



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 June 15th, 2016 – 9:00am-11:00am

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 GBC High Tech Center
Las Vegas, NV Rm 137
Elko, NV 89801

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

Agenda

1) Call to Order and Introductions. (Bob Foerster)

The meeting was called to order at 9:15am.

Forum Members Present: Max Sosa, BSDW/OpCert; Will Raymond, TMWA/ Test Administrator; Bob Foerster, NvRWA; Nathan Adams, Pioche Public Utilities; Ron Penrose, Tri-Sage; Greg Reed, Round Hill GID

Introductions and Guests: Chris Hoffert, Lyon County Utilities; Daralyn Dobson, NDEP/SRF; Scott Fleckenstein, Lyon County Utilities; John Jones, Lyon County Utilities, Jason Grahmann, Lyon County Utilities; Brian Gibbs, Lyon County Utilities; Edmund Quaglieri, NDWR; Tim Deturk, Douglas County Utilities; Allen Camp, Douglas County Utilities; Link Kieu, NDEP/BSDW

Elko: Jim Kerr, Elko County Public Works; Dale Johnson, City of Elko Water; Dean Cernick, City of Elko Water

Las Vegas by Phone: Grant Perkins, Panaca Farmstead

2) **Approval of Forum/NTC Minutes from March 16, 2016- Action Item**

Ron Penrose- Move to Approve

Jim Kerr- Second

Unanimous

3) **Drinking Water Exam Results Review from March 17 & 18, 2016. (Max Sosa)**

Max Sosa- Stated that 132 applicants took the exam and 84 passed. The overall passing rate was 64%. As compared to March 2015, there were 102 applicants and the passing rate was 68%.

Only 54 out of the 94 applicants testing for the Distribution exams passed. In this test cycle water distribution Grades 1 and 2 made up the majority of the testers. There were only a total of 38 applicants testing for treatment and 30 of them passed.

There are 122 applicants scheduled for the June 23, 2016, exam. Last year, the June 2015 exam was exceptional there were also 122 applicants and 91 out of 116 passed. That was a passing rate of 78.5%. Hopefully everyone will be better prepared for the upcoming June test.

4) **Training Needs/ Forum Input**

Bob Foerster- Mentioned that they have been doing review trainings and they will continue to do that. If anyone wants to do review training, he will set something up. Also, please remember to study for as many months as you can ahead of an exam. Six months would be a minimum to learn all the terminology and up to speed on things. We encourage people to study ahead of the exam.

Under some of the training contracts, they are doing management training. USDA/EPA developed a management and sustainability training so they are taking that around the state. Encourage people to take that training.

Nathan Adams- Mentioned that on the job training, those that are trying to get certified need to be talking with those who are certified asking questions.

Bob Foerster- Agrees with Nathan that if you are going to go out and adjust your chlorinator for example and you are a small system, don't just turn it up, do the calculations. That is your chance to exercise in a real situation and check the results.

5) **Approval of Member Roster-Review expiration dates- Action Item**
March expiration dates are Ron Penrose with Tri-State Consulting & Rick Giltner with Southern Nevada Water Authority. Vice Chair was not present at March 2016 meeting for rotation. 2018 rotation on the website is a typo.

Bob Foerster- Asked Ron Penrose if he would like to continue on the board?

Ron Penrose- Answered Bob, yes, he would like to stay on the board.

Bob Foerster- Asked if anyone is interested in being on the open seat on the board? He will call for the action item for Ron Penrose and Rick Giltner to serve on the board in their current capacities.

Nathan Adams- Move to approve

Greg Reed- Second the motion

Unanimous

Bob Foerster- Opened up the discussion about the chairman and the vice chairman.

Jim Kerr- Mentioned it would be difficult to be the chairman or vice chairman when they live so far away.

Greg Reed- Motion to continue with the current chairman and vice chairman at this point in time.

Ron Penrose- Second the motion.

Unanimous

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

Max Sosa- During the last three years there have been approximately 120 test applications being processed every testing cycle adding close to 100 certifications three times a year. That comes out to approximately 900 additional certifications added to the total count of renewals. This figure does not include conversions and reciprocities.

In order to help manage and provided more automation to control the continuing growth, the Operator Certification program is now combined with Data Management. Please welcome Mr. Linh Kieu Data Management / Operator Certification supervisor. Linh will bring much needed electronic assistance to the program.

Linh Kieu- Mentioned he has been in the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water for six years and hopefully in the future we can understand the problems with the paper copies and we can go electronic. If anyone has any questions, please email or give him a call.

Max Sosa- Mentioned that it will be nice when we can get applications in that are not incomplete because operators will not be able to upload incomplete applications.. We are spending a lot of time calling and emailing operators to get in there application completed and Linh will be a big help with that.

Please pass on to everyone to make sure they are taking pre-approved training for renewal contact hours. Last renewal season there were some operators that had to reinstate because they could not provide the proper documentation to get the training approved. Please check the op cert website for approved training and call him if anyone is not sure.

7) **NWEA Updates (Jake or Ashley Jacobson)**

Bob Foerster- No Updates

8) **Waterlines Publication (All Attendees)**

a) Review of Prior Issue

Daralyn Dobson- Stated that she has not talked to Marcy, but the time frame for the next addition will probably be around September.

Bob Foerster- Need articles around mid-August time frame. The next addition, he has staff writing an article that he has committed to a long time ago to talk to new operators who have come into the business in the last couple of years and moved onto getting certified and maybe moved up one step. Getting perspectives on things and when they were interested in the industry and so forth.

b) Article Assignments for Next Addition

Guest- Stated that if we are changing the format of bringing the electronic, shouldn't we have an article on that?

Max Sosa- Mentioned that will be in the near future so no there will not be an article on that. There will be notifications on the website once we start on that.

Bob Foerster- Cameron McKay had mentioned that he will write an article on constructional management of the ozone facility at KGID.

Ron Penrose- Suggested that since he represents the medium size utilities and Giltner represents the larger size utilities, it would be helpful to put their contact information in the issue if any questions or concerns.

Max Sosa- Mentioned that we will get that updated and asked when we will need that by?

Daralyn Dobson- Stated that they will need that probably by the 1st of August.

Bob Foerster- Asked if there are any topics that anyone would like to see in the issue? Problems you run into the field?

Guest- Maybe something with laboratory requirements. Quality assurance and what is a certified lab.

A. Member's Open Comments

Will Raymond- Mentioned that he talked about TMWA being available for plant tours/ treatment plant education in March. TMWA is definitely making themselves available and please feel free to contact him for assistance with that.

Max Sosa and Bob Foerster- Both agreed that it would be beneficial if that was put in the next Water Lines Issue.

Will Raymond- Mentioned that if for some reason some people aren't able to take the sit down tests in 2016, the online tests are available online at ABC and AWWA websites. Then you can just do reciprocity with NDEP if you pass. The contact person is Gina Enriquez if anyone needed to contact someone with questions or concerns.

B. Public Comments

No Public Comments

C. Agenda Items for the Next NWWOF Meeting.

Bob Foerster- Suggested that they use the set agenda that they have been using.

D. Next Forum Meeting(s)-Action Item

Bob Foerster- Suggested October 4, 2016.

Forum Members- All agreed on October 4, 2016.

E. Adjourn

Ron Penrose- Move to adjourn

Jim Kerr- Second the motion.

Adjourned.

Reminder to Certified Operators: You are eligible to receive renewal contact hour(s) for attendance at Operator Forum Meetings!