Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2020

Lifesize Meeting: Link to meeting- https://call.lifesizecloud.com/5170811 Passcode-2323#

Agenda

1) **Call to Order and Introduction**

Meeting called to order at 1:30pm with Bob Foerster.

**Forum Members**- Bob Foerster, NVRWA; Dale Johnson, City of Elko; Greg Reed, Gardnerville Ranchos GID; Max Sosa, NDEP; Jim Kerr, Elko County

**Guests on Lifesize**- Linh Kieu, Andrea Seifert, Elizabeth Kingsland, Cameron McKay, Ashley Jacobson, Will Raymond, Brandon Garden, Stacey Van Diest, Thomas Georgi, +17752401396, Stephanie Bennett, Andrew Hickman, Justin Fike, Wilbur Frehner, Cindy Parrish, Dianne Ocon, Chad Seefeldt, John Williams, Kevin Meyers

2) **Approval of Forum/NTC Minutes from November 19, 2019. – Action Item**

Jim Kerr- Motion to Approve
Dale Johnson--Second
Unanimous

3) **Forum Member Elections. – Action Item**

Bob Foerster- Discussed that he will not be proceeding in the chair position on the forum board. He knows that Stacey Van Diest is interested in one of the chairs open. Asked Max who is interested in joining the forum board.

Max Sosa- Mentioned that he only knows that Stacey is the only person that is interested in joining the board.

Stacey Van Diest- Mentioned that

Andrew Hickman- Mentioned he is interested in joining the board.

Bob Foerster- Discussed that Andrew Hickman be a nominee for joining the board. Asked what system Andrew system is? Less than 500?
Andrew Hickman- Answered yes, it would be under the small system

Brandon Garden- Mentioned he is also interested in joining the board. His system would fall under the medium systems.

Bob Foerster- Mentioned that now he is accepting nominations for the small water system.

Dale Johnson- Nominated Andrew Hickman.

Bob Foerster- Stated that Stacey Van Diest would represent NVRWA and small drinking water. Asked if we can get a nomination for Stacey for medium wastewater. Ron Penrose will not continue to be on the board. Nominated Brandon for the small drinking water system. Asked if we could hear from the board members that wish to continue on the board?

Greg Reed- Answered that he will continue to be on the board, but if someone would want to take his place, that is ok too.

Thomas Georgi- Answered that he will continue if no one else wants to be on the board.

Bob Foerster- Mentioned that Rick Giltner wished to not continue to be on the board. Nominated Stacey Van Diest for the large drinking water, Thomas Georgi for the large drinking water and Greg Reed for the Medium Drinking Water. That leaves Brandon for the small drinking water. Asked for a vote for all nominees mentioned.

Greg Reed- Motion to approve
Jim Kerr-Second
Unanimous

Bob Foerster- Mentioned that currently Nathan Adams is the vice chair so he would move up to the chair position until March 2021. Asked for a motion to approve.

Greg Reed- Motion to approve
Jim Kerr-Second
Unanimous

4) Drinking Water Exam Results Overview from 2019/2020. (Max Sosa)

Max Sosa- Wanted to thank everyone for your participation and for taking an interest in your Water and Wastewater Operators Forum.
   Brief overview of the 2019 written exams.
   • March 2019 exam 115 applicants applied.
   • There were 107 examinees.
   • The passing rate was 60%.
June 2019 exam 59 applicants applied.
There were 51 examinees.
The passing rate was 60%.

September 2019 exam 71 applicants applied.
There were 67 examinees.
The passing rate was 66%.

The overall Distribution areas needing improvement for 2019 were:
☐ Install equipment.
☐ Monitor, evaluate and adjust disinfection.
☐ System information / components.
☐ Laboratory analysis.

The overall Treatment areas needing improvement for 2019 were:
☐ Comply with drinking water regs.
☐ Operate and maintain equipment.
☐ Evaluate characteristics of source water.

There were 60 applicants scheduled for the March 2020 exam. Due to COVID-19 the March exam was cancelled and rescheduled to July 23, 2020. 15 of those applicants opted to take the computer-based exam.

