

North Carolina Water Treatment Facility Operators Certification Board

Meeting Summary – March 17, 2026

Archdale Building, Raleigh NC, 10 AM

Roster

MEMBERS

Niroj Aryal
Rani Holland
Mary Tiger
La'Meshia Whittington
Thomas Hedrick
Matt Zapp

STAFF

Chris Brown, DWR
Alaina Strater, DWR
Jeff Talbott, DWR
Stephen Denning, DWR

GUESTS

Elly Young, NCDOJ

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order – Rani Holland, Chairman

Reading of NC State Government Ethics Act Requirements

In accordance with the NC State Government Ethics act, it is the duty of every commissioner to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest. The Chairman for today's Water Treatment Facility Operators Certification Board meeting hereby asks:

“Does any commissioner have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest with respect to any matter coming before this commission today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from participation in that matter.” **None noted.**

Review and Approval of Minutes for January 20, 2026

Approved with no corrections
Motion by: Rani Holland
Second: La'Meshia Whittington
Motion passed unopposed.

Action Items

Opportunity for comments from attending public

N/A

A) Certification Reinstatement Requests – Section .0309

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>Certification Reinstatement Request</u> | <u>Year Certification Expired</u> |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Joshua Moye | C-Well | 2024 |
| Eric Johnston | A-Distribution | 2022 |
| Kevin Helms | C-Distribution | 2014 |

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| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|------|
| Kevin Powell | B-Distribution & C-Well | 2024 |
|--------------|-------------------------|------|

Joshua Moye

Motion: Pay two years back fees and pass C-Well exam again
 Motion by Mary Tiger
 Second: Niroj Aryal
 Motion passed unopposed.

Eric Johnston

Motion: Pay two years back fees, pass A-Distribution exam again
 Motion by Mary Tiger
 Second: Tom Hedrick
 Motion passed unopposed.

Kevin Helms

Motion: Pay two years back fees, retake C-Distribution school, pass C-Distribution exam again
 Motion by Mary Tiger
 Second: La'Meshia Whittington
 Motion passed unopposed.

Kevin Powell

Motion: Pay two years back fees, pass B-Distribution exam again
 Motion by La'Meshia Whittington
 Second: Tom Hedrick
 Motion passed unopposed.

Kevin Powell

Motion: Pay two years back fees, pass C-Well exam again
 Motion by La'Meshia Whittington
 Second: Tom Hedrick
 Motion passed unopposed.

B) Operator in Responsible Charge Requests-Section .0701

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>ORC Request</u> | <u>Facility</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dennis Wells | A-Distribution and Cross Connection | City of Bessemer |
| Robert Mazzeo | B-Distribution | Wrightsville Beach Water System |
| Christopher Smith | C-Well and C-Distribution | Union Utilities Corp. |
| John Pitts | Cross Connection and B-Distribution | Town of Kenly |
| Jason Banks | C-Well and B-Distribution | Town of Micro |

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| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Taylor Joyner | C-Well and B-Distribution | Northern Nash Water Corp |
| Gregory Milliken | C-Well and B-Distribution | Town of Lake Waccamaw |

Dennis Well

Motion: Move to approve request to act as ORC for one year with requirement of facility to give board updates every 6 months in continuing to hire certified operators, to resolve deficiency and maintain compliance.

Motion by La'Meshia Whittington

Second: Mary Tiger

Motion passed unopposed.

Robert Mazzeo

Motion: Move to approve request for B-Distribution exceedance with Wrightsville Beach Water System

Motion by Mary Tiger

Second: Matt Zapp

Motion passed unopposed.

Christopher Smith

Motion: Move to approve request for C-Well and C-Distribution exceedance with Union Utilities Corporation

Motion by La'Meshia Whittington

Second: Matt Zapp

Motion passed unopposed.

John Pitts

Motion: Move to approve request for B-Distribution and Cross Connection exceedance with Town of Kenly

Motion by Mary Tiger

Second: La'Meshia Whittington

Motion passed unopposed.

Jason Banks

Motion: Move to approve request for C-Well and B-Distribution exceedance with Town of Micro

Motion by La'Meshia Whittington

Second: Thomas Hedrick

Motion passed unopposed.

Taylor Joyner

Motion: Move to approve request for C-Well and B-Distribution exceedance with Northern Nash Water

Motion by La'Meshia Whittington

Second: Mary Tiger

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Motion passed unopposed.

Gregory Milliken

Motion: Move to approve request to be C-Well and B-Distribution exceedance ORC with Town of Lake Waccamaw

Motion by La'Meshia Whittington

Second: Thomas Hedrick

Motion passed unopposed.

