Steam Certification Board Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: May 10, 2024, 10:01 a.m.-11:07 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	
X	Nabeel Al Shakerchi	U	Dr. Graham Malek	E	Samuel Cureton	X	Andrea Major
X	Scott Best	X	Tony McNamara	X	Amelia Fortuno		
X	Terry Chapin	U	Aaron Meisenheimer	E	Yifan Sun		
X	Jeff Frazier	X	Jose Miranda				
X	Christopher Jackson	X	Joel Rasmussen				
X	Cameron LaFreniere	X	Jim Wrenn				

Call to Order

Introductions were made for guest.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to accept the minutes from the February 9, 2024 as written.*

Standing or Committee Reports

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

February 2024-April 2024 Exams

- February: Exam canceled due to no applicants.
- March: One Class IV exam administered and passed.
- April: One Class III and two Class IV exams administered. None passed.
- Reciprocity (Using current City of Seattle boiler license to obtain an equivalent Bates certificate.)
    - February: Two Class I, one Class II, and one Class IV
    - March: One Class I and one Class II
    - April: One Class III

Discussion:

- Why is there an increase in operators using the reciprocity agreement to obtain the Bates certification?
    - A few were operators from WestRock who are unsure where their next job will be.
- If WestRock (papermill) is completely shutting down or laying up for possible future use.
    - Jose Miranda mentioned there was still a skeleton crew still working, but did not know more.

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

Class Curriculum Review Committee

Renton Technical College Curriculum

Tony McNamara, Committee Chair, recapped the curriculum review for the Renton Technical College continuing education classes, which was received after their approval had expired on February 12, 2024.

The Class Curriculum Review Committee:

- Reviewed documents for the Boiler Operator License 3 & 4 and the Boiler Operator Refresher courses.
- Verified the instructors had current Seattle boiler licenses that are equal to or superior to the requirement for the courses.
- Gave the Board a recommendation to approve.

Terry Chapin, Board Chair, called for a vote through email on March 10, 2024. The result finalized on March 13, 2024: *the motion was carried with a unanimous decision to approve the Renton Technical College curricula for the Boiler Refresher Course and the Boiler Training Course (3 & 4).*

Boiler Symposium

Tony McNamara reminded everyone 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. Andrea Major, Training Coordinator for the Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust, added that the cost is $165 and there is a hotel group rate of $119/night at the Country Inn.

Tony McNamara gave a brief history of the event previously hosted by Bates Technical College, Renton Technical College, and the Washington State Boiler Inspectors Association (WSBIA). When the event was held at the colleges, proceeds went towards scholarships for students in the Facilities Maintenance Engineering (Bates) and Commercial Building Engineering (Renton) programs. Andrea Major confirmed that they would like to keep with that tradition by sending proceeds to both colleges for their scholarships.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send the Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust contact information for the Bates Foundation Office to contribute part of the Boiler Symposium proceeds towards their Boiler Symposium scholarship.	Amelia Fortuno	May 17, 2024

Jose Miranda provided the event agenda for the Board's approval to count as a Boiler Refresher substitute. There was an opening for one more speaker, which Christopher Jackson volunteered for. He will talk about black liquor recovery boilers.

Discussion:

- Proof of completion
    - There should be one certificate for the attending the whole event and another for the Boiler Refresher completion (i.e. passing the open book exam).
    - The difference between completion hours versus obtaining approval as a CEU (Continuing Education Unit).

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send Amelia Fortuno an example of the Boiler Refresher completion certificate so she knows what to expect when operators submit them to renew their boiler certificate.	Jose Miranda or Andrea Major	June 29, 2024

- Open book exam
    1. Have each speaker submit three questions about their presentation.
    2. Select questions to create the exam, typically ten questions, and create an answer key.
        - Typically, true/false and multiple choice.
    3. Designate someone to give an exam review, recapping highlights of the presentations.
        - Should be held after the final presentation.
    4. Give copies of the answer key to the group of people who will be grading the exam.
- Boiler Symposium instructor of record
    - Does the instructor of record need to be a boiler operator?
        - Amelia Fortuno reminded everyone that last year, during curriculum reviews for a couple of Boiler Refresher substitutes, they approved to allow non-certified/licensed Boiler Refresher instructors. The Board would approve instructors on a case-by-case basis.

The Class Curriculum Review Committee analyzed the agenda to make sure it contains the requirements for a Boiler Refresher (i.e. boiler safety, regulation additions/changes, new technology, and an open book exam). Their recommendation to the Board is for approval pending final review of the agenda with no significant changes.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to approve the Boiler Symposium as a Boiler Refresher substitute pending final review of the agenda with no significant changes.*

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send the Board the final agenda for the Boiler Symposium.	Jose Miranda	May 20, 2024

Adapting Municipality Report

Joel Rasmussen mentioned Mary Bridge Children's Hospital is constructing a new building and that the heating for the building is not coming from the boilers. The boilers that are being permitted are essentially hot water boilers.

Discussion:

- Cameron LaFreniere talked about hydrogen production and distribution for use instead of natural gas to take some of the load off of the grid.
- Scott Best talked about some of the challenges his customers experienced when looking to switch to electricity such as the utility company not being able to provide enough power, long wait times on parts and materials needed to be able to handle the power.
- Jim Wrenn mentioned Foss had to change to boilers because the heaters had to be replaced every few years.

Amelia Fortuno asked if the boiler code violation notice, mentioned at the last meeting, was still being used by the City. Joel Rasmussen verified that it is no longer being used.

Boiler Training Pathway Report
Cameron LaFreniere, Bates Facilities Maintenance Engineering instructor, had nothing to report.

Tabled and Unfinished Business

Jim Wrenn asked for an update on Bates' boiler classes. Cameron LaFreniere answered that the curriculum is still under review by the college's curriculum assessment committee.

New Business

Jose Miranda recently left his position as a business representative. Discussion on whether that affects his board membership as the labor union representative.

- Jeff Frazier, legal representative, said that Jose is still a member of Local 302 and is staying on at the request of their business manager. It is with Local 302's blessing and approval that Jose continues in his role on the Board.
- The by-laws do not have specific requirements for that position.

The consensus was that Jose's change in status as a business representative does not impact his board membership.

Good of the Order & Future Meeting Dates

Amelia Fortuno gave the update for Bates:

- The third Boiler Refresher reminder was mailed in mid-April.
    - There are currently 53 operators that need to submit their completion certificates.
- The annual boiler certificate renewal notice will be mailed at the end of May. If she gets the flyer for the Boiler Symposium by then, she will include it in the mailing.

Future Meeting Dates

- August 9, 2024
- November 8, 2024
- February 14, 2025
- May 9, 2025

Respectfully submitted by: Amelia Fortuno