

Minutes
Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Board of Examiners for the Certification of Industrial/Commercial Wastewater Operators

January 28, 2021

The meeting was called by announcement dated September 17, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Ryden at 9:31 a.m. and was held online via Microsoft TEAMS due to the COVID-19 pandemic and statewide emergency order.

Roll Call

Members Present and Their Location at Time of Meeting: Tom Ryden (Midland, MI, Midland County); Sierra Brown (Rockford, MI, Kent County); Chris Veldkamp (Grand Rapids, MI, Kent County); Greg Merricle (Portland Township, MI, Ionia County); Henry Hatter (Clio, MI, Genesee County)

Staff Present and Their Location at Time of Meeting: Earl Wuestnick (Linden, MI, Genesee County) and Alyssa Sarver (Howell, MI, Livingston County)

Officer Elections

Motion by Veldkamp to reappoint Ryden as Chair of the Board. Seconded by Hatter.
Motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Merricle to reappoint Veldkamp as Vice Chair of the Board. Seconded by Brown.
Motion passed 5-0.

Consideration of September 17, 2020, Meeting Minutes

There were no comments on the meeting minutes.

Motion by Hatter to accept minutes as written, seconded by Veldkamp. Motion passed 5-0.

February 18, 2021, Industrial / Commercial Exam Applications Exam Statistics

Wuestnick discussed current exam statistics and explained that more applications are expected in the next couple weeks.

33 applicants
96 exams

Sarver updated the Board on the status of the exam and venue planning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Annual recommendation for issuance of certification for A-1a, A-1h, A-1i, and A-1j classifications

Motion by Veldkamp to approve that the Industrial Wastewater Board of Examiners authorizes one Board Member to meet with staff as needed to recommend for issuance A-1a, A-1h, A-1i, and A-1j certifications by the Director of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for

those eligible candidates. This authorization is established and re-established at the first scheduled Board meeting of the calendar year. Seconded by Hatter. Motion passed 5-0.

Board Contact Information Sheet Data Collection

Staff asked the Board to provide any contact updates if changes are to be made. Staff will distribute new contact sheets to the Board at the next meeting.

Annual Storm Water Exam Log

Sarver summarized the annual storm water log and the Board asked staff to clarify acronyms on future reports. Staff and the Board also discussed consistency for the numbers reported and if the totals reflect fiscal year or calendar year.

Annual List of Operators for 5-year Certificates Not Renewed

Wuestnick stated there were 133 industrial wastewater certificates not renewed in 2020.

Current Status of Virtual Meetings and the Open Meetings Act

Sarver updated the Board on the recent amendment to the Open Meetings Act regarding virtual meetings. After March 31, 2021, if there is an emergency order statewide or in the Lansing area, the Board will continue to meet virtually; if emergency orders have laxed, then the Board must meet in-person.

Other Items

The Board asked staff to edit the “Summary of Important Actions” and “Industrial Certification Practices” documents, and the 2021 Calendar of Events. Staff will provide updated documents to the Board following this meeting.

Important Dates


- Next exam date – August 19, 2021
- App. Deadline – July 20, 2021
- Board Meeting – July 29, 2021 (Pre-Exam Meeting)
- Exam Announcement – May 17, 2021

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next Industrial/Commercial Board meeting is scheduled on March 18, 2021 (Post-Exam Meeting), at 9:30 a.m. on Microsoft TEAMS.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: 
Alyssa Sarver