December 8, 2023

Minutes

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**Phone Conference ID: 877 493 51#**

**If you would like to attend the meeting in person, please see the below locations for Elko and Carson City.**

**Carson City Location**- Tahoe Conference Room, Bryan Building, 901 S Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701

**Elko Location-** 1550 STP. Road, Elko, NV 89801 (Sewer Treatment Plant).

**Agenda**

1. **Call to Order and Introductions. (Nathan Adams, Forum Chair).**

Nathan Adams called meeting to order at 10:02am

**Forum Members Present or Called In-** Greg Reed, Jim Kerr, Dale Johnson, Tom Georgi, Brandon Garden and Nathan Adams

**Guests**- Bridget Harris, Mike Boney, Carlos Quiroz-Aguilera, Linh Kieu, Andrea Seifert, Brendon Grant, Ryan Talley, Brian Burris, Will Raymond, Joe Mathein, Tom Hoffert, Marcus Drumm, Geroge Tinkorang, Lydia Teel

Elko-Les Mcnutt

1. **Approval of Forum Minutes from September 13, 2023. – Action Item**

**Brandon Garden-**Motion to Approve

**Nathan Adams-**Second

**Unanimous**

1. **NWEA Announcements and Wastewater Exam Results, Ashley Jacobson**

**No one from NWEA attended.**

1. **BSDW Announcements & Drinking Water Exam Results – Capacity Development Questions for Next Meeting.**

**Carlos Quiroz-Aguilera-** Summarized the exam summaries for the third quarter. For the distribution grade 1 exam there were 53 people who took the exam. 36 people passed the exam and 17 people failed the exam. That is a 68% passing rate. The most missed was system components, disinfection and lab. For the distribution grade 2 exam, there were 35 people who took the exam. 16 passed and 19 failed. That is a 46% passing rate. The most missed was SSA public interactions and lab. For the distribution grade 3 exam, there were 19 people who took the exam. 8 passed and 11 failed. That is a 42% passing rate. The most missed was disinfection and lab. For distribution grade 4 exam, there were 8 people who took the exam. 2 passed and 6 failed. That is a 25% passing rate. The most missed were system components and equipment IO. For treatment grade 1 exam, there were 25 people who took the exam. 18 passed and 7 failed. That is a 72% passing rate. The most missed were laboratory and equipment operation and maintenance. For treatment grade 2, there were 12 people who took the exam. 9 passed and 3 failed. The most missed was laboratory. For treatment grade 3 no one took the exam. For grade treatment 4 exam, there were 4 people who took the exam. 2 passed and 2 failed. That is a 50% passing rate. The most missed was source water and treatment.

**Tom Hoffert**-Commented that a lot of agencies are struggling with keeping people.

**Jim Kerr**- Probably should table this discussion since there is no one there from capacity development.

**Linh Kieu**- Agreed they should wait until the next meeting for when capacity development can join us.

1. **Technical Assistance - Upcoming Trainings – Brian Burris (RCAC) and Michael Boney (NvRWA).**

**Brian Burris-** There are a lot of trainings coming up. Next week they have a water system repair that is a 2-hour training and a class about what you need to know about cyanotoxins. Then they move onto a couple of onsite training courses. On January 23rd and 25th small system maintenance and operations trainings is going to be in Eureka and Yerington. They will have some more online trainings on operator math and distribution test prep series starting February 14th and the week of February 22nd for the distribution test prep training. One additional training that they are doing is when they are going to be in the City of Henderson on March 5th and 6th for the level 3 and 4 test prep.

**Michael Boney-** Discussed some training that will be held in December. Then in January, they will be doing D1-D2 exam prep for water operator math as a hybrid. There will be a D3-D4 exam prep for intermediate water math as a hybrid. There will be water treatment basis, water treatment class 2 study guide training as a hybrid. In January there will be trainings in disinfection and chemistry, operation and maintenance precertification. In February, they will be having trainings in water treatment operations, treatment exams study guide, source water and geology, water treatment operations, D1-D2 exam prep operator math and D3-D4 exam prep intermediate water math. In March, there will be trainings in water treatment basis, water treatment class 2 study guide, pumps and motors, storage facilities, pipe maintenance and hydrants, disinfection and chemistry and operations and precertification. There will probably be other trainings as well as the months come along. The NVRWA Conference will be March 5th-7th and the exam will be held on March 8th.

**Jim Kerr**- Mentioned that City of Elko is hosting a training the last week of January which is the 22nd thru the 26th. The maximum number of people they can host is 20.

**Andrea Seifert**- Asked if there are any spots available, maybe some of her staff can attend.

**6) Forum Discussion: Forum Board Member Nominations**

 State’s Role?

