

MINUTES

Environmental Certification Board
Tuesday, January 8, 2013
110 Centerview Drive, Room 108
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

The invocation was given by Hank Rutland, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Called to Order:

William Armes, Chairman, of Simpsonville, called the regular scheduled meeting of the S. C. Environmental Certification Board to order at 10:00 a.m. Other board members participating in the meeting included Vice-Chair, Elizabeth Williams, of Sumter; Mitch Dew of Latta; Dwight Johnson of Jefferson; Hank Rutland, of Orangeburg, and Jimmy Rodgers, of Greenwood.

Staff members participating during the meeting included Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator; Jamie Saxon, Advice Counsel; Theresa Garner, Program Assistant, and Sharon Wolfe, OIE.

Public Notice

Chairman Armes announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Board of Environmental Certification Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 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.

Excused Absences

Motion

Mitch Dew made a motion to approve board member, David Baize's absence. Dwight Johnson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of the November 13, 2012 Minutes

MOTION

Dwight Johnson made a motion to approve the November 13, 2012, meeting minutes. Hank Rutland seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Application Hearing

Benjamin L. Amerson-Biological Wastewater, Water Distribution, and Water Treatment

Chairman Armes called the application hearing to order. Mr. Amerson was sworn in by the court reporter along with Pastor Chris Yeargin; Ridge Spring Baptist Church, and Mr. Paul Bartley, Director of Operations Recovery Works in Ridge Spring, South Carolina; both were witnesses for the applicant.

Mr. Amerson was not represented by legal counsel. He distributed five (5) letters of recommendation to each of the board members for their review.

Mr. Amerson gave a brief explanation of his conviction charges. He stated that at the age of 20 he began to hang around with the wrong crowd and became addicted to drugs and alcohol. He found he could not support his drug habit so he began selling drugs, and was arrested; but he was not able to give up his drug habit. His charges were a result of his association with undesirable people, and a drug and alcohol problem. Prior to his court date he realized he needed to make a life change and was fortunate enough to become a resident of the Ponderosa Recovery Works in Ridge Spring, South Carolina for eight (8) months. During this time he worked with his cousin in construction work, and later on was given part time employment at the Town of Ridge Spring, recently he was offered a full time position.

Both Pastor Yeargin, and Mr. Bartley, attested to the fact that they have seen a positive change in Mr. Amerson's life. He is now married and has a family, has good work ethics, and is an asset to the town and community. They asked the board to allow his requests for licensure.

Currently Mr. Amerson is on three (3) years probation ending in September of 2013. Mr. Amerson said he would like to further his career with the Town of Ridge Spring, and asked the board to consider his requests for a Biological Wastewater, Water Distribution, and Water Treatment license.

Executive Session

MOTION

Mitch Dew made a motion to enter into executive session for legal advice. Dwight Johnson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

MOTION

Mitch Dew made a motion to return to public session. Dwight Johnson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

It was noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken while in executive session.

MOTION

Hank Rutland made a motion to grant Mr. Amerson's requests for a Biological Wastewater, Water Distribution, and Water Treatment license with the following conditions:

- 1) Upon completion of his probation period, he must provide the Board, written documentation from his probation officer within 15 days.
- 2) He must provide the Board, at his own expense, an annual SLED report for a period of three (3) years. Dwight Johnson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Trainee Permit Extension

Chasity E. Penny-Biological Wastewater #13643

Due to a scheduling conflict, Ms. Penny was unable to attend the board meeting but requested the board review her information and render a decision.

The board members received Ms. Penny's information packet prior to the January 8th board meeting.

Theresa Garner explained to board members why Ms. Penny's request could not be approved at the staff level. She stated this was Ms. Penny's "Fifth" request for an extension on her Biological Wastewater Treatment Permit, and based on this information she would have had a total of seven (7) years to take and pass the "D" exam. Currently she holds a "D" Water Distribution License, a "D" Water Treatment License, and a "D" Physical/Chemical Wastewater Treatment License.

MOTION

Dwight Johnson made a motion to allow Ms. Penny a 90 day extension to take and pass the "D" exam. Hank Rutland seconded the motion which carried unanimously. It was noted for the record that Elizabeth Williams recused herself from the vote.

Break

The board took a five minute break at 11:05 a.m. The board meeting resumed at 11:10 a.m.

Chairman's Remarks-William Armes

Mr. Armes said he appreciated everyone's work, and when he speaks with operators they give good reports for staff and board members. He stated he would like the board to think about finding a way to bring in young professionals into the industry. High school, tech or college students, possibly offering them an internship or training. He asked the board if there was something they could do to help introduce or encourage potential applicants who are interested in the environmental systems field of work.

Administrator's Remarks-Lenora Addison-Miles

Mrs. Miles stated the November 2012 cash balance report reflected a balance of \$175, 315.91. She reported per the board's request she had contacted ABC regarding the development of a customized Bottled Water examination; which would consist of 75 multiple choice questions. ABC would charge a one-time fee of \$95.00 to develop the examination for us and get it ready for computer based testing. There would also be an annual maintenance fee of \$95.00 each year thereafter. Next year the maintenance fee will increase to \$120.00. The per exam cost for the administration of the exam would be \$73.00 plus + \$10.00 fee that AMP collects, totaling \$83.00. Next year the exam administration fees will increase to \$75.00 plus+ \$10.00 fee to AMP totaling \$85.00. Once everything has been finalized and the board wishes to go ahead and allow ABC to administer the computer based examination for us, along with AMP, the exam should be ready to launch in the AMP Testing centers in about two (2) months. ABC would have to redo the contract with the board since the bottled water exam is not included in the current contract. Mrs. Miles stated the board currently has 36 bottled water operators, and for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, the board only issued 10 bottled water licenses.

MOTION

Mitch Dew made a motion to approve that ABC provide Bottled Water tests, and that AMP administer the exams. Hank Rutland seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mrs. Miles stated that during the November meeting she was asked about a well driller reciprocity agreement with North Carolina. She said she researched the issue and found the board never had any such agreements with any state.

Legislative Updates

There were no Legislative Updates

OGC Reports

There were no reports given by the Office of General Counsel

OIE Report

Sharon Wolfe, Office of Investigative Enforcement, presented the Report. She stated the board received 4 Active Investigations through January 7, 2013, and the board has a total of 7 Active investigations, 1 closed, and 1 Do Not Open, totaling 9 cases.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given

Public Comments

There were no public comments

Adjournment

MOTION

Hank Rutland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Mitch Dew seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

NOTE: These minutes are a brief summary of the meeting recording of the motions, and official actions taken by the Board. A transcript providing more details of this meeting is on file in the board office.

The next meeting of the Environmental Certification is scheduled for March 12, 2013, in room 108.