



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 March 18, 2015 – 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

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

Phone conference to: 1-800-299-7631 and 1-847-944-7330, access code 6737725#

Agenda

- 1) **Call to Order and Introductions. (Mike Aritzia)** The meeting was called to order at 2:21 p.m.

Forum Members Present: Dale Johnson, City of Elko; Bob Foerster, NvRWA; Mike Aritzia, Sun Valley GID; Lynn Forsberg, Elko Co; Cameron McKay, KGID; Jennifer Carr NDEP/BSDW Opt Cert Program; Max Sosa, NDEP/BSDW Opt Cert. Program; Nathan Adams, Pioche Public Utilities; Will Raymond, TMWA.

Introductions and Guests: Greg Reed, Round Hill GID; Mike Murphy, IVGID; Jim Tharp, Newmont Mining; Crystal Montecinos, SEM; Damon Poelstra, SVGID; Joseph Davis, Moapa Valley Water; Grant Perkins, Panaca Farmstead; Frank Lescher, Lyon Co; Jason Cooper, NDEP; Darrin Price, SVGID; Daralyn Dobson, NDEP; Jim Kerr, Elko Co; Scott Fleckenstein, Lyon Co; Rebecca Sawyer Williams, IVGID; John DuFresne, Storey Co; Geoff DaForno, TMWA; Brian Gibbs, Lyon Co; Joe Groves, NTTR; Chad Payne, NTTR; Bob Mann, Lyon Co; Misty Mann, Lyon Co.

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; Rachel Breeden and Susan Bunch, Administrative Assistants

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

Jennifer Carr - Discovered a few typos. Will check and correct prior to being finalized and put on the Operator web-site.

Mike Aritzia - Motioned to approve.

Dale Johnson - Second the motion

All were in Favor

3) Training Needs/Forum Input

Mike Murphy with IVGID - Training on Nitrification next year. Many operators are not aware of it.

Crystal Montecinos with Sierra Environmental Lab (SEM) - Water Conservation next year will require CEU's to renew their certification. The credits need to be specific to Conservation due to AWWA doing the certification and approves the training.

Mike Ariztia - Will check into providing classes and clarify the requirements need to be Conservation specific or water training in general.

Crystal - The course will go through water loss monitoring, leaks or repairs.

Guest - A public education component is included. A portion of the credits can be applied toward for water distribution, treatment and water conservation package but not all of them.

Mike Ariztia - Get a hold of AWWA, confirm what the requirements are for training at the next meeting June 17, 2015. At that time it will be addressed to the forum members.

Jennifer Carr - Will be put on the forum website as soon as we know after the 6/17/15 meeting. Need to post and update minutes as well. The last update was 2013.

Guest - ICS and NEMS training? Last one was about 5 yrs. ago.

Mike Ariztia - ICS 100 and ICS 200 is on-line for Utilities and job specific.

4) NDEP Updates (Max Sosa, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water)

Max Sosa - Reported a brief summary of the 2014 certification exams. March 2014, 126 applicants, passing rate was 72%; 121 applicants June 2014, passing rate was also 72%; 122 applicants for October, 2014 passing rate 68%; March 2015 exam had 112 applicants. Ron Penrose retired 12/31/2014. Will Raymond with TMWA took that position.

Will Raymond - One question from operators for the upcoming test cycle is "what kind of calculators are approved"? Will, will be checking with Gina Enriquez/AWWA for clarification and input. Working with NDEP and Max Sosa in regards to acceptable courses that AWWA will give credit for contact hours. In the near future TMWA will get populated on the training calendar. Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) has a group bundle to show web casts at their corporate office. TMWA can generate certificates that are applicable for conservations and CEU's. Get more engagement from the examinees sooner than a week before the exam.

Jennifer Carr - AWWA proctoring contract has been in place for 4 years and expires 6/30/15. NDEP/BSDW will be going out for another request for proposal through the State Purchasing Division. There are the usual parties interested in the RFP. If you are thinking about coordinating proctoring, it is advised to put your name in if you are interested. Make it known to myself so you can get on the distribution list for state purchasing.

