



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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

**DRAFT
MINUTES
July 7, 2021**

The State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers (Board) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, by Board Chair, Samuel D’Alessandro. The meeting proceeded as a quorum was present. The teleconference meeting was held via Microsoft® Teams with participants calling in from remote locations.

Meeting Attendees:

- Mr. Samuel D’Alessandro (telephone)..... Board Chair
- Mr. Gordon Sheetz (telephone) Board Vice-Chair
- Mr. John Seamans (telephone)Board Member
- Mr. John Wagman (telephone).....Board Member
- Mr. Luke Helsel (telephone)Board Member
- Mr. John CantwellBoard Counsel, DEP
- Ms. Amy Forney.....Board Secretary, DEP
- Mr. Brian Chalfant DEP, Policy Office
- Ms. Leda LacombaDEP, Program Counsel
- Mr. Brian Schlauderaff..... DEP, BCW
- Mr. Janice Vollero DEP, BCW

1. Board Secretary, Amy Forney, gave formal notification to the Board of the approval of Mr. Luke Helsel’s position on the Board as Local Government Representative, as signed by the Secretary on October 2, 2020.
2. Board Chair, Samuel D’Alessandro, requested feedback from the Board regarding consideration of the contents and for approval of the September 30, 2020, meeting minutes. Board members noted no issues or problems. Mr. John Seamans motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. John Wagman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
3. Board Secretary, Amy Forney, noted that the SEO Precertification Academy held at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) from June 21 through June 25, 2021, was a make-up from the canceled May 2020 course and, therefore, was not publicized; the class size was fifteen (15). Of the fifteen (15), only five (5) were eligible to sit for the Certification Exam following the Academy. Of the five (5) who took the test, five (5) passed. Vice-Chair, Gordon Sheetz motioned to approve the five (5) candidates that passed. John Seamans seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

4. The next Certification Exam is scheduled for August 20, 2021, and the next SEO Board meeting is September 1, 2021; both dates have been published in the *Pa. Bulletin*. Once we receive confirmation of the final 2021 PSATS Academy dates, we will work with the Board via e-mail or at the next Board meeting to obtain approvals for additional 2021 exams and Board meeting dates. As there are no dates to approve, there is no vote required.
5. Mr. Brian Schlauderaff provided the breakdown of SEOs and candidates that took the two Precertification Soils courses held in May and June. At the May field portion of the training, held in Bloomsburg, there were a total of nineteen (19) candidates who attended the course. Fourteen (14) were SEO candidates, and five (5) were current SEOs. One (1) Inactive SEO attempted to test out, and one (1) retest at the Bloomsburg field training/test session. Of those fourteen (14) candidates, nine (9) failed, and five (5) passed. Of the current SEOs, four (4) failed, and one (1) passed. The inactive SEO testing out failed, and the SEO that was retesting passed. The overall pass/fail for this May field portion was seven (7) passes and fourteen (14) fails.

At the June field portion of the training course, thirteen (13) SEO candidates and six (6) SEOs took the course. One (1) inactive SEO attempting to test out, and eight (8) previously failed SEOs and/or candidates returned for the test portion. Of the thirteen (13) candidates, eleven (11) passed, and two (2) failed. Of the six (6) current SEOs, all six (6) passed. The one (1) inactive SEO attempting to test-out failed, and of the eight (8) retaking the exam, one (1) passed and seven (7) failed.

Soil Hub has added two (2) additional course opportunities on August 4th & 5th, 2021, at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and on August 11th & 12th, 2021, at Shippensburg, PA.

A general overview of the Soils Course, including completion of the web-based training, the two-day field course, and the passing of the soil's exam, was discussed. Prior to the course beginning, test pits are reviewed by at least one DEP soil scientist and all the trainers to obtain consensus on soil characteristics and limiting zone.

6. SEO Robin Singer, Revocation and Appeal Update was provided by Board Counsel, John Cantwell. On May 24th, 2021, a Consent Order and Agreement was entered into with NWRO attorneys. Ms. Forney received a letter with a summary of the agreement from Ms. Angela Erde, the NWRO attorney. However, the Board had not received a copy of all of the recent legal proceedings or a summary of the agreement. For these reasons, it was decided that this matter would be tabled at this time. Ms. Forney will provide the legal and summary letter in connection with the events that have transpired in 2021 concerning Mr. Singer's appeal for a more in-depth review of the discussion at the September 1, 2021, Board meeting.
7. Chairman D'Alessandro called for any new business. DEP offered no new business.

Mr. Seamans inquired if anyone was having issues getting planning modules reviewed by regional office staff. It appears there is an issue with the Northeast Regional Office due to recent retirements and staff changes during the Covid-19 shutdown; they had gotten behind

and are actively working on the backlog. Mr. Schlauderaff stated that Central Office is aware of the backlog and has offered Central Office assistance to the Northeast Regional Office.

Mr. Luke Helsel asked about creating a support network and a mentor program for new SEOs. Mr. Schlauderaff said that DEP is looking into the demographics and availability to make those connections. Mr. Schlauderaff also mentioned that this is a large and complex task. SEOs can communicate with each other. DEP regional staff are to be notified at various times depending on the work where consultation can take place. SEOs can certainly reach out to DEP regional office staff as well. Chair D'Alessandro suggested that, perhaps, the Pennsylvania Association for Sewage Enforcement Officers (PASEO) would be a good place to start.

8. 2021 SEO Board Officers vote. Mr. Seaman's motioned that the Board retains the same officers. Mr. Wagman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
9. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Wagman motioned to close the meeting. Mr. Sheetz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 PM.