

Approved

Utility Operator Certification Advisory Board

Minutes of Project Meeting

March 17, 2005

Present:

Leo Wilson, Michael Alvidrez, Reymundo Gutierrez, Cindy Huntsman, Joe Ramirez, Kit Roush, Ken Mosley, Mario Gonzales, Mike Coffman

Introductions:

Dennis Quintana – NMED, Eric Lopez – City of Las Cruces, Violette Valerio-Hirschfeld – NMED/DWB, Andrew Galloway – City of Aztec, Dale Graham – Hughes Supply,

I. & II. Review & Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Wilson purposed to review the agenda. Mr. Wilson noted item # 10 to be tabled do to the legislators in session Mr. Allen Edes is not able to make the meeting. Item #11 the Base line 9 approval Document Mr. Wilson has it and will present at the next meeting. Mr. Dennis Quintana stated that Agenda Item # 8 is also tabled due to Mr. Dennis McQuillen is unable to make the meeting. Mr. Wilson asked if the Board wanted to look at the applications for vacant board members at this meeting or wait for the meeting in June. Ms. Huntsman requested the Board review them all at once at the next meeting. No other changes to the agenda. A motion was made to accept the agenda by Kit Roush and seconded by Mr. Mosley.

III. Review & Approval of Past Minutes

Mr. Wilson moved to accept the approval of the January 2005 minutes. Mr. Gutierrez stated that he looked through the minutes and stated that he felt that they were abbreviated. His question, Is that the way they should be done? The Board members stated that they could be verbatim. Mr. Mosley stated that they are better the way Mr. Coffman is doing them. Mr. Gutierrez state that would be fine. Mr. Wilson moved for a motion to accept the January 2005 minutes as written. The motion was made by Mr. Mosley and seconded by Mr. Roush.

IV. UOC Act Statue Revision - Update:

Mr. Coffman updates the Board on HB 153. The Bill has been approved by the House and is being rerouted through the senate. There have been revisions to the Bill. Some of the revisions were the caps lowered from \$200 to \$100 on testing and reciprocity. The other revision was the lowering of the renewal cap from

\$200 to \$40. The legislature also lowered the initial fee starting point from \$50 to \$30. Another amendment was that the legislature will route the money to a special fund for Operator Certification but the monies will have to be allocated by the legislature every budget year. Mr. Coffman also stated that the other language was not changed. Mr. Coffman said that the Board needs to review the Need-to-know criteria and update the information. This should be an agenda item for the next meeting. One subject came up with some questions about the number of operator needed for each facility and who needs to be certified. This questions need to be answered when the new regulations are put in place. This will be discussed at a later date.

V. Study Material Reviews and Acceptance

Mr. Kit Roush stated that he was going to get copies of the MOP 11 and send them around to people. Unfortunately there was a lost of communication between me AWWA WEF, they did not approve the purchase of the manuals. So, I ordered two sets and they should be here today or tomorrow. I did bring my set in but it is not current. If anyone once to review them they can. Mr. Roush stated that the manuals are on CD but they are not comparable to Windows XP. Mr. Roush suggested that the Board needs to table this because we do not have the manuals yet. Mr. Gutierrez suggested that maybe the Board should address Item 9 at the same time as Item 5. His suggestion was that the review of the certification questions we should be able to reference the MOP's. Mr. Roush state that we should not use the questions out of the MOP's until we have the MOP's approved. Ms. Huntsman stated that we do not want to get to many study manuals. Mr. Wilson said that it was his understanding from the last meeting that the Board thought that the Sacramento Manuals were not the best because the manuals lead you down many paths. Mr. Gutierrez asked if the Board would table this item until the MOP manuals can be reviewed. Mr. Roush agreed. Dennis Quintana explained to the Board that item #9 pertained to the EPA Security Questions so that the Board could see what the consist of. Mr. Roush asked the Board for a motion to table the MOP's or a motion for approval. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Quintana for a timetable on the referencing of questions. Mr. Wilson asked if the Board thought that the Sacramento's need to be replaced. Mr. Gutierrez said he did not think that but, I think we can add to it. Mr. Roush thought that the manuals need to be replaced. He backed that up by teaching out of the manuals at the SFCC courses. Mr. Gutierrez state that the Board add the MOP's as additional study material but not drop the Sacramento Manuals. The Board had continual discussion on the MOP 11. Mr. Gutierrez made a motion to table the discussion. Ms. Huntsman seconded it, motion passed.

