



Nevada Water and Wastewater Operator's Forum

Hosted by: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001, Carson City, NV 89701

Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 13, 2012 – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Location: Richard H. Bryan Building,
5th Floor Conference Room
901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Telephone conference to: 1-888-363-4734, access code 1515199

Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Introductions. (Bob Foerster)** The meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Forum Members Telephonic Attendance: Chairman Bob Foerster (NvRWA); Harvey Johnson (IVGID); Mike Ariztia (SVGID); Cameron McKay (KGID); Dave Johnson (SNWA); Lynn Forsberg (Elko Co. Public Works); Dale Johnson (Elko County Public Works);

Introductions and Guests: Ron Penrose (TMWA and Op. Cert. Test Administrator); Jennifer McMartin (Waste Water Certification, via teleconference); Liz Henasy (NvRWA); Jim Tharp (Newmont); Charles Stewart (Lamoille, NV); Mike Crow (Carson City); Brandon Mathiesen (Carson City); Bruce Gordon (Yerington); Jim Colmey (Las Vegas Power); Ryan Kolda; Steve Hampton (Kennametal); Sean Sinclair (Lyon Co. Utilities)

Representing the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP): Kelly McGowan (Op Cert Professional Staff); Nan Paulson (Op Cert Administrative Assistant); Daralyn Dobson, State Revolving Fund- NDEP

2. **Approval of Forum/NTC Minutes from September 6, 2012. – Action Item**

Bob Foerster asked if anyone had recommendations of changes to the September meeting minutes. None were proposed. Lynn Forsberg made a motion to accept the minutes. Harvey Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3. **Drinking Water Exam Results Review from September 2012 tests. (Kelly McGowan)**

Kelly talked about the September tests and the approximate 60% pass rate in both the northern and southern regions. He added that he is going to try to get information that will help everyone learn what training is needed.

Ron Penrose mentioned that it would help to get test results broken down by region. That would give us more information for training. Ron also talked about his attendance at the Section Meeting in October 2012. A copy of his memo for the meeting is attached at the end of these minutes.

Kelly asked if anyone had questions or comments. Cam McKay said some of the differences in drinking water regulations seem to be more known in treatment than in distribution. He added that until operators test for a Distribution 4 certification, those operators do not seem to know the regulations. Kelly said that the reports should

help figure this out. Kelly suggested we get a breakdown of the operators who have taken specific tests and, per Cam, see who is double certified.

4. Discussion and nominations for board/officer nominations and elections. (Bob Foerster)

Bob Foerster mentioned that the elections for the Forum will be held in the fall of 2013. Kelly talked about the term expiration dates, most of which are in March but the elections are after those expirations. Kelly said this should be agendized for the March meeting.

Kelly added that he had received an email from John Hulett stating he could not make the meeting and that he wanted to resign from the Forum effective immediately. Bob Foerster said the Forum should agendize accepting John's resignation and move to find his replacement. Kelly mentioned that there had been some discussion of an operator from Lyon County Utilities that was interested.

5. NDEP Updates. (Kelly McGowan)

Kelly talked about the renewals and that this year there were more than ever before at almost 1,000. With certifications being renewed every two years, SDW usually has one year that is larger than the other. This is the large year.

Kelly said that to help operators and businesses to look up an operator's certification, SDW now posts links on the website that show currently certified operators in Nevada with their level and expiration date. Another link will show applications that have been received and the status of those applications, i.e.: if they are In Process, Approved, or Denied. Another future link will be of contract operators for smaller systems that might need a contract operator. SDW is open for suggestions on how to improve our website.

6. Waterlines Publication (All attendees)

Bob Foerster wanted to know what types of articles people would be interested in seeing. He also wanted to know if anyone had facilities they would like to see featured in Waterlines. Cam McKay suggested Harvey Johnson's office's Ozone Treatment Plant. Harvey is still working out the program issues.

Bob thought it would be nice to have a short article on new water systems. Some are now becoming regulated and printing their issues will give the audience some ideas or vice versa. Daralyn Dobson said the articles for the beginning of January were due in the beginning of November. There were not many submissions for it. She said it might be too late to add to it but Marcy McDermott would be the one to ask. Bob said ideas should be submitted to him right away and he would find out if they can be added.

