

**ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATORS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES**

**September 10, 2012
Parksville Community and Conference Centre
Parksville BC**

Board Members Present: Mike Gosselin - President
Pat Miller - Vice President
Brian Thorburn - Treasurer
Chris Brown - Secretary
Darryl Bjorgaard - Director
Shawn Sanders - Director
Bob Smith - Director
Bill Hyslop - Executive Director

Operators: 29 Operators present

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:42 AM

2. Adoption of the Agenda for the 2012 Annual General Meeting

Moved: Pat Miller/Lyndon Jaworski: That the agenda for the 2012 AGM be adopted as presented.

Carried

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2010 & 2011 Annual General Meeting

The minutes for the 2010 & 2011 have been available for viewing on the EOCP website since October 2011.

Moved: Shawn Sanders/Chris Brown: That the minutes of the 2010 & 2011 Annual General Meetings be adopted with no changes.

Carried

4. President's Report

Mike Gosselin thanked Donna Monteith from the Coastal Water Supply Association for working with the EOCP so we could hold our AGM at their conference. It is great to have a chance to get out of lower mainland with our AGM. The President introduced the Board and staff from the EOCP. He advised the structure of the meeting was to take them through the agenda items, then to open the floor to the Operators for questions.

It has been a busy year for the EOCP as we have been working with both ministries, & training organizations throughout BC & Yukon.

Facility classifications are now available to be completed & submitted online.

The EOCP will be taking on a new project with the Ministry of Health for a staffing model for Water & Wastewater systems.

The EOCP Policies & Procedures should be on the website for viewing within 3 months.

5. Treasurer's Report

Brian Thorburn advised that the year-to-date statements up to the end of July indicate we are well within budget. We projected a \$4,000 loss for the year but are presently in the black by \$31,000. The EOCP has transferred extra operating funds not needed

immediately into GIC's. We won't gain a lot of interest on it but have earned approximately \$2,000 in interest so far.

We have separated operating income & expenses, projects income & expenses, and special projects that we are working on with the Ministry of Health. Brian is currently working on the budget for 2013. It should be finalized in the next month. Projected income and expense figures will be in the upcoming issue of the newsletter.

6. Election Results

Mike Gosselin advised that the 2012 election was held with six (6) Operators running for three (3) positions on the Board. Every year a portion of the board is up for re-election.

Eric Jackson & Bob Smith were elected to the Board by acclamation.

Pat Miller, Darryl Bjorgaard & Chris Brown were re-elected to the Board.

Mike Gosselin thanked Ron Bernier, John McLuskie, & Jim McQuarrie for running. The results were as follows:

187 returned ballots - 6 spoiled ballots

Pat Miller	119 Votes
Chris Brown	85 Votes
Darryl Bjorgaard	80 Votes
Ron Bernier	77 Votes
John McLuskie	62 Votes
Jim McQuarrie	56 Votes

7. EOCB Operator of the Year Award

The EOCB has participated in an Operator of the Year recognition award for many years. As the EOCB moves closer to a Professional Operator designation and a number of organizations have become much more involved in supporting the water and wastewater Operators there have been numerous suggestions of a single EOCB Operator of the Year Award. The 2012 EOCB Operator of the Year Award is the first such award.

It is intended to make this year's presentation a tradition and recognize an individual Operator each year at the EOCB Annual Meeting as the epitome of what it means to be an Operator.

For years it has been recognized that there a few Operators in BC and Yukon who go above and beyond doing a good job; they provide an example for others of the many facets of being an Operator, particularly in supporting the activities of other Operators. They take extra training, they make the extra effort to support their fellow Operators, and teach others what they have learned through many years of working in the field. Often they encourage others to become more involved including attending training opportunities and pushed certification long before it was mandatory. They go out of their way to help everyone in the water and wastewater field, often at the expense of their own advancement or what would otherwise be their own personal time. They volunteer to help others, they make presentations, they serve on committees, all while doing the things that are necessary to be considered "good at their job".

The first EOCB Operator of the Year Award, was presented to June Williams.

8. Training Registry Project

Some statistics about the Training Registry were provided.

111 Recognized Instructors, of these, 36 are Certified Operators.

58 Training Providers.

394 courses, 98 of these are distance education, 27 are special events.

All of the courses, providers, and instructors are being reviewed by Subject Matter Experts (SME's), not the EOCP Board. We currently have ten SME's, eight in BC, one in AB & one in Wisconsin.

Mike Gosselin suggested that those Operators who are not familiar with the EOCP Training Registry go to the EOCP website and familiarize themselves with it. If an Operator has expertise in an area, the Training Registry shows step by step how to get involved and become a recognized instructor.

9. Operators/Facility Report

In 1969, the first year Operators were certified in BC, there were 19 Certified Operators. There are now 3500 Operators, with over 300 new Operators joining the Program in 2011. Over 2000 facilities are now classified.

10. Online Facility Applications

It took longer than anticipated to get the facility classification forms online, but they are now available. Operators were asked to contact the EOCP if they come across any questions when filling out the forms online; there may be glitches that have to be corrected. Mike Gosselin thanked those that helped out with the beta testing.

The floor was opened up to the Operators to ask questions.

Q. Are facilities required by law to be classified, because as Operators we have be certified?

A. Yes. Facilities must be classified following EOCP guidelines; it is in the regulations of the MoE & MoH,.

Q. How do we know if we are certified?

A. You can do a database search on the EOCP website. Click on Search Operators to search Operators, and Search Facilities to see if the system is classified.

Q. How often do the facilities need to be classified?

A. Wastewater Treatment facilities must be classified every 5 years. We are still looking for clarity for the water systems since the wording is slightly different in those regulations. The EOCP has no enforcement authority. We offer a service to the regulators. It is up to the regulators to ensure the systems are classified and the Operators are certified. In small water systems, the discretion is up the drinking water officer.

Mike Gosselin advised the Operators that the EOCP website does have an FAQ section. It is updated as questions come in, and should answer many questions. If there is a question that has not been addressed, they can submit questions and we will answer them.

We are looking for plant profiles & would appreciate contributions from Operators. These can be sent to the EOCP office.

If anyone has suggestions for the EOCP Operators Digest, submit them to the EOCP office, they will be forwarded to the Digest editor.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.