



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

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Videoconference NDEP Las Vegas Office, And Great Basin College
Red Rock Conference Room 1500 College Parkway
2030 E. Flamingo Rd., Ste 230 McMullin Bldg., RM MH110
Las Vegas, NV (by the library)
Elko, NV 89801

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

Agenda

- 1) **Call to Order and Introductions. (Mike Ariztia)** The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

Forum Members Present: Mike Ariztia, SVGID; Harvey Johnson; Cameron McKay, KGID; Max Sosa, NDEP/BSDW; Jennifer Carr, NDEP/BSDW; Bob Foerster, NvRWA

Introductions and Guests: Chris Hoffert, Lyon Co Utilities; Scott Fleckenstein, Lyon Co Utilities; Brian Gibbs, Lyon Co Utilities; Greg Reed, RHGID; Will Raymond, TMWA; Michelle Stamates, NDEP/OFA; Scott Moss, Edgewood Water; Tyler Brent, Comstock Mining; Adam Jones, Comstock Mining. Dave Gaskin; NDEP Deputy Administrator

Las Vegas: Tom Georgi, LVVWD

Elko: Clark Phillip, Elko Co Public Works; Dale Johnson, City of Elko; Jim Tharp, Newmont

Appearance by Phone: Dennis Campbell, NLV; Jennifer McMartin, NWEA; Byron Brice, Marigold Corp; Rob Shirley, Beatty Water; Michelle Cuellar, Marigold Corp; Steven Garner, AWWA.

- 2) **Approval of Forum/NTC Minutes from March 20, 2014. – Action Item**

Cameron - Moved to approve.

Harvey - Seconded the motion.

- 3) **Drinking Water Exam Results Review from March 2014. (Max Sosa)**

Max –The operators testing had a high passing rate just like the previous test cycle. Again the passing rate is at 72%. Better studying habits and improved training is showing in the test results.

Also, don't wait for December 31st to renew. NDEP is gearing up for renewals. Get your contact hours now if you haven't already done so.

4) **Training Needs / Forum Input**

Bob – Expected amount of training requests for exams to increase. Recommended having table top exercises on “How to handle water system emergencies”. Responding to PWS emergencies (not catastrophic) is a good refresher for all water systems to be ready when actual situations occur.

Cam – Concerned about low scores being lower than 50% in the lower grades which are typically new hires.

Scott Fleckenstein from Lyon Co – Agrees, but you really have to study and put time in, can't just test without studying and expect to pass. Recommends Ken Kerry Course for D-1's to really get them on the right track, Lyon County Utilities has had a 100% pass rate with new operators.

Mike – Practical application and experience on the job makes a difference too.

Lyon Co – Talk to other utilities and look at other systems, not just their own.

Mike – Encouraged discussion on Operator swapping or field trips to other systems.

Cam – Discussion on how to test (again). Need to provide training on how to study.

Mike – Yes, not the “Cram Method”.

Jennifer Carr – Open house training for PWS cross-training can be processed thru Max for CTH and NDEP can help generate e-mail lists to advertise.

Will Raymond – Described AWWA webinar proctoring and certification production.

Jennifer McMartin – 3-day NWEA. Pump class at TWARF on October 7 thru 9, 2014. Contact NWEA.org to sign up. This class is approved for Waste Water and Drinking Water.

Michelle Cuellar – Has D-1 with NV and AWWA. AWWA would not let her test for D-2 until she had reciprocity from NV to CA/NV.

Steven Garner from AWWA asked Michelle to contact him.

Bob – Has EPA Grant to do Managerial training for 6 hrs.

5) **NDEP Updates (Max Sosa, Bureau of Safe drinking Water)**

Max - Steven Garner, new AWWA Certification Manager for our Section. Linda Contreras has been tasked to focus on conferences and events so she will no longer be directly involved with Certification. Steven will be working out of our West Sacramento location and can be reached at 916-889-8465 or by e-mail sgarner@ca-nv-awwa.org .

Max-Ron Penrose will be retiring effective on or about December 31 of this year.

6) **NWEA Updates (Harvey Johnson)**

Harvey –NWEA has contracted to do waste water certs again for next 4 years. Tristate

Jennifer Mc – Test review statistics: Passing – 42%. Paper – 39%. 5 = June; 11= August. 20 people in June. All disciplines – WW treatment; WW laboratory; Ind. Waste inspectors (20% passing); collections WW treatment.

7) Waterlines Publication (All Attendees)

a) Review of Prior Issue

Mike – Stated that there were good and lengthy articles such as; IVGID “Disinfection Plant” as well as KGID “Water Meter Project.”

JC – Question to Michelle is there a summer issue?

Michelle - Due to lack of articles the edition has dwindled down.

b) Article Assignments for Next Edition

a. Bob – Writing article on new well in Tonopah. Almost ready.

b. Bob – Can do quiz questions if needed.

c. J.C. – for Bob to do – Idea to interview a newbie (or 2-3). Operator to talk about challenges and tips for starting in this field

d. Mike – AWWA can also provide services.

e. Scott, Lyon Co – On going project, lining 400 septic tanks. How it started. GW impacts, planning for construction. Rural utilities dealing with ph.

f. JC – Discussion of issue. Training unknown.

g. Mike – Question to JC. regarding secondary disinfection

h. JC – National document preparation.

i. Max - Still need a small wastewater operator representative for Ops Forum board

j. Clark, Elko Co – Offered to sit for an interview. Bob will coordinate with Elko trip next week.

k. Any certification needs contact Max.

l. JC - Mentioned RTCR Regulation adoption hearing December 3rd and workshops are coming.

m. Mike – Reminder about CA/NV AWWA conference in October.

n. Harvey and Jennifer M – Southpointe – Tri-State in September

8) Member’s Open Comments

Max - Still need a small wastewater operator representative for Ops Forum board.

9) Public Comments

Clark, Elko Co – Offered to sit for an interview for the spring issue of the Water Lines. Bob will coordinate with Elko trip next week.

Scott, Lyon Co. – Knows of an operator in wastewater.

10) Agenda Items for the Next NWWOF Meeting

Max – Need a new member for small waste water system representative.

11) Next Forum Meeting(s) – Action Item

Wednesday, December 10, 2014 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Conference room not available sent e mails for the new date

Tuesday, December 02, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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12) Adjourn

Harvey moved to adjourn

Mike seconded the motion

11:15 am

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