

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL OF A)	
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION WATER)	
PERSONNEL TRAINING PROGRAM AS A)	CASE NO. 2014-00279
WATER DISTRICT COMMISSIONER TRAINING)	
PROGRAM)	

ORDER

KRS 74.020(7) requires that this Commission “encourage and promote the offering of high quality water district management training programs that enhance a water district commissioner’s understanding of his or her responsibilities and duties.” KRS 74.020(8) requires the Commission to conduct a program of instruction “to train newly appointed commissioners in the laws governing the management and operation of water districts and other subjects that the Public Service Commission deems appropriate.”

Pursuant to these statutory mandates, the Commission conducted a training program at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, Greenup, Kentucky, on August 12-13, 2014. This program included instruction regarding trends in applicable laws and regulations, risk management, and utility administration.¹

Based upon a review of the course curriculum, the Commission finds that:

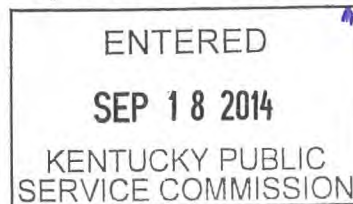
1. The course of instruction provided at this program enhances a water district commissioner’s understanding of his or her duties.

¹ A course syllabus for the training program is appended to this Order.

2. The program conducted at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, Greenup, Kentucky, on August 12-13, 2014, should be approved for 12 credit hours of water district management training and for 12 hours of new water district commissioner training.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the 2014 Water Training Program, which the Commission conducted at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, Greenup, Kentucky, on August 12-13, 2014, is approved for a maximum of 12 credit hours of water district management training and for a maximum of 12 credit hours of new water district commissioner training.

By the Commission



ATTEST:


Executive Director

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2014-00279 DATED **SEP 18 2014**

2014 Water Training Seminar
Presented by the Public Service Commission
Greenbo Lake State Resort Park – August 12-13, 2014

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

7:30 – 8:00 Registration and Breakfast

8:00 – 8:15 Welcome and Program Overview

8:15 – 9:40 *Annual Training*

Recent Developments in Utility Regulation – Ann Ramser

This presentation is a review of the recent developments in public utility law and regulation. Recent changes in Kentucky statutes affecting the operation of water utilities will be discussed. Recent changes to Public Service Commission regulations will also be discussed.

New Commissioner Training

Commissioner Board Meetings – Damon Talley

This presentation addresses the rules and procedures that should be followed at the meetings of a water district's board of commissioners. Presenter will also discuss how board members should prepare for meetings, the roles of board members and district management at board meetings, and frequently recurring problems at such meetings and how to address them. The requirements of the Open Meetings Act will also be briefly discussed.

9:50 – 10:50 *Annual Training*

Emergency Management – Charles O'Neal

This presentation addresses the need for and the basic issues of emergency planning for water utilities. The role of Kentucky Emergency Management (KEM) and coordination between water utilities and KEM, as well as the legal aspects of emergency planning and management will also be discussed.

New Commissioner Training

Operation of WD/WA – Legal Aspects – Gerald Wuetcher

This presentation is a review of the provisions of Chapter 74 involving the creation, management, operation, and dissolution of water districts. Other statutory provisions, such as the Whistle Blowers Act, Claims against Local Government Act, Bidding Requirements provision of KRS Chapter 424, Eminent Domain, Local Model Procurement Law, and general laws related to special districts, will also be discussed. Presenter will also provide a comparison with legal requirements for water associations.

Special Session

Consumer Services, One-on-One Discussion – Ginny Smith

The Commission's Director of Consumer Services will conduct a question and answer session for utility customer service representatives on Commission regulations dealing with customer relations, including termination of service, billing disputes, imposition and collection of certain charges and fees, and customer notice.

11:00 – 12:00 *Annual Training*

Public Relation and Social Media – Andrew Melnykovich

In the age of instant communication, how do you make sure that your message gets out their first and reaches the audiences that matter to you? In addition to basic principles of public communication and media relations, the session will cover the pros and cons of tools such as Twitter and Facebook.

New Commissioner Training

Open Records/Open Meetings Acts – Todd Osterloh

This presentation reviews the principal provisions of the Open Records Act and Open Meetings Act. Also, handling a request for information under the Open Records Act and the effect of the Open Meetings Act on meetings of the board of water district commissioners is discussed.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch – Lodge Restaurant

1:00 – 2:30 *Annual Training and New Commissioner Training*

House Bill 1: A Panel Discussion – Damon Talley for Kentucky Rural Water Association and Annette DuPont-Ewing for Kentucky Municipal Utilities Association – Moderated by Gerald Wuetcher

In its 2013 Annual Session, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 1 that made sweeping changes to reporting and organization requirements for special purpose governmental entities, such as water districts and municipal water and sewer bodies. A panel composed of representatives from the Department of Local Government, Kentucky Rural Water Association, and Kentucky Municipal Utility Association will provide their perspective on the need for House Bill 1, how it should be implemented, the challenges of implementing House Bill 1, and whether greater control by elected local officials over the operation and management of water districts and municipal water utilities is needed or desirable.

