

FINAL MINUTES
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM OPERATORS
CERTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING
October 10, 2008
Raleigh, NC

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission was called to order on Friday, October 10, 2009 at 10:05 AM, in the Archdale Building, Ground Floor Conference Room, 512 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC with Vice-Chairman C.L. Gobble presiding. The following persons were in attendance for the meeting:

Commission Members

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

Staff Members

Mr. Jerry Rimmer
Mr. James Pugh
Mr. Steve Reid
Ms. Beth Buffington - Absent
Ms. Gail Winley
Ms. Barbara Sifford- MRO - Absent
Mr. Don Register-FRO
Mr. Marc Stokes-WSRO
Mr. Tom Tharrington-WIRO - Absent
Mr. Don Price- ARO
Mr. Dave Goodrich - Absent

Visitors

Ken Kiser- Western Piedmont Community College
Kristy Boykin
John Boykin, Sr.
Cornelia Boykin
Neil Boykin

I. Call To Order

Vice-Chairman C. L. Gobble welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. He then read the Governor's Ethics Order No. One, which mandates that the Presider 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 asked 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 Chairman then asked for corrections of the July 18, 2008 meeting minutes. Mr. Robert Dodson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Troy Perkins made a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Action Items

Action Item #081001: Presentation of recognition for Service to WPCSOCC by John Boykin

Vice-Chairman C. L. Gobble recognized Jerry Rimmer to present a special posthumous recognition for service by John H. Boykin, Jr. to the WPCSOCC. Mr. Rimmer read the citation as follows and presented a plaque to Mr. Boykin's family which was represented by his wife- Kristy, Parents -John Sr. and Cornelia and brother -Neil.

The Citation read:

"This special award is presented to the Family of John Hilliard Boykin, Jr. in recognition of his service as a commissioner on the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission. Also noted are his tireless efforts to improve the wastewater operators' profession and reduce environmental impact of wastewater facilities in North Carolina throughout his career.

His presence and contributions will be missed, but never forgotten. His inspiration will continue to encourage all in the profession to do their best and work to improve the performance of all wastewater treatment operators."

Action Item #081002: Approval of Selections for 2008 Wilbur E. Long Operator of the Year Awards

Steve Reid was recognized to present the results of the voting by Commissioners for the 2009 Wilbur E. Long Operator of the Year Awards. Mr. Reid announced that all nominees were presented to each commissioner prior to this meeting and commissioners voted for their top three choices for each category. Mr. Reid presented the results of the voting by commissioners as follows:

Nominees for:

2008 Industrial Operator of the Year- Clarence Beaver of DAK Americas, Robert Geddie of E. I. DuPont and Gale Wyatt of United Chemi-con.

2008 Municipal Operator of the Year: Curtis Brown of Siler City, Stan Bryson of Tucksagee Water & Sewer Authority, Neil Carroll of Clinton, Dan Dougherty of Gastonia, Lowell and formerly Dallas, William Lee Ebron of Havelock and Walter Kling of Greensboro.

Clarence Beaver received the most votes as Industrial Operator and was recommended for approval as the 2008 winner.

Dan Dougherty received the most votes as Municipal Operator and was recommended for approval as the 2008 winner.

Mr. Reid also recommended per commissioners request John Boykin, Jr. receive a posthumous Wilbur E. Long- Operator of the Year Award for his tireless service to the profession and outstanding efforts to improve operations of the systems he operated and his commitment to enhance the wastewater operator profession throughout his career.

Karl Shaffer moved to approve these three as winners of 2008 Wilbur E. Long Operator of the Year Awards. Troy Perkins seconded the motion. Commission approved unanimously.

Jerry Rimmer was then recognized to present the Award to the John Boykin, Jr. family.

Action Item #081003: Approval of WPCSOCC Certification Exam Daters for 2009:

Jerry Rimmer was recognized to request approval of the following dates for WPCSOCC Operator Certification Exams to be administered in Kenansville, Williamston, Raleigh, Salisbury and Morganton on the following dates:

March 12, 2009, June 11, 2009, September 10, 2009 and November 12, 2009.

Bob Dodson moved for approval and Wayne Hollowell seconded the motion. The Commission approved motion unanimously.

