

Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission

NC Department of Environmental Quality

WPCSOCC Meeting Summary – February 14, 2025

Archdale Building, Raleigh NC, 10 AM

Roster

MEMBERS Present

Marchell Adams-David
Arnold Allred
Steve Barry -Teams
Mark Brantley - Chair
Martie Groome
Matthew Haynes
Chester Lowder
Jim Lynch
Jonathan Russell

STAFF

Patrick Beggs, DWR
Paula Chappell, DWR – Notary
Ashley Coleman, DWR
Shelby Gull, DWR
Phillip Reynolds, NCDOJ
Jeff Talbott, DWR
Renee Thompson, DWR
Bill Toole – Deputy Secretary of State
Jenee Williamson, DWR-Teams

MEMBERS Absent:

Dr. Robert Rubin

GUESTS

Cheri Proctor, NCRWA
Chris White, NC One Water

Preliminary Matters

P1. Call to Order – Mark Brantley – Chair

P2. Notice of NC State Government Ethics Act Requirements – None noted.

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 Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission 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.”

P3. Reappointment of Commissioners – Deputy Secretary of State, Bill Toole, administered the oath of office to commissioner Jonathan Russell. Paula Chappell DWR, notarized appointment.

P4. Revisions or Additions to Agenda

None.

P5. Review and Approval of Summary for November 1, 2024.

Approve November Summary.

Motion: Russell

Second: Adams-David

Motion passed unopposed

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P6. Introduction of New Staff Member on Operator Certification Team – Renee Thompson

Action Items

None

Information Items

2502A – Renewal Season Metrics and Discussion

Wastewater/Animal Waste						
	Certification	Fee	Complete		Helene Total = 106	
Invoiced	9,824	\$ 634,695.00	-			
Pending	984	\$ 55,585.00	10%			
Renewed (paid)	8,835	\$ 579,110.00	90%			
Drinking Water						
	Certification	Fee	Complete		Helene Total = 86	
Invoiced	5,773	\$272,580				
Pending	499	\$39,360	9%			
Renewed (paid)	5,274	\$233,220	91%			

- 10% of fees were late – which is normal.
- Late fee penalty not applied until June 2025 due to the impact of Helene on western North Carolina

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Breakdown of Operator Certifications

Certification	Total
Animal Waste A	1,924
Animal Waste B	216
Collections I	1,380
Collections II	1,270
Collections III	436
Collections IV	1,043
Wastewater/Biological I	1,211
Wastewater/Biological II	932
Wastewater/Biological III	437
Wastewater/Biological IV	1,255
Physical/Chemical I	1,182
Physical/Chemical II	252
Land Application	741
Surface Irrigation	792
Subsurface	876
Total	13,947

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Operator Certification Program is fully receipts driven from fees associated with initial certifications, renewal season, and exams. The money we take in goes to pay for the salaries in the program, misc. expenses and equipment orders for the program.

2502B Ethics Commission Information – Mark Brantley

Jane Stevens with the State Ethics Commission wants to remind all commission members that the economic statements of economic interest are due by April 15th. These can be completed any time prior to that date. Two Committee members are overdue on training (Commissioner Allred and Commissioner Groome). Commissioner Brantley will contact Jane Stevens to get links to training and economic statement of economic interest and provide that information by Tuesday 2/18.

2502C – Rules Discussion – changes for 15A NCAC 08G

Discuss start of possible changes. Rules in 08G have moved forward to the Rules Review Committee (RRC). The WPCSOCC was asked to not make changes to any specific rules at this time for fear of holding up this process and possibly invalidating the whole suite of rules. Jay Frick said this process should conclude May of 2025. After that the Commission can pick rules that they see fit to change. The recommendation is that Chairman Brantley request a sub-committee to review rules as a whole and to begin discussions with commission members and staff. Some examples of changes to be noted: removal of outdated URLs; revise rules for sake of clarity; changes to reciprocity/renewal rules; remove requirement that Operator Certification take social security numbers of operators. Timeline for these rule discussions would be most of the year with several commission meetings to discuss. Jeff Talbott will loop Jay Frick in to verify the process of forming a committee for rule review and possible changes. Phillip Reynolds, NCDOT gave an overview of the process.

Commissioner Barry asked for a clarification of when the readoption of current rules will be completed. That is May 2025. After that date, the Commission can begin to review and discuss any changes to rules moving forward. Next Step, form a rule review committee during May meeting. Topic of reciprocity for Cherokee Nation came up and the idea of them taking the ABC exam may position the Commission to grant reciprocity. Homework for commissioners is to read over the rules provided during the meeting and make notes to discuss in May.

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2502D – November 2024 Exam Pass Rates

Exam Date: 12/05/24

Certification	Took	Pass	Fail	%	Historical
AWA - 01	10	8	2	80	79
AWB - 02	1	1	0	100	90
CS1 - 03	133	100	33	75	81
CS2 - 04	79	59	20	75	75
CS3 - 05	38	23	15	61	68
CS4 - 06	28	20	8	71	75
LA - 07	14	5	9	36	69
SI - 08	8	5	3	63	76
SS - 09	9	7	2	78	82
WW1 - 10	101	58	43	57	58
WW2 - 11	88	35	53	40	48
WW3 - 12	45	19	26	42	43
WW4 - 13	18	11	7	61	61
PC1 - 15	45	21	54	47	62
PC2 - 16	3	3	0	100	65

These pass rates are in line with the historical pass rate.

As a department, the Operator Certification Program has provided the Board of Education and Examiners a list of Biological Wastewater exam questions that have a 50% or less pass rate. This board is in the process of reviewing them to determine if these questions are properly written in terms of appropriate content and rigor.

Concluding remarks

- Some members of WPCSOCC need to be reappointed this year.
- The Operator Certification Program continues to research how to modernize program operations.
- Wilbur E Young Operator of Year nominations are due June 1st. Recipient(s) will be decided at the August WPCSOCC meeting.

Announcement of next scheduled meeting

The next meeting of the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission is scheduled for **Friday, May 9, 2025 at 10:00AM** in the Archdale Building Ground Floor Hearing, Raleigh NC.

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Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned by Chair