

One-hundred-sixty-sixth meeting
 Water and Wastewater Advisory Council
 Wednesday, October 9, 2019
 Bozeman, Montana

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was held in room 230 in the Strand Union Building on the MSU Campus, and began shortly after 1:00 p.m. Council members present: John Alston, Jon Dilliard and Logan McInnis participated via telephone.

Department personnel attending all or portions of the meeting: Greg Olsen, Operator Certification Program Supervisor. Reta Therriault, Operator Certification Technician, and via telephone, Ryan Weiss, Wastewater Protection Section Supervisor for Wastewater training and technical assistance.

Minutes Approved	John Alston called the meeting to order and the previous meeting minutes were approved as written.
Advisory Council Member Update	Reta reported two vacancies for positions on the Advisory Council. One position, previously held by Starr Sullivan, is for an individual who holds the highest wastewater certification. The other vacancy, previously held by Eleazer Resurrectcion. Eleazer’s position fulfills the requirement of a faculty member of a university or college whose major field is related to water supply systems, wastewater treatment, chemical or civil engineering, chemistry, or bacteriology. Jon noted that the colleges/universities were contacted last time this position was open. Reta will check into this and get the vacancy announcement posted on the website.
PWS Update	Jon D stated that the Operator Certification Program is doing good financially but the EPA grant money for the Public Water Supply section will run out the end of October. The PWS might have to look at cutting costs somehow but, the programs should be fine. Jon also spoke of the Lead in Schools. DEQ is working with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). So far approximately ten comments have been received regarding the lead testing, the time to test and worries about the cost of testing. They are looking at starting with the oldest schools with the youngest population. Jon related that Wibaux had a high amount of lead in their sample. Under current PWS regulations they can’t just replace fixtures. The problem needs to be fixed. Staff update: Gregory Montgomery has taken the position as Lead and Copper in Schools rule manager.
Wastewater Exam Update	Ryan Weiss, Wastewater training and technical Supervisor, stated that Pete Boettcher and Josh Vial, wastewater training and technical technicians, have been in touch with other states to determine what materials are used for training. Ryan said that Pete and Josh are working in the office and they have

	<p>time to finish working on the 50 questions for the Operator Certification program. Greg Olsen explained that the request for the 50 wastewater questions would be mailed out with the wastewater application when one was requested. This is not meant to be an exam. It is multiple choice questions that give the applicant the exact website, law, regulations, etc. to go to and find the answer.</p> <p>Greg talked about recording the exam prep classes at this water school to review and possibly put online as another training tool. Ryan said he spoke with Pete and Josh about recording training and they thought a quiet room at DEQ would be a good place to record. Greg thought that was a good idea. Greg also mentioned that you can pick the ABC questions you want to use and write your own exams. Logan wanted to know if our test had to go along with ABC's exams. Jon explained that ABC required everyone using their exams to use the standardized exams because they were more defensible in court. Logan wanted to know when MT started using ABC exams and wanted to know why MT doesn't just change our classifications to reflect ABC's classifications. Jon explained that doing this would require a rewrite of system classifications in the statutes. He explained that possibly bringing back the old wastewater exams would give small wastewater systems operators that could take and pass the exam. If we do our own exams it will affect reciprocity for operators that want to move to other states. Reta said we get 2 – 4 requests per year. John Alston thought that bringing back the old wastewater exam was a good idea and wanted to know what MT Rural Water, MAP, and RATES thought about changing. Jon D. said there is a conference call October 15 w/MAP, METC, MRWS, etc. to discuss this issue. It is a conference call.</p>
Renewal Update	<p>Reta reported that the total billed renewals were \$63, 290 and the total brought in so far was \$55, 145; \$38, 970 in water and \$24, 320 in wastewater. Reta started out with 139 revokes due to operator non-payment, retirement, moving, etc. She has been working w/payments received and has gotten the number down to 119. Reta has final number of revokes for next meeting.</p>
Other Issues	<p>Jon Alston was asked to find out how to get the vendor track at conferences approved so that operators could get CECs for attending. John will write a proposal and give it to Greg Olsen.</p>
Date of next meeting	<p>It was decided to set the date of the next meeting later. Meeting was adjourned.</p>