

Operator Certification Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 24, 2025 · 2:03 – 2:55pm

Google Meet joining info

Certification Committee - 2025 Inaugural Meeting
Wednesday, October 24, 2025 · 2:00 – 3:30pm
Time zone: America/Phoenix
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: meet.google.com/qsq-pgch-apz
Or dial: (US) +1 252-699-0093 PIN: 861 237 535#

Purpose of Meeting: Updates about the Program. Introduction of new members and a “passing the torch” session for outgoing members. Selection of new Chair and Co-Chair.

Committee Members Present:

- Dawn Simpson (outgoing Chair)
- Blake Anderson (outgoing)
- Jason Bobko (outgoing -> incoming)
- Rob McCandles (outgoing)
- Roman Diaz (outgoing)
- Robert Shirey
- Karthik Kumarasamy
- Jed Lant
- Jack Cook
- Betran Apong Usongo (joined 2:20pm)

ADEQ/Guest Members:

- Eboni Rhone (executive secretary)
- Bram Briskorn
- Alissa Coes

Sent Regrets:

- Mike Osborne (outgoing)
- Art Nunez (outgoing)
- Rich Marsh (outgoing)
- Jerome Yontz

Call to Order: Eboni Rhone called to order the regular meeting of the Certification Committee at 2:03PM through the virtual platform, Google Meet. Bram Briskorn was the notetaker.

Roll Call: 11 committee members attended the meeting. Chairperson, the executive secretary, and three other members of the committee were present. Per Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 103(F), the quorum was met.

General Business:

- Overview of ADEQ’s OpCert program by Eboni Rhone:
 - Discussion of roles and expectations as committee members
 - Need for 3 more roles to be filled - outgoing members eligible to rejoin
- Voting for Chair and Co-Chair
 - Chair volunteer:
 - Jason Bobko – selected as Chair
 - Co-Chair volunteer:
 - Robert Shirey – selected as Co-Chair
- Passing the torch comments
 - Blake Anderson: Take the opportunity to speak into the program, especially when/if CapDev rule opens up again. Concerns about Grade 1 operators running systems
 - Dawn Simpson: Congratulations to incoming. Encourages continued efforts to schools and young people through outreach programs
 - Jason Bobko: Glad for the committee existing and for new members
 - Rob McCandles: No comment
 - Roman Diaz: Congratulations to incoming. From educational standpoint, Roman offers continued assistance and wants curriculum feedback

Discussion:

- TMF 2.0
 - Survey purpose and expectations overviewed by Bram Briskorn
- Operator workforce survey
 - Survey overviewed by Eboni Rhone
 - Under development. Expected 2026
 - Request for feedback and desires:
 - Karthik Kumarasamy asks to review a draft of current questions - also requests to see TMF 2.0 questions
 - Robert Shirey wants to see operator education and work experience, but wants to see the draft questions to give further feedback
- West-MEC high school testing pilot overviewed by Eboni Rhone
- WPI 2025 addition adopted
 - 58% rate across the board for 2017 version - looking to see changes from 2025 version
 - Robert Shirey questions the new WPI scoring system. Why decimals?
 - Scaled scoring system
 - <https://immerse.gowpi.org/2025/02/scaled-scoring-an-overview/>
- Testing expanding to Yuma/Somerton

- Jed Lant requests a contact list for ADEQ and committee members
- Karthik Kumarasamy suggests adding Program modernizations to the topic agenda for the next meeting
- Robert Shirey - operators working to get systems in Globe up and running again after storms
 - Concerns about emergency preparedness - lack of knowledge regarding who to communicate with and how to seek help
 - Eboni suggests having the committee compile contacts to send out to systems in emergency situations.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:55PM

Next Meeting: To be in March of 2026

Minutes Approved By: Alissa Coes, Manager, Safe Drinking Water Capacity Development Program

Minutes Submitted By: Bram Briskorn, Operator Certification Program Coordinator, Environmental Science Specialist II