



# 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, 2018 – 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Location: Richard H. Bryan Building,  
Tahoe Hearing Room on the 2nd Floor  
901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Videoconference to: NDEP Las Vegas Office- Red Rock  
Conference Room  
2030 E. Flamingo Rd., Suite 230  
Las Vegas, NV

Note: Elko-Great Basin College  
McMullen Hall Room 102  
Elko, NV

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

### Agenda

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

Meeting called to order at 9:10am

**Forum Members Present-** Max Sosa, BSDW/OpCert; Bob Foerster, NvRWA; Greg Reed, Gardnerville Ranchos GID; Dale Johnson, City of Elko; Jim Kerr, Elko County

**Videoconference with Elko and LV-** Unavailable

**On the phone-** Dean Cernick, City of Elko; Adam Katsar, NV Youth Training Center; Chris Lauborough, City of Elko; Steve Spearman, Broadbent Associates for Henderson; Rod Lewis, NV State Parks

**Introductions and Guests-** Will Raymond, TMWA; Scott Fleckenstein, Lyon County; Brian Gibbs, Lyon County; Jason Grahmann, Lyon County; Timothy Clark, Lyon County; Tom Hoffert, Farr West Engineering; Tyler Viani, HAAD; Chris Skvarna, HAAD; Mike Nevin Storey County; Russel K Hodgson, Heavenly; Reggie Lang, BSDW; Brian Green, NDWR; Tanya Freeman, Battle Mountain, Rye Patch; Bruce Tipton, BWPC

#### 2) **Approval of Forum/NTC Minutes from October 2, 2018 – Action Item**

**Greg Reed-**Motion to Approve

**Dale Johnson-**Second

Unanimous

#### 3) **Drinking Water Exam Results Review from September 13, 2018.** (Max Sosa)

**Max Sosa-** Thanked everyone for their participation and for taking an interest in the Water and Wastewater Operators Forum.

Now for a brief summary of the September 13, 2018 exams. 139 applicants applied to take the September 2018 test and 126 applicants took the exam. The overall passing rate was 60%.



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- The **Distribution** areas needing improvement are:  
*Grade 1:* perform security safety and administration.  
*Grade 2:* System information/components  
*Grades 3 & 4:* System information/components and perform security safety and administration.
- The **Treatment** areas needing improvement are:  
*Grade 1:* Operate and maintain equipment.  
*Grade 2:* Comply with drinking water regs.  
*Grades 3:* Comply with drinking water regs., operate and maintain equipment  
*Grade 4:* Operate and maintain equipment.
- Distribution operators: did very well in operating & maintaining equipment and complying with drinking water regs.
- Treatment operators: need to work on complying with drinking water regs. & operate and maintain equipment.

#### 4) Training Needs/ Forum Input

**Jim Kerr-** Asked if there is any way we could bump up the wastewater trainings? Wastewater CEU's have gone up dramatically this year.

**Bob Foerster-** Answered that he can but he will need 3 systems at a training session in order to meet the deliverables of that program. Wants to talk about it and see if they could get 3 or 4 systems there and then he will be happy to do it.

#### 5) NDEP BSDW Updates:

Max Sosa / Linh Kieu, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

New Applications

Computerized exams

ABC 2017 exams, development of drinking water regulatory exam questions:

Contract Operators:

**Max Sosa-** The new on line exams are now available. We have been averaging about two applicants per week. Please note that the testing locations are Elko, Las Vegas and Reno. There will be an additional fee of \$69 collected by PSI the on line testing company. For more information, please see Exam Information and Study Materials on the drinking water operator certification page.

**New applications:** Please note the changes on the renewal applications. You may use one application for more than one certification and make only one total renewal payment. Make sure to include your PWS Id. # on the application.



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The certification test and conversion applications require your supervisor's signature for verification of experience. If this an issue please contact me.

Nothing has been finalized yet with the ABC exams.

## 6) NDEP BWPC Updates

- Katrina Pascual , Bureau of Water Pollution Control-

**Max Sosa-** Katrina was not available so she could not attend the meeting. Max talked to Katrina and next Monday, WPC is getting a new bureau chief and she is starting December 17, 2018. Her name is Liz Kingsland.

**Bruce Tipton-** There is a new restricted application and there is a lot of confusion with the regular application. Bruce has had to send a lot of paperwork back because many of the applications are incorrect. Bruce has sent back about three dozen applications back so far. The biggest problems has been that the operators cannot determine the difference between to the two applications. There is a lot of overlap with the forms. The fees have changed as well. Operators will send in the old fees.

**Max Sosa-** Clarified that the wastewater renewal goes by calendar year and the drinking water renewal is bi-annual. The next drinking water renewal is due by 12/31/2018. The operator in training is different from the wastewater restricted certification. The restricted certification for wastewater has an expiration date that you can only keep for five years. In drinking water you don't have that expiration date when taking the OIT exams.

**Jim Kerr-** Stated that part of the SEC recommendation is to pull that five year expiration date. He is curious where WPC is at visiting on that issue?

**Bob Foerster-** Mentioned that he was at the SEC meeting and Greg Lovato indicated that would be at the May meeting at the SEC.

On the same subject, they did a survey online. They surveyed all the wastewater operators and they were going to do the drinking water survey separately. They only received 14 responses around the state. Mentioned that we need to get people involved. They can't have a survey go out as important as this and not receive any responses. About 800 emails were sent out to all the wastewater operators. We definitely need more participation with the operators.

**Guest-** Asked if anyone thought about a survey being attached with the renewal applications?

**Bob Foerster-** These surveys come up when they come up and if it wasn't renewal time, that would be the way to go.

**Max Sosa-** NWEA is having their 2019 conference January 28-31, 2019 at the Atlantis Casino.

## 7) NWEA Updates: Ashley Jacobson

**Bob Foerster-** Ashley is not available so there is no updates with NWEA.



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**Will Raymond-** Mentioned that they are actively looking for a proctor location in Henderson. For the most part, they are ready for the conference.

**A. Member's Open Comments**

No comments

**B. Public Comments**

**Will Raymond-** Mentioned that most comments that he has received about recertification is that there is a lot of appreciation with the responsiveness with the renewal cards. Thanked NDEP for everything.

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

**Bob Foerster-** The next meeting will be held at the NVRWA Conference in March at the Nugget in Sparks.

**Max Sosa-** Mentioned that Tri-State will be held in August instead of their regular dates in September. Conference dates are on their website.

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

**Bob Foerster-** Asked for a motion to have the next forum at the NVRWA Conference.

**Greg Reed-** Motion to Approve

**Jim Kerr-** Second  
Unanimous

**E. Adjourn**

**Greg Reed-** Motion to Adjourn

**Jim Kerr-** Second  
Unanimous

Adjourned at 9:55am