

MINUTES
South Carolina Environmental Certification Board
Board Meeting
July 21, 2022
Conference Room 204

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Ken Rentiers, of Columbia, called the meeting of the South Carolina Environmental Certification Board to order at 10:00 a.m. Other members participating in the meeting included Phillip Thompson-King, of Columbia; Doug Kinard, of Prosperity; James Rodgers, of Greenwood; and Sidney K. Tuck, of Spartanburg.

Staff members participating during the meeting included Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Maurice Smith, OIE and Enforcement; Chris Elliott, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Pam Dunkin, Board Administrator; Johnnie Rose, Program Coordinator; and Tiar Williams, Administrative Assistant.

Others participating included: Jill Miller, SC Rural Water Association; David Baize, WEASC/SCAWWA; Jason Fell, SCWSA; Jim Matthews, OLE, Inc.; Ronald Swearingen, SCGWA; Heather Lawson, City of Rock Hill; Miran Tyrrell, Savannah River Site; and Katherine N. Boone (Creek Court Reporting).

Statement of Public Notice

Mr. Rentiers announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C.

Environmental Certification Board Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and on the board website and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone or the Internet.

Invocation

Mr. Sidney K. Tuck.

Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda of the July 21st, 2022 meeting.
Thompson-King/Tuck/approved

Introduction of Board Members and Others

Board members, Board staff, and visitors were introduced.

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: To excuse the absence of Charles Cortez and Stacy Taylor for the July 21st Board meeting

Approval of the April 21, 2022 Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the April 21, 2022 meeting.
Kinard/Thompson-King /approved

Vice-Chairman's Remarks – Ken Rentiers

Mr. Rentiers welcomed everyone to the meeting, and hoped for a productive meeting.

Staff Reports

Mrs. Dunkin gave the Administrator's Report:

- License renewals deadline was June 30, anyone renewing after that date will have to submit a paper renewal with the required fee(s) with late fee of \$200.
- As of May 31, 2022, the Board has a cash balance of \$677,905.58. A copy of the cash balance report is included in the meeting handouts.
- The Board has 8,480 licensee to date, of those:
 - 2,314 Biological Wastewater Operators
 - 39 Bottle Water Operators
 - 2,145 Water Distributors Operators
 - 1,676 Physical/Chemical Wastewater Operators
 - 506 Well Drillers
 - 1800 Water Treatment Operators
- Addressed the Board about CE Broker, it was discussed before Covid, stated the Board don't have to change from what they have been doing for years, asked if CE Broker is mandatory or optional. Reach out to other Associations for their input.
- Board agreed to having a CE Broker Representative at next Board meeting on Oct. 27, 2022.

Advisory Opinions, Office of Advice Counsel

Mr. Stuart said there are no advisory opinions.

OIE Report-Office of Investigations and Enforcement

Mr. Smith said the Office of Investigations and Enforcement Report received 10 complaints since January 1, 2022. Three are active investigations, and nine cases are closed.

IRC Report- Office of Investigations and Enforcements

Mr. Smith said the Investigative Review Committee Report contains one case pending a letter of caution.

MOTION: To accept the July 12, 2022, Investigative Review Committee Report.
Thompson-King/Kinard/approved

ODC Report-Office of Disciplinary Counsel-Chris Elliot

Mr. Elliott said there are two cases pending, one case closed at last Board meeting on April, 21, 2022 in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

Application Hearings

- a) Mr. Scottie Lee Butler appeared before the Board for an Application Hearing. He was not represented by counsel. Jeremy Powell served as a witness. All persons testifying were sworn in by court reporter. Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary

MOTION: To enter Executive Session for Confidential Testimony.
Thompson-King/Tuck/approved

MOTION: To exit Executive Session.
Tuck/Thompson-King/approved

Mr. Rentiers said no action was taken in Executive Session.

- a) Mr. Scottie Butler appeared before the Board for an Application Hearing. He was not represented by counsel. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter. Application Hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.
- b) Mr. Jesus Santana, Jr. appeared before the Board for an Application Hearing. He was not represented by counsel. Phillip Martin served as a witness. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter. Application Hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.
- c) Mr. Frank Stroehmer appeared before the Board for an Application Hearing. He was not represented by counsel. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter. Application Hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.
- d) Ms. Kasey Welch appeared before the Board for an Application Hearing. She was not represented by counsel. Mother, Chelsea Welch served as witness. All persons were sworn in by court reporter. Application Hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

MOTION: To enter Closed Session for Confidential Testimony
Thompson-King/Tuck/approved

MOTION: To exit Closed Session.
Tuck/Thompson-King/approved

MOTION: To enter Executive Session
Thompson-King/Tuck/approved

MOTION: To exit Executive Session
Thompson-King/Tuck/approved

Mr. Rentiers said no action was taken in Executive Session

MOTION: To approve Scottie Lee Butler’s application and trainee license.
Thompson-King/Rodgers/approved

MOTION: To approve Jesus Santana, Jr.’s application and trainee license.
Thompson-King/Kinard/approved

MOTION: To approve Frank Stroehmer’s Reciprocity license level “C” for Physical/Chemical Wastewater.
Thompson-King/Rodgers/approved

MOTION: To approve Kasey Welch’s application and trainee license.
Tuck/Thompson-King/approved

Old Business

- a) SC Rural Water Association Apprenticeship Program – Jill Miller
SC Rural Water Association has implemented a new program, “Apprenticeship H2O”. This program would enable participants to gain education, skills and promotions after the completion of the new program.

MOTION: To enter Executive Session for legal advice.
Tuck/Thompson-King/approved

MOTION: To exit Executive Session
Thompson-King/Kinard/approved

MOTION: To approve the SCRWA Apprenticeship H2O Program 1-year exemption
Thompson-King/Tuck/approved

- b) Continuing Education Exemption/Waiver – Pam Dunkin
Mrs. Dunkin shared information from other State Boards. Most states does not have a CE Waiver/Exemption in place. Thompson-King stated it could be considered based on medical or illness and review case-by case basis; Hardwick stated some Boards have a Hardship waiver in place. Board pending decision until Regulatory Review.

c) 2022 Regulatory Review – Hardwick Stuart and Pam Dunkin
MOTION: To create and Regulatory Review Committee to review the current regulations for any modifications.
Rodgers/Thompson-King/approved

- d) 2022 Board Travel – Mrs. Dunkin mentioned upcoming conferences:
- August 10 -12 EPA Conference, Alexander, VA – In-person and Virtual
 - October 30th – November 1st, 2022, Operator’s Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC
 - November 14th – November 16th, 2022, SCRWA Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC

MOTION: To approve two Board members and two Staff members to attend conferences
Thompson-King/Tuck/approved

New Business

- a) **Operator Exam Pass/Fail Report(s)** - Mrs. Dunkin presented Pass/Fail reports for operator testing. After review of this information the Board would like to formulate a committee to review the current exams.

MOTION: To formulate an Exam Review committee to review the current operator exams.
Thompson-King/Tuck/approve

- b) **WEASC/SCAWWA Presentation** – David Baize discussed the examination pass rate of which the Board had addressed earlier in the meeting as well as Experience credit. He would be willing to serve on any committee to help the work force and licensees as a whole.

Discussion Topics

There was no discussion topics.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

The Board did not go into Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business:

MOTION: To adjourn.
Thompson-King/Tuck/approved

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.