



STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FINAL MINUTES | WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Samuel D'Alessandro (telephone) Board Chair
Luke Helsel (telephone)..... Board Member
Gordan Sheetz (telephone) Board Member
Michael Ciocco (telephone) Board Member
John Wagman (telephone) Board Member

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF PRESENT

John Cantwell (telephone)Board Legal Counsel, DEP
Robert Reiley Counsel, DEP
Derrick Shearer.....Board Secretary, DEP
Christine Kershner.....DEP, BCW
Aspen Weitzel.....DEP, BCW

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Samuel D'Alessandro, Chair, at 10:08 a.m. The meeting was held through Microsoft® Teams online, as well as in-person, in the 12th floor conference room of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, at 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA. A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (ACTION)

Chair D'Alessandro requested consideration of the November 5, 2025, draft meeting minutes.

Motion: John Wagman motioned to approve the minutes from November, with Gordan Sheetz seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATION OF SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (ACTION)

Chair D'Alessandro requested feedback from the Board regarding the results of Friday, May 1, 2026, SEO Certification Examination. Chair D'Alessandro reported that 20 total candidates took the exam and 15 passed. Gordan Sheetz and Luke Helsel noted that the planning section of the exam appears to be the greatest challenge for examinees. Derrick Shearer noted Roger Lehmann, an academy instructor, passed away since the last Board meeting.

Motion: Chair D'Alessandro asked for a motion to certify the 15 candidates who passed the exam. Gordan Sheetz motioned to pass, followed by Luke Helsel with a second. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair D'Alessandro asked the other members if there was any new business to report. The members had no new business. There was an extended discussion about the parameters for conducting percolation tests. Luke Helsel indicated that percolation testing and test pit placement for soil evaluations are being reviewed in planning documents at a level more suited to permitting, and it has caused delay in receiving some sewage planning approvals. A discussion ensued regarding the instruction being given to SEO candidates for soil suitability testing and the current expectations of the Department when reviewing planning. Derrick Shearer sought approval for an additional SEO exam and a corresponding Board meeting on October 23, 2026, at the South-Central Regional Office. This additional exam date requires an additional board meeting on November 4, 2026.

Motion: Luke Helsel motioned to approve the additional board meeting, followed by John Wagman with