



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 Agenda Thursday, June 6, 2019 1:00pm to 3:00pm

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

Videoconference
to: *Not Available.*

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 called to order at 1:05pm

Forum Members Present- Max Sosa, BSDW; Greg Reed, Gardnerville Ranchos GID; Bob Foerster, NVRWA

Introductions and Guests- Tom Hoffert, Farr West Engineering; Mike Mathiasen, Carson City; Paul Rose, Rose Water System; Tanya Freeman, Battle Mountain/Lovelock; Liz Kingsland, NDEP; James Agnew, City of Lodi; Branden Garden, KGID; Rit Palmer, CCPW

Videoconference in Elko- Dale Johnson, City of Elko; Jim Kerr, Elko County; Dean Cernick, City of Elko, Kyler Simpkins, Elko County

Videoconference in LV- Not Available

On the Phone- Grant Perkins, City of Caliente; Nathan Adams, Pioche Public Utilities; Ashley Jacobson, NWEA; Rod Lewis, State Parks

2) **Approval of Forum/NTC Minutes from March 13, 2019. – Action Item**

Grant Perkins-Motion to approve

Dale Johnson-Second

Unanimous

3) **Drinking Water Exam Results Review from March 14, 15, 2019. (Max Sosa)**

Max Sosa- Thanked everyone for coming. Brief summary of the last exam. We had 115 applicants applied for the exam, 107 took the exam. Overall passing rate was 58.9%. The distribution areas that needed improvement for the grade 1 was install equipment, grade 2 was monitor and evaluate and



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adjust disinfection, grade 3 was system information components of laboratory analysis and grade 4 did very well in all areas. For treatment that needed improvement for grade 1 was to operate and maintain equipment, comply with drinking water regs and monitoring, evaluate and adjust process. Grade 2 and 3 did very well and didn't have any areas that needed improvements. Grade 4 treatment area that needed improvement was to operate and maintain equipment and evaluate characteristics of source water. The June test coming up, there are only 59 applicants who applied, but since January 18th which was the deadline to apply, we have had over 50 people apply for the computerized exam. The locations to take the computerized exam are Elko, Las Vegas and Reno.

Bob Foerster- Commented on the 59% passing rate. They had an email conversation among the states and that seems to be about everyone seems to experience is 60% passing rate around the US with the ABC exams.

4) **Wastewater Exam Results Review: Ashley Jacobson**

Ashley Jacobson- Mentioned that we only have 7 people taking their written exams this month. Overall this year so far they have only had 32 people apply for wastewater. Out of the 32 applicants, 22 of them passed. They have the Ken Kerri book available and the WEF book. They posted those on their website for secondary education.

5) **Training Needs/ Forum Input**

No Comments

6) **Forum Member Elections**

Dale Johnson- Wishes to continue to stay on the board

Nathan Adams- Wishes to continue to stay on the board

Jim Kerr- Wishes to continue to stay on the board

Grant Perkins- Wishes to continue to stay on the board

Bob Foerster- Asked Grant Perkins if it was ok to change his title to medium drinking water?

Grant Perkins- Answered that it is fine to change his title to a medium drinking water

Greg Reed- Motion to continue with the current board members

Grant Perkins- Second
Unanimous

7) **NWEA / NDEP Updates: Ashley Jacobson / Liz Kingsland**



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Ashley Jacobson- The next certification board meeting is July 25 at 9am at NDEP in Carson City. Anyone who wants to attend is welcome to go. They will be discussing voluntary fee increases to match waste water, going over and finalizing the policies and procedures and CEU approvals.

Liz Kingsland- introduce herself as the new bureau chief of Water Pollution Control. The State Environmental Commission wanted them to go back in about a year later with changes that they made and the comments on those changes. They are looking at bringing back potential discussion changes to wastewater regulations in October of this year. Wanted to add that in terms of training, that they do have a circuit writer contract right now Katrina and Liz has talked about adding a component to that circuit writer contract that provide training in some of the rural areas that would be education credits for additional educational opportunities.

Jim Kerr- Asked if she could see those results from the surveys that were taken?

Ashley Jacobson- Answered yes, she will get it over to Jim and Bob Foerster.

8) **NDEP Updates: Max Sosa**

Drinking water tiered fee increase goes into effect July 1, 2019

Drinking water new contact hour requirements apply to certifications due 12/31/2019

Max Sosa- Wanted to remind everyone that the tiered fee increase is coming up on July 1st. The new regulation requirements will go into effect for the next renewal season coming up. Grades one and two will need seven contact hours and grades three and four will need fourteen contact hours each certification. If you need contact hours, you can go on our website and look at our approved contact hour list. NVRWA will also have courses you can take.

Bob Foerster- Mentioned if you need hours, please ask for them sooner rather than later.

Linh Kieu- Wanted to mention that there is a new ABC exam that is out, but NV has not implemented it yet. With our contract ending in June, we might get pushed to it. One of the differences between the exams is that there are no more regulation questions. One of the ways that NV is planning on having supplemental regulatory training or by having the operator do a training when renewing their certification(s). This is pilot so far, but this is what we are thinking. We will have a training module for when you are doing your renewal application. This may consist of a presentation that you will have to watch and have a little questionnaire after the video. We are doing that maybe in lieu of one the contact hours that you would be required to have. This is something that we are testing right now. There will be more information to come in the August forum meeting.

Bob Foerster- Asked if they are developing that training module in house?

Linh Kieu- Answered that we are planning to use EPA material. They have released training modules that they do online and what we are trying to do is taking what EPA did and reinventing it. Maybe using some of the modules that BSDW feel are pressing. Probably pick five or six modules and the operator could select which one is pertinent to them.



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Greg Reed- Asked if they are taking the regulatory parts out of the exam, about how many questions is that? Where are they going to ship those questions to?

Linh Kieu- Answered that there is about 5 questions out of the 100 that were regulatory questions. We do not know what they switched it to or replaced them with.

Max Sosa- Wanted to mention that they have new formula sheets and need to know criteria which is on the ABC website.

A. Member's Open Comments

No Comments

B. Public Comments

No Comments

C. Next Forum Meeting:

Thursday August 8, 2019; 2:00 to 3:00pm in the Monterey Bay Room; South Point Hotel, Tri State Seminar, Las Vegas NV

There is no charge for attending the work shop. Information is listed on the Tri State 2019 Pre-Seminar magazine page 42 on the Tri State Website or at the following link

<https://www.kelmanonline.com/httpdocs/files/Tri-State-Seminar/issue1-2019/index.html>

**One contact hour credit for drinking water attendance will be given for each free sessions #3817 - Water and Wastewater regulations update by NDEP/NWEA and session 3818 - NV Water and Wastewater Certified Operators' Forum.*

Max Sosa- Mentioned that there is a regulatory meeting right before the forum in the same room with Ashley Jacobson.

Linh Kieu- For those who can't make it there, we have a room in Carson City to participate to call into the forum

Bob Foerster- Mentioned that they would not have a meeting in the fall because we are moving it up in August for Tri-State. The next meeting would be in November or December.

D. Adjourn

Jim Kerr-Motion to adjourn

Greg Reed-Second
Unanimous

Adjourned at 1:30pm