



# Nevada Water and Wastewater Operator's Forum

Hosted by: NvRWA Annual Training and Technical Conference, Grand Sierra Resort & Casino  
2500 East Second Street, Reno, NV 89502

## Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 14, 2017 – 8:15am to 9:15 am

**Location:** NvRWA Annual Training and Technical Conference, Grand Sierra Resort & Casino  
2500 East Second Street, Reno, NV 89502 – Room Nevada 1 & 2

**Note:** A Drinking water Operator Certification Program Review workshop is being held at the Nevada Rural Water Conference Tuesday March 14, 2017 from 1:15 pm to 3:45 pm.

**Phone conference to:** 1-404-920-6650 Code 5316947- Phone was not hooked up.

### Agenda

#### 1) Call to Order and Introductions. (Bob Foerster)

Meeting was called to order at 8:15am

**Forum Members Present:** Max Sosa, BSDW/OpCert; Bob Foerster, NvRWA; Greg Reed, Round Hill GID, Ron Penrose; Tri Sage Consulting; Will Raymond, TMWA/ Test Administrator; Grant Perkins, Panaca Farmstead; Nathan Adams, Pioche; Jim Kerr, Elko County

#### **Introductions and Guest:**

Byron Brice, Marigold Mine; Esther Gandolfo; Brett Reed, Douglas County; Mike Workman, Lyon County; Rod Lewis, NV State Parks; Morgan Dingman, City of Elko; Kyle Casci, NDEP; Jason b Cooper, NDEP/OFA; Don Geary, Baker GID; Randy Mark, MRPOWC; Skeet Sellers, Lyon County; Joe Groves, Cedar Pass; Daniel Krzrnarich, Cedar Pass; Travis Smith, Gabbs; Cameron McKay, KGID; Jeff Hubbard, Silicon Valley Clean Water; Tim Bauer, IVGID; Dave Town, Washoe Utilities; Jackie Boado, TMWA; Roger Veldt, City of Elko; Jack Byrom, TMWA; Daralyn Dobson, NDEP; Jesse Truell, Carson City Public Works; Dan Cocking, Carson City Public Works; Ty Miller, TMWA; Katrina Pascual, NDEP; Rit Palmer, CCPW

#### 2) Approval of Forum/NTC Minutes from October 4th, 2016. – Action Item

**Grant Perkins-** Motion to Approve

**Ron Penrose-** Second  
Unanimous

#### 3) Drinking Water Exam Results Review from December 13, 2016. ( Max Sosa)

**Max Sosa-** Wow! Here we are again another year, last year I was welcoming Rachel on board to

the Operator Certification Program. First of all would like to say thank you to Rachel for doing a great job her first year! She has become a valuable asset to the Operator Certification Program. I also would like to thank everyone for their participation in the Operator's Forum.

Again due to overall combined improvement of the operators preparing for the exams and better training "a not mastering category" was not reported by AWWA in the Water Treatment and Water Distribution Summary Report this year. As there is always room for improvement, I have asked AWWA to list the deficient topic areas as a "Partial Mastering" rate of more than 20% so that these areas can be reviewed and further fine tune future training. This shows a continued improvement by the operators and everyone involved in the Nevada operator certification program

Now for a brief summary of the 2016 certification exams. In March 2016, 132 applicants took the exam and the overall passing rate was 64%. As compared to March 2015, there were 102 applicants and the passing rate was 68%. There were 112 operators taking the June 2016 exam and the overall passing rate was 61%. The passing rate improved to 63% for October, 2016 and there were 126 operators taking the exam.

Regarding the upcoming test this week, there are 151 applicants scheduled for the March 2017 exam. The largest count ever. Best of luck to everyone.

#### 4) **Training Needs/ Forum Input**

**Max Sosa**- Mentioned that the operators should pay attention with what's going to be happening with lead and copper that the EPA is going to be focusing on. If you see any training on lead and copper or any programs with the schools especially, take advantage of those trainings.

#### 5) **NDEP Updates (Max Sosa, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water).**

**Max Sosa**- Stated that at the December 2016 Water and Wastewater Operators forum meeting a guest asked how often are the certification requirements revisited?

They were last revisited in 2003. A motion was called for a working group to review the certification requirements.

