

Minutes of the Operator Certification Advisory Council July 19, 2007

Present for the meeting on Thursday, July 19, 2007 were: Chris Clark, member and chair; Robert Brown, member; Richard Lorenz, member; Beth Darnell, member; Richard Reed, member; Vui Chung, member; Kirk Leifheit, member; Dave Bornino, Certification Unit, Andrew Barienbrock, Certification Unit; Susan Parkins, Certification Unit; Jessica Dingman, Certification Unit. Jim Simpson, member, arrived at 9:31 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:35 a.m. Chris Clark welcomed new Council members Beth Darnell and Richard Reed. Introductions were made and the workings of the Council were explained briefly for the benefit of new members.

Richard Lorenz made a motion seconded by Robert Brown that the minutes of the June 21, 2007 meeting be approved. Motion carried. Jim Simpson was not present for the vote.

1) Class IV, Examinations (In Review)

WATER

| NAME, LOCATION | KL | BD | RL | VC | JS | CC | RR | RB |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Lawrence Ploscik, City of Cleveland (2 copies) | ** | | ** | | | | | |

WASTEWATER

| NAME, LOCATION | KL | BD | RL | VC | JS | CC | RR | RB |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Robert J. Shelby, Lake County | | | | | ** | ** | ** | ** |
| Douglas Hastings, City of Alliance | | | | | ** | ** | ** | ** |
| Gregory P. Wilson, City of Jackson | | | | ** | ** | ** | | ** |

**** Denotes who currently has package x Denotes who has reviewed package**

2) Class IV Actions

WASTEWATER

| NAME | EMPLOYER | TYPE | ACTION |
|--------------------|------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| Michael G. Cravens | Lucas Co. | WW | Recommend Approval |
| Carl Gatton | Warren Co. | WW | Return for additional information |
| Craig A. Pierce | City of Conneaut | WW | Invitation to next Council meeting |

Kirk Leifheit made a motion, seconded by Richard Lorenz that Michael G. Cravens be recommended for approval to receive his Class IV Wastewater Treatment certificate;

that Carl Gatton be returned for additional information and that Craig Pierce be invited to the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

3) OITs

| NAME | EXAM TYPE | ACTION |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Charles Bauer | WW III | Recommended for approval |
| Timothy Branham | WD II | Recommended for approval |
| Jerry Bratcher | WS I | Recommended for approval |
| Thomas Brickley | WD I | Recommended for approval |
| Gregory Burns | WS I | Recommended for approval |
| Shawn Hartley | WS I | Recommended for approval |
| Robert Jirolisek | WD II | Recommended for approval |
| Kevin Mason | WS III | Recommended for approval |
| Douglas McClure | WW I | Recommended for approval |
| Thomas Michko | WS I | Recommended for approval |
| Daniel Payne | WS I | Recommended for approval |
| Jeremy Ray | WS II | Recommended for approval |
| Brian Roberts | WW I | Recommended for approval |
| J. Roger Sarver | WW II | Recommended for approval |
| Robert Simmons | WS II | Recommended for approval |
| Rich Sinclair | WW I | Recommended for approval |
| Scott Smith | WW III | Recommended for approval |
| Ronald G. Tidd II | WD I | Recommended for approval |
| Keith Tompkins | WS III | Recommended for approval |
| William H. Varkonyi | WC II | Recommended for approval |
| Patrick Willow | WC I | Recommended for approval |

Vui Chung made a motion, seconded by Kirk Leifheit, recommending that all of the above be issued certificates. Motion carried. Jim Simpson was not present for the vote.

4) **Enforcement**

The return of Timothy Poynter's WW Class III certification was discussed. Robert Brown made a motion seconded by Richard Lorenz that the Council recommend returning Mr. Poynter's certificate pending favorable report of actions during suspension from Ohio EPA Southwest District Office. Motion carried. Jim Simpson was not present for the vote.

Kirk Leifheit made a motion seconded by Chris Clark to move into executive session to discuss additional enforcement matters. Motion carried. Jim Simpson was not present for the vote.

5) **Reciprocity**

The Council discussed reciprocity applications from Timothy J. Henderson, State of Kansas and Robert J. Gibala, State of Florida. Neither state is willing to share a representative examination. Robert Brown made a motion, seconded by Vui Chung, recommending that both requests be denied. Motion carried.

6) **Other Business**

The council reviewed the following courses for relevance: **Aging Advocacy** – Ohio EPA/NEDO Wellness Committee training provider; **Public Employers: Injury, Illness, and Needlestick Recordkeeping** – Ohio BWC, Division of Safety and Health training provider. After reviewing and discussing the course information, Richard Reed made a motion recommending that the courses not be approved based upon the explanations provided; the subject matter does not appear to be relevant to Ohio's Operator Certification Program. Richard Lorenz put forward an amendment that the 1.25 hour PERRP Explanation module of the **Public Employers: Injury, Illness, Needlestick Recordkeeping** be approved, Robert Brown seconded the amended motion. Motion carried.

There were no exam challenges from the review sessions that warranted Council action.

Andy Barienbrock had the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) poll members regarding the acceptance of course work (classroom or correspondence) in the place of operating experience. A majority of the programs responding indicated they do not accept course work in lieu of operating experience. Those programs that do accept course work require that providers be approved by some type of accrediting organization for providing CEUs. Those states generally require 45 CEUs to be equivalent to one year of experience. Andy will research what accreditation entails, the length of time necessary for certification, and the cost.

Richard Lorenz pointed out that the current Class IV Guidance Document has not been updated since 2000. Although changes to the Class IV examination process are being developed, updates to the Guidance should be made in the interim. Discussion of clarifications to both the water and wastewater Guidance Documents will be held at the August Council meeting.

An update was provided on the potential risk of Council members with regard to the computer back-up data device stolen from one of Ohio's DAS interns. Staff will continue to provide updates as necessary.

Andy Barienbrock researched concerns raised by the Operator Training Committee of Ohio (OTCO) during the May 2007 meeting regarding the Water Environment Federation's "Manual of Practice 11" (MOP11) reference book. OTCO had indicated that MOP 11 would only be available online in the future and that it would be extremely expensive. Subsequent discussions with ABC and WEF indicated that WEF intends to have a new version of MOP 11 available during WEFTECH in October, 2007. WEF currently has over 200 copies of the existing version and is willing to work with potential users. The only thing that they are requiring people to use the Web revisions for is Chapter updates until the new book version is available.

Class IV wastewater applications were approved by the Agency for Sabrina F. Woodson, Sharon M. Schlemmer, Mark A. Lehnert and John E. Motycka between the June and July 2007 council meetings.

7) Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Robert Brown made a motion, seconded by Vui Chung that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 11:19 a.m. on Thursday July 19, 2007. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, August 16, 2007 in the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters on the 7th Floor.

Council Approved: August 16, 2007