Steam Certification Board Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: February 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.-11:43 a.m.
Meeting Format/Location: Hybrid, South Campus Room A102A and Zoom
Facilitator: Terry Chapin, Chair

Attendance: X=Attended E=Excused U=Unknown

Board Members				Bates Administrative Staff		Guests	
E	Nabeel Al Shakerchi	X	Tony McNamara	E	Samuel Cureton	X	Christopher Jackson
X	Scott Best	X	Aaron Meisenheimer	X	Amelia Fortuno		
X	Terry Chapin	E	Jose Miranda	X	Yifan Sun		
E	Jeff Frazier	X	Joel Rasmussen				
X	Cameron LaFreniere	X	Jim Wrenn				
X	Dr. Graham Malek						

Call to Order

Introductions were made for guest.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to accept the minutes from the November 3, 2023 meeting with a correction under Good of the Order, first sentence of second paragraph, to change "by the way" to "as long as."*

Standing or Committee Reports

Chairperson Appointments

- Appointed Jim Wrenn and Christopher Jackson as alternates.
- Committee Members
    - Class Curriculum Review Committee
        - Added Cameron LaFreniere and Joel Rasmussen as members.
    - Bylaws Committee
        - Added Scott Best and Cameron LaFreniere as members.
        - Appointed Scott Best as Chair.
    - Testing Committee
        - Added Joel Rasmussen as a member.
    - Appeals Committee
        - Added Dr. Graham Malek as a member.
        - Appointed Cameron LaFreniere as Chair.

Boiler Exam Report

Amelia Fortuno presented the report in Samuel Cureton's absence.

November 2023-January 2024 Exams

- November: Two Class IV exams administered, none passed.
- December: One Class III and one Class IV administered, none passed.
- The January exam was canceled due to no applicants.
- There were two people that used reciprocity to obtain an equivalent certification for their current City of Seattle boiler license.
    - One Class III/Grade 3 and one Class IV/Grade 4

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to receive the quarterly boiler exam report as submitted.*

Class Curriculum Review Committee

Committee Chair Tony McNamara reported Bates Technical College submitted their curriculum for review. It is the Committee's recommendation that the Facilities Maintenance Engineering career education program be approved as a School of Technology Program and the boiler classes within that program, FACM 140 and 144, be approved as a Boiler Training Program.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision, with one abstention, to approve the curriculum for the Bates Facilities Maintenance Engineer program as a School of Technology and FACM 140 and 144 as a Boiler Training Program.*

Amelia Fortuno added that Renton Technical College's curriculum is also up for review. She has already sent them a request, but did not receive the information yet. The curriculum review and approval process will need to occur through email since their approval expires on February 12, 2024.

Adapting Municipality Report

At the last meeting, Joel Rasmussen mentioned a request he received from a consultant wanting to implement a lockout/tagout program at a boiler plant to reduce the certification requirement for the operators. He spoke with Aaron Meisenheimer, who also works at the plant, about whether or not it was feasible. Aaron, who was not at the last meeting, was present to provide some details about the operation at that boiler plant.

- For periods of time in the winter, they often times run two boilers and the third boiler maybe down for maintenance.
- As they rotate through boilers throughout the year, they will readily have three boilers online.
    - When you get one boiler back up ready to run, you do not put it online right away because you want to make sure the boiler is operating reliably before depending upon it as the primary source.
- There will be times when all three boilers will be hot and ready to run for redundancy purposes, which is important at a hospital.

Discussion:

- In the boiler code, the plant is designated its classification based on the vessel size and its potential, not whether the boilers are turned on or off.

- Not having qualified/certified/licensed applicants vs. non-competitive wage.
- A boiler on standby needs as much attention as one that is not.
- Whether or not Class IV and V boiler firemen are motivated to upgrade their certificate/license.

Aaron summarized that the request had been made because there was difficulty hiring qualified operators and that the situation at the boiler plant has been resolved because operators have been hired.

