



State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Idaho Board of Drinking Water and Wastewater
Professionals

BRAD LITTLE
Governor
RUSSELL BARRON
Administrator

11341 W Chinden Blvd.
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0063
(208) 334-3233
dopl.idaho.gov

Minutes of 09/22/2023

Board Members	Stacy Stewart, Chair	Division	John Nielsen, Executive Officer
Present:	Bryson Ellsworth, Vice-Chair	Staff:	Katie Stuart, Admin. Bur. Chief
	Paul Sifford		Lea Kear, Legal Counsel
	A. J. Gray		Jessica Spoja, Lic./Regist. Prog. Mgr.
	Michael Parker		Miah Ellett, Board Support Spec.
	Jerri Henry		Kaitlin Kinne, Tech. Records Spec.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM MT by Chairman Stacy Stewart.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 05/17/2023 meeting minutes, and pend the 06/29/2023 meeting minutes, adding the section on the verbal Financial Report. The motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION BUSINESS

New ABC/PSI Exam Process: Technical Records Specialist Kaitlin Kinne provided a PowerPoint presentation titled “Applying for Examination and Licensure”. The Board Members have received numerous complaints regarding PSI’s lack of communication with applicants receiving test scores upon completion of the exam. DOPL has been in communication with PSI and the issue has been resolved.

Jeff Cook, Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA), stated the biggest issue is transparency.

Niki Summers’, Veolia Water, primary concerns are 1) PSI call center, difficulty communicating with representative, and length of time on a call; 2) PSI does not provide a receipt when paying to take a test; 3) BSU testing site still not making results available immediately; and 4) DOPL taking two to three weeks to provide results to an operator. DOPL verified that once notified, an operator will immediately receive their results.

Laurelei McVey, City of Meridian, conveyed frustration of not being heard, and is advocating for transparency; adding to the Board’s website additional FAQs, PSI call center number, etc. A link for the exam, titled *Notice for Applicants about the Examination*, is on the Board’s website under “Board News”.

Finance Report: Administration Bureau Chief Katie Stuart is working with the Financial Team on a five-year projection plan to determine what changes can be made to rectify the Board’s current negative balance. In quarter three, \$102,000 was put back into the Board’s account as it was billed incorrectly.

It was suggested a “Best Practice” list be created; allowing licensing staff to review/approve applications. Vice-Chairman Bryson Ellsworth strongly disagreed, stating applications need to be reviewed by professional operators; thus, the Board should maintain that function.

The Board is still awaiting an explanation on how its account went from over \$1 million in 2017 to a zero balance.

Board Member Michael Parker asked, and Executive Officer John Nielsen agreed, to provide any written financial documentation to him for review.

Administration Bureau Chief Stewart will review Legislative Services Office audits, dating back to 2018, to try and figure out the “where” and “why” of the Board’s finances.

BOARD BUSINESS

Vote to go from Proposed to Pending (ZBR) – IDAPA 24.05.01 Rules of the Board of Drinking Water and Wastewater Professionals: Vice-Chairman Ellsworth made a motion for the Board to not move forward with the vote. Upon further discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Prior to November 1, 2023, a special meeting will be held to properly address letters from the IRWA, city of Meridian, and city of Middleton, and for the Board to vote to go pending on the draft rules. Stakeholders will be invited to the meeting.

IRWA Apprenticeship Report: Shelley Roberts, IRWA, provided an update on the apprenticeship program.

Cross-Connection Control Specialist: Vice-Chairman Ellsworth created a discussion point regarding a Cross-Connection Control Specialist license specific for Idaho water purveyors or companies that offer water services. This is for operators or program managers more focused on the rules and laws than on testing a device.

The Board Members agreed with Vice-Chairman Ellsworth; however, made the following suggestions: 1) Do not start out with a license as the Board would be responsible for ensuring the proper training is being met for the individuals running the programs; 2) At a bare minimum require a class; 3) Have a scoping session to review programs from surrounding states, and 4) Create a subcommittee.

Leslie Wilder, BAT & Supply, LLC, emphasized the importance of clarifying whether the proposed initiative would be a license or certification, as well as the need for thorough vetting and stakeholder engagement prior to implementation.

This topic will be further discussed at the November 2023 meeting.

Application Review: Board Member Parker recommended pending application WWPA – 2646 upon clarification of the supervisor signing off on the supervisory hours. A motion was made and seconded to approve application WWPA – 26446. Three ayes and two nays, the motion carried.

Public Comment: Vice-Chairman Ellsworth stated several reasons why DOPL is lacking in communication, transparency, and accountability. Board Member Paul Sifford agreed.

Ms. Summers stated communication between Veolia and DOPL has greatly improved, agrees with correspondence IRWA submitted and would like it publicly addressed.

Mr. Cook would like to see expenditures in the financial report; likes the idea of a Cross-Connection Control Specialist, whether it be a license or certification; and would like to see better communication from the Board/DOPL.

Board Positions: The Board's Public Member and Drinking Water Representative positions are still available.

Vote to go from Proposed to Pending (ZBR) – IDAPA 24.05.01 Rules of the Board of Drinking Water and Wastewater Professionals – Cont'd: The Board agreed to hold a virtual meeting on October 2, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. MT, to address stakeholder correspondence and vote to go from proposed to pending on the draft rules.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.

01/17/2024/krb