Steam Certification Board Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: November 3, 2023, 10:07 a.m.-11:46 a.m.
Meeting Format/Location: Hybrid, South Campus Room A102A and Zoom
Facilitator: Terry Chapin, Vice Chair

Attendance: X=Attended E=Excused U=Unknown

Board Members				Bates Administrative Staff		Guests	
X	Scott Best	X	Tony McNamara	E	Samuel Cureton	X	Nabeel Al Shakerchi
X	Terry Chapin	U	Aaron Meisenheimer	X	Amelia Fortuno		
X	Jeff Frazier	X	Jose Miranda	E	Yifan Sun		
E	Christopher Jackson	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 August 11, 2023 meeting as written.*

Standing or Committee Reports

Boiler Exam Report

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

August-October 2023 Exams

- August: One exam administered for each of the following levels: Class II, Class IV and Class V.
  - Only the Class II passed.
- No exam held in September due to Bates being on summer break.
- October: One Class IV exam administered and was not passed.
- There were two people that used reciprocity to obtain an equivalent certification (Class II) for their City of Seattle boiler license (Grade 2).

Discussion:

- In the past, the employer paid for the training, but did not require the certification. Does this account for the scores?
  - Amelia Fortuno responded that she only knew of person where their employer paid for their exam and that they did not complete a class (i.e. used work experience to meet the eligibility criteria).

- WestRock closure update.
    - Jose Miranda mentioned one of the operators got a Seattle Grade 2 license and used reciprocity to also get the equivalent Bates certification.
    - Joel Rasmussen commented that the paper mill used so much water that it flushed the municipal system and how the water department was working on solutions to move the stagnant water and debris.

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

Class Curriculum Review Committee

Committee Chair Tony McNamara reported that two companies, Cole Industrial, Inc. and MacDonald Miller, submitted their curriculum for review to be counted as a Boiler Refresher substitute.

At the last meeting, an operator requested that the "Boiler Operator Training Seminar" by Cole Industrial, Inc. be counted towards their Boiler Refresher requirement. The Board granted the request for that one instance and had wanted more information about the seminar covering the boiler codes/regulations and any of its changes before fully approving it as a substitute, which is one of the requirements of a Boiler Refresher. Tony McNamara had followed-up with the company and additional documentation was submitted for review.

MacDonald Miller submitted their "5-Year Refresher" employee development training documentation for curriculum review.

After reviewing the documentation for both trainings, the Class Curriculum Review Committee recommended that both be approved as Boiler Refresher substitutes.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to accept the Class Curriculum Review Committee's recommendation for the Cole Industrial Inc. Boiler Operator Training Seminar and the MacDonald Miller 5-Year Refresher to be approved as Boiler Refresher substitutes.*

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send communication to Cole Industrial Inc. and MacDonald Miller that their training has been approved as a Boiler Refresher substitute. Per guidelines, approval is for three-years.	Amelia Fortuno	February 9, 2024

Tabled and Unfinished Business

Boiler Refresher Extension

Currently, an extension was granted to operators who were due for a Boiler Refresher by 08/01/2023 be allowed to still submit their proof of class completion through the rest of the year (i.e. 12/31/2023).

- Amelia Fortuno reported that 98 operators have not completed the class.
    - Of that, only 29 paid their annual renewal fee.

- Recently, a company requested that their four employees be able to take the Refresher in January since Verify Training's classes are full for the rest of this year.
    - The annual renewal fee for these employees had not been paid.
- Renton Technical College will possibly offer two more classes in December, but has not advertised it yet.

Amelia Fortuno intends on doing one last reminder to include Renton's Refresher schedule and would like the Board to consider another extension this time with conditions. She knows that the City of Seattle gave one to their operators.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to grant an extension to operators that were due for a Boiler Refresher by 08/01/2023 to be able to submit their proof of class completion through March 2024 as long as they meet the following conditions:*

1. *Annual renewal fee must be paid by December 31, 2023. A late fee is charged for payments received after August 1, 2023.*
2. *Proof of Boiler Refresher course enrollment (e.g. receipt) is submitted by December 31, 2023.*

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Notify boiler operators that were due for a Boiler Refresher by 08/01/2023 of conditional extension granted which allows for the Refresher to be completed through March 2024.	Amelia Fortuno	February 9, 2024

New Business

Elections

2024 Board Membership

Christopher Jackson, Education Rep., completes his third year of third term at the conclusion of this meeting.

