



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

DRAFT
MINUTES
May 22, 2019

Board Chairman, Mr. Samuel D'Alessandro, called a meeting of the State Board for the Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers (Board) to order at 10:10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. The teleconference meeting was held in the 11th floor conference room B of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA.

Mr. John Wagman and Mr. John Seamans were unable to attend, however, three (3) Board members represents a quorum and so the meeting commenced. Meeting Attendees:

- Mr. Samuel D'Alessandro (telephone)..... Chairman
Mr. Gordon Sheetz (telephone) .....Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Galen Weibley (telephone).....Board Member
Ms. Amy Forney.....Board Secretary, DEP
Mr. John Cantwell ..... Board Legal Counsel, DEP
Ms. Roberta Radel..... DEP, BCW
Ms. Annamaria Ether De Sanctis ..... DEP, BCW
Ms. Janice Vollero..... DEP, BCW
Mr. Brian Schlauderaff..... DEP, BCW
Mr. Brian Chalfant ..... DEP, Policy Office

1. Consideration of approval of the February 13, 2019, meeting minutes. Board Vice-Chairman, Mr. Gordon Sheetz motioned to approve the February 13, 2019, meeting minutes. Mr. Galen Weibley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; motion carried.

2. Certification of new Sewage Enforcement Officers (SEOs). Board Secretary, Ms. Amy Forney, stated that 25 people took the exam on February 4, 2019; 15 Passed, 10 Failed. 2 testers were re-takes, both of whom passed this round. The Board made inquiries as to what was different with this class as the results are approximately a forty-percent failure rate. Ms Janice Vollero stated that all of the trainers were new for this class, as such, she read through all of the responses to the Academy questionnaire that were provided to all of the attendees. Ms. Vollero said that all of the responses were positive. There was nothing negative written. Mr. Brian Schlauderaff and Mr. D'Alessandro agreed that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) either schedule a meeting with the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) or have staff attending the next PSATS SEO Academy. Mr. Weibley questioned the quantity listed on the provided exam results table as the number of registrants listed were only 24. Ms. Forney noted that there was another registrant that had notified us that he would not be able to attend the Academy or SEO Certification exam at this time and suggested that she must have neglected to

change the final count on the exam results page. Mr. Weibley then inquired as to the specific wording of the requirements regarding the criteria of the fifty-percent (50%) scores for each category; was it *over* 50% or *at least* 50%. Clarification was provided by Mr. Schlauderaff that 50% is the bare minimum. Mr. Weibley motioned to approve those passing examinees from the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, SEO Certification Exam. Mr. Sheetz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; motion carried.

**3.** DEP Attorney, Mr. John Cantwell stated that he has initiated the request through DEP's Regulatory Counsel chain of command to contract with the Department of State for a hearing/hearing officer for the Robin Singer appeal. Mr. Cantwell noted that no new information has been received at this time regarding the acceptance and action on a contract for a hearing officer but he will follow-up today to see if he can obtain the status of this request and will then draft response letters to the SEO and the NWRO attorneys to notify them of the current status of the appeal. Mr. Cantwell is hopeful that this will get moving after the upcoming Memorial Day holiday.

Mr. D'Alessandro questioned the receipt of notification of an SEO deciding not to appeal stating he would no longer practice as an SEO and was questioning whether this was no longer being pursued and thought that was in regard to the Robin Singer Appeal. While the specifics were not readily available during this meeting, it was mentioned that during the request for specificity in the Robin Singer revocation, another revocation had been received from the NWRO wherein that particular SEO (not Mr. Singer) had responded with an acceptance of the revocation and notice that he would no longer act as an SEO.

**4.** Mr. Schlauderaff updated the Board on the training dates, locations and also provided participation information for the soils trainings with tuition subsidies that are to conclude by June 30, 2019. Trainings were held in Shippensburg and Milford Township, Bucks County. DEP staff were present at each session. The only issue DEP staff found was that there were no 'mottles' included at the test-pits which DEP staff feel is the most difficult part and therefore, probably should be part of the final testing phase. Bucks County training held last week included 13 attendees, though DEP has not yet received the final results at this time. The one this week was cancelled due to a lack of interest. The Bloomsburg location coming up June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> is booked full (21 registered) and the week after that another Bloomsburg location is scheduled with 11 currently registered. Feedback received has been very good. DEP has had Soil Scientists at past events to provide feedback on the training sessions. We have received some feedback but have not yet reviewed the details.

Mr. D'Alessandro inquired about whether DEP has planned a soils training event in the Northeast to which Mr. Schlauderaff responded that there are none, currently, but DEP would likely schedule them in the future. Additional training events are, however, still being planned to allow active SEO's and new SEO candidates who need this training. We were also unable to get training scheduled for the Southwest and Northwest before June 30<sup>th</sup> but expect to eventually come to a satisfactory agreement with IUP or other location.

Mr. Sheetz inquired as to an SEO from his location who believed that this Soils Training was required for all SEO's. Mr. Schlauderaff explained that if an SEO had the Soils class before and passed it they do *not* need to take this current training.

5. Mr. Schlauderaff updated the Board with the status of the Clean Water's Learning Management System online. The website is live and multiple e-mail notifications have been sent out to all SEO's to have them log in. There may have been a couple hundred SEO's respond to initial e-mail notifications who have logged in. We will likely have to send out additional e-mail notifications to reiterate the need for SEO's to begin using this platform for all of their certification and continuing education information.

6. Mr. D'Alessandro called for any new business presentments from DEP. Mr. Schlauderaff updated the board on the SEO Certification Guidance Document that has gone through the approval process and is to be published as Draft in the June 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. A thirty-day comment period is the standard provision which will close on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

There were no additional new business items.

7. Mr. D'Alessandro announced in closing that he may not be able to attend the August Board meeting. The Board will meet next on August 14, 2019, at 10 a.m. Mr. Sheetz motioned to adjourn. Mr. Weibley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.