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GOVERNOR

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Occupational Licensure
Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water
Supply Facilities

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REGULATION

SARAH R. WILKINSON
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OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD March 7, 2025 (Approved: April 4, 2025)

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

MEMBERS	APPOINTMENT	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. Michael Celona	Chairman	X	
Mr. William Salomaa	Vice Chairman	X	
Mr. Blake Lukis	Member	X	
Mr. Dave Coppes	Member	X	
Mr. Andrew Reid	Member	X	
Ms. Ruth Alfasso	Member	X	
Mass. Labor Representative	Vacant		
STAFF	POSITION		
Ryan Doherty	Executive Director	X	
Aashna Alim	Office Admin	X	
Lynn Read	Board Counsel	X	

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: at 9:01 A.M.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

- February 7, 2025, Open Session Board meeting minutes
A MOTION was made by Member Coppes and seconded by Member Salomaa to accept the Public Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2025. Roll Call Board Vote: – Unanimous – Alfasso, Celona, Coppes, Lukis, Reid, Salomaa in favor.

DOL UPDATES:

- Number of OIT applications processed and licensed since the February 2025 meeting:

License type	
TA	6
TB	6
TC	9
TD	5
DA	9
DB	7
DC	3



DD	1
Total	46

- DOL will be moving in March of 2025 to One Federal Street, Boston. Logistics and outreach for the move are currently being addressed and planned.

DISCUSSION:

- Exam Score Required Timeline
Chair Celona reiterated that applications must be submitted within 6 months of passing the examinations, no deviations until the Regulations are updated.
- MWWA Operator Certification Q&A December event feedback
Board member Lukis spoke about giving presentations on the application process for Drinking Water certification and what applicants are expected to submit, available on YouTube.
- Pre-requisite course waivers
Board Chair proposed eventual changes to the course waiver policy to include people with high school diplomas that have ten or more years of experience. This was followed by a discussion. It was requested that Board Chair analyze additional information and report back.
- WPI Exam Updates
Due to lower scores being reported nationally, WPI has developed new examinations with updated questions where the grading will be scaled. These examinations are intended to be the new standardized tests for the industry and existing examinations will be considered specialized tests. State Boards will need to make decisions regarding this when the time comes. More updates will be provided at future meetings as they come.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Pederson had follow-up questions regarding the declining passing rates. Mr. Celona will share the information he has access to.

TRAINING CONTACT HOUR APPLICATIONS:

Organization	Course	Course ID#	TCHs	Status
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 1 – Asset Management and Data Integration	DWT-2025-15	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 2 – Cross Connections	DWT-2025-16	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 3 – Distribution I – Resiliency	DWT-2025-17	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 4 – Water treatment I – PFAS	DWT-2025-18	2.00	Approved



NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 5 – Customer Service	DWT-2025-19	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 6 – Distribution II – Infrastructure	DWT-2025-20	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 7 – Water Treatment II – Surface Water	DWT-2025-21	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 8 – Young Professionals	DWT-2025-22	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 9 – Work Force	DWT-2025-23	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 10 – Dams	DWT-2025-24	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 11 – SCADA and Operational Tech	DWT-2025-25	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 12 – Management & Finance	DWT-2025-26	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 13 – Distribution & Storage	DWT-2025-27	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 14 – Water Treatment III – Resiliency	DWT-2025-28	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 15 – Regulatory	DWT-2025-29	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 16 – Distribution III – Lead Service Lines	DWT-2025-30	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 17 – Corrosion Control	DWT-2025-31	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 18 – Safety/Emergency Preparedness	DWT-2025-32	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 19 – Groundwater	DWT-2025-33	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference Session 20 – Water Resources	DWT-2025-34	2.00	Approved
NEWWA	NEWWA Spring Conference – Diversity & Allyship Breakfast	DWT-2025-35	1.00	Approved
MassDEP	Introduction to PFAS, Technical Support, and Grants	DWT-2025-36	1.00	Approved

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE & PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE STATUS:

Name of PWS	TEC# or PC #	Status
Salisbury Water Division	#2025-01	Approved
Ashfield Water District	#2025-02	Approved
Pequot Highlands		<i>Pending</i>



ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY BOARD:

- Exam course waiver – L. Durkin

A MOTION was made by Member Coppes and seconded by Member Salomaa to approve the waiver for Basic and Advanced Treatment courses. Roll Call Board Vote: – Unanimous – Alfasso, Celona, Coppes, Lukis, Reid, Salomaa in favor.