As requested a committee was formed from volunteers at the meeting to review the certification requirements of the Operator Certification Program requirements and come back with recommendations to the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water.

Currently committee meetings are being held monthly and a Program Review workshop was held at the Nevada Rural Water Conference March 14, 2017.

Please attend the Water and Wastewater Operators forum meeting for future updates.

**Greg Reed**- Mentioned that the program review meeting is an opportunity to suggest any changes or recommendations for the *Nevada Administrative Code* NAC 445A.

**Max Sosa**- Currently they have had one meeting already and there is going to be another meeting held on March 30, 2017. There is also a policy update. In the past, if you had multiple OIT's, you had to get contact hours for each one; you had to renew each one. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017, operators will only be required to maintain their highest level OIT for their respective certification type.

#### 6) **NWEA Updates (Jake or Ashley Jacobson)**

John Solvie was going to call in to fill in for Ashley and Jake Jacobson, but we could not get a phone hooked up. Below is what NWEA requested to be in the minutes:

The new standardized ABC exams are expected to be officially released in August (and May for programs that are participating in the pilot testing). Disciplines include Wastewater Treatment, Collections, Water Treatment, and Distribution. The new exam Need-to-Know criteria has been streamlined to align with current industry standards and is available now on ABC's website ([www.abccert.org](http://www.abccert.org)). This is available to every exam candidate

in advance and will provide them with more relevant information in preparing for the exam (and areas to address if they fail).

The wastewater certification program had a Model Standards Conformity Assessment performed on its program by ABC a while back (as required in our NDEP contract). The recommendations in the report were discussed at length with NDEP, which they concurred with. The Certification Board is currently working with NDEP to update NAC to grant authority implement a number of critical recommendations including continuing education for renewals, ascending education requirements, ascending plant specific experience requirements, and other miscellaneous requirements).

## 7) **Waterlines Publication (All Attendees)**

**Max Sosa**- Mentioned that the last meeting we talked about having it online and getting with Daralyn Dobson and our IT department.

**Daralyn Dobson**- Mentioned that we also discussed if they could put a workgroup together on it.

**Bob Foerster**- Agreed that we should get a workgroup together. Asks if anyone would like to volunteer?

**Daralyn Dobson**- Volunteered

**Bob Foerster**- The magazine has been put together by this group and sent over to NDEP thru Daralyn's office. It's been a cumbersome process to distribute as a hard copy.

**Greg Reed**- Agreed that if the hard copy isn't getting printed weekly/monthly/quarterly then it might be time for a change.

**Bob Foerster**- Mentioned that it is difficult to assemble enough articles to justify publishing something.

**Grant Perkins**- Mentioned that he liked the blog idea and asked if there is a blog out there, it will send an email to all who is following it?

**Daralyn Dobson**- Will check into it. Maybe do a presentation next meeting about it.

**Max Sosa**- If you have an article you would like to submit, you could just send it to the Op Cert website and then we can forward it to Daralyn.

### **A. Member's Open Comments**

No Comments

### **B. Public Comments**

No Comments

### **C. Agenda Items for the Next NWWOF Meeting**

a) Review of the prior suggestions in the December 13, 2016 minutes.

b) Discussion

**Randy Mark**- Asked if there is a set amount of hours for waste water for contact hours?

**Bob Foerster**- NWEA has not come to a certain amount of contact hours. They are talking about more hours, but they haven't arrived at a set amount of hours.

**Guest-** Asked Max if there is going to be a talk about the professional operator's license that was mentioned at Tri-State?

**Max Sosa-** Answered that what it is you can get an operator's professional license thru a program at ABC. Ashley from NWEA is more involved in that. They are trying to make a license that is recognized in every state that has ABC exams. It is relatively new, but he will look into it and get back to everyone on the subject.

**Greg Reed-**Mentioned that there should be an update on the program review committee as well.

**D. Next Forum Meeting(s) - Action Item**

**Bob Foerster-** Requested June 8<sup>th</sup>

**Nathan Adams-**Motion to Approve

**Grant Perkins-**Second  
Unanimous

**E. Adjourn**

**Ron Penrose-** Move to Approve

**Jim Kerr-** Second  
Unanimous

Adjourned at 9:00am