

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2026  
Room 105 / Teams Call**

**Board Members Present**

Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator (via Teams)  
Mike Kyle, Certified Wastewater Operator (via Teams)  
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public (via Teams)  
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System (via Teams)  
Heath Edelman, Thaddeus Stevens College, Teaching Staff (via Teams)  
Autumn Kobe, Western Butler County Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision (via Teams)  
Bill McNamara, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW), DEP Secretary Designee (via Teams)

**Non-Board Members Present**

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary  
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board  
Jill Anderson, BSDW  
Heather Maurer, BSDW (via Teams)  
Bill King, BSDW (via Teams)  
Lori Weaver, BSDW (via Teams)  
Derik Dressler, BSDW (via Teams)  
Victor Landis, BCW (via Teams)  
Kevin Buss, BCW (via Teams)  
Jen DiGilarmo, BCW (via Teams)  
Theia Hofstetter, BCW (via Teams)  
Avery Bischoff, BSDW (via Teams)  
Andy Zadzilko, BSDW (via Teams)  
Brian Chalfant, Policy Office (via Teams)

**Public Present**

Matthew Buck, PMAA (via Teams)  
Wyatt Tomkins, PA American Water (via Teams)  
Patti Dewalt, Meadville Area Sewer Authority (via Teams)

Meeting was called to order at 10:03am.

**Approval of December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the December 10, 2025, meeting minutes. Chairperson Roland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

## **Approval of New and Upgrade Applications**

Ms. Chambers presented the following new and upgraded licenses for Board consideration:

- 67 new water licenses
- 32 upgraded water licenses
- 75 new wastewater licenses
- 27 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 8 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve all the new and upgraded license applications. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Reciprocity Requests**

### *Water*

**William Roe II** – Holds New York IA, IB, C and D water licenses, that were issued on December 19, 2023 and expire on October 31, 2026. The application documents 16 years and 8 months of experience working at Town of Wallkill, which is a Class B system using subclasses 2,7,8,9,10,12,13 and Distribution. An operator is required to have 3 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class B license.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the IA, IB, C and D exams that were developed and administered by the state of New York. These exams include questions relative to subclasses 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 and Distribution.

The Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Roe has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WB,E-2,7,8,9,10,12,13.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Roe's WB,E-2,7,8,9,10,12,13 certification. Mr. Edelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### *Wastewater*

**Jonathan Johnson** – Holds an Oregon wastewater Collections C2 license that was issued on September 25, 2023 and expired on December 31, 2025. This application was received in our office on December 18<sup>th</sup>, prior to his license expiring. The application documents 4 years and 2 months of experience working in the collection system for the City of Coos Bay, which is equivalent to a Class B, E system. An operator is required to have one year of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Collection Systems license.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed C2 (Collection System) exam developed by ABC/WPI and administered in the state of Oregon. This exam contains

questions relative to subclass WWE4 (Collection System).

The Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Johnson has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WWE4 (Collection System) license.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Johnson's WWE4 certification. Mr. Edelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Kyle Stewart** – Holds a New Jersey S4 wastewater treatment license that was issued on March 14, 2023 and expires on September 20, 2026. The applicant also holds a New Jersey C4 Collections license that was issued on December 7, 2024 and expires on September 30, 2026. The application documents 15 years and 4 months of experience working at Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority (SBRSA), which is a Class A system using subclasses 1 and Collections (WWE4). An operator is required to have 4 years of experience to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license and one year of experience to obtain a Collections Systems license.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the Wastewater Treatment 4 and Collections exams developed by ABC/WPI and administered by the state of New Jersey. These exams contain questions relative to subclasses 1 and WWE4 (Collection System).

The Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Stewart has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WWA,E-1,4 license.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Stewart's WWA,E-1,4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Edwin Walker** - Holds a New Jersey C4 Wastewater Collections license that was issued in July 2018 and expires on September 30, 2026. The application documents 2 years of experience working in the collection system at the Trenton Sewer Authority, which is equivalent to a Pennsylvania Class A,E system. An operator is required to have 1 year of experience to obtain a Pennsylvania Class E license.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the wastewater C4 Collections exam developed by ABC/WPI and administered by the state of New Jersey. This exam contains questions relative to subclass WWE4 (Collection System).

The Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Walker has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WWE4 license.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Walker's WWE4 certification. Ms. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Board Secretary Report**

Ms. Chambers provided the following summary regarding operator certification exams:

- Number of exam seats to be offered in 2026: **2,163**

- Number of exam sessions scheduled for 2026: 52
  - Total number of computer exams for 2026: 22
  - Total number of paper exams for 2026: 30

Mr. McNamara told the Board members that DEP has ordered 20 laptops so we can continue to offer computer operator certification exams at the various DEP regional offices, including the offices whose computer training rooms have closed. Mr. McNamara also mentioned that Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology is going to be used as a testing site for computer-based operator certification exams this year.

### **Old and New Business**

**Water and Wastewater Operator Recruitment** – There have been two full meetings of the workgroup so far. Mr. McNamara sent out a survey to establish some targeted subgroups: education/schools, outreach/promotion of industry, working with rural systems, funding, and operator retention. Most people have responded. Will also keep a separate subgroup for internal DEP employees to work on government-specific tasks. The goal is for each subgroup to establish and share recommendations for water systems, how to work with schools, etc. PRWA has expressed interest in having DEP at their conference in March to do panel discussion on workforce development, which Bill and Jill Anderson plan to present.

**Cybersecurity** – DEP training staff will present the cybersecurity course at PRWA conference in March. There has been some difficulty in promoting cybersecurity. The web-based course that will be the new mandatory training for new operators will include 70% cybersecurity and is being tested with internal staff.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:46am to review 9 criminal history applications and one ADA request.

The Board reconvened for public session at 11:15am.

### **Criminal History Report**

Criminal History Review Evaluations were conducted for the below applicants. It has been confirmed that charges were not related to the operation of a drinking water or wastewater treatment system. Therefore, the preliminary review committee recommended the below applicants for presentation and approval at the February 11, 2026, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 395912: WWD–1 certification
2. Operator 395561: WC–12 certification
3. Operator 392908: WE certification
4. Operator 391013: WWB,E–1,4 certification
5. Operator 395431: WWB–1 certification

6. Operator 395430: WWB–1 certification
7. Operator 391245: WA–1,7,8,9,10 – OIT
8. Operator 365576: WA,E–7,8,12 certification
9. Operator 395589: WWE4 certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 395912: WWD–1 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 395561: WC–12 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 392908: WE certification. Ms. Kobe seconded. Motion passed with one opposition.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 391013: WWB,E–1,4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 395431: WWB–1 certification. Ms. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 395430: WWB–1 certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 391245: WA–1,7,8,9,10 – OIT. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 365576: WA,E–7,8,12 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 395589: WWE4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **ADA Request**

**Operator 375675** – Submitted an ADA request on January 14, 2026 requesting to have the Wastewater General and Activated Sludge exams read to him due to his medical condition specified within the ADA request form. He had previously submitted ADA requests on December 16, 2024 and May 15, 2025, which the Board voted unanimously to approve at the February 12, 2025 and June 18, 2025, Board meetings, respectively.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Client ID 375675 ADA request for a one-time accommodation for one test session lasting up to four hours to read test questions verbatim for exam or exams that are identified in advance for the session via the operator exam registration form. Mr. Edelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19am.