



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY & GEOSCIENCE

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Licensed Operator Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for August 29, 2024
Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Approved by the Committee on December 12, 2024

Committee Members Present: Kristin Tedesco, David Fields, Joseph Bonaccorso, Kirit Amin, Jill Plesnarski, Keith Vaughn, Richard Eustace, Ronald Suto, Carol Broccoli, Robert Fullagar

There were 9 committee members present, constituting a quorum.

Committee Members Absent: Pam Carolan

Committee Legal Representatives Present: DAG Kevin DeCristofer, NJ Division of Law

NJDEP Staff Present: Joseph duRocher, Malathi Prabhu, Tyler Rowe

Members of the Public Present: David Leister (NJWA), Paul Britt, Allan Dillon, Kimberly McCleary

1. Call to Order

J. Bonaccorso presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:04 am, noting there were enough committee members present to constitute a quorum.

K. DeCristofer read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement (OPMA).

This meeting was held virtually through Microsoft Teams. Notice of the meeting and instructions on how to participate by phone were provided by public notice in advance of the meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes from the December 13, 2023 meeting

J. Bonaccorso asked if there were any questions or amendments regarding the minutes and hearing none, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as is. R. Fullager motioned to accept the minutes as is, C. Broccoli seconded the motion. J. Bonaccorso and W. Mitchell abstained due to a prior absence.

3. Required Course Provider Approvals

Atlantic Cape Community College

J. Bonaccorso initiated a brief discussion on the renewal application, and after his questions were answered, entertained a motion to approve the course and its instructor. R. Suto motioned to approve and R. Fullagar seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Burlington County

Caldwell West Caldwell

Hudson County

Hunterdon County VOTEC

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Rowan College of South Jersey

Rutgers University

After the review of the first required course provider, the Committee decided to proceed with the review of each application individually but would refrain from any formal motions until all of the applications had been reviewed and sorted into an “approved” or “not approved” category.

The required course providers listed above were sorted into the approved category after the Committee reviewed their applications.

Ocean County Community College

J. Bonaccorso noted that this application may be problematic, as there is only one relevant license attributed to the application.

J. duRocher stated that there was a decision made by the Advisory Committee roughly two (2) years prior that enabled other credentials to be applied, noting that one of Ocean County’s instructors has a Professional Engineer (PE) license and the other has a PhD.

J. Bonaccorso asked if that information could be verified by the Department, as those credentials were not clearly provided in the application. J. duRocher confirmed that it could.

J. Bonaccorso asked for a roll-call vote to approve the list of schools with the sole exception of Ocean County Community College, who would be conditionally approved, subject to the Department’s verification of the PE and PhD credentials. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously, with C. Broccoli abstaining from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

4. TCH Approval Requests

Similar to how the required courses had been handled, the Committee decided to proceed with the review of each TCH application individually but would refrain from any formal motions until all of the applications had been reviewed and sorted into an “approved” or “not approved” category.

There were some brief discussions on some technicalities within the applications.

TCH Approval Requests (continued)

Rutgers University (10 items)

Jacob's Engineering (4 items)

At Your Pace Online (1 item)

WaterOperator.org (1 item)

Cleanwater1 (5 items)

U. of Wisconsin-Madison (1 item)

J.A. Montgomery Consulting (5 items)

J. Bonaccorso stated that he would entertain a motion to approve all the TCH courses as is, with the sole exception of one single item from Rutgers University that was found to be irrelevant to water and wastewater operators. K. Vaughn motioned to approve and C. Broccoli seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business

Training Reimbursement Funds

Note: The conversation regarding the status of the reimbursement funds occurred within the public comment period of the meeting, but the contents have been moved out of chronological order to better adhere to the standard meeting minutes and agenda format.

J. Bonaccorso asked J. duRocher about the status of the fund. J. duRocher replied that there was no new inquiry made for this particular meeting, but gave a description on the fund's status from the last time the Advisory Committee had held a meeting. W. Mitchell stressed the importance of the fund and requested that the Department indicate where things are in the process of reimbursements.

K. Tedesco responded that the Department is re-evaluating what will be done with funding monies and operator training, and that she has already reached out to a representative from the Department of Treasury and will follow up with the Committee at a later date.

6. Public Comment

Allan Dillon

Allan Dillon recognized the long, dedicated service of J. Bonaccorso in the field as well as his role within the Advisory Committee, stating he has provided decades of dedication and expertise. Allan Dillon proceeded to state that the Department civil servants do not have the perspective of the "hands-on" people such as J. Bonaccorso.

J. Bonaccorso thanked Allan Dillon.

There were no other members of the public with comments.

7. Adjournment

J. Bonaccorso asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. R. Fullagar motioned to adjourn, and R. Suto seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM

