

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026
Room 105 / Teams Call**

Board Members Present

Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator (via Teams)
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public (via Teams)
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System (via Teams)
Autumn Kobe, Western Butler County Authority, Employee of a Political Subdivision (via Teams)
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 (via Teams)
Shalini Moola, BSDW
Heather Maurer, BSDW
Amanda Amsbaugh, BSDW
Avery Bischoff, BSDW (via Teams)
Kevin Buss, BCW (via Teams)
Laura Campbell, Policy Office (via Teams)
Leda Lacomba, DEP OCC (via Teams)
Andy Zadzilko, BSDW (via Teams)
Lori Weaver, BSDW (via Teams)
Jen DiGilarimo, BCW (via Teams)
Sabrina Haydt, BSDW (via Teams)
Jill Anderson, BSDW (via Teams)
Victor Landis, BCW (via Teams)

Public Present

Matt Buck, PMAA (via Teams)

Meeting was called to order at 10:01am.

Approval of June 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Kobe motioned to approve the June 4, 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:

- 105 new water licenses
- 50 upgraded water licenses
- 67 new wastewater licenses
- 35 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 8 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

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

Reciprocity Applications

Water

Daniel Denbow – Holds a West Virginia DW-3 water treatment license that was issued on August 21, 2025 and expires on August 31, 2027. The application documents 3 years and 8 months working at Cleveland Cliffs Weirton, which is a Class B system using subclasses 1,8,12. The application also documents 8 months working at Weirton Area Water Board, which is a Class B system using subclasses 1,7,8, and 11.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the Class 3 Drinking Water exams that were developed and administered by the state of West Virginia. These exams include questions relative to subclasses 1,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 and Distribution.

The Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Denbow has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WB-1,8,12.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Denbow's WB-1,8,12 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Corey Bachtell – Holds a Maryland T4 license that was issued on August 1, 2015 and expires on August 1, 2026. The application documents 10 years and 5 months working at City of Hagerstown, R.C. Wilton WTP, which is a Class A system using subclasses 1,7,8,9,10,11, and Distribution.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the Water Treatment 4 Drinking Water exams that were developed by ABC/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. Bachtell has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WA,E-1,7,8,9,10,11.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Bachtell's WA,E-1,7,8,9,10,11 certification. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Christopher Bollin – Holds a New York Grade IA, IB, C and D drinking water license that was issued on May 28, 2026 and expires on July 31, 2029. The application documents the following experience:

- Total of 1 year and 7 months working at City of Middletown PWS, which is a Class A system using subclasses 1,8,10,12,13.
- Total of 8 months working at Round Pond Recreation Area, using subclasses 12 and Distribution. The hydraulic class was not able to be determined when performing the system verification.
- Total of 1 year working at U.S.M.A Lusk, which is a Class B system using subclasses 1,8,11, and Distribution.
- Total of 1 year working at U.S.M.A Stony Lonesome, which is a Class B system using subclasses 1,8,11, and Distribution.
- Total of 1 year and 11 months working at Camp Buckner-Natural Bridge, which is a Class C system using subclasses 2, 12.
- Total of 8 months working at U.S.M.A-TMP Area “V,” which is a Class D system using subclasses 6,9,10,12.
- Total of 5 years and 3 months working at Newburgh Consolidated WD, which is a Class B system using subclasses 1,6,7,8,9,12, and Distribution.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the Grade IA, IB, C, D water exams that are developed and administered by the state of New York. These exams include questions relative to subclasses 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14, and Distribution.

The Department’s determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Bollin has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WB,E-1,2,6,7,8,9,10,11,12.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Bollin’s WB,E-1,2,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded the motion. 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: **29**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2026: **1,270**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2026: **1,017**
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2026: **23**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2026: **980**
 - 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

Mr. McNamara provided an update on efforts to reconvene the Certification Program Advisory Committee (CPAC). The Department has established a full roster of candidates and is now collecting the necessary paperwork to submit the candidate list to the DEP Secretary for approval.

Water and Wastewater Operator Recruitment – Mr. McNamara provided an update on Operator Recruitment and retention. All of the subgroups have met two or three times, and a full group meeting is being planned for the fall.

Cybersecurity – Mr. McNamara provided an update on Cybersecurity and the mandatory security course. The Department posts water security alerts on the Safe Drinking Water Cybersecurity webpage, with a link to CISA's alerts and advisories. The updated required security course will be launched soon. The Board discussed limiting the security course to a web-based version only. This will be added to New Business for the October Board meeting.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:46am to review 11 criminal history applications and 1 ADA request.

The Board reconvened for public session at 11:47am.

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 August 18, 2026, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 399628: WE certification
2. Operator 395928: WE certification
3. Operator 387780: WE certification
4. Operator 399839: WE certification
5. Operator 399705: WE certification
6. Operator 388416: WA,E – 7,12 certification
7. Operator 395848: WC,E – 1,7,8,10 certification
8. Operator 399292: WE certification
9. Operator 396330: WE certification
10. Operator 396132: WE certification
11. Operator 399540: WWD-1 certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 399628 WE certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 395928 WE certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 387780 WE certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 399839 WE certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 399705 WE certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 388416 WA,E-7,12 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 395848 WC,E – 1,7,8,10 certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 399292 WE certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 396330 WE certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve operator 396132 WE certification. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 399540 WWD-1 operator certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned that the Board grant the Joint Motion to Enter Settlement Agreement in Operator Certification Docket No. 2025-01, approve the Settlement Agreement between the Department and Andrew J. Meloy, and suspend Water System Operator Certificate No. W22183 effective immediately upon entry of the Board's order, with the suspension to be automatically lifted upon the Department's written certification to the Board that Mr. Meloy has completed all requirements of the Settlement Agreement. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53am.