



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 Monday, June 12, 2017 – 9:00am to 11:00am

Location: Richard H. Bryan Building,
Tahoe Hearing Room on the 2nd Floor
901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Videoconference to: NDEP Las Vegas Office,
Red Rock Conference Room
2030 E. Flamingo Rd., Suite 230
Las Vegas, NV

Note: Great Basin College
1500 College Parkway
High Tech Center Bldg Room 121
Elko, NV

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

Agenda

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

Meeting was called to order at 9:05am

Forum Members Present: Max Sosa, BSDW/OpCert; Bob Foerster, NvRWA; Greg Reed, Round Hill GID; Will Raymond, TMWA/ Test Administrator; Grant Perkins, Panaca Farmstead; Nathan Adams, Pioche Public Utilities

Introductions and Guests: Peter Baratti, MGSD; Kevin Baughman, RCAC; Ronald Lowndes, Tonopah District; Brian Green, NDWR; Steven Gibbs, Incline Village GID; Daralyn Dobson, NDEP; Tim Deturk, DCU, Linh Kieu, NDEP

One the Phone: Tom Georgi, LVVWD; Ryan Dowry, Las Vegas

Video Conference with Elko: Dale Johnson, City of Elko; Jim Kerr, Elko County; Alfonso Rivera, Jerritt Canyon; Daniel Romero, Jerritt Canyon; George Tinkorang, Jerritt Canyon, Anthony Sutter, Elko County

No one at the Las Vegas Video Conference

2) Approval of Forum/NTC Minutes from March 14, 2017 – Action Item

Grant Perkins- Move to Approve

Greg Reed- Second

Unanimous

3) Nominations & Election of a Chairman – Action Item

Greg Reed- Nominated

Bob Foerster-Move to Approve

Grant Perkins-Second

Unanimous

4) **Members' March 2017 Term Expirations**

Bob Foerster- Stated that Dale Johnson, Nathan Adams, Jim Kerr and Grant Perkins terms are expiring June of 2017. Asked the following members if they wish to continue on the board.

Dale Johnson-Agreed to continue on the board

Nathan Adams-Agreed to continue on the board

Jim Kerr-Agreed to continue on the board

Grant Perkins-Agreed to continue on the board

Greg Reed-Move to Approve

Dale Johnson-Second

Unanimous

Bob Foerster- Next elections will be in March of 2018

5) **Drinking Water Exam Results Review from March 16, 17, 2017. (Max Sosa)**

Max Sosa- Again due to overall combined improvement of the operators preparing for the exams and better training “a not mastering category” was not reported by AWWA in the Water Treatment and Water Distribution Summary Report this year. As there is always room for improvement I have asked AWWA to list the deficient topic areas as a “ Partial Mastering” rate of more than 20% so that these areas can be reviewed and further fine tune future training. This shows a continued improvement by the operators and everyone involved in the Nevada operator certification program

Now for a brief summary of the March 2017 certification exams. 139 applicants took the exam and the overall passing rate was 62%. Largest number of applicants that have tested so far. Bob was there any feedback from the testers regarding the March Conference 2-hour study hall held Wednesday and Thursday from 6 to 8pm?

Regarding the upcoming test this month, there are 111 applicants scheduled for the June 22, 2017 exam. Best of luck to everyone.

6) **Training Needs / Forum Input**

Guest- Asked if there is an area in the exams that are more difficult for operators than other areas?

Max Sosa- Answered that one of the sections that is weak is math. Also noticed the grades 1's and 2's they don't have the experience on the mechanical end, but that is because they are new to the field.

Guest- Asked what has more questions, the math or the mechanical?

Max Sosa-Answered that it varies with ABC because we do not write the exams.

Guest- Asked Bob if there is any certification training in the south any time soon?

Bob Foerster-Answered that there isn't any trainings scheduled, but they are always open to scheduling trainings as requested.

Kevin Baughman- Stated they are trying to get a training at the beginning of August in Elko. They are also working on some trainings on Ely and Carson City. Try to get some more information out soon. Topics will be lead and copper, corrosion control, sampling and some disinfection as well. Trying to get it finalized this week.

Bob Foerster-Mentioned that they will be putting together their training calendar in the next few weeks.

Max Sosa- Also mentioned that we will have a new website coming out soon. That is going to have a spreadsheet that will have what classes that are available.

Lin Kieu- Mentioned that there will be a new website that will launch in the next couple of weeks. We will be sending out an email out to let all the operators know. If anyone has any suggestions/changes, please let us know.

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

Max Sosa- Operator Certification Program Review meeting date was changed to June 21, 2017 1pm-4pm in the Humboldt Conference Room at the Bryan Building 901 S Stewart St. Carson City, NV.

The Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) has updated its exam question set for 2017. This new exam is a significant departure from the earlier exam in that, to be deemed psychometrically valid, the question set no longer includes any reference to Federal, state, or local regulatory requirements. Ask for comments.

New NDEP Website is on the horizon and approaching quickly. Hopefully it will be unveiled in July 2017.

Greg Reed-Updated the audience about the program review meeting with how we are making a lot of progress with the operators and NDEP to propose changes to NAC

Max Sosa- Mentioned that ABC is updating the exams and the new exam is different from what we had in the past. They are leaving the regulations out of it. They are trying to go international.

Greg Reed- Asked if there is an opportunity to not provide the ABC exams to the operators?

Linh Kieu- There are still a lot of unknowns, but there are a lot of options that we have. We can add on a module with the regulations, but we will be charged for that, we can choose to test with their old versions. If ABC releases the questions, then we can go from there. We are still in the planning phases.

Will Raymond- In addition to what Greg was saying, thinks that going to be very hard start pushing out to the 71 or 72 isn't necessarily a passing score from what people are testing to. What a true passing score would be isn't known until after the test is taken.

Linh Keiu- In theory, ABC will change it, but they said they will be able to prorate it and change it so it says 70%

Max Sosa- Discussed how maybe we could create our own test in the future.

Grant Perkins- Discussed how ABC should know about the discussion that we are having issues with them and where they are heading with the exams.

Guest- Asked if someone from ABC could come to the next forum to discuss what is going on with the exams.

Bob Foerster- Agreed that is a good idea and will look into getting someone to come to the next forum

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

Bob Foerster- Mentioned that NVRWA provides wastewater training if anyone is interested.

9) **Waterlines Publication Status (All Attendees)**

Bob Foerster- No new updates. Wants to know from the public about how the Waterlines will be a blog instead of a published magazine. Wants to know if the audience thinks it's appropriate for the state to do the communication? NVRWA can send it out, but it would be from NVRWA. Need feedback on the blog or not. If anyone has comments/opinions on it, they can email Bob.

10) **Member's Open Comments**

No Member Comments

11) **Public Comments**

No Public Comments

12) **Agenda Items for the Next NWWOF Meeting.**

- a) Review of the prior suggestions in the December 13, 2016 minutes.
No Suggestions
- b) Discussion

13) **Next Forum Meeting(s) – Action Item**

Proposed September 21, 2017 at 9am

Grant Perkins- Move to Approve

Nathan Adams-Second

Unanimous

14) **Adjourn**

Grant Perkins-Move to Approve

Nathan Adams-Second

Unanimous

Adjourn at 10:30am