

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING
PERSONNEL IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2009
Place: Various video teleconferencing sites on the following islands:
Oahu: 919 Ala Moana Blvd., 5th floor Conference Room;
Kona, Hawaii: Kona Health Center, left side of Kamehameha Avenue
across DOH Environmental Offices; and
Wailuku, Maui: Millyard Plaza, 210 Imi Kala St., Ste #204.Oahu
Time: 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Charles Dawrs, Wesley Lim, Marshall Lum, Bradley Pierce, and Dana Riddle.

ABSENT: Eassie Miller, Victor Moreland, Myron Nomura, and Bert Uyeno.

I. Charles called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approved Temporary Certifications for Jolly Duyan (Grade 1); Martin Pepito III (Grade 2); Corey Medeiros (Grade 4); Loren Tanigawa (Grade 4); Kelekolio Taylor (Grade 2); Edison Yagin (Grade 1).

Denied Wendell Carlos' Grade 2 application because he qualified for the Grade 2 August 2009 exam. Denied Kenny Huy's Grade 1 application because he qualified for the Grade 3 August 2009 exam. Denied Bobby Kelii's Grade 3 application because he is qualified to take the Grade 3 exam. Denied Kelly Onizuka's application for a Grade 4 because he took the Grade 4 exam before. Denied Aitofele Tofa's application for a Grade 2 because he is qualified for the Grade 2 exam. Section 11-61-3(d), Hawaii Administrative Rules, states that "A temporary certificate may be issued to a certified operator in a lower grade, or to an operator who is not certified but is accumulating experience under the direction of a certified operator in order to qualify for certification by examination."

Denied Grade 1 applications from Roger Miller and Eric Swanson because their applications lacked the DRC statement (item B of application form).

Denied Wah Keung Albert Kung's Grade 2 application because a DRC statement was not submitted with the application.

No action taken on Ammon Lauaki and Michael Pelekai's Grade 1 applications because they passed the Grade 1 exam in August 2009.

No action taken on Brant Murphy's Grade 2 application because he passed the Grade 2 exam in August 2009.

- b. Approved Reciprocity Certification Applications for: Thomas Boylen (Grade 4), Primas Delagarza (Grade 3), Paul Raczkowski (Grade 4), Timothy Rinard (Grade 4).

Denied Donald Steiner's Grade 4 application because Oregon's certification regulations are not similar to Hawaii's regulations. Additional educational background information will be requested to determine whether he could qualify for Hawaii's exam;

No applications were received for Guy Miller and Michael Wilson.

- c. Agreed to post revised certified operator list on the website after each exam.
- d. Approved Excavation Safety (0.3 CEUs) and Confined Space Entry (0.5 CEUs) training courses conducted by United Rentals Trench Safety (ur.com).
- e. Denied Stephen Green's request for CEUs for the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Ground Water Rule Implementation Workshop because it is not relevant to certified wastewater treatment plant operators.

Reviewed Stephen Green's request for CEU for the Kona Water Roundtable Informational Meeting # 4 on Understanding the History, Design, and Use of Injection Wells. Decided to allow 0.3 CEUs if Mr. Green provides proof of attendance at the meeting.

Reviewed Wah Keung Albert Kung's request for CEUs but could not reach a decision because letters confirming work experience and training course certificates were not attached to the documents.

Reviewed Norman Matsuura's college transcript and allowed 22.7 CEUs for math and science courses. For the Grade 3 or 4 exams he is allowed an additional 10.7 CEUs for management and public speaking courses in accordance with section 11-61-4(g)(2)(C), HAR.

Approved Calvin Ota's request for CEUs for: WEF CD Rom activated sludge course (1.5 CEUs) and a WEF CD Rom solids handling (1.5 CEUs) course for a total of 3.0 CEUs.

- f. Deferred discussion on City and County of Honolulu's letter seeking clarification of certification requirement, HRS section 340-8, until a response from the AG is reviewed. Letter will be drafted to the City regarding delayed response.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Charles expressed Board concerns over the lack of information on the closing of the Statewide Wastewater Operator Training Center (SWOTC), how it will be handled, and where it will be going with county representatives, DOH, and private O&M company representatives present. Board has sent a letter to Larry Lau expressing concerns on the closing of the training center.