Harvey Johnson suggested articles be written in advance, then they can be held onto until the next time articles are needed.

- a) Article Assignments for Next Edition None were mentioned

7. Members Open Comments

No Open Comments were made.

8. Public Comments

No Public Comments were made.

9. Agenda Items for the Next NWWOF Meeting.

The next NWWOF meeting will be held at the Nv RWA Conference in Reno in March 2013. The Conference is scheduled for March 12-14, and the test will be on the 15th.

Ron Penrose said he will have an Annual Summary in January and will forward to Bob before the Conference.

10. Upcoming Conferences/Trainings (also located on Google calendar: <http://ndep.nv.gov/dwo/main/calendar.html>)

The 2013 Spring Conference in Las Vegas will be March 25-28 at the Tropicana. Kelly said he will list the training at this Conference and the National as approved training and will post it onto the Google Calendar on the SDW website.

11. Next Forum Meeting- Action Item

The next NWWOF meeting will take place at the NvRWA Conference in Reno NV on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 2:16 p.m.

12. Adjourn

Cam McKay made a motion to adjourn. Mike Ariztia seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:40.

Reminder to Certified Operators: You are eligible to receive renewal contact hours for attendance at Operator Forum Meetings!

October 1, 2012

To: Darcy Burke, Darrin Price, Linda Contreras, and Water Operator Certification Committee Members

From: Ron Penrose, Chair-Water Operator Certification Committee and Nevada Exam Administrator

Subject: **Board Report/Water Operator Certification Committee and Status of Nevada Exams**

The following is a briefing concerning the CA-NV AWWA Water Operator Certification program with emphasis on state of affairs with the Nevada program which I administer and coordinate between CA-NV AWWA, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and exam proctors throughout the State of Nevada.

Nevada Exam Program

The Nevada certification program, run by the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water under the Nevada Division of Environmental of Protection (NDEP), contracts with CA-NV AWWA for exam services relative to Treatment and Distribution certification. Currently, exams are conducted three times per year and normally during the months of March, June and September. Recent exam sites/proctor locations include Elko (Elko Public Works), Ely (Great Basin Community College), Fallon (City of Fallon), Dayton (Lyon County Utilities), Hawthorne (Hawthorne Utilities), North Las Vegas (North Las Vegas Utilities), Las Vegas (Las Vegas Valley Water Authority) and Reno (Truckee Meadows Water Authority). Also, if timing of the Nevada Rural Water Association conference coincides with the establish exam date, exams will also be administered and proctored at the conference.

The exam program is running well in Nevada, although there are some issues. These are.....

- **Exam Dates:** As communicated in the last report, we are still unable to conduct the exams on the officially established date by NDEP at "all" proctor locations. This issue is less of a problem than before as exam proctors are being polled statewide by the administrator and NDEP staff well in advance of the proposed exam dates. We will continue to work on this issue through continued coordination between the exam administrator, NDEP staff, and the various proctors around the state.
- **Express Mail Delivery:** Prior to the September exams, it was difficult for some of the rural locations to "express mail" completed exams on the exam date due to lack of a 24/7 FED-EX operation. This issue is now corrected as some of the exam sites have the option of using UPS for shipping exams back to the section office.

June and September Exams

Exams in June and September went well with no significant glitches.

Nevada Water and Wastewater Operator's Forum

Forum meetings are periodically held to discuss issues regarding education, training, and examinations in Nevada. Since the last section conference two forums have been held, one on June 19th (minutes attached) and one on September 6 (agenda attached).

Normally AWWA has a staff member present or listening in via phone line. This should be continued in order to receive and interpret issues from Nevada operators.

One recent request from NDEP staff which the section office should give immediate attention to is the preparation of an annual report breaking down data similar to that performed for each exam. The report would include the number of exams in both regions and pass/fail percentages for each type and level of exam. This information would then be used for determining trends that might be mitigated through targeted training.