- Amelia Fortuno reached out to Travis Smith at Verify Training, but he is not available to participate.
- Jose Miranda invited Nabeel Al Shakerchi, one of the boiler instructors at Renton Technical College to this meeting.
    - The Board asked Nabeel questions about his boiler license, training, teaching and operating experience, and his willingness to serve on the Board.

Nominated and unanimously approved: *Nabeel Al Shakerchi to serve as an education representative.*

Executive Officers

- Terry Chapin will transition to Chair at the conclusion of this meeting.

Nominated and unanimously approved: *Jose Miranda to serve as Vice Chair and Jeff Frazier to serve as Secretary.*

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Submit the 2024 board membership and executive team to the next Bates Board of Trustees meeting.	Yifan Sun	February 9, 2023

Discussion:

- Whether or not Joel Rasmussen, Municipal Liaison, could serve as an executive board member.
    - The consensus was that he had an ex-officio role, which does not exclude him from serving on a committee.
- Tony McNamara suggested the addition of "Adapting Municipality Report" as a standing agenda item.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Add "Adapting Municipality Report" as a standing agenda item.	Amelia Fortuno	February 9, 2023

Good of the Order & Future Meeting Dates

Joel Rasmussen asked for input on a request received by the City of Tacoma. MacDonald Miller approached the City on behalf of St Joseph Hospital for a code alternate request. They have an aggregate boiler plant fuel input rating that requires certain certified/licensed operator(s) at all times. They have three boilers and their normal operating procedure has been that one boiler is offline, open and ready for inspections; a fire tube boiler with doors open, laid-up.

They want to do a more formalized lockout, tag out program for their boiler room saying that they cannot turn the gas or power back as long as the doors are open.

- This would change their boiler aggregate boiler fuel input down to a level to where there is not a requirement for a higher-level certified/licensed operator on staff (i.e. de-rate the input of the plant by isolating one of the boilers).

Discussion:

- How easy would it be to bring the boiler back online, thereby changing the aggregate boiler fuel input rating? Would notifications to City be required?
- Clarification was given that a code alternate would not change the municipal code, but there would be a flag in the City's system with a note about the code alternate details.
- What is considered permanent change? What would happen in an emergency (e.g. life-saving measures since this is at a hospital)? How often would the boiler backup be checked?
- Dr. Graham Malek mentioned a similar situation with Boeing and the State. That to lockout the valves were not sufficient. Boeing had to knock out the flanges and install blanks.
- Cameron LaFreniere commented that they, St Joseph Hospital, was looking for a Class II Operating Engineer and maybe the salary offered was not high enough to hire someone for that position and/or they do not have anyone within the company that wants/could be promoted.

- Scenarios that would require the second boiler to be on-line, thereby needing the third boiler to be on available status.
    - Winter time, when the temperature drops.
    - If there was an issue with one of the boilers, possibly a long-term issue with significant repairs.
    - Overheated tubes and needing to regulate them.

Several Board members asked for the current number of boiler operators for a couple of classification levels that are certified by Bates.

- Amelia Fortuno reported the following data:

Classification Level	Number of Operators
Class I Chief Operating Engineer	36
Class II Operating Engineer	43
Class III Operating Engineer	103
Class IV Boiler Fireman	122
Class V Boiler Fireman	7

Cameron LaFreniere mentioned that the City of Seattle has been adopting greenhouse gas emissions policies on their buildings that has been doing a lot with their boilers and other generation on-site, which affects the Seattle boiler operators. This includes electric boilers, alternative fuel sources (e.g. hydrogen) and using existing natural gas lines with a conversion kit. He was interested in finding out if the City of Tacoma had any plans on adopting similar policies. Joel Rasmussen answered that the City was not pursuing it at this time.

Discussion about potential changes in the future:

- Updates to curriculum for boiler training to address needs of the community.
- Additional questions in the certification exam bank.

Jose Miranda announced that Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust got approval to hold the Boiler Symposium at the I.U.O.E. (International Union of Operating Engineers) Union Hall in Bothell, WA in summer 2024.

Terry Chapin announced that he is no longer on the Washington State Board of Boiler Rules. His term had been extended until a replacement could be found, which occurred at their last meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

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

Respectfully submitted by: Amelia Fortuno