

## Iowa Joint Operator Certification and Training Coordination Committee

Monday, April 9, 2018 – FFA Enrichment Center, Room 208/DMAcc, Ankeny, Iowa

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### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jon Martens at 12:07 p.m.

*Present were:*

- Dale Barrie, IRWA	- Jim McElvogue, IAWEA
- Ted Corrigan, IAWWA	- Steve Moehlmann, DMAcc
- Kim Fensterman, KCC	- Harris Seidel, IAWEA
- Rhonda Guy, IRWA	- Laurie Sharp, IDNR
- Dennis Hayworth, DMAcc	- Jill Soenen, IAMU
- Marty Hoffert, IAWWA	- Jim Utter, IAWEA
- Steve Marsh, IAMU	- Mike Wildung, IRWA
- Jon Martens, IAWWA	

*Visitor:* Lori Card, Pathway Navigator, DMAcc

#### 2. Agenda

Under Item 6, the Election of Officers was added. It was then moved by Steve Marsh, seconded by Rhonda Guy, to accept the agenda; motion carried.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

The last meeting was held on February 24, 2017. The minutes were approved by e-mail vote.

#### 4. Public Comment

None

#### 5. Unfinished Business/Assignments

##### a. Certification Update

Laurie Sharp provided a valuable update on current certification issues in Iowa, responded to many questions, and dispatched some rumors.

Location. The Water Supply Section (and certification) has been moved from the second floor to the fifth floor in the Wallace Building. At this time, there is only space for one computer for certification exams; more space is promised for later in the year. Laurie has a new assistant, Beth Feilmeier.

Workload. The volume of certifications, especially by new entries, has increased significantly. This is a corollary to reports of higher attendance at recent training courses and regional meetings.

Exams. All tests, except for lagoon certification, are from ABC. New tests were introduced in fall of 2017, after a three-year process of validation by hundreds of volunteers from certification programs all across the U.S. Our pass rates have generally gone up with the new tests.

The 10 Questions. There has been considerable dismay over the 10 additional questions added to the typical 100-question exam. This is merely a psychometric strategy or tool. It will not/cannot affect the test score either positively or negatively.

Classification. An internal IDNR work group is reviewing the classification of wastewater treatment types with the aim of including new technology as appropriate. When that task is completed, work will begin on classification for water.

A Legislator. A legislator visited with Laurie to vigorously advocate for eliminating all eligibility requirements for certification. This was, of course, in response to a city facing the need to find a qualified

operator for a recent plant upgrade. He was only interested in eliminating eligibility requirements for the Wastewater Exam.

What is a Year? For facilities which need minimal on-site attendance, eight to ten hours per week for a year is accepted as a “year” of experience.

Is a College Degree Required? A four-year college degree has never been required for Grades III or IV certification. With substitutions provided for in the Rules, there are many combinations of education and experience which will get you there.

National Certification. EPA has never proposed national (uniform) certification. On the contrary, the EPA continues to advocate local (state) control of certification programs.

**b. News Note—National Award**

At the Annual Meeting of ABC in January 2018, Iowa was recognized as the Outstanding Certification Program in the U.S. Congratulations to Laurie and staff!

**6. New Business**

**a. Apprentice AAS Degree – DMACC**

Steve Moehlmann described a program proposed by DMACC to begin in the fall of 2019 in which students could earn a two-year AAS degree while combining on-the-job training with classroom instruction. By alternating 16-week study semesters at DMACC with 16-week internships, an individual could earn 72 college credits in five semesters. The student would be eligible to take the Grade I certification exams after the first internship and could take the Grade II exams after graduation and one more year of experience. Program summary sheets are appended to these minutes.

Steve introduced Lori Card, newly employed by DMACC with the title of Pathway Navigator. She will work with DMACC students in easing their pathways through academic and personal issues encountered on their training track. She brings with her experience in the same role in the automotive industry.

**b. Update on Representatives to the Joint Committee**

Members were asked to either confirm or update the names of their representatives to the Joint Committee.

**c. Election of Officers for 2018-19**

In an e-mail to all, Jon Martens wrote, “What would the Committee like to do? Leave officers as they are or have an election?” Moved by Kim Fensterman to leave as is; seconded by Marty Hoffert. There were 10 e-mail responses, all in favor.

