

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

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2009  
Place: Statewide Wastewater Operator Training Center, Sand Island, Oahu  
Time: 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Charles Dawrs, Wesley Lim, Marshall Lum, Eassie Miller, Victor Moreland,  
Myron Nomura, Bradley Pierce, Dana Riddle, and Bert Uyeno

- I. Charles called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.
- II. Board members approved the May 14, 2009 meeting minutes as amended changing Item m. from Chapter 340-8 to Section 340B-8.
- III. Conferring of Commissions
  - a. Larry Lau, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, conducted the swearing in of the new Board members Bradley Pierce, Wesley Lim, and Dana Riddle.
- IV. REVIEW BUDGET
  - a. Reviewed and accepted budget as shown.
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - a. Board denied Synagro's DRC request for John Poe Tyler, Grade 4 due to the size of the plant and complexities which require an on island DRC.
  - b. Discussed and approved Ken Knapp's review and selection of specific Target Safety online courses for CEU credits. Approved courses will be placed on the Board's website.
  - c. Agreed not to change the Board's previous decision on the separate Grade 3 classification ratings for the Sand Island WWTP and Synagro Plant. The decision was based on the following: information provided in the City's contract with Synagro which conflicted with information presented by the City at the May 15, 2009 meeting; a review of the Board's classification worksheets; and an overall determination of the processes that are currently being controlled and operated by the City at the Sand Island WWTP.
  - d. Discussed Honokohau Harbor WWTP complaint and decided not to take action against the DRC operator based on the available evidence. Board will issue letters to all involved parties.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS:
  - a. "Open Line", Hawaii's Office of Information Practices newsletter (available on OIP website).
  - b. "The Certifier" ABC newsletter, Summer and Fall 2009 editions available on ABC website.

- c. *"The High Road"* June 2009, Hawaii State Ethics Commission newsletter. Reviewed letter regarding filing gifts disclosure statement.
- d. Discussed impact of layoffs of state workers, status of training center and its impact to operators and Board operations with Larry Lau in the morning and with Tom See in the afternoon session. As a result of the Statewide Wastewater Operator Training Center (SWOTC) Coordinator's position being targeted for layoff in November 2009, the SWOTC may shut down. Board members expressed their concerns on the layoff decision, the shut down of the SWOTC and its impact to operators and those needing 2 CEUs by October 15, 2010 for renewal. Larry suggested the Board send a letter to him addressing their concerns which Board agreed to do. A similar discussion followed in the afternoon with Tom See, Wastewater Branch Chief.
- e. No new plant classifications were available for the Board's review and approval.
- f. Reviewed certification exam results and a motion passed accepting the results. Significant decision was made to allow members to only inform applicant inquiries of pass or fail (no scores) rates once the Board accepts the test results. Prior to that, no test results information will be released. Test results will be sent to operators in about a week.
- g. Agreed to submit a trip request for Dana Riddle to attend the 2010 ABC conference Jan 26-29, 2010, in Jacksonville, Florida.
- h. Agreed to revision to December 11, 2008 minutes, item x. Minutes need to reflect change to read operators I & II and not Operator III. Revised minutes will be posted online.
- i. Discussed Deputy Attorney General (DAG) response to Board's questions on classifications and statute of limitations. Marshall indicated that DAG Ted Bohlen said that a) the Board did not error in providing separate classifications for the Synagro Plant and the Sand Island WWTP. The Board is free to classify plants as they see fit. If the City is not satisfied with the decision, they have a right to a hearing. b) There is no statute of limitations for when the Board decides to take disciplinary actions. However, if the Board took an action on an operator's certificate for an incident occurring more than two years ago, it may not look good to take disciplinary action for an occurrence under an expired certificate.
- j. Reviewed ABC letter for election of 2010 Board of Directors. Since the deadline of September 12, 2009 for voting had passed, no action was taken.
- k. Denied Temporary Certification applications for Synagro employees: Isaia Ah Kiong, Kenny Huy; Charles Andrade; William Hart; Daniel Dando; Cresencio Camero III; and Darren Benson because the Synagro DRC is John Poe Tyler who is also the DRC for Kaupulehu WWTP (see item n. below). Agreed to defer discussion on Temporary Certification applications for: Bobby Kelii; Wah Keung Albert Kung; Ammon Lauaki; Martin Pepito III; Corey Medeiros; Brent Murphy; Kelly Onizuka; Michael Pelekai; Loren Tanigawa; Kelekolio Taylor; Aitofele Tofa; Edison Yagin; Roger Miller; and Eric Swanson till the next meeting. Charles agreed to review the applications and advise at the October 1 meeting.
- l. Reviewed letter from Haszen Hazen requesting an extension of his Temporary 1 Certification due to being on active duty. Agreed to allow Mr. Hazen an extension to November 27, 2010.
- m. Reviewed letter from Eric Krieg and will inform Mr. Krieg that he needs to obtain two (2) CEUs for renewal.

