



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 23, 2022 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

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Agenda

1. Call to Order and Introductions. (Brandon Garden, Vice Chair)

Brandon Garden-Called the meeting to order at 4:38pm

Forum Members Present- Greg Reed, Dale Johnson, Grant Perkins, Jim Kerr, Brandon Garden, Andrew Hickman

On the Phone-George Tinkorang, Will Raymond

Guests-Cam Mckay, Esther Gandolfo, Curtis Orthel, Robin Schiro, Auston Kinser, Ryan Kolda, Kevin Ryan, Rod Lewis, Cameron Billows, Esau, Valadez,

2. Approval of Forum Minutes from December 8, 2021. – Action Item

Jim Kerr- Motion to Approve

Andrew Hickman-Second

Unanimous

3. Guest Speaker: John Solvie will discuss the ABC Exam

John Solvie- Introduced himself and spoke about the history of ABC. It is up to the certification program to select qualified candidates. The reason why NV uses validated exams is because of legal requirements, legal defense ability for the exams and cost. When testing clients use ABC/WPI exams, they know those exams are being updated using a process. He is here today to explain the process. When they do an exam development, the process is so broad you really need a team. That is why they partnered about 13 years ago with PSI. They have a team that are psychometricians that work with expert ABC staff. Then they have subject matter experts and one thing that ABC/WPI always has had the advantage of is they have credential agencies on both drinking water side and the wastewater side across the country. Then can essentially recruit the best of the best. Back in the day, they used to enjoy sitting around and deciding they need to ask more of these types of questions and those types of questions. That is not legally defensible.



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They have to have documentation and that is where the job analysis comes in. The job analysis takes about 3 to 4 hours to fill out. It is a list of questions in numerous areas, do you do this? Do you do that? Then it comes into and breaks it down, do you monitor? Do you evaluate? Do you actually make those changes? The people that take those, they have to be people that are certified at any given levels. They need to determine what belongs on a certification exam. They are just launching the new JA's. This summer they are meeting up to do the drinking water and distribution JA's. They will be taking the previous JA's and the experts will be tearing it apart and discussing if there are new processes. Is there are things they are not covering? AWWA and WEF both participate in that process. They are looking at tens of thousands of operators that participate in this analysis across the country. You have to have that many because when you break it down into different states and different levels than it is very challenging to be able to validate the next step which is going back to the psychometricians and the subject matter experts. Then, the exam blueprint develops. If you go to the ABC/WPI website, you can download that. On the website, it is called the need-to-know criteria. Also discussed the inclusion of practice questions added to standard certification exams to determine performance and to establish p-values for future exams. Validating regulatory competency was also discussed, and why it is now validated independently of certification exams.

4. Discussion regarding Forum membership and the requirements of the Charter

Leroy Daines-Asked what are the requirements?

Brandon Garden-Answered that the requirements are brought up in the forum mission. Back when the collation, everybody kind of became one group known as the forum. Basically, there are three items per sector. There is representation on the wastewater side, small, medium and large systems and it is the same with drinking water. Right now, it does appear that they have a little imbalance between those. The medium drinking water systems have more representation than wastewater. We would encourage participants to join the forum. Basically, you have to just be an operator that cares about the certification process.

Leroy Daines- Asked about the representation for the small water systems?

Brandon Garden- Answered that small systems are designated as less than 500 connections; medium systems are 500 to less than 10,000 connections and large systems are greater than 10,000 connections.

Leroy Daines- Asked if a member of AWWA could become one of the board members?

Brandon Garden- Agreed that would be very beneficial if someone from AWWA could attend the forum board.

5. Forum Nominations for open seats. Discussion & Action Item



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Jim Kerr- Crystel Montecinos has requested to be nominated for the general public seat on the board.

Jim Kerr-Motioned for Crystel Montecinos to take this position

Grant Perkins- Second

Unanimous

Jim Kerr- Motion to nominate Kevin Baughman for the technical assistance representation seat for the board.

Dale Johnson-Second

Unanimous

Jim Kerr-Mentioned that we might have to change the mission statement or NAC to represent ABC. Going to table the conversation until next forum.

Andrew Hickman-Motion to have Greg Reed to retain his seat on the board

Jim Kerr-Second

Unanimous

6. **NWEA Announcements and Wastewater Exam Results, Ashley Jacobson**

Ashley Jacobson was not present for the forum

7. **NDEP Announcements & Drinking Water Exam Results, Crystel Montecinos**

Crystel Montecinos- Went over drinking water exam results. Level one's and two's have a lower passing rate, around 70% passing rate. For quarter three, the biggest items that were missed were safety and operations and maintenance. Wanted to send a message to the operators to study, study, study for the exams.

8. **Forum Members: Training Needs and Open Comments**

Guest- Mentioned that there needs to be more training on the lead and copper rule.

Board-Agreed and said that they will look into this. Mentioned that the best way to look up the newest updates on the lead and copper rule is to look on the EPA's website.

9. **Public Comments**

Crystel Montecinos- Mentioned that in the future there will be a state regulatory class. We will start to have operators be required to do a little NV regulatory class. Also wanted to mention the



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job analysis, please talk to your operators about getting those done so we can have that information. Within the next few years, we will have an operator portal. Each operator can access their file and they can input their own information. One final thing she wanted to mention that she will be retiring soon. If you know anyone that is interested in this position, please contact Linh Kieu.

10. Call for Agenda Items & Forum Goals & for the next meeting

Leroy Daines- Asked if we could have a discussion and a recommendation to the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water to have a regulatory portion of the certification. And have a discussion about wastewater renewals and certifications possibly being done online. Recommend that NWEA be required to attend the forums as well.

Jim Kerr- Asked if Liz Kingsland come to the next forum meeting to discuss wastewater topics.

Brandon Garden-Asked if someone from Clark County attend the forum board as well?

Guest- Answered that someone from the district would be more than happy to attend.

11. Scheduling next Forum Meeting – (3rd Qtr. meeting) – Action Item

Requested June 8th at 10am

Andrew Hickman-Motion to have the next forum on June 8, 2022 at 10am

Grant Perkins-Second
Unanimous

12. Adjourn

Grant Perkins-Motion

Dale Johnson-Second
Unanimous

Adjourned at 5:51pm