Tim Houghton addressed the Board regarding the City's involvement in the training center. Initially, the City was focused on providing training for their own

personnel and became aware of the training needs for the outer island counties and private operators. Intergovernmental agreements would need to be developed and something for the private organizations. The City will look at going in that direction. Consideration would be given to sending instructors to the neighbor islands to conduct training. They are working on determining how they can address the needs of operators statewide. He would like to see training go in the same direction that it has been with SWOTC and work with what is already in place.

Ed Tschupp stated that Kauai County has the same concerns as the CCH to provide for the training needs of its operators. Kauai County is willing to work with others to restore the administrator position with some level of funding and some level of staffing (part-time or full-time). Ed would like to preserve what is already in place as the curriculum and instructor base is already established.

Dora Beck from the County of Hawaii is in agreement with Ed. She would like the administrator position restored and is willing to help fund it. She would like to know the costs involved.

David Taylor of Maui County concurs with what Ed and Dora stated. He would be willing to contribute funds for the administrator position. He would like to see travel expenses reduced by looking for instructors on respective islands. David also expressed a concern on the number of certified operators needed to be at a plant or is only one required.

Lee Mansfield, Hawaii American Water Company Manager, expressed his willingness to pay their share of the costs. He had concerns on whether the state can allow the CCH to use the SWOTC.

Ron Hay, Hawaii Water Services Manager, stated that they have a need for training of their operators and may look at private in-house training if they will need to fly their operators to Honolulu for training.

Tim Houghton noted that there are many issues that need to be worked out such as ownership of the building, costs to run the program, etc. The City will develop a formal plan and submit it to the Board. Charles stated that the Board is not endorsing or approving the transition of the SWOTC to the CCH but is only interested in hearing what the City is proposing.

Dayna Riddle asked whether water treatment plant operator training and wastewater operator training could be combined.

Charles requested DOH have a meeting with the stakeholders to see whether the SWOTC can be saved, and asked whether notification could be provided to all of the wastewater operators of the impending shutdown of the SWOTC. Tom See agreed to do that.

Lee stated that he looks forward to another meeting and wanted to know what the cost of classroom training would be as it currently costs about \$100-\$110. Tim stated that he did not know at this time but will provide a ball park cost.

- b. Charles determined that the HRS 340B-21, certification requirement for cesspool pumpers, has been repealed and is now part of chapter 11-62, HAR, so there was no need for discussion on this item.
- c. Agreed to conduct a Board presentation at the 2010 HWEA conference. Charles will develop a list of items that may include: Temporary Certification, Sand Island WWTP classification, DRC issues and other topics Board members may wish to inform him of.
- d. Charles suggested creation of standing committees for exam questions, temporary and reciprocity applications, budget spreadsheet, Legislative issues, and investigative. Committees would review all documents either in advance or for about 2 hours at the beginning of a meeting, and then report to the Board at the meeting.
- e. Deferred decision on CEUs for Nicole Magnin's training course because training contact times were not provided. Course consists of a basic course for Grade 1 and 2 operators, and an advance course for Grade 3 and 4 operators. It's similar to the Ken Kerri course.
- f. Approved Ned Geigle's Reciprocity application for a Grade 2 certificate, and deferred approval of his DRC notification form until he resubmits form showing his new operator certificate number on it.
- g. Approved adding Temporary Certification applications from Colin Miyamoto and Steve Yamamoto to the meeting agenda. Board denied Colin Miyamoto's Grade 1 Temporary Certification application because he had previously been qualified to take the Grade 1 certification exam. Section 11-61-3(d), HAR, states that, "A temporary certificate may be issued to a certified operator in a lower grade, or to an operator who is not certified but is accumulating experience under the direction of a certified operator in order to qualify for certification by examination."
Board could not approve Steve Yamamoto's Grade 1 Temporary Operator Certificate until such time that a statement from the directing certified operator in accordance with item (B) of the Temporary Certification Application form is submitted. Approval will then be granted.
- h. Discussed proposed revisions to chapter 11-61, HAR.

VII. ADJOURNMENT 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: December 17, 2009

Location: Statewide Wastewater Operator Training Center, Sand Island, Oahu

Time: 8:00 a.m.