



1 **MEETING OF THE UTILITY OPERATOR CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD**
2 **THURSDAY November 10, 2022**
3 **9:38 A.M.**
4 **HELD VIRTUALLY VIA CISCO WEBEX MEETING**

5
6 **AGENDA ITEM 1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

7 **Members present:** Cathie Eisen
8 Joe Bailey, Vice Chair
9 Dale Graham
10 Ivan (Michael) Abell
11 Maria Gilvarry
12 Sydney Hoke
13 Rick Mitchell
14 Filiberto Aguirre, Jr.

15
16 **Absent:** Bobby Towle

17
18 **Guests:** Jill Turner, NMED-DWB SWIG Manager
19 Eric Hall, NMED-DWB UOCP Manager
20 Anita Tavasci, NMED-DWB UOCP
21 Kendall Crowe, NMED-DWB UOCP
22 Nile Carver, NMED-DWB UOCP
23 Jason Martinez, NMED-SWQB
24 Avery Young, NMED-GWQB
25 Cherie
26 Anne Keller
27 Agatha King, Quemado Lake Water Association

28
29
30 **ACTION:** Roll was called, a quorum was present.

31
32 **AGENDA ITEM 2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL: MEETING AGENDA**

33
34 **DISCUSSION:** Vice Chair Bailey asked the Board if anyone found any corrections needed on the
35 meeting agenda.

36
37 **ACTION:** Member Abell made the motion to accept the agenda as presented. Member Graham
38 seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

39
40 **AGENDA ITEM 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL: SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

41
42 **DISCUSSION:** Vice Chair Bailey asked the Board if any members have any comments on the
43 minutes from the previous meeting.

44
45 **ACTION:** Member Abell made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the September
46 22nd Advisory Board meeting as written. Member Mitchell seconded the motion. A voice vote
47 was called by Vice Chair Bailey, the motion carried unanimously.

50 **AGENDA ITEM 4. NEW MEXICO WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION**

51

52 **DISCUSSION:** Vice Bailey asked if there is a report from the New Mexico Water and
53 Wastewater Association. No one was present to give an update.

54

55 **AGENDA ITEM 5. DRINKING WATER BUREAU UPDATE**

56

57 **DISCUSSION:** Jill Turner stated that the Utility Operator Certification Program, (UOCP), is still
58 working towards acquiring a replacement certification management database. Ms. Turner
59 spoke of the Bureau acquiring a contractor to work with them to cover short-falls involved with
60 the lack of staffing. The contractor is named Eastern Research Group, (ERG), who provide a lot
61 of support with Federal and State agencies. ERG will be going out into the field to get the
62 Bureau caught-up on the back-log of Sanitary Surveys at water systems. Jill went on to state
63 that ERG will also be providing assistance with the Source Water Protection and Engineering
64 Group to review infrastructure plans coming-in. They had been meeting with them and signed
65 the contract on Tuesday. Vice Chair Bailey asked if there were any questions. None were
66 posed.

67

68 **AGENDA ITEM 6. NM SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION**
69 **PROGRAM UPDATE**

70

71 **DISCUSSION:** Jason Martinez stated that he is representing Susan Lucas-Kamat and they have 2
72 points to provide updates on. He said they have a job posting for the Lead position with the
73 Surface Water Permitting Program and are scheduling interviews for that position. There is one
74 position posted for 2 staff to assist with the Program development. The other item is a
75 nutrients training provided by Daniel B. Stephens and Associates. This training is aimed
76 towards improving operator understanding of wastewater treatment utilizing physical,
77 biological and chemical treatment methods. The training will also cover typical treatment
78 trains, advanced topics of nitrification/de-nitrification, biological phosphorous removal and
79 chemical removal of nitrogen and phosphorous. Jason went on to explain that this is a 2-day
80 training. The second day will involve case studies and discussion with anyone participating in
81 the training about their actual treatment schemes and issues that they are having or permit
82 limits. They anticipate 7.5 continuing Education Credits to be awarded each day for Utility
83 Operator Certification and registration includes a technical assistance site visit from Daniel B.
84 Stephens and Associates where they will evaluate the facility, provide treatment optimization
85 recommendations and provide a written report. Anyone interested in registering for this
86 course needs to reach out to Nancy Rebarchik. There are 2 of these courses scheduled and the
87 first one is on November 28th to 29th from 8am to 5pm. The second course offering will be on
88 March 7th through 9th of 2023. For information and registration of the training contact Nancy
89 Rebarchik of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates. Nancy's phone number is (505) 822-9400 or
90 email nrebarchik@geo-logic.com. Anita Tavasci asked Jason if the information for this training
91 is available on the NMED Trumba calendar. Jason asked for Anita's phone number to follow-up
92 on that question. Anita provided (505) 467-9333. Vice Chair Bailey asked if there were any
93 other questions. There were none.