C) Temporary Certificate Request – Section .0404

None

D) Out-Of-State Reciprocity Request - Section .0201 (b)

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>Certification Sought</u> | <u>State of Origin</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Blake Owen Dorsey | Surface | CA |
| Eric Vincent Jenkins | Surface | TN |
| Clay Wayne Cannon | Distribution | SC |
| William Blake Franchi | Well | VA |
| William Blake Franchi | Distribution | VA |
| Gustavo Alfredo Beltran | Distribution | CA |

Blake Owen Dorsey

Motion: Recommend C-Surface apprentice certification be issued for reciprocity.

Motion by Thomas Hedrick

Second: La'Meshia Whittington

Motion passed unopposed.

Eric Vincent Jenkins

Motion: Recommend A-Surface certification be issued for reciprocity.

Motion by La'Meshia Whittington

Second: Mary Tiger

Motion passed unopposed.

Clay Wayne Cannon

Motion: Recommend C-Distribution certification be issued for reciprocity.

Motion by Thomas Hedrick

Second: Niroj Aryal

Motion passed unopposed.

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William Blake Franchi

Motion: Recommend C-Well certification be issued for reciprocity.

Motion by Thomas Hedrick

Second: La'Meshia Whittington

Motion passed unopposed.

William Blake Franchi

Motion: Recommend C-Distribution certification be issued for reciprocity.

Motion by Thomas Hedrick

Second: Niroj Aryal

Motion passed unopposed.

Gustavo Alfredo Beltran

First Motion: Recommend B-Distribution certifications be issued for reciprocity.

Motion by Thomas Hedrick

Second: La'Meshia Whittington

Motion passed unopposed.

E) Military Training and Experience Request

None

F) Other Request

None

G) Classified Water Treatment Facilities – Section .0205

New Systems

Whitewater Ridge

Motion: Approve facility to C-Well

Motion by Mary Tiger

Second: La'Meshia Whittington

Motion passed unopposed.

Sanctuary at Lake Wheeler

Motion: Approve facility to C-Well

Motion by Mary Tiger

Second: Matt Zapp

Motion passed unopposed.

Beech Bluff County Parks

Motion: Approve facility to C-Well

Motion by Thomas Hedrick

Second: Mary Tiger

Motion passed unopposed.

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Reserve at Falls Lake (Phase IV)

Motion: Approve facility to C-Well
Motion by Thomas Hedrick
Second: Matt Zapp
Motion passed unopposed.

Annie Louise Wilkerson Nature Preserve

Motion: Approve facility to D-Well
Motion by Thomas Hedrick
Second: Matt Zapp
Motion passed unopposed.

Honeycutt Park

Motion: Approve facility to D-Well
Motion by Mary Tiger
Second: Niroj Aryal
Motion passed unopposed.

Change Systems

Mountain Air

Motion: Approve change from C-Distribution to B-Distribution
Motion by Thomas Hedrick
Second: Mary Tiger
Motion passed unopposed.

The following systems listed below was unanimously approved for changes by all members of the board for the following updates:

Motion by La'Meshia Whittington
Second: Thomas Hedrick
Motion passed unopposed.

Tobacco Branch Village

Motion: Approve change from B-Well to C-Well

Trillium Links West

Motion: Approve change to add C-Distribution

Cardinal Care of Hope Mills

Motion: Approve change from D-Well to C-Well

Fort Bragg ATF

Motion: Approve change add Cross Connection

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White Oak Shores #2

Motion: Approve change to remove C-Distribution

Iredell Water Corporation

Motion: tabled until next meeting - pending verification if this is purchase system

Motion by La'Meshia Whittington

Second: Matt Zapp

Motion passed unopposed.

H) Rules

None

I) Education

Review of paper exam results October 30th

Proctors For Paper Exams – May 27, 2026

- **Williamston-** Jeff Talbott (staff)

Proctors For Paper Exams – May 28, 2026

- **Raleigh** – Thomas Hedrick, Alaina Strater (staff), Chris Brown (staff)
- **Hickory** – Stephen Denning (staff)

J) Other

WTFOCB Counsel Elly Young discussed the previous challenge to the Board decision to award reciprocity to operator Jeffrey Baker. The Administrative Law Judge presiding over the case agreed with Mr. Baker's arguments. Mr. Baker's attorneys and the attorneys for the State will next present their case in front of the WTFOCB at a to-be-determined date and location.

Opportunity for comments from attending public

None

Announcements and general discussion

The next meeting of the NCWTFOCB is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 10:00AM** at the Archdale Ground Floor Hearing Room located at 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27604.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn today's meeting by Rani Holland

Motion passed unopposed.