



# 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, March 20, 2014 – 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: NvRWA Annual training and Technical Conference, Grand Sierra Resort & Casino  
2500 East Second Street, Reno, NV 89502 – **Nevada Rooms 9 & 10**

Phone conference to: 1-800-977-8002, access code 7443315#

### Agenda

- 1) **Call to Order and Introductions. (Dale Johnson)** The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m.

**Forum Members Present:** Dale Johnson, Elko County; Bob Foerster, NvRWA; Harvey Johnson, IVGID; Mike Ariztia, Sun Valley GID; Lynn Forsberg, Elko CP; Cameron McKay, KGID; Jennifer Carr NDEP/BSDW Opt Cert Program; Max Sosa, NDEP/BSDW Opt Cert. Program; Nathan Adams, Pioche Public Utilities; Ron Penrose, TMWA.

**Introductions and Guests:** Jerry Walker, Douglas Co; Blake Gudmundson, Douglas Co; Jim Price, SVGID; Paul Strasdin, Sage n Pine Water; John Allred, Retired; Jim Clark, Newmont Mining; Jason Cooper, NDEP; Bruce Landing, Lander Co; Dave Hoffman, Ron Phillips, Elko Co; Dave Mussleman, Hawthorne AD; Bryan Phillips; Jason Hudak, KGID; Ryan Goldman, NvRWA; Pete Sellers, Lyon Co. Utilities; Darrin Price, SVGID; Ryan Kolda, NvRWA; Ana Yen, EPA Region 9; Louis Lani, Lander Co and Sewer; James Tharp, Newmont Mining; Don Geary, Baker GID; Daralyn Dobson, NDEP; Skeet Sellers, Lyon Co; Clark Phillips, Elko Co; R Scott Todt, IVGID; Jim Youngblood, Lyon Co; Scott Fleckenstein, Lyon Co; Blaine Manz, Lyon Co; Jason Webb, Lyon Co; Eric Johnson, KGID.

**Representing the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP):** Bureau of Safe Drinking Water; Jennifer Carr, Bureau Chief; Max Sosa, ES III BSDW Op Cert Program; Ross Cooper, Andrea Seifert, Linh Kieu, Bert Bellows, Reggie Lang Rachel Breeden and Susan Bunch, Administrative Assistants

- 2) **Approval of Forum/NTC Minutes from March 20, 2014. – Action Item**  
Harvey Johnson moved to approve at 4:00 p.m. Lynn Forsberg seconded the motion to approve. All in favor.
- 3) **Introduction Administrative Assistant Susan Bunch Operator Certification Program (Max Sosa)**  
Nan Paulson retired back September 2013. New administrative assistant (Susan Bunch) took over 3 months after, to fill position.

#### 4) Congratulations to Harvey Johnson (Retirement)

Congrats to Harvey Johnson's retirement and being on the board. Harvey represents a medium waste water treatment plant. He will retire March 2015. Harvey, even retired elects to stay on the board.

#### 5) Selecting New Forum Member (s)

- Dave Johnson not seeking another term.
- Richard Giltner submitted statement of interest (see attached Resume).

Lynn F – What do you need on the board? Small medium system?

Dale J – Need small waste water system. Letter of interest and resume. Recruit, need more information on small waste water.

Andrea – Dave Johnson represented Large Drinking Water System which Richard Giltner would fill. Also, Richard works for the same utility that Dave did.

- Cameron motion to accept that Richard Giltner is replacement for Dave Johnson.
- Dale seconded the motion.
- All in favor.

Dale Johnson - Seat is open, for small waste water. Dale is no longer representing small waste water system.

Lynn - That would be the next quarterly meeting. Someone needs to apply or take applications for a small waste water representative.

Cameron and Harvey - Need to table till the next Forum meeting, i.e., who is staying, representing what? Get a list and review. Need to recruit for the small waste water representative.

- Reshuffle – The Chair and Vice Chair.

