



STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

MEETING MINUTES | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF PRESENT

John Cantwell (telephone) Board Legal Counsel, DEP
Chloe Wilson (telephone).....Board Secretary, DEP
Brian Chalfant (telephone)..... DEP, Policy Office
Adam Duh (telephone).....Counsel, DEP
Leda Lacomba (telephone).....Counsel, DEP
Brian Schlauderaff.....DEP, BCW
Janice VolleroDEP, BCW
Charles Klinger.....DEP, BCW

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Samuel D’Alessandro at 10:01 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. Ms. Wilson advised those in attendance that by speaking and participating during the meeting, they were granting permission to be recorded.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Chair D’Alessandro requested consideration of the April 20, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion: Vice-Chair Gordon Sheetz motioned to approve the minutes from April, with John Wagman seconding the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

Chair D’Alessandro requested consideration of the June 7, 2022 special meeting minutes.

Motion: Vice-Chair Gordon Sheetz motioned to approve the minutes from June, with Chair D’Alessandro seconding the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

SEO BOARD POSITIONS UPDATE

Chair D'Alessandro requested an update on the Board position vacancy, previously held by John Seamans. Ms. Wilson provided information regarding the nominations from two organizations, which were submitted for DEP executive approval. Mr. Wagman requested clarification on DEP's process of Board appointment when presented with two nominees; Ms. Wilson explained that the Secretary of DEP would be responsible for making the determination.

SEWAGE FACILITIES ACT

Chair D'Alessandro called for a discussion to define "immediate need" with regards to the Sewage Facilities Act, Section 11(b)(2). Board Counsel John Cantwell advised the Board that it was not necessary to have a clear definition of "immediate need" and that the Sewage Facilities Act provides the Board with a great deal of discretion. Mr. Cantwell recommended that the Board should consider items relevant to the circumstances on a case-by-case basis when making determinations.

CERTIFICATION OF SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Chair D'Alessandro requested feedback from the Board regarding the results of the August 26, 2022 SEO Certification Examination. Vice-Chair Sheetz noted that 23 candidates had passed, while 4 had failed.

Motion: Luke Helsel motioned to certify the 23 candidates who had passed the exam. Mr. Wagman seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair D'Alessandro inquired if there was any new business. Janice Vollero advised the Board that DEP was considering making the SEO examination accessible online and might require expanding the question bank. Ms. Vollero stated that DEP was hoping for the opportunity to collaborate with the Board and proposed that Board members could assist in reviewing and adding questions to the examination question bank. Chair D'Alessandro asked where the examination was currently held. Ms. Vollero responded that the examination is offered at three locations: the PSATS Education Center, the Rachel Carson State Office Building, and DEP's Southcentral Regional Office. Mr. Helsel wanted to know if the examination would be conducted on the same date at all six regional offices. Ms. Vollero clarified that while the details of this plan were not yet finalized, she anticipated that the examination would not likely fall on the same date at the regional offices. Chair D'Alessandro questioned how this proposal would impact the Board's present meeting schedule. Ms. Vollero stated that this may require six additional Board meetings. Mr. Helsel suggested holding the examination every day of one week at a different office, and the Board could meet the following week. Mr. Wagman wanted to know if the purpose of making the examination available electronically was a matter of convenience to candidates or to DEP, to which Ms. Vollero clarified that while it was to the benefit of candidates, the plan to expand the examination's availability would create an opportunity for each test to be inherently different. Chair D'Alessandro was in favor of broadening the testing locations to benefit candidates who must travel a great distance to sit for the examination, but added that it would also be propitious to limit the period of time when

tests are held in order to stay within the bounds of the Board's current meeting frequency. He requested a draft of this proposal to be distributed to the Board at the next meeting so that board members are better able to provide constructive feedback. Chair D'Alessandro and Mr. Helsel stated they were both willing to review and provide additional questions for the examination. Ms. Vollero added that making the examination available electronically would also increase the ability to refine it. She offered, as an example, that reimbursement questions could be eliminated from the pool, given current circumstances but could also be reintroduced once conditions reflect their necessity.

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 10:29 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 12, 2022