

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2026
Room 105 / Teams Call**

Board Members Present

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

Non-Board Members Present

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board
Erich Greiner, DEP OCC
Heather Maurer, BSDW
Amanda Amsbaugh, BSDW
Derik Dressler, BSDW (via Teams)
Selina Prettnner, BSDW (via Teams)
Avery Bischoff, BSDW (via Teams)
Brian Chalfant, Policy Office (via Teams)
Kevin Buss, BCW (via Teams)
Laura Campbell, Policy Office (via Teams)
Jeff Allgyer, BSDW (via Teams)
Leda Lacomba, DEP OCC
Andy Zadzilko, BSDW (via Teams)

Public Present

Matt Buck, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Rochelle Vollmerding, Bucks County

Meeting was called to order at 10:02am.

Approval of April 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kyle motioned to approve the April 14, 2026, meeting minutes including the minor edits provided. 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:

- 50 new water licenses
- 23 upgraded water licenses
- 45 new wastewater licenses
- 25 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 5 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

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

Reciprocity Requests

Water

Joshua Snyder – Holds a Maryland T4 water treatment license that was issued on January 11, 2011 and expired on March 1, 2026 (the application was received in our office on February 23, 2026; prior to the license expiring. The application documents the following experience:

- 12 years and 11 months working at New Design Road WTP, which is a Class A system using subclasses 1,7,8,10,11,12, and distribution.
- A total of 1 year and 2 months (part time) working at Emmittsburg WTP, which is a Class C system using subclasses 2 and 8.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the Water Treatment 4 exams that are developed by WPI and administered by the state of Maryland. These exams include questions relative to subclasses 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14, and Distribution.

The Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Snyder has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WA,E-1,2,7,8,10,11,12.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Snyder's WA,E-1,2,7,8,10,11,12 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Secretary Report

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

- Number of exam **sessions held** thus far in 2026: 17
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2026: 785
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2026: 652
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2026: 35
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2026: 1,425
 - Total number of computer exams for 2026: 22
 - Total number of paper exams for 2026: 30
 - Total number of exams for 2026: 52

Old and New Business

Water and Wastewater Operator Recruitment – Mr. McNamara provided an update on the recruitment and retention efforts. All of the workforce development subgroups are currently meeting. Subgroups include operator retention, Outreach/Promotion of Industry, Rural systems, Education/Schools. The plan is to reconvene the full workgroup later this year to share results.

Cybersecurity – Mr. McNamara provided an update on the required security course, which now includes cybersecurity. Beta testing is complete and DEP training approval staff are currently reviewing the course for contact hour approval. The new training will be worth 3 contact hours. DEP will launch the course to the public after the data system logistics are completed.

Mr. Bickel provided an update on the May 7th TAC Board meeting and shared that there was a presentation on lead and copper CCR revisions/upgrades, which is on track to be published by the end of 2026. Also covered at the meeting was rescinding of outdated and obsolete Technical Guidance Documents (TGD).

Mr. Kyle asked about the status of updating the wastewater exam content. Mr. McNamara replied that Rod Nesmith, P.E. (BSDW annuitant) is currently reviewing exams and proposing revisions. He is starting with the two drinking water exams and then moving to wastewater exam revisions. Mr. McNamara explained that DEP will use a team approach to edit the exams, but that Mr. Nesmith's edits will serve as the starting point for review. Chairperson Roland mentioned that the training materials will need to be updated accordingly.

Mr. McNamara mentioned that training staff will be updating the TGD for the training approval program. The Operator Certification Act requires anything pertaining to changes to Operator Certification regulations or guidance to go through the Certification Program Advisory Committee (CPAC), which will need to reconvene since it has been eleven years since they last met. Mr. McNamara is gathering candidates for CPAC and hopes to have a first meeting in the fall.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:49am to review 3 criminal history applications.

The Board reconvened for public session at 11:05am.

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 June 4, 2026, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 398533: WE certification
2. Operator 376414: WA,E-1,2,6,7,8,10,11,12,13 certification
3. Operator 398707: WWD,E-1,4 certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 398533 WE certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 376414 WA,E-1,2,6,7,8,10,11,12,13 certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 398707 WWD,E-1,4 certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed with one opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09am.