Maine Board of Licensure of Water System Operators Meeting Minutes

~ Friday, March 6, 2020 – 9:00 am ~ Maine Public Utilities Commission, Second Street, Hallowell, ME

Present:

- Brian Tarbuck Chair, Professional Engineer Representative, Greater Augusta Utility District
- Mary Ellen Bowers Vice Chair, NTNC Representative, Waterworks Management LLC
- Kerry Smart Class II Representative, Alfred Water District
- Gregg Kidd Educator Representative, NWWTA
- Michael Abbott Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program; Director
- Jonathan Ziegra Management Representative, Boothbay Region Water District
- Keith Levasseur Class III Representative, Sanford Water District
- Brian McBride Class IV Representative, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells
- Jim Jacobsen Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program; Licensing Coordinator
- Tina Lemieux Maine DHHS, Drinking Water Program; Licensing Clerk

Guests:

- Margaret Machaiek, AAG
- Nathan Saunders, DHHS-MeCDC, Field Inspection Team Manager
- Mikey Hall, Bangor Water Company
- George Strickland, Bangor Water Company
- Matthew Demers, Maine Rural Water Association
- Cindy Wade, Maine Water Utilities Association

Meeting called to order at **9:00 AM** by Brian Tarbuck.

- 1. Introduction of guests and board members
 - a. 8 members present, 2 DWP representatives, 6 guests
- 2. Public Comment
 - a. None
- 3. Agenda additions
 - a. None
- 4. Old Business
 - a. Approve minutes December 6, 2019

Motion to approve meeting minutes from December 6, 2019.

1st: Jon Ziegra 2nd: Kerry Smart Vote: Unanimous

- b. Financial report discussed with budget handout, SFY 20
 - i. Mike Abbott discussed Financial Report
 - 1. Financial Report shows 63.1%, on pace with budget projections

c. Announcing: New PSI Testing location in Bangor at Northeastern Technical Institute

5. New Business

- a. Maine Water Company, request reconsideration for licensee (10:40)
 - i. Mickey Hall, on behalf of George Strickland request for another appeal
 - 1. May 2019, Board denied license to Strickland due to lack of required education for licensure, did not appeal within 30 days of decision
 - 2. Mickey Hall, supervisor, requested case to be brought to Board for reconsideration

Motion to approve license on basis of passing exam and 30 years of experience. (47:20)

1st: Jon Ziegra 2nd: Mike Abbott Vote: 6 yea / 2 nay, motion carries

b. ARTICLE IV OFFICERS - VOTE

i. First meeting of the year vote for Chair of the BLWSO.

Motion to vote for BLWSO Chair – Brian Tarbuck. (48:40)

1st: Jon Ziegra 2nd: Brian McBride Vote: 7 yea / 1 nay, motion carries

- c. Review Complaint Procedures (52:30)
 - i. Discussion to streamline Complaint Procedures
 - 1. Compare and contrast current complaint procedures of the Maine Water Well Commission
 - 2. Nate Saunders, DWP
 - a. According to Rules and Regulations, Operators are responsible for all quality and quantity decisions
 - b. In process of hiring a consultant to review complications with process and offer recommendations
 - 3. Discussion of process and considerations
 - i. Investigative burden for whom?
 - ii. Hire an investigator
 - iii. Paperwork for complaint process
 - iv. Create contract for Water Operator use
 - v. AG's office to draft sample language for contract and termination of contract

Motion to have AG's office review and "streamline" complaint process to follow due process. (1:27:45)

1st: Gregory Kidd 2nd: Kerry Smart Vote: Unanimous

- d. Water Operator System upgrade to higher classification (VSWS to 1T1D)
 - i. What happens to operators of lower classification to be eligible to work for system?
 - ii. Not relevant for all operators working for that system
 - iii. May be discussed at later date

Announcement:

**Jim Jacobsen, Licensing Coordinator – Retiring in June 2020 from the Drinking Water Program and BLWSO.

Motion to adjourn.

1st: Keith Levasseur 2nd: Gregory Kidd Vote: Unanimous

ADJOURN – **10:45 AM**