6) NWEA Updates (Harvey Johnson)

No Discussion.

7) Waterlines Publication (All Attendees)

a) Review of Prior Issue

Water Lines is being received by e-mail to operator's and organizations. It can also be accessed on the Nevada Water & Wastewater Operator's Forum web site.

<http://ndep.nv.gov/dwo/index.html>

b) Article Assignments for Next Edition

Greg Reed – Tahoe Water Supplies Association, “How it works”.

Bob Foerster – New Operators entering into the profession and how they successfully studied to take the exam.

Guest – Storey County built a new treatment wastewater facility. Bob Foerster will have someone on his staff and team up to come up with an article

Mike Murphy – Pressure lamps with UV units. Why do we have a 3 log inactivation? Should we have a 3? It is causing to go from 12 milljoules per CM² to 15. Contact for a possible article would be Paul Swain with CH2M Hill.

Nathan Adams/Joe Davis – “Flooding and Water Line Loss”.

Joe Groves – One year study on propylene glycol as a carbon source at a Waste water plant.

A) Member's Open Comments

Guest - What happened with the possibility that wastewater operators will start needing CEU's?

Bob Foerster /Jennifer Carr – The legislature meets every 2 yrs. Not doing it this year. At this point it will still stay voluntary. Have not heard anything about any change to the regulations. Al Tinney with Bureau Water Pollution Control (BWPC) would be the point of contact.

Guest – Is it possible to bring a trainer into the NvRWA Conference that could teach backflow during the week. Test on Saturday. Knowing the backflow training is 40 hrs.

Bob Foerster – This conference has two big components, training and expo. This gives people the opportunity to meet with vendors who provide services and equipment and make contacts. There is scholarship money available for people to go to backflow training besides our training. Example an ABPA trainer from Idaho (backflow training) is coming up. People are coming from West Wendover to

attend. This course is on the scholarship. We encourage people to do this because we need backflow testers.

B) Public Comments

Legislative Counsel Bureau Updates (LCB)

Jennifer Carr - Talked on the Greywater bill. This bill has come through the LCB a few times in the past. Nothing has become of it.

Guest - Asks the question. Is the Greywater the same or separate? Example, if somebody has a well they can't use for irrigation if it is 1000 ft. from a water utility?

Bob Foerster commented on water rights. There are two bills on water rights. Please read them. They may make a difference in your system.

Bob Foerster - Asked the question, "Are you changing requirements for cleaning tanks"?

Jennifer Carr - Commented that there will be no change in tank cleaning requirements at this time. Change was discussed by USEPA during the Total Coliform Rule (TCR) revision, but after receiving comments, it was decided to separate these issues. They will be addressed at a future time after the comments have been reviewed.

Mike Aritzia – Asks the question "During comment what is a number that has been thrown out there as far as frequency"?

Jennifer Carr – Cannot recall. Comment period was a few years ago. Some of the comments we provided were the amount of sediments that accumulate in the tank. It depends on your source, if your well has good integrity; it's not silting, creating binds. You might have a tank that goes 20 yrs. without needing to be cleaned as opposed to one that would need to be cleaned every year. Maybe every 3 yrs. Strictly depends on inspecting and stating who is qualified to inspect it.

Bob Foerster – Asked for feedback on the math section in the last Water Lines Fall issue 2014. A guest in the audience did comment his group benefited from it.

C) Agenda Items for the Next NWWOF Meeting

Cameron McKay – Legislative Counsel Bureau Updates (LCB)

D) Next Forum Meeting(s) – Action Item

The next Operator's Forum Meeting will be Wednesday June 17, 2015
Richard H. Bryan Building
901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Max Sosa will e-mail a reminder and exact location of the meeting in Carson City.

- **Cameron McKay** - Motion
- **Bob Foerster** - Second the motion

E) Adjourn

- **Nathan Adams** - Motion to adjourn.
- **Cameron McKay** - Second the motion.

All were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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