



BRAD LITTLE
Governor
RUSSELL BARRON
Administrator

State of Idaho

Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses

Idaho Board of Drinking Water and Wastewater Professionals

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Minutes of 05/22/2024

Board Members	Stacy Stuart, Chair	Division	Jessica Spoja, Executive Officer
Present:	Bryson Ellsworth, Vice-Chair	Staff:	Mark Kubinski, Lead Counsel
	Laurelei McVey		Renee Bryant, Board Support Supr.
	Jerri Henry		Kaitlin Kinne, Tech. Record Spec. 2
	Niki Summers		Ryan Allstott, Tech. Record Spec. 2
	Kyle Marine		

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM MT by Chairman Stacy Stuart.

APPROVAL OF THE 04/09/2024 MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Stuart asked his last name be corrected throughout the minutes and Vice Chairman Bryson Ellsworth stated his name was under “Board Members Present” twice. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 04/09/2024 meeting minutes with changes. The motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION BUSINESS

Introduction: Ryan Allstott, Tech. Record Spec. 2, was introduced; working with Kaitlin Kinne, Tech. Record Spec. 2, on drinking water and wastewater applications.

Finance Report: Executive Officer (EO) Jessica Spoja provided a financial update. The Board was informed of various expenses that are of interest including annual ITS fee, a particularly high travel cost expense that will be investigated further, Academic, Behavioral, and Cognitive Testing Service (ABC) fee, insurance, and prosecuting attorney fees.

Public Member Training: Lead Counsel (LC) Mark Kubinski presented a Public Member Training PowerPoint to the Board. The open position on the Board for a public member was discussed. EO Spoja mentioned that once the board member list is updated on DOPL’s website there should be more applications received for the open position.

Legislative Update: EO Spoja discussed bills that were proposed and passed during the legislative session that could impact the Board. Bills discussed include Biennial Renewal, Continuing Education, Statutory Waiver, and Pending Rule Effective Dates.

BOARD BUSINESS

Delegated Authority: EO Spoja reviewed the delegated authority document that was discussed at the previous meeting. The document proposes DOPL’s Investigations Unit have the ability to close complaint cases.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Delegated Authority. The motion carried unanimously.

Backflow Prevention Exam: The Board discussed approving the backflow prevention exam written by Leslie Wilder, BAT & Supply, LLC. Concerns were expressed by board members relating to reciprocity with other states, length of accreditation, and the need for a new exam when other exam facilities are being utilized for licensure. The Board will make a list of questions about the exam and send it to Ms. Wilder so that she may prepare answers for the next scheduled board meeting. Ms. Wilder expressed concern with sharing exam questions due to security reasons. EO Spoja proposed the backflow prevention exam questions be moved to executive session for the next board meeting. The Board explained that their increased scrutiny of the process and exam is due to it being a new topic for the Board. Their process now will inform future discussion of approving exams for licensure. The topic was tabled for further discussion at the next board meeting.

Cross-Connection Control Specialist: With nothing new to discuss, the topic “Cross-Connection Control Specialist” will be included on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Reciprocal Agreements: Board Member (BM) Laurelei McVey discussed CEU, Application Experience Sign off Authority, and fee comparison between Idaho and neighboring states. BM McVey pointed out Idaho has fees lower than average across the board for renewals, reciprocity/endorsement, and the licensing process including application, exam, and original license. EO Spoja, along with the Board, discussed methods for negotiating reciprocal agreements with other states. It was decided that EO Spoja would reach out to neighboring states to start the process of reciprocal agreement negotiations.

State Licensure Comparison: BM McVey compared the licensing requirement for wastewater treatment between Idaho and Washington. It was shown that Idaho is more stringent with its requirements except for backflow assembly testing licensing. BM McVey provided an example reciprocity policy for backflow assembly testing. LC Kubinski stated he would do more investigation on the statutes to determine what the best path would be to move forward on the topic of establishing reciprocity with other states.

Public Comments: Carrie Gilstrap, Idaho Rural Water Association, requested their operators receive continuing education credits during their presentations. EO Spoja proposed adding continuing education credit on the agenda for the next board meeting. The Board along with EO Spoja provided clarification on what events qualify for continuing education credits. The Board agreed to reach out to stakeholders for any questions regarding CEU

Application Review: Applications were reviewed under Executive Session.

Discipline Review: Disciplinary matters were addressed under Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – APPLICATION(S) & DISCIPLINE

Motion to Enter Executive Session: A motion was made and seconded that the Board enter executive session under Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure under the Idaho Public Records Law, Idaho Code § 74-106(9). The purpose of the

executive session is to consider documents relating to the fitness of an applicant to be granted a license or registration. Roll call: Chairman Stuart–aye, Vice-Chairman Ellsworth–aye, Board Member Henry–aye, Board Member McVey–aye, Board Member Summers–aye, and Board Member Marine–aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Leave Executive Session: A motion was made and seconded to leave executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION(S) RESULTING FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion(s) re: Application(s): A motion was made and seconded to approve applications BATA-26665 and BATA-26933. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to deny application BATA-26981. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded for application WWP-26672 to be approved effective as of July 1, 2024. Board Member Summers recused herself. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to table or withdraw application WWP-26757. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion(s) re: Discipline(s): Case number I-WWP-2023-4 was discussed in executive session; however, no motion was needed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

07/25/2024/jp