Special Session

Consumer Services, One-on-One Discussion – Ginny Smith

The Commission's Director of Consumer Services will conduct a question and answer session for utility customer service representatives on Commission regulations dealing with customer relations, including termination of service, billing disputes, imposition and collection of certain charges and fees, and customer notice.

2:40 – 3:40 *Annual Training*

All You Will Ever Need to Know About Credit Cards – Robert Mohon

This presentation delivers answers to current issues related to credit and debit card acceptance in the utility office environment. Fraud prevention, cost containment, best practices, PCI Compliance, and your own questions will be covered. Bring your office staff's questions about this topic, too. You'll enjoy a discussion-style conversation complete with takeaways for the folks back home.

- 2:40 – 3:40 *New Commissioner Training*
Water Quality Law – Julie Roney
This presentation provides an overview of treatment and distribution, focusing on the major processes, why the processes are important in terms of public health and safety, and terms used in the industry.
- 4:30 – 6:00 *Evening Session – Restaurant*
With Ginny Smith, Sam Reid, Andrew Melnykovich, and Julie Roney
The evening session is an open topic discussion forum which includes discussions on issues related to Consumer Services, Purchased Water Adjustments, Nonrecurring Charges, Public Relations, Division of Water, Legal, etc. Bring your concerns to the table and get your questions answered! (Snacks will be provided.)

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

- 7:30 – 8:00 Registration and Breakfast
- 8:00 – 9:30 *Annual Training*
Kentucky Division of Water Update – Julie Roney
This is a presentation on recent developments and activities at Kentucky Division of Water. It includes a brief overview of revisions to the agency's administrative regulations and proposed revisions to federal drinking water laws and regulations.
- New Commissioner Training*
PSC Regulatory Requirements – Nancy Vinsel
This presentation is a review of the Public Service Commission's jurisdiction over water districts and the statutory and regulatory requirements that are imposed upon water districts as a result of their status as public utilities.
- 9:40 – 10:40 *Annual Training*
Preparing for Audits/Interpreting the Results – Glen Thompson
Most water districts undergo a financial audit annually. The Deputy Executive Director of the State Auditor's Office of Financial Audits will discuss preparing for an audit, management conduct during the audit, and interpreting and acting upon an audit's results.
- New Commissioner Training*
Budgeting and Asset Management – Chris Wells
As a new commissioner, one of your most important responsibilities is to ensure your system brings in sufficient revenue to cover the cost of delivering a safe and adequate supply of drinking water to your customers. In this session, we will discuss budget requirements and financial tools that a system can use to establish asset rehabilitation, prioritize maintenance needs, and have sufficient funds for repairs and improvements.
- 10:50 – 12:00 *Annual Training and New Commissioner Training*
Ethics: A Practical Exercise – David Spenard
This presentation is a review of ethics laws and principles that affect water utility policy makers and managers.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 *Annual Training*

Hot Topics in Ratemaking – Scott Lawless, Sam Reid, and Greg Dutton

Members of the Staff of the Public Service Commission and the Office of the Attorney General will discuss ratemaking issues of current interest, including recent changes in Commission treatment of depreciation, use of inflation adjustment mechanisms, purchased power/fuel adjustment mechanisms, infrastructure replacement riders, Alternative Rate Filing (ARF) and methods for establishing a utility's revenue requirements. Attention will also be given to recurring problems with rate adjustment filings and purchased water adjustment applications. Asst. Attorney General Dutton will provide the consumer advocate's perspective on these issues as well as discuss issues that are of particular concern to the AG's office.

New Commissioner Training

Drinking System Basics – Julie Roney

This presentation will cover the primary regulations dealing with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act.

2:10 – 2:45 *Annual Training*

The PSC Inspection Process and Updates – George Wakim

This presentation is an introduction and overview of the PSC Inspection Process. The session will explain the purpose of the inspection, what a utility can expect from the inspection, and the utilities involvement with the inspection process.

2:10 – 3:30 *New Commissioner Training*

Internal Controls – Scott Lawless

This presentation explains the need for, and purpose of, internal controls and identifies common controls that every water district should consider. The Auditor of Public Accounts' recommendations for public and non-profit boards will also be reviewed and discussed.