94

95 **AGENDA ITEM 7. NM GROUND WATER QUALITY BUREAU-DOMESTIC WASTE TEAM UPDATE**

96

97 **DISCUSSION:** Avery Young stated that their Team is currently under-staffed and they have 1
98 position posted and must go back to the interview process again. Avery went on to state that
99 starting Monday she will be Acting Domestic Waste Team Lead while they wait for the position
100 to be posted since it was vacated by Jason Herman 4 to 5 months ago when he became the
101 Pollution Prevention Section Manager. Avery said that since the last meeting they have
102 provided another Surface Disposal Workshop for operators in Las Cruces. They had about 18
103 operators in attendance from the facilities in that area and the training went very well. They
104 had beefed-up their presentation of sludge disposal, specifically 40 CFR Part 503. They are
105 hoping to provide that training again just for operators in general and not just for the surface
106 disposal process for wastewater treatment management at systems where the topic is
107 applicable. Vice Chair Bailey asked if there are any questions for Avery. None were asked.

108

109 **AGENDA ITEM 8. NM OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

110

111 **DISCUSSION:** Eric Hall stated that he and staff are researching for a replacement of the current,
112 outdated Cert Man Operator database the program uses. The new database will be able to
113 generate various reports, provide information on operator exam question issues and will not
114 require dependency of the Environment Department's Information Technology Department for
115 support. He stated that Anita has sent quote requests and we are waiting on responses. Mr.
116 Hall stated that Kendall is caught-up with exam applications which allows for quick turn-around
117 of exam approvals for the last month or more. Vice Chair Bailey asked Eric if people are liking
118 the computerization of exams. Mr. Hall replied that the majority of the operator community
119 like the computer-based testing and some operators want in-person in conjunction with
120 computer-based and some only want paper-based testing. Mr. Hall stated that we have our
121 new attorney Jen Olsen that the Board had recently met. He went on to state that she is
122 working towards getting onto the WQCC docket for approval of voted new members onto the
123 Board.

124

125 **AGENDA ITEM 9. OTHER BUSINESS (INCLUDING NEXT MEETING DATE)**

126

127 **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Hall stated that we usually meet in January. He suggested Thursday January
128 12th. Member Gilvarry stated that she is open for Thursday November 19th. All members
129 stated that January the 19th would work for them.

130

131 **AGENDA ITEM 10. THE ADVISORY BOARD WILL RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

132

133 **DISCUSSION:** Agatha King stated that she has an operator that is due to renew in December.
134 The operator has a Small Water Testing and a Small Water Advanced certification. Do they
135 need to renew both certifications? Mr. Hall asked what type of water testing does this operator
136 perform? Agatha replied, just the routine coliform and e-coli testing each month. Mr. Hall

137 responded that the only certification that operator would need to renew is the Small Water
138 Advanced certification.

139

140 **AGENDA ITEM 11. ADJOURNMENT BY ROLL CALL**

141

142 **DISCUSSION:** Vice Chair Bailey stated that this meeting will adjourn if there are no other
143 questions or comments.

144

145 **ACTION:** Member Abell made a motion to adjourn. Member Graham seconded the motion.
146 Vice Chair Bailey commenced with roll call: Catie Eisen: present, Richard Graham: yes, Sydney
147 Hoke: yes, Ivan Abell: yes, Maria Gilvarry: yes, Rick Mitchell: yes, Filiberto Aguirre: present.

148

149 The meeting of the Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board adjourned at 9:55am.