWEA signed a contract on April 15 for OTCO to track contact hours for some of the OWEA training with a retroactive date of January 1, 2005. All the details have not been worked out and all the contact hour information has not been provided to OTCO at this time. OTCO will provide information to OEPA, Operator Certification Unit when the tracking is ready and will update the Website for OTCO and OWEA.

8) **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:46 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2005. Richard Lorenz motioned, Chris Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Board Approved: June 9, 2005