



# 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  
September 14, 2022

On Microsoft TEAMS.  
Join the meeting: [Join conversation \(microsoft.com\)](#)  
Meeting ID: 235 039 263 939  
Passcode: sk43Nv

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

+1 775-321-6111,,265662976# United States, Reno

Phone Conference ID: 265 662 976#

**If you would like to attend the meeting in person, please see the below locations for Elko and Carson City.**

**Carson City Location**-Tahoe Conference Room, Bryan Building, 901 S Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701

**Elko Location**- 1550 STP. Road, Elko, NV 89801 (Sewer Treatment Plant).

## Agenda

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

**Brandon Garden called the meeting to order at 10:00am**

**Forum Members Present**- Dale Johnson, Jim Kerr, Brandon Garden, Andrew Hickman, Thomas Georgi

Elko Location- George Tinkorang, Kevin Woten, Michael Haddenham, Andrew Storla

Carson City Location- Brandon Garden

On TEAMS- Will Raymond, Shelbey Peterson, Brian Burris, Gregory Sutter, Kevin Baughman, Joe Mathein, Tom Grundy, Carlos Quiroz-Aguilera, Ashley Jacobson, Linh Kieu.

### 2) **Approval of Forum Minutes from June 8, 2022. – Action Item**

**Andrew Hickman**- Motion to Approve

**Thomas Georgi**- Second

Unanimous

### 3) **NWEA Announcements and Wastewater Exam Results, Ashley Jacobson**

**Ashley Jacobson**- For the exam results for 2022, they have a total of 115 exams, the passing rate was 54%. She thinks the standardized exams are harder because they are national and not just based on NV.

### 4) **BSDW Announcements & Drinking Water Exam Results**



# 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

**Linh Kieu**- Mentioned that the renewal season is coming up and wanted to know what the board and operators thought about eliminating the renewal reminder postcards and just use emails?

**Jim Kerr**- Doesn't mind the emails, but there needs to be some sort of tracking receipt that the operator has received it and read it.

**Brandon Garden**- Doesn't mind the reminder emails, but there has to have the tracking on it.

**Kevin Baughman**- Asked if we could do a work email and a personal email?

**Linh Kieu**- Introduced Carlos to everyone as the new Operator Certification Program Manager.

**Carlos Aguilera**- Went over results in quarters 1 and 2. In the first quarter for distribution, there was a 46% passing rate. The most that was missed was equipment, installation operation and maintenance. In the second quarter, the numbers were very similar. The most that were missed were system components. On the treatment side in the first quarter, there was a 75% passing rate. The most that were missed was in the laboratory section. In the second quarter, grades 3 had 40% passing rate and 33% passing rate for grade 4. The most that were missed was in the Laboratory/Source water section.

**Jim Kerr**- Commented he requested that someone from ABC come and answer some questions. They need some answers on this. ABC needs to give more study materials to the operators. Is there a way we can audit the questions?

**Linh Kieu**- They can talk with someone with capacity development on how to get that passing rate higher. Maybe we can get some of our TA providers and ask them on what studies are being done? They can reach out to ABC and get someone from our location maybe to come and talk at the forum. ABC has mentioned that they do have a board that audits these questions periodically.

**Ashley Jacobson**- Mentioned that at our next meeting, she can ask someone at ABC that actually does the exams to come and answer questions.

**Brandon Garden**- Answered yes, that would be great if someone could come.

**Kevin Baughman**- Mentioned that Max is working on some workshops for operators this year. As we go into next years conference and there will be a certification review for people that want to take the exam at that time of the year. They are working on classes and the website up to date.

**Joe Mathein**- He is getting morning and afternoon classes started on Thursdays. They have introduced at least 4 new classes, disinfection and chemistry, source water and geology, storage facilities, pipe advances and hydrants. They would like more feedback and it is difficult to get feedback on an online environment. If anyone thinks of anything that could help these operators pass these classes, please contact him.

## 5) **Technical Assistance - Upcoming Trainings – Bridget Harris (RCAC) and Kevin Baughman (NvRWA)**

**Brian Burris**- Said they have they have a lot of trainings coming up from now and the next meeting. All classes will be on their RCAC website. They have a lot of free online courses, but it is really hard to get feedback with what is working and what is not working.



# 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

**Kevin Baughman**- Mentioned on the NvRWA side, they have been revamping a lot of things at the office and part of that is the website and trainings calendars. They are working on working getting certificates as well.

## 6) **Forum Members: Training Needs and Open Comments**

**Jim Kerr**- Mentioned it is very difficult to get your CEL license a HAZMAT certification. Wondering if someone could help with trainings for these licensing since you have to get 160 hours to these certifications?

**Brian Burris**- That would be a question for Bridget Harris. He will get in touch with her.

**Kevin Baughman**- Says that has not been a problem in the past but want to help with trainings.

## 7) **Public Comments**

**Gregory Sutter**- Mentioned they are experiencing the same thing there in Las Vegas Valley. It might be something that you can work in regionally.

## 8) **Call for Agenda Items & Forum Goals & for the next meeting**

**Kevin Baughman**- Definitely want to include in the spring and are talking to anyone in ABC, please send them over to Kevin. They do not have a schedule but can register for the conference. Please send me suggestions from all over the state.

**Brandon Garden**- Asked if Ross Cooper will come next meeting for lead and copper?

**Linh Kieu**- Plan to have Ross Cooper come out and have short trainings for the next meeting.

**Brian Burris**- Mentioned they do have a meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> regarding lead and copper.

## 9) **Scheduling next Forum Meeting – (4th Qtr. meeting) – Action Item**

Requested December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

**Jim Kerr**- Motion to Approve

**Dale Johnson**- Second

Unanimous

## 10) **Adjourn**

**Dale Johnson**- Motion to Adjourn

**Jim Kerr**- Second

Unanimous

Adjourned 11:00am