

MINUTES  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM OPERATORS  
CERTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING  
October 12, 2007  
Raleigh, NC

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Certification Commission was called to order on Friday, October 12, 2007, at 10:12 AM, in the Ground Floor Hearing Room at the Archdale Building in Raleigh, with Vice-Chairman C.L. Gobble presiding. The following persons were in attendance for the meeting:

Commission Members

Mr. Paul Rawls- Absent  
Mr. John Boykin- Absent  
Mr. Bob Dodson-Absent  
Mr. C. L. Gobble  
Mr. Wayne Hollowell  
Mr. Gale Howell, Jr.  
Mr. Chester Lowder  
Mr. Troy Perkins  
Mr. George Pettus-Absent  
Mr. Karl Shaffer  
Mr. Gregory Young

Staff Members

Mr. Jerry Rimmer  
Mr. James Pugh  
Mr. Steve Reid  
Ms. Beth Buffington-Absent  
Ms. Gail Winley  
Mr. Kristin Jarman-WARO  
Mr. Don Register-FRO  
Mr. Marc Stokes-WSRO  
Mr. Tom Tharrington-WIRO  
Mr. Don Price- ARO  
Mr. Jay Zimmerman-RRO  
Mr. Dave Goodrich

Guests

Honorable Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State

## **I. Call To Order**

In the absence of Chairman Paul Rawls, Vice-Chairman, C.L. Gobble, welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:12am. He then read the Governor's Ethics Order No. One, which mandates that the Chairman inquire as to whether any member knows of any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to matters before the Commission. He said if any member knows of a conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict, please so state at this time. With no conflicts stated, the meeting continued.

The Vice-Chairman then asked for corrections of the April 13, 2007 meeting minutes. There were no corrections. Mr. Chester Lowder made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Wayne Hollowell made a second to the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Honorable Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State, swore in WPCSOCC members Wayne Hollowell, Gregory Young and Chester Lowder for re-appointment.

The Vice-Chairman asked the commission members for any additions or corrections to the agenda items. With no additions or corrections noted, the meeting continued.

## **II. Action Items**

### **Action Item #: 071001      Request for Approval of Donald R. Price as Biological Curriculum Instructor**

Vice-Chairman C.L. Gobble recognized Mr. Jerry Rimmer to present this item. Mr. Rimmer stated that Donald Price had been contacted by local facilities about preparing their employees to become eligible to take the Biological exams. Don will utilize the approved curriculum and standards and will teach classes on an as-needed and requested basis. Staff recommended approval of Don Price as a provider (instructor) for Biological Wastewater Grades 1 through 4 for both basic and continuing education courses. Mr. Karl Shaffer made a motion to approve Donald Price as a Biological Curriculum Instructor. Mr. Troy Perkins made a second to the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Item # 071002:      Request for approval of Physical/Chemical Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification Needs-To-Know and Curriculum text revision.**

The Vice-Chairman recognized Mr. James Pugh to present this item. Mr. Pugh recommended approval of the revised North Carolina Physical Chemical Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators Needs-to-Know and Curriculum Manual for Grades 1 and 2 as the text for the Physical Chemical Wastewater Treatment Operators Certification Program. Mr. Gale Howell made a motion to approve Needs-To-Know and Curriculum text revision. Mr. Greg Young made a second to the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gale Howell commented on Mr. James Pugh's effort to get count together and complete the project.

### **Action Item # 071003:      Approval of Winners for Wilbur E. Long- Operator of the Year Award.**

Darrell Highsmith, Kirk Miller and Rhonda Locklear were nominees for the Wilbur E. Long Municipal Operator of the Year award. The Commissioners were polled regarding all nominees and Rhonda Locklear was chosen as the Wilbur E. Long Municipal Operator of the Year and Donald Allbright was awarded the Wilbur E. Long Industrial Operator of the Year. Mr. Wayne Hollowell made a motion to approve the Wilbur E. Long Municipal and Industrial Operator of the Year winners. Mr. Troy Perkins made a second to the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

WPCSOCC members asked that in the future City Management, leaders of Municipalities along with Mayors be involved in nominating candidates for the Wilbur E. Long Operator of the Year award. WPCSOCC members also request that notification be given to those who were nominated but not chosen for the award.