VI. Drinking Water Bureau Program Review

Ms. Violette Valerio-Hirschfeld with the NMED DWB, District One Office. Ms. Hirschfeld state that she had brought a list of Items the DWB uses to look at water

systems. She state also introduced the DWB website. Items of interest was the arsenic information on the website. Ms. Hirschfeld brought a portion of the Bio-terrorism Preparedness and Response Act that states that it has been amended into the Safe Drinking Water Act. Ms. Hirschfeld said she had talked to Darren Padilla about the ERG grant and said that they were still working on it and have not awarded the contract yet. Ms. Hirschfeld also said they we have talked about compliance sampling for operators. She state that the DWB was leaning toward continuing the sampling and certification of water samplers. Mr. Roush asked if that was covering the VOC and that sort of thing. Ms. Hirschfeld said yes. She added that it would be all sampling. Ms. Hirschfeld stated that they were looking at putting the sampling certification back into place and Mr. Chuck Thomas was working on that. Mr. Mosley asked if there was a time and place for comments on those regulations. Mr. Albert Mendez asked if you were a certified sampler and your certification expired what happens. Ms. Hirschfeld said that there might be some type of grandfather situation. Mr. Wilson asked if there was any discussion about your position with DWB concerning the Operator Certification Program. Ms. Hirschfeld said that she has not meet with Mr. Martinez yet but has a clear picture of the UOC program for Mr. Quintana. Ms. Hirschfeld asked about the Sanitary Survey training aimed at Mr. Alvidrez. Ms. Hirschfeld stated that there has been training in the past but she will check with EPA on the next training will be, she will check on that for him.

VII. Certification Program Review:

Mr. Coffman started with the Bill proposed to the legislature, he asked for the Board to keep an eye out on it. If any thing changes that they hear of let him know. Mr. Coffman also gave a quick update on the condition of the database. He stated that the database was operational but some work was still needed. The third phase of the contract needed to be implemented to finish the update. Mr. Coffman explained that 2004 was a very difficult year due to the databases problems. He thanks Marie Ortiz and Dennis Quintana for the fine work to maintain the operation of the program during all the turmoil that had occurred. Mr. Coffman introduced the exam results for 2004. He asked the Board for an approval so that the results can be uploaded to the Internet for public viewing. Mr. Wilson call for a motion to accept the exam results and post them on the Internet. Mr. Roush asked for a report that identifies the areas of the exams that operators were having troubles. Mr. Quintana explained that there would not be a report this year due to the changing of the exams in the middle of the year. The statistics would not be representative of the exams. Mr. Coffman explained to the Board that the exams were jeopardized so the exams were changed. Which in turn change the statistics. Mr. Wilson asked for a motion to accept the statistics. Ms. Huntsman made the motion and seconded by Mr. Alvidrez, motion passed. Mr. Coffman thanked the Board.

VIII. Liquid Waste Regulation – Dennis McQuillen

Tabled

IX. Examination Certification Questions

Mr. Quintana passed out the EPA security questions to the Board. The Board decided to review the question and use Associated Board of Certification material to reference the given question. The questions will be brought back at the next meeting. Mr. Coffman stated that using the existing references will make the referencing process easier.

X. Well Drillers Certification

Tabled

XI. Base Line 9 Approval Document

Tabled

XII. Other Business

Mr. Roush brought up the situation that Rural Water had set their free training sessions at the same time and some of them are in the same place as the NM Water and Wastewater workshop were. The Mr. Alvidrez stated that this was not a intentional act and that some of the workshops were set up 2 years in advance. He also stated that Rural Water was already working at moving the work shops so that there would not be conflicts between the two organizations. Many comments were made on the subject. Included in the conversation was that the groups need to work together for the better of the operators in the state. Mr. Alvidrez stated that Mr. Matt Holmes Director of Rural Water and Mr. Louis Lujan President of the NMWWA had spoke and set a meeting up to discuss the matter of training and times to change the workshops if they conflict with each other.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Wilson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gutierrez made the motion to adjourn; Mr. Joe Ramirez seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm. Next meeting June 23, 2005 in Albuquerque.