



**STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION
OF SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES | JUNE 07, 2022**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Samuel D’Alessandro (telephone).....Board Chair
Gordon Sheetz (telephone) Board Vice-Chair
John Wagman (telephone) Board Member

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF PRESENT

John Cantwell (telephone) Board Legal Counsel, DEP
Brian Chalfant (telephone)..... DEP, Policy Office
Brian Schlauderaff.....DEP, BCW
Janice VolleroDEP, BCW
Rachael White.....DEP, BCW
Chloe Wilson.....DEP, BCW

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Samuel D’Alessandro at 10:13 a.m. The meeting was held through Microsoft® Teams online, as well as in-person, in the 10th floor conference room of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, at 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA. A quorum was present.

CONSIDERATION FOR ADDITIONAL EXAMINATION DATE FOR 2022

Chair D’Alessandro noted the purpose of the meeting was to entertain a request from the Chester County Health department to hold an additional examination and special meeting. Ms. Wilson shared that the Bureau of Clean Water (BCW) had received a formal request from Chester County on April 27th, indicating the recent hiring of an employee due to a staff shortage. The employee had gone inactive as of July 1, 2012 and would need to sit for the SEO certification examination prior to the next scheduled examination date of August 26th. Ms. Wilson added that, per Chair D’Alessandro’s request, inquiries had been made previously to determine whether the employee was even eligible to sit for a certification examination; board members were notified of the employee failing the soils course in May and was registered to test again on June 9th. If approved by the Board, DEP would schedule the examination for June 27th and notify other parties who may have an interest in sitting for the examination.

Mr. Cantwell advised that it was within the Board's discretion to allow DEP to schedule a special walk-in examination if "the local agency demonstrates an immediate need to obtain an SEO" and asked for DEP's recommendation. Brian Schlauderaff was unsure if the circumstances provided in the request constituted an immediate need, with the caveat that DEP did not have objections to scheduling the additional examination and were willing to accommodate the request if the Board felt it appropriate. Vice-Chair Gordon Sheetz did not feel enough information was presented to justify the request; Chair D'Alessandro agreed, adding that Chester County was provided the opportunity to further substantiate the request and granting the request would also require another special meeting to appoint the candidate. John Wagman stated that if Chester County is expressing a need and DEP is willing to hold the exam, he was not opposed to obliging the request. Mr. Cantwell added the statutes allow for candidates who have successfully passed their examination, and do not have any violations, to be deemed certified if the Board does not meet within the 30-day timeframe and given the unprecedented nature of this request, it would be practical for the Board to define what could be considered an immediate need.

Motion: Mr. Wagman motioned to approve Chester County's request, with Vice-Chair Sheetz seconding the motion. The motion passed 2-1 (Voting yes: Mr. Wagman, Mr. Sheetz; Voting no: Mr. D'Alessandro). Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair D'Alessandro called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Vice-Chair Sheetz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wagman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.