RECIPROCITY: None received.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

Last Name	First Name	Applying for	Outcome
Dankert	Greg	D3-Full upgrade	Approved
Ursino	Dylan	T1-Full	Approved for OIT
Ursino	Dylan	D1-Full	Approved for OIT
Bondar	Andrew	D3-Full upgrade	Approved
Taylor	Deborah	T1-Full	Approved
Byrnes	Bryan	T3-Full upgrade	Approved
OConnell	Christopher	T4-Full	Approved for OIT
Lauzon	Caulin	D1-Full	Request additional information
Johngren	Dana	D3-Full	Approved
Ricchiazzi	Michael	D4-Full	Approved
Lemke	Connor	T2-Full	Approved for OIT
Sullivan	Sean	D1-Full upgrade	Approved
Sullivan	Sean	T1-Full upgrade	Approved
Rodier	Keith	D1-Full	Request additional information
Horton	Anthony	T4-Full	Approved
Perez	Maxwell	D2-Full	Approved
Farone	Nicholas	D3-Full	Approved
McGrade	Colin	T1-Full upgrade	Approved
Harding	Paul	T1-Full	Approved
Craig	Taylor	D4-Full upgrade	Approved
Beauchesne	Brian	T1-Full upgrade	Approved
Guevara	Armando	T1-Full	Approved for OIT
Conti	Nicholas	D1-Full	Approved
Chabot	Chris	D2-Full	Approved
Bayani	Benjamin	T1-Full upgrade	Approved
Rooney	Blake	T2-Full	Approved for OIT
Murray	Connor	D1-Full	Approved
Aspesi	Stephen	T1-Full	Approved for OIT
Lapi	Flabjon	D1-Full	Approved for OIT
Calla	Glen	D2-Full	Approved
Smith	Matthew	D3-Full	Request additional information
Burke	Alan	D1-Full	Approved for OIT



Thompson	Taylor	D1-Full upgrade	Approved
Thompson	Taylor	T1-Full upgrade	Approved
Melia	Matthew	D1-Full	Approved for OIT
Brown	Gordon	D2-Full	Approved
Richard	Sean	D1-Full	Approved
Lavalle	Andrew	D1-Full	Denied

*Member Coppes recuses himself from any MWRA license applications.

**Member Lukis recuses himself from any Dedham-Westwood Water District license applications.

***Member Celona recuses himself from any Lynn Water & Sewer Commission applications.

****Member Reid recuses himself from any Weston & Sampson applications.

A MOTION was made by Member Alfasso and seconded by Member Coppes to approve licenses and decisions indicated in the above chart. Roll Call Board Vote: – Unanimous – Alfasso, Celona, Coppes, Lukis, Reid, Salomaa in favor.

INVESTIGATIVE CONFERENCE CLOSED UNDER G. L. C. 112, § 65C

At 10:27 A.M., a MOTION was made by Member Lukis and seconded by Member Salomaa to leave the Open Meeting to begin a closed Investigative Conference to discuss matters of settlement and disciplinary complaints to show cause and to not return to the Open Meeting afterwards. Roll Call Board Vote: – Unanimous – Alfasso, Celona, Coppes, Lukis, Reid, Salomaa in favor.

- Settlements:

- 2024-000930-IT-ENF Guidance given to Prosecution
- 2025-000002-IT-ENF Guidance given to Prosecution

The Board did not have any need to hold the Executive Session or Quasi-Judicial Session that were reserved on the Agenda.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Member Coppes and seconded by Member Salomaa to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Board Vote: – Unanimous – Alfasso, Celona, Coppes, Lukis, Reid, Salomaa in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at or around 11:31 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Michael Celona

Michael Celona, Chair
Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities

Documents Used in Open Meeting:

Agenda for March 7, 2025
Draft Open Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2025
Memo on Pre-Requisite Training Waiver Updates
Exam course waiver – L. Durkin
Applications for licensure pending decisions