Mike Ariztia – Chair

Dale Johnson – Vice Chair

- Cameron - Motion
- Harvey – Second the motion
- Dale J -All in favor

#### 6) NWEA Updates

Harvey – Jennifer C was working with tri state and to coordinate and find a room. The end result there will be no test at Tri-State, just the regular testing cycles' there is the exam 3/21/14 at TMWRF, Sparks NV. Harvey will be proctoring 11 registrants, also testing for sewer at TMWRF.

#### 7) Training Needs Assessment Workshop – NvRWA (Bob Foerster; 30 minutes)

**Bob F** - Awarded at the national level a one year Technical Assistant (TA) Grant from EPA 80K. This will start May 1<sup>st</sup>. One of the requirements is a symposium or training workshop to operators. I would like to hear from Public Water Systems (PWS's). The program will consist of on-site training of operators and on-site technical assistance to operators. Thanks to Max in putting a list together of some 38 items that the Bureau staff identified general assistance or training. Please give input on any critical training needs for your system. New equipment processes. Grant has to be focused on

small systems in particular population, 10,000 or less. In general onsite training and technical assistance training workshop. Training to operators, would like to hear from the Public Water Systems (PWS's).

**Darrin Price** – Need a 10% match, can be time. Do not throw away old equipment.

**Louis Lani** – More math and seems more difficult when people pass? Need assistance with math. Waste water systems test is not validated.

**Dave Musselman** – T4, membrane systems training. Jennifer C suggested partnering with another operator to do field trips to treatment plants.

**Guest** - Clark – (Elko Co.) – 70 % or 75% passing. I would like feedback on passing. Jennifer C and Ron P will look into. Ron stated he will be attending the Cal/NV AWWA section committee meeting and will bring up the question on feedback if passed a test.

**Ana Yen** – Capacity meeting can pass along to Bob F spreadsheet of past training.

**Andrea S** – Small utilities questions how they take their monitoring. Thinks a training should be useful benefit on monitoring, i.e., Total Coliform. Bob F agreed. Complaint, too much math being more difficult and less chance for passing seems to be a weak area. Bob F does not think that is the case. Need more math, less randomized. The Bureau of Water Pollution Control (BWPC), good point of contact.

**Harvey J** – Waste water test change, but went back to waste water test. Small system test was not validated. Standard exam, ABC is not standardized. They are reading, not getting the point.

**Cam M** – If operators get a chance, take membrane classes for the tests. One of the main complaint is if you could get feedback from tests that would be really be helpful. Source water protection training would be helpful also.

**Bob F** – Any other ideas and or thoughts don't hesitate to e-mail.

## 8) **Member's Open Comments**

Ron P – Involved in leadership development and committee training. Need passing of knowledge to younger people and speakers at CA/NV conference in Reno if anyone is interested.

## 9) **Public Comments**

Waterline newsletter – hardcopy and e-mail sometime in July 2014.

## 10) **Agenda Items for the Next NWWOF Meeting**

Andrea S – Small Waste Water position, also training on web-site and tools for Drinking Water Watch.

Louis Lani - Water Lines - July publication featured PWS

Darrin P – Suggestion, post a U tube video if on site/sites for others to view the information, 3 -5 min.

Cameron - Featured systems and upgrade. Arsenic.

**11) Upcoming Conferences/Trainings – *New postings regularly, please visit our Google calendar at:***

<http://ndep.nv.gov/dwo/main/calendar.html>

CA/NV AWWA – October 2014 Fall Conference, Reno

NWEA Conference in April 22-24 at the Nugget

NWWA Fall Conference in October, 2014

Jennifer C – Check Calendar for training that Max Sosa updates.

**12) Next Forum Meeting(s) – *Action Item***

The next Operator’s Forum Meeting will be Thursday June 19, 2014 at the Richard H. Bryan Building, 4th Floor Great Basin (4-South), 901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Max will e-mail reminder.

- Mike motion
- Cameron seconded the motion

**13) Adjourn**

- Lynn - made first motion to adjourn.
- Mike - seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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