Action Item #081004: Approval of WPCSOCC Meeting Dates and locations for 2009:

Jerry Rimmer was recognized to present a request for approval of the following dates for WPCSOCC meetings scheduled for 2009:

January 9, 2009 @ Archdale Building Ground Floor Conference Room, Raleigh
April 10, 2009 @ Archdale Building Ground Floor Conference Room, Raleigh
July 16, 2009 Annual Workshop @ Fayetteville Regional Office
July 17, 2009 WPCSOCC Meeting @ Fayetteville Regional Office
October 8, 2009 @ Archdale Building Ground Floor Conference Room, Raleigh
Start time is 10:00 am for each session.

Troy Perkins moved for approval. Bob Dodson seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Informational Items

Info Item # 1: Clarification of ORC Visitation Requirements for Land Application of Residuals

Vice-Chairman Gobble recognized Jerry Rimmer to lead discussion of the status of this issue.

Mr. Rimmer opened with the following information:

“A question of interpretation of the meaning of “application” in the regulations at 15NCAC 8G .0204 (g) and in permits was discussed at the July 2008 Workshop. Staff was instructed to work with the Aquifer Protection Staff (APS) to determine a definition of “application”. Input from Commissioners and APS staff was received by staff and reviewed.

APS staff seems to agree that “application” should not exceed one week. That would mean that ORC would have to visit each field at least weekly regardless of time to complete application to the field and within 48 hours after completion of application to assure no discharge occurs from any field boundary and applications appear to be properly done. APS staff proposes to require in permits that the permittee develop an inspection plan to address when visits by ORC and others will be performed and what will be inspected.”

The WPCSOCC discussion that followed included possibility of separate designation of ORC and equipment operator to make applicator responsible for his actions since he has control of application. This would require a rule change. Another suggestion was to define visits to at least once per week within 48 hours after application or include visits prior to and after applications within 48 hours of event.

TACU staff was instructed to meet with APS staff to determine a defensible definition and work to get this in new or renewed permits and to get information to all permittees. TACU will report back when this definition is finalized.

Info Item #2 – Update of Biological Grade 3 & 4 – On-line “Blackboard Format” at Western Piedmont Comm. College Course Description

Don Price, Consultant in Asheville Regional Office, was recognized to present information regarding on-line basic school training options to be offered through Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton. Mr. Price introduced Ken Kiser of Western Piedmont Community College staff to help explain this new training option.

The attached course description and Syllabus (Attachment 1) was reviewed by Mr. Kiser and Mr. Price. They explained that they are introducing this concept at the Grade 3 & 4 level due to operators experience requirements which minimizes need to visit and view WWTP for understanding. Q&A portal is available for all students to view and participate and operators can send questions. Questions were raised about schedule for participants, fees, identification procedures, project requirement and course administration. Mr. Kiser stated the fees will be determined by WPCC and will be compatible with other courses. The schedule will be established from start date to end date for completion. Required WPCC Campus visits for periodic tests and project updates will allow verification of identity of students. Tests are on a set date and location other class participation will be as convenient to student as are other on-line classes. All requirements must be met to qualify for certificate of completion of course.

Mr. Price stated that he wants to present this hybrid class and evaluate after students complete the course with such parameters as passing rate comparison and student knowledge based on tests. He requested WPCSOCC approval of this hybrid concept for on-line training as this is the most popular training option at many Community Colleges and Universities and is the currently preferred method of many colleges.

After a brief discussion which included the advantages of this type class for operators and possible issues regarding on-line basic training, Karl Shaffer moved to approve the concept of on-line basic schools and this hybrid class to be administered at WPCC. This approval is understood to include student evaluation at completion of this course, syllabus approval by TACU staff and a report after completion of the initial course. The evaluation will determine the viability of this method for future offerings. Greg Young seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

IV. Announcement of next scheduled meeting

Vice-Chairman C. L. Gobble announced that the next regular quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2009 to begin at 10:00 am in the Ground Floor Hearing Room of the Archdale Building at 512 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

V. Concluding Remarks

By Members: Karl Shaffer stated that Don Price should be applauded for his efforts to introduce on-line course and all the work he has invested in this class.

By Vice Chairman: C.L. Gobble mentioned that Don Register should be recognized as his retirement from DWQ nears and he should be applauded for his work as a former WPCSOCC member and for his excellent Technical Assistance efforts while employed by DWQ. He has helped many operators to improve their skills and operations of their facilities.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further comments, Vice-Chairman Gobble adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.

Respectively Submitted,

Paul E. Rawls, Chairman

Lora McKinney, WPCSOCC Staff