- n. Approved DRC notifications for: Kuilima WWTP (Guy Moriguchi); Hale Mahaolu EHA WWTP (Virgil Viernes); Kaupulehu Lot 4A Interim WWTP (John Poe Tyler); Kailua WWTP (Duane Carrick, Ken Dao, Jay Gonsalves, Wesley Lim, Mark Nojiri); Princeville WWTP (Roy Constantino); Grand Hyatt Kauai WWTP (Mario Mararagan); Keahole-Kona WWTP (David Porter); North Kona Coast (formerly Kukio) DRC (David Porter); and Coca-Cola WWTP (Paul Hill). Denied Synagro Bioconversion Facility notification for John Poe Tyler because he resides on the Big Island and is the DRC for the Kaupulehu WWTP. The Board's policy is to not allow operators to be DRCs on islands that they do not reside on because the DRC would not be able to arrive within a reasonable amount of time to address emergencies or operational upsets at a plant located on another island.
- o. Accepted Kenneth Demaya's letter which included additional CEU justification for renewal of his operator certificate.
- p. Attained unanimous agreement to meet in executive session to discuss Sand Island WWTP H<sub>2</sub>S gas release complaint case. Reviewed reports submitted by the City & County of Honolulu from HIOSH and two consulting engineering firms. Investigative committee member, Charles, notified Board members of the results of their investigative interviews and the Board determined no further action was necessary against a certified operator. However, the findings showed a lack of communications problem within the City's plant that needs to be addressed. A letter will be sent to the City informing them of the serious nature of the incident and the expectation of corrective actions already been implemented.
- q. Accepted Howard Ikeda's HWEA conference certificate submittal for renewal of his operator certificate.
- r. Deferred discussion on operator suggestion to update online list of renewed operators after each exam due to insufficient meeting time.
- s. Reviewed letter from Glen Lindbo regarding his expired certificate due to insufficient meeting time for discussion. Agreed that Glen needs to take a re-exam to attain his Grade 2 operators license. Letter will be sent to Mr. Lindbo.
- t. Deferred discussion on Excavation Safety and Confined Space Entry courses from United Rentals Trench Safety for CEU credits due to lack of time.
- u. Deferred review of CEU requests from Stephen Green, Wah Keung Albert Kung, Norman Matsuura, and Calvin Ota due to lack of time.
- v. Deferred review of reciprocity applications from Thomas Boylen, Primas Delagarza, Guy Miller, Paul Raczkowski, Timothy Rinard, Donald Steiner; and Michael Wilson due to lack of time. Reviewed County of Hawaii letter concerning employment application for Douglas Connell. Mr. Connell's reciprocity application was approved during the May 14, 2009 meeting so no further action was needed.
- w. Accepted DOH notification that a DRC is not available at the Mokuleia Surf Condo WWTP. DOH had also informed the owner to contact the Board.
- x. Board is still waiting for a response from James Okada regarding the renewal of his certificate.
- y. Reviewed Wastewater Pump Specialties letter concerning condition of Ouli Ekahi WWTP upon takeover of the plant. Agreed to request additional information

from the former operations company of the plant. Last DOH inspection report did not note conditions as reported.

- z. Deferred discussion on City and County of Honolulu's letter seeking clarification of certification requirement (HRS section 340-8) for operators at a treatment plant due to lack of meeting time.
- aa. Approved WEFTEC request for CEU approval of the WEFTEC 2009 Conference.
- bb. Denied Steve Parabolicoli's CEU request for first time instructors teaching a new math course series based on Board's February 3, 2009 meeting decision.

VII. ADJOURNMENT 3:00 pm

Next Meeting: October 1, 2009

Location: Various video teleconferencing sites on each island:  
Oahu: 919 Ala Moana Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Time: 8:30 a.m.