

One-hundred-sixty-fourth meeting
Water and Wastewater Advisory Council
Tuesday, June 19, 2018
Helena, Montana

CALL TO ORDER The meeting began at 9:01 a.m. This meeting was held in room 220 in the Helena DEQ via phone conference. Council members present: John Alston, Leo Malinak, Jon Dilliard, Andy Loudermilk, Eleazer Resurreccion, and Logan McInnis.
Department personnel attending all or portions of the meeting: Greg Olsen, Operator Certification Program Supervisor. Reta Therriault and Jen VandenBos, Operator Certification Technicians.

Minutes Approved	Previous meeting minutes approved.
Advisory Council Member Update	Jen reported that Eleazer Resurreccion was re-appointed by the governor, effective immediately. Star Sullivan has resigned. She has an e-mail into the Governor's office notifying them of the change and will be posting the vacancy.
PWS Update	Jon D spoke to the Operator Certification Program. The program is looking good and funds have come through. We have requested more State Revolving Fund for Operator Certification and Public Water Supply incase somethings happens with the funds. We are still waiting on the budget to be set for the upcoming fiscal year. Staff update: Gregory Montgomery has filled the Lead and Copper Rule Manager position. Byrne Manley has been hired as a Data Analyst for the Technical Services Section.
Water Schools/Exam Stats	Jen spoke on the exam stats and that drinking water is doing pretty good and wastewater is seeing a big drop. Drinking water training is currently being updated to reflect ABC needs-to-know criteria and should be ready by fall water school. Wastewater is working on their training as well, but we are not sure when it will be complete. We are not completely sure why the wastewater exams are falling. Lack of study time could play a role. There have been comments that the exam reference materials are expensive and some have said there is an issue deciding what manual should be purchased. The need-to-know packet is available on our website that includes a list of refence materials.
CEC Requirements for New Operators	It has been discussed in office regarding CEC requirements for new operators. Right now, the rule is if a person passes their exam within the first six months of the CEC biennium, they are required to get CECs. If they become certified after the first six months of the biennium, they are not required to earn CECs. We were wondering the pros and cons about changing rule. This has previously been brought up at the focus group and a variety of comments were made. Some people were in favor and some were not in favor of changing the CEC requirement. John A. is in favor of no CECs in the first CEC period due to their facility having extensive training, but realizes that not all systems are

	<p>the same. Andy and Logan recommended changing it to midway through the biennium. If they are certified in the first half, they will need to get CECs. If they are certified in the second half of the biennium, they will not have to earn CECs. Giving operators at least one year to earn CECs would give them full training opportunities.</p>
Renewals	<p>Reta reported that 1669 renewal invoices were sent out in May. \$71,770 was the total amount billed. As of today, June 19th, \$54,270 has been paid and there is an outstanding balance of \$17,500. This is typical for outstanding balance so far. There have been some retirements, operators passing away, and operators moving. In the next week or two we should be getting more payments.</p>
Date of Next Meeting	<p>The date of the next meeting will be the first week of December 2018. Jen will send an e-mail out closer to December to finalize a date and time. We will do a phone conference and then in-person meeting next summer.</p>
ADJOURN MEETING	<p>Adjourn at 9:48 a.m.</p>