Joel mentioned being approached by someone regarding Pacific Lutheran University. Their facilities department has to make cuts to their spending and personnel; the primary boiler operator has also left the company. Joel is looking into the matter, though it falls outside of the City of Tacoma's jurisdiction.

Discussion:

- Scott Best emphasized that the Steam Certification Board can only serve in an unofficial advisory capacity. This is a curriculum advisory board, which has no role in the enforcement of the boiler code.
- Dr. Graham Malek recalled that Boeing, in Auburn, had removed their number four boiler off from its foundation and then reinstalled it, which caused it to lose its grandfathered status for EPA emissions.
    - They got a letter to detune the boiler to limit its max input to 100 million BTU/hour or less. The boiler had to be physically altered.
    - Anything that changes or increases its max firing rate would need to be approved prior to work by the EPA.
- Promoting the boiler operation job field.
    - Cameron LaFreniere mentioned he was working with the Bates HVAC program on getting his boiler classes to substitute for some of their classes.
    - Cameron is also working with DES (Washington State Department of Enterprising Services) and DSHS (Washington State Department of Social and Health Services) with their interest in training up their maintenance mechanics and maintenance technicians to stationary engineers.
- The State does not track boiler operators. The insurance inspector can check an operator's boiler certificate/license.
- Charging fines for operators who are not certified/licensed or operating outside of their classification.
    - Amelia Fortuno remembers a form/notice from when Jessie Adkins was the City of Tacoma representative to this board.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send Joel Rasmussen a copy of the City of Tacoma Notice that included boiler code violations.	Amelia Fortuno	May 10, 2024

Tabled and Unfinished Business

Boiler Refresher Extension

Amelia Fortuno already mailed out the notification about the conditional extension granted to operators who were due for a Boiler Refresher by 08/01/2023 to be able to submit their Refresher completion through March 2024.

- Five operators used the extension and completed their Refresher in January 2024.
- Renton Technical College canceled one of their December Refresher classes due to low enrollment.
- 81 operators still had not completed the Refresher class
    - 17 of those operators had paid their annual renewal fee.
- Refresher reminder notices for operators due by 08/01/2024 have been sent.
    - 10 operators have already completed the class.

Discussion:

- Tony McNamara voiced his concern that the number of certified operators does not seem to match the number of operators needed for all of the boilers within the City of Tacoma limits.
- The concern for safety and the need for enforcement was stressed.

New Business

Nothing was discussed.

Good of the Order & Future Meeting Dates

Tony McNamara mentioned that the Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust is hosting a Boiler Symposium on June 27-28, 2024 at the Local 302 Bothell, WA location.

Amelia Fortuno mentioned that Cameron LaFreniere is working on the curriculum to revamp the Continuing Education Boiler Fireman Class III & IV course. There are several issues that still need to be resolved:

- Update the hours to credits ratio.
- Lower the course from 96 hours to 80 hours for an in-person class to complete within a quarter.
- Change the course subject classification to separate the Continuing Ed classes from Stationary Engineer Apprenticeship classes because of the way tuition is charged with each course setup.

Amelia also gave a recap and shared some pictures from the Bates Advisory Committee Dinner. Jeff Frazier, Jose Miranda and Cameron LaFreniere were in attendance. The event was catered and served by the Culinary Arts program and included a keynote from an advisory board member who started his career as a Bates student. It was an opportunity for advisory members to share their thoughts about the new goals for the College's strategic plan. She believes that this will become an annual event and encouraged members to attend it in the future.

Cameron LaFreniere wants to come up with a training plan for when he is speaking with employers and companies geared towards Tacoma operators.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Add “Boiler Training Pathway” to the agenda as a standing item.	Amelia Fortuno	May 10, 2024

Jim Wrenn said that Pierce County Council Member Marty Campbell was supposed to attend, but had an unexpected emergency taking him out of town.

Future Meeting Dates

- May 10, 2024
- August 9, 2024
- November 8, 2024

Respectfully submitted by: Amelia Fortuno