March 6, 2024

Meeting Minutes

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**If you would like to attend the meeting in person, please see the below location at the NvRWA Conference.**

**NvRWA Conference Location**- Nugget Casino Resort - Redwood 7

**Agenda**

1. **Call to Order and Introductions. (Nathan Adams, Forum Chair).**

Nathan Adams called to order at 10:45am

**Forum Members Present-** Grant Perkins, Brandon Garden, Jim Kerr, Dale Johnson, Greg Reed, Nathan Adams

**Guests Present**- Luis Martinez, Clark Phillips, Les McNutt, Robert Reeves, Jeremy Huhtala, Chris Skvarna, Patrick Sparks, Ed Mccoy, Raul Naranjo, John Solvie, Savannah Hash, Becca Mcknight, Marianne Denton, Jeff Wilhelm, Justin Farnsworth, Linh Kieu, Carlos Quiroz-Aguilera, Will Raymond, Mark Olsen

**On the Phone-** Andrew Storla, Greg Sutter, Bridget Harris, Robert Barth, Thomas Georgi, Shane Bradshaw, Juan Salazar, Mark Bailey

1. **Approval of Forum Minutes from December 8, 2023. – Action Item.**

**Brandon Garden**-Motion to Approve

**Greg Reed**-Second

Unanimous

1. **NWEA Announcements and Wastewater Exam Results, John Solvie.**

**John Solvie-** Gave updates on the certification board side. They are rolling out a new portal for operators. It is a cloud-based application. It is the same application that WPI uses. Some of the advantages are that the operator is going to control everything. You will have a personal login. You will be able to update your profile, upload all continuing education, maintaining your certifications, renewals, etc. Went over breaking down passing rates by exam category. They are going to be analyzing the data. The goal with this is to be able to provide information for trainers about what the needs are for operators. It seems like the biggest problem areas that operators have are with the math section on the exams. Suggested to take an algebra course to get familiar with that type of math.

**Grant Perkins**- Asked would it be a problem if someone that was home schooled to get into the water industry?

**John Solvie-** Answered in most jurisdictions require a high school diploma or GED. Wanted to mention that they have been working on new exam development for well over a year. It is a very defined process because Nevada pays WPI to be able to use psychometrically valid exams that are legally defensible. You must go through these different processes. That is why they do the national job analysis. That went out last year and they always make great lengths to get as many Nevadans as possible to participate. The more participation they get from Nevada, the more Nevada has influence on what standardized content is going to be. After that process, it develops into working with subject matter experts into an exam blueprint. They plan to be done in the 4th quarter of this year. The certification board is meeting on Monday and will be discussing the new exams. WPI is also taking on a project to revamp the need-to-know criteria. They are also going to be rolling out a non-potable reuse certificate program.

1. **BSDW Announcements & Drinking Water Exam Results – Capacity Development Update.**

**Carlos Quiroz-Aguilera-** Mentioned that usually in this timeframe, they have not received the testing results so we will wait until the next forum meeting to go over both quarters results. Capacity development has been going through a lot of roll over. They do not have anyone that could make it this meeting to go over capacity development.

**Linh Kieu-** Tomorrow is the regulator day so there will be courses all day talking about PFAS, LCRR, chemical rule monitoring, engineering, etc. so they do recommend attending tomorrow.

**Greg Reed**- Asked does drinking water plan to adopt the same portal that wastewater’s WPI is going to have?

**Linh Kieu**- Drinking water is going to have a portal that is in the works. They are visioning that in the next renewal cycle operators will be able to use this website.

1. **Technical Assistance - Upcoming Trainings – Brian Burris (RCAC).**

**Marianne Denton-** Marianne mentioned that she will be filling in for Brian today. Discussed the trainings that will be coming up. There is a math series in late May. Early June there will be a lead service line inventory. To register for them, you can go to RCAC.ORG and then go to training events. These courses are all contact hours approved and they are all on their website.

1. **Forum Discussion: Statement of Interest Review and Board Member Nominations.**

**Jim Kerr-** Discussed the people that expired on the forum board. He is interested in staying on the board. Mentioned that there are 3 vacant positions. One is an AWWA representative, technical assistance provider and a member of the general public.

**Nathan Adams**- Asked how the board would like to proceed due to no interest in people wanting to apply to be on the forum board.

**Linh Kieu**-Wanted to comment that the board might want to have another meeting to talk about the concept of the board members in general.

**Brandon Garden-** Willing to make a motion for the current members on the board that are still interested in retaining their position to reelect them to board.

**Grant Perkins**-Second the motion

**Unanimous**

**Brandon Garden-** Made a motion to table the election of new members until the next forum.

**Jim Kerr**-Second the motion

**Brandon Garden**-Made an amendment to have Bridget Harris be the AWWA/TA provider on the forum board.

**Clark Phillips**- Mentioned he would offer to be the representative for a small system.

**Brandon Garden**- Added another amendment to add Clark Phillips to represent small systems. Added another amendment to add Andrew Storla to represent a large system.

**Linh Kieu**-Suggested that if anyone is interested in representing any of the positions on the forum board to please fill out the letter of interest and send it back to NDEP.

**Brandon Garden**- Withdrew his previous motion. Made a new motion to elect Clark Phillips to represent the small systems, Ross Cooper to represent the general public and Bridget Harris to be the representative for the CA-NV/RCAC position.

**Greg Reed**-Second the motion

**Unanimous**

1. **Forum Discussion: NDEP Regulation Review Committee update.**

**Carlos Quiroz-Aguilera-** Discussed that NDEP currently has a regulation workgroup that their ultimate goals are reviewing policies and the regulation interpretation. One of the things that was requested from them was to look at different programs to compare them to NV programs. They did get information on 5 states now that will provide information in the next workgroup meeting. The states are California, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, and Texas. They are hoping to get volunteers to get information with different states so that they have a larger spectrum to look at.

**Linh Kieu**- Wanted to add that the forum requested that they review the regulation NAC 445A.633. This regulation talks about a distribution operator’s experience that can’t overlap. The workgroup talks about how to give experience to operators appropriately. If you want to be part of the workgroup, please email us and we will add you to the list.

**8) Public Comments.**

**Guest-** Mentioned that he had a sanitary survey with Central NV Health District, and he was told that in 2025 that so many counties moving away being regulated by BSDW and will fall under the Central NV Health District. Is this correct?

**Linh Keiu-** Answered that he can ask Andrea tomorrow in her class. They know that central NV Health did form a byproduct of different regulations, but they form a health district there is a responsibility to do water testing. He thinks they would just be part of the sanitary surveys and you would still go through our office. They would be your main facility manager contact.

**Brandon Garden**- Wanted to ask if anyone here would be interested in creating a NV Water Operators Association? It would be membership-based and give a lot more voice for the operators. There is some works in progress and keep an eye out on email that will be going out.

**John Solvie**- Recommended maybe working with AWWA.

1. **Call for Agenda Items & Forum Goals & for the next meeting.**

**Jim Kerr-** One of the items should be to approve applications for new board members.

**Grant Perkins**- Wanted to talk more about the Water Operators Association.

1. **Scheduling next Forum Meeting – (2nd Qtr. meeting) – Action Item.**

Suggested June 26th at 10am

1. **Adjourn**

**Brandon Garden**-Motion to Adjourn

**Dale Johnson**-Second

Unanimous

Adjourned at 11:42am