## **II. Action Items (Continued)**

### **Action Item 071004: Request approval of WPCSOCC Certification Exam dates for 2008:**

The Vice-Chairman recognized Mr. Jerry Rimmer to present this item. Mr. Rimmer stated that certification exams are generally administered quarterly on the second Thursday of the last month of each calendar quarter at: Morganton, Salisbury, Raleigh, Williamston and Kenansville. The fourth quarter exception is made to enable staff to concentrate on renewals processing in December. Staff recommended that March 13, 2008; June 12, 2008; September 11, 2008; and November 13, 2008 be approved as the dates and the above locations for the 2008 WPCSOCC exams. This item had been previously discussed at the July 2007 Workshop. After a brief discussion, Mr. Chester Lowder made a motion to approve the 2008 dates and locations for the WPCSOCC Certification exam. Mr. Karl Shaffer made a second to the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with one no vote. (Troy Perkins voted no.)

### **Action Item 071005: Request approval of WPCSOCC Meeting dates for 2008:**

The Vice-Chairman recognized Mr. Jerry Rimmer to present this item. Mr. Rimmer stated that WPCSOCC meetings are generally held the second Friday of the first month of each quarter at the Ground Floor Conference Room in the Archdale Building. The dates for the 2008 WPCSOCC meetings will be January 11<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, and October 10<sup>th</sup>, with the exception of July 17<sup>th</sup> the annual workshop will be held at WSRO Conference Room along with the July 18<sup>th</sup> WPCSOCC meeting to be held at WSRO Conference Room. All meetings will begin promptly at 10:00 AM. Mr. Karl Shaffer made a motion to approve the 2008 dates and locations for the WPCSOCC meetings. Mr. Troy Perkins made a second to the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

## **III. Informational Items**

### **Information Item #3: Gratis License renewal for Commission Members that hold Certification:**

The Vice-Chairman recognized Mr. Karl Shaffer to present this item. Mr. Shaffer asked if waiving of the annual fees for Commissioners and staff is compliant with North Carolina Ethic Statues. Does the Commission or DWQ have the authority to waive the fee? Discussion indicated that this practice may offer benefit to Commissioners even though the intent was to indicate appreciation to Commissioners' employers for allowing them time to serve on the WPCSOCC. Since this issue was not clearly obvious, the Commission decided that an action should be recorded. Mr. Karl Shaffer made a motion that the Commissioners not receive gratis fees of any kind be approved. Mr. Chester Lowder made a second to the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Dave Goodrich commented that Ethics training should be a part of the workshop schedule.

### **Information Item #4: Single Family Residents Permit Classification**

The Vice-Chairman recognized Mr. Karl Shaffer to present this item. This is a continuation of the discussion held at the July 2007 WPCSOCC Workshop regarding the need for classifying and requiring a designated ORC for Single Family Residents Permitted Wastewater Systems. This discussion is to allow Commissioners and staff to understand the advantages and problems associated with classifying these systems and lead to a decision about how the Commission and Division of Water Quality will address this issue. Mr. Shaffer mentioned that the focus should be on non-discharge systems. Discussions followed recognizing that DWQ must make recommendation and develop a program to address the issue of whether ORC should be required. Discussion pursued as to the difference between contractors and homeowners roles. Mr. Jay Zimmerman of the RRO discussed regional plans to inspect SFR's every two years, need to develop educational and homeowner understanding. He also indicated that there might be high potential for contamination to migrate to streams due to limit noncompliance and the proximity of surface water in some cases. The Commission felt that no decision should be made at this time. Staff was requested to develop a sub-committee to study the needs of this situation and bring recommendation to future commission meetings.

**IV. Announcement of next scheduled meeting**

Vice-Chairman Cobble announced that the next meeting would be held on January 11, 2008 at Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, Raleigh, NC.

**V. Concluding Remarks**

Vice-Chairman asked if there were any concluding remarks.

**By Members**

No Comments.

**By Vice Chairman**

No Comments

**By Counsel**

No Comments

**By Staff**

No Comments

Respectively Submitted,

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Paul E. Rawls, Chairman

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Gail Winley, WPCSOCC Staff