

# Minutes of the Advisory Board of Examiners for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators April 15, 2004

Present for the meeting on April 15th were: Robert Brown, chair; Debbie Metz, vice chair; Chris Clark, member; Dail Hollopeter, member; Kirk Leifheit, secretary; Richard Lorenz, member (arrived late), and Andrew Barienbrock, Certification Unit.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:35 AM. A motion was made by Chris Clark, seconded by Dail Hollopeter, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2004 meeting.

## 1. Class IV, Part I

The Board received notification that the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, the Division of Surface Water and the Office of legal services have reviewed and recommended approval of the following Part I applications &/or additional information:

NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE
Anthony M. Branham	City of Fairborn	Wastewater
Wilhelm L. Ash	City of Bowling Green	Water
James V. Bates	Village of Sebring	Water
John Geller	City of Heath	Water

## 2. Class IV, Part II (action)

NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE	ACTION
Alan J. Brailer	City of Amherst	WW	03/10/04

A motion was made by Dail Hollopeter, seconded by Debbie Metz, to recommend that the Class IV, Part II examination of Alan Brailer be approved.

## 3. Class IV, Part II (in review)

## WATER

NAME, LOCATION	KL	CC	VC	RL	DH	DM	BB
Sydney Jenkins, City of Cleveland	**		**	**		**	
Tim E. Newland, City of Bellefontaine	**		**	**		**	

\*\* denotes who currently has package  
 x denotes who has reviewed package

## WASTEWATER

NAME, LOCATION	KL	CC	VC	RL	DH	DM	BB
Joseph L. Hart, US Filter	**	**			**		**

\*\* denotes who currently has package  
 x denotes who has reviewed package

## 4. OIT's

NAME	EXAM TYPE	ACTION
Gregory Danver	WW I	Recommend Approval
Christopher W. Diem	WW I	Needs more documentation regarding time percentage.
Michael A. Frommer	WS III	Recommend Approval
Kevin Gleich	WS II	Recommend Approval
Timothy A. Perry	WC I	Needs more documentation regarding time percentage.
Michael W. Scherer	WS I	Recommend Approval
Eric D. Squire	WW I	Recommend Approval
William L. Valentine	WS III	Recommend Approval
Gregory Woodall	WW I	Needs more time
Gregory Yuronich	WD I	Recommend Approval

A motion was made by Kirk Leifheit, seconded by Dail Hollopeter, to recommend approval of the OIT documentation and issue certificates to all of the above except Christopher Diem, Timothy Perry, And Gregory Woodall who need additional time

documentation. Motion carried.

**5. “Need to Know” Criteria**

Andy Barienbrock gave an update. Copies were distributed to OTCO Board members in early April. Andy gave the direction that OEPA will accept comments until June 1, 2004.

**6. Strategic Plan**

The Board discussed moving the Spring exam into late May in order to provide an extra month for certification staff to work on renewal applications before exam applications need to be processed.

Andy and Kirk have also discussed this with OTCO and it would not create problems for their courses.

The Board discussed changing the format of the exams so that the Math and Theory sections are combined. Andy discussed the fact that this would potentially help to improve our passing rates by allowing operators who were weak in one area but strong in others to achieve a passing score. A change would also make developing and grading of the exams much easier. This practice would also eliminate the policy of allow 1 point credit on the failing side of an examination for every six points an operator received on a passing side of the examination. The fall test would be a good time to implement this change because new answer sheets are being ordered to allow the usage of core person ids instead of social security numbers.

The Board worked on revisions to the Class IV guidance document and exam.

**7. Other Business**

The Board met with Keith Collins regarding his Class IV examination and the recent request for additional information. The Board provided additional clarification to Mr. Collins.

The Board discussed planning a stakeholders meeting to discuss the Class IV examination process. The meeting will be held during the week of the Ohio Water Environment Association's annual conference in Columbus. The meeting will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 4:00. Letters inviting participants from the groups outlined in the Board's June 25, 2003 memo will be sent.

Andy briefly discussed a coalition of Region V states that is in the initial phase of being established. The coalition will be formed to discuss reciprocity and contact hours in the Region V states. The goal of the group will be to establish some type of criteria that clearly establishes the level of certification that could be expected from each state and that contact hours could be interchangeable

throughout Region V. Ohio EPA will be taking the lead on getting this group going. Andy indicated that OEPA would then hope to include Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia as well.

All Renewal applications that were in house were processed at the end of March. Approximately 3700 renewals had been processed from the initial mail out of 5814. Another several hundred letters have been mailed regarding incomplete applications.

Andy indicated that the April exams had been developed using a testing software. Andy demonstrated the software and the various functions.

Debbie Metz left the meeting at approximately 12:00 and Chris Clark left at approximately 1:45.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2004. (Dail Hollopeter, motioned, Kirk Leifheit seconded. Motion carried.)

**Board Approved: May 20, 2004**