The July 23, 2020 written exams had 46 examinees and 7 no shows. Also, the new 2017 ABC Exam version was introduced.
• 24 passed and 22 failed
• The passing rate was 48%.

Computer based exams:
From 4/01/2020 to 9/01/2020 - There were 72 applicants that tested during this time

Congratulations to everyone during this difficult time!

5) NWEA Updates / Wastewater Exam Results Review: Ashley Jacobson

Ashley Jacobson- Stated that they had 123 people take the exams. 67 of those have passed. That is 54% passing rate. A lot of the exams were restrictive because most of Las Vegas for a grade 1 have to be restrictive since they are all new hires. Since COVID, the PSI has reopened. They have had a lot issues with getting people in. PSI has had time where they closed unexpectedly. They have had two written exams since June. Mentioned that on May 16th the non-regulatory rules changed to match the regulatory for wastewater when it comes to CEU’s, initial education
and so forth. They have been working on getting courses to the operators to be able to have free training. They are having their virtual conference at the end of October-Beginning of November. They are going to send a course approval to NDEP to approve for contact hours.

6) Training Needs/ Forum Input

Stacey Van Diest- Mentioned that NVRWA are putting on 3 to 4 classes a week. They have a training schedule that will be published on a quarterly publication. The fall issue they have no schedule for the remaining of the year. Everything will be available on their website. Everyone can register on their website.

Bob Foerster- Asked are you getting feedback from people around the state regarding what training they want?

Stacey Van Diest- Answered yes, they would like distribution 3 and 4, pumps, treatment review. What they are not getting a lot of feedback from systems. They are proceeding with training that they normally do. If operators do come and let them know which trainings they would like to do, they will work on getting those available.

7) NDEP / Bureau of Safe Drinking Water Updates: Max Sosa / Linh Kieu

Linh Kieu- Mentioned that My-Linh moved onto another position and Andrea Seifert has been promoted to the Bureau of Safe Drinking Waters Bureau Chief.

Andrea Seifert- Mentioned that she has had a lot of opportunities to work with a bunch of the operators and has always appreciated the insight and expertise that you bring to the community. She looks forward to working with all of you. She wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone that were able to help with the water and wastewater critical infrastructure database and everything that we took on in the beginning of COVID. Also thank you to Will stepping up to the plate and trying to schedule the testing for July. Looking forward to the next years in this role.

Max Sosa- Mentioned that it is time for him to leave his position and thanked everyone working with NDEP and everyone here on the forum.

Linh Kieu- Mentioned that there has been quite a bit of concern regarding extensions for this renewal season. At this point, they do not think that is necessary. There has been a lot of trainings online and NVRWA has a lot of available trainings as well.

Greg Reed- Asked about the regulatory questions on the new exams?

Linh Kieu- Answered that We are using the new ABC exams now. There will be 10 extra questions used for psychometric analysis. Those 10 extra questions are mixed in the exams and
you will not know which questions they are. They will not count toward the grade of the exams though. The regulatory questions have been removed from the new exams.

**Bob Foerster**- Asked if the bureau considered doing anything such as requiring classes on regulatory questions or something else that operators are up to speed on the regs?

**Linh Kieu**- Answered that they are working on something right now like it could be a questionnaire or regulatory class, but we do not have something right now.

8) **NDEP / Bureau of Water Pollution Control Updates: Wastewater Regulations update**

**Liz Kingsland**- Stated that the regulations changes that Ashley had talked about before has been taken before the LCB and they were approved on August 25, 2020. Those are in effect as of now. Katrina Pasqual and Ashley Jacobson will be contacting the holders of the restrictive certificates is part of the reg changes. The new requirement for the restrictive certificates is you have a choice. They would not take a test every 5 years.

**A. Member’s Open Comments**

**Jim Kerr**- Thanked Bob for all the work he has put in throughout the years and wish him well on his endeavors.

**B. Public Comments**

No Comments

**C. Next Forum Meeting**

TBD

**D. Adjourn**

**Jim Kerr**- Motion to Approve

**Greg Reed**- Second

Unanimous

Adjourned at 2:15pm