**Linh Kieu-** Discussed that this topic has been on the agenda for some time and there are a couple of missing board members with the departure of Kevin Baughman and Crystel Montecinos. They are curious and wanted to ask the board what they would like the state to do? Do they want to send out an email to everyone to see if anyone is interested in the board or maybe send out an application?

**Nathan Adams**- Suggested maybe a generic letter sent out to everyone to see if anyone is interested. And maybe if there is not a lot of interest with the emails, then maybe they can bring it up at the conference since there is a lot of attendance there.

**Greg Reed**- Mentioned that with the tracking standpoint that the state needs to be in charge of that. When it comes to soliciting new members, the board could help with some of that recruiting. Also mentioned that Mr. Hickman is gone as well.

**Linh Kieu**- Definitely can add what members are going to expire again to the agenda.

**Jim Kerr**- Mentioned that Mr. Hickman is no longer in his position, but do not know if he is off the board. Wanted to mention that Grant Perkins has not attended a lot of forums as well.

**Linh Kieu**- Suggested that we can email Grant and Andrew and see if they are still interested being on the forum board. Also, we will get a current member list at every meeting.

**7) Forum Discussion: NDEP Regulation Review Committee**

**Linh Kieu**- In previous forum meetings, he knows that the board has wanted to get together to talk about the policies and regulations. They want to create FAQs for the operators. This would be the time to review the regulations and policies if everyone wanted to change anything. Suggested an ongoing workgroup.

**Greg Reed**- Wanted to offer to be on the committee to review the regs and policies.

**Will Raymond**-Offered to be on the committee.

**Dale Johnson**-Offered to be on the committee.

**Linh Kieu**- The committee would have to have the policies and regulations changes done by June 30th to the LCB. They will also have to run everything by the EPA.

**Jim Kerr**- Offered to be on the committee. Asked if Mike Boney can block out an hour at the conference where they can have a discussion with the operators with that they want and give ideas on what they would like changed.

**Michael Boney**- It doesn’t look like an issue to block out an hour at the conference. Wants to offer to be on the committee as well.

**Dale Johnson**- Commented that the last time that the policies and regulations were reviewed, Bob Foerster sat in on the committee so maybe someone from NVRWA and RCAC could also be a part of the committee.

**Linh Kieu-** We will send out an email and set some time aside in January to meet with the committee.

**Greg Reed-** Suggested looking at the fees again as well.

**8) Public Comments**

**Andrea Seifert**- Discussed the regulations that have been coming out of the EPA. She wanted to first thank the many who participated in the lead service line inventory questionnaire. They received a lot of information. For the lead and copper rule revisions, they are working on towards issuing a contract with some technical vendors to provide assistance to water systems to complete those inventories. There are some existing EPA contracts that are already in place. RCAC and NVRWA would be able to assist under the EPA contracts on top of the EPA contractor who is helping. They have multiple vendors that can help with the lead service line inventories. The lead and copper rule improvements proposed rule was just announced. There is a 60-day comment period. February 4th is the last day to provide comments to EPA. If you do find any goosenecks or any of those connectors, please put them into your inventories. She does believe they will allow them to grandfather data for the schools. They are looking at additional EPA grant money to assist water systems with meeting that intention of sampling all the schools and childcare facilities. On the lead and copper improvements, they removed the trigger level, but they also reduced the action level. The action level is no longer 15, it would be 10. If anyone has specific questions, please contact them. They are still waiting for the final PFAS rule to come out. It will probably come out in 2024. There are several grants they are utilizing for PFAS. The sampling started in the last 4 to 6 weeks. They are starting to get some data back. Please know they also have additional grant money that was awarded to the state in the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water. They are in the process of issuing another RFP to develop a risk assessment tool to look at contamination. If they do find PFAS contamination it will help determine locations for new wells. They will also do another RFP to do more extensive sampling across the state.

**Jim Kerr**- Asked is there going to be a timeline for the committee?

**Linh Kieu**- Will discuss offline.

**9) Call for Agenda Items & Forum Goals & for the next meeting**

**Nathan Adams**-Goals are send out emails to operators to see who is interested being on the forum board, regulation review committee, set up a time at the conference

**Jim Kerr**- Asked if the forum could be earlier in the day at the conference?

**Michael Boney**- He will take care of the concerns.

**10) Scheduling next Forum Meeting – (1st Qtr. meeting) – Action Item**

Next meeting will be at the NVRWA conference.

**11) Adjourn**.

**Jim Kerr**-Motion to Adjourn

**Greg Reed**-Second

**Unanimous**

**Adjourned at 11:08am**