The officers for 2018-19 will then be as follows:

Chair	Jon Martens
Vice-Chair	Jill Soenen
Secretary	Harris Seidel

Moved by Jim Utter, seconded by Ted Corrigan, to approve these election results; motion carried.

**7. Representative Comments**

**a. IDNR – Laurie Sharp**

There has been an increase in cases of falsification by operators. Some are being cited by field office staff, but more often now they are being reported by city officials, such as city clerks.

**b. IAMU – Steve Marsh**

Training on Water Distribution and Leak Detection is scheduled for May and Asset Management in June. IAMU’s annual “Golfing for Safety” fundraiser will be held in Waverly on June 25.

**c. IAWWA – Marty Hoffert**

Most of the regional meetings have already occurred in March. The Short Course is on-going today and tomorrow, April 9,10. The Annual Conference is scheduled for October 16-18, 2018 in Dubuque.

**d. IRWA – Dale Barrie**

There is increased interest in training. There was a greater proportion of newer operators at the recent Annual Conference than ever before. Attendance at the one-day courses has been very high. Registration for the wastewater courses, which has limited capacity, fill early.

**e. IAWEA – Jim Utter**

The annual Biosolids and Collection Systems Conferences were held in March at DMACC and Marshalltown, respectively. Small Community Workshops on wastewater issues, especially for community officials, continue with support from DMACC. Workshops are scheduled for Dike on April 12, Stanton on April 19, and Des Moines (Southridge Mall) on April 24. The Region 2 meeting will be held in Mason City on April 25, and Region 6 will meet in Iowa City on May 2. The IAWEA Annual Conference will be held in Waterloo on June 6,7, 2018.

Jim expressed appreciation to Laurie Sharp for attending and adding so much to the Joint Committee meetings.

**f. KCC – Kim Fensterman**

Kirkwood's Annual Water Conference will be held on June 25, 26, 2018, and the Annual Wastewater Conference will be held on July 30, 31, 2018, both at the Kirkwood Training Center. Kim briefly described KCC's Career Academy. On request, she later provided a program summary which is appended to these minutes.

**g. DMACC – Dennis Hayworth and Steve Moehlmann**

The Children's Water Festival for 5<sup>th</sup> graders will again be on the DMACC campus on May 10. More 30-hour training courses are being presented in cooperation with other community colleges. DMACC is also offering prep courses in support of training toward Grades III and IV certification.

**8. Next Meeting**

Friday, October 5, 2018, DMACC.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved to adjourn by Steve Marsh, seconded by Dennis Hayworth. The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Harris Seidel, Secretary

## KIRKWOOD CAREER ACADEMY

Kirkwood offers opportunities for you to earn college credit while you're in high school. These courses are the perfect opportunity for you to get hands-on experience while getting a better sense of the career you should pursue after graduation. All the classes you take at Kirkwood are "dual credit," which means you get credit toward your high school diploma and your future college career.

**About College Credit in High School.** There are many ways high school students can earn college credit in high school (CCHS) through Kirkwood. Options range from taking one or two unrelated college level classes all the way up to completing a sequence of courses in a Career Academy. These experiences are primarily designed for juniors and seniors, allowing them to experiment with different academic areas and learn their true passions before committing to one subject area in college.

### **The Benefits of Earning College Credit in High School**

**- Save money.** Regardless of the CCHS option they choose, students earn both high school and college credit, and at no cost to them and their families.

**- Get hands-on, real-world experience.** Career Academy courses focus on career exploration while also aligning with industry workforce needs. Students can even earn industry-recognized certifications for immediate employment opportunities.

Kirkwood consistently meets with industry representatives to find out what skills they want to see in new employees. Our programs are built around that information.

**- Experience the rigor of college course work.** Get a sense of what to expect in college at no cost to your family.

### **Awarding of Credit/Grades**

- **High School Credit:** Students with a passing grade will receive credit from their high school. Individual school districts determine whether the high school credit will be awarded to meet high school core curriculum requirements or elective requirements.
- **College Credit:** Students will receive college credit from Kirkwood Community College. An official college transcript will be created and the grade earned in the concurrent credit course will be reflected on the student's official college transcript.

<b>Water Environmental Technology Online Total Credits: 15</b>	Water Treatment I	WAT-304	4
	Water Distribution Systems	WAT-305	4
	Wastewater Treatment I	WAT-307	4
	Internship	WAT-932	3

## Proposed Fall 2019 DMACC WET AAS Degree

COURSES		CREDITS	AT DMACC	AT W/WW PARTNER
<b>Fall Semester 1st Year</b>				
WATIOI	W/WW Basic Science	3	Oct - Dec	
WAT309	Water Distribution Systems I	4		
WAT310	WW Collection Systems I	4		
SDV108	The College Experience	1		
MAT772	Applied Math	3		
Semester Total 15				
<b>Spring Semester 1st Year</b>				
WAT102	W/WW Maintenance	4	Jan - Mar	
WAT304	Water Treatment I	4		
WAT307	WW Treatment I	4		
WAT941	Internship I	3		Mar - Apr
Semester Total 15				
<b>Summer Semester 1st Year</b>				
WAT942	Internship II	3		Apr - Jun
WATIOO	W/WW Operator Math	2	Jun - Aug	
COM703	Communication Skills	3		
MGT145	Human Relations in Business	3		
Semester Total 11				
<b>Fall Semester 2nd Year</b>				
WAT311	WW Treatment II	4	Aug - Oct	
WAT312	Water Treatment II	4		
WAT330	W/WW Analysis	4		
WAT943	Internship III	3		Oct - Dec
Semester Total 15				
<b>Spring Semester 2nd Year</b>				
WAT944	Internship IV	3		Jan - Mar
WAT313	Water Distribution Systems II	4	Mar - May	
WAT314	WW Collection Systems II	4		
WAT401	W/WW Management	2		
ENV115	Environmental Science	3		
Semester Total 16				
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS 72</b>				

## Proposed Fall 2019 DMACC WET AAS Degree FAQs - Students

Proposed WET AAS Degree	FAQ
When will this new degree start?	October 2019
What are the requirements for the WET AAS degree?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply and be admitted by DMACC for this degree 72 college credits</li> <li>• 4 internships, 1000 hours of work experience</li> </ul>
Is working for a DMACC Water/Wastewater Partner required?	No, it is preferred for a student to be employed by a DMACC Water/Wastewater Partner but not required
Who are DMACC Water/Wastewater Partners?	They are water treatment facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, water distribution systems, and/or wastewater collection systems who agree to provide work experience to DMACC students who are in the WET AAS degree program
How much does the Water/Wastewater Partner pay?	\$10,000 - Water/Wastewater Partners agree to pay at least \$10/hour for the 1000 hours of work experience during the 4 internships
Is the Water/Wastewater Partner responsible to pay for college costs such as tuition, fees, books, etc.?	No, payment of all college costs such as tuition, fees, books, etc. is the responsibility of the student, not Water/Wastewater Partners. However, the Water/Wastewater Partner may pay for any and all college costs.
Are scholarships available?	Yes, there are many scholarships available including our own WET scholarship fund that provides up to \$1,000 grants/year for WET students
How does a student take courses and work at the same time?	Students alternate between taking courses full-time for 16 weeks and working full-time for 16 weeks
Will I be able to sit for certification exams?	Yes, after your 1 <sup>st</sup> internship, you will be eligible to take: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa DNR Water Treatment Grade 1</li> <li>• Iowa DNR Wastewater Treatment Grade 1</li> <li>• Iowa DNR Water Distribution Grade 1</li> <li>• IAWEA Wastewater Collection System Class I</li> </ul>
What about Grade 2?	With your WET AAS degree and 1 more year of water/wastewater work experience, you will be eligible to take your Grade 2(s)
What about Grades 3 or 4?	This degree provides you with enough college credits to satisfy DNR's education requirements for Grades 3 & 4
What about lodging while I'm taking courses @ DMACC?	DMACC has arrangements with housing for other programs and will expand this to include the WET program

FAQ - Proposed Fall 2019 DMACC WET AAS Degree, April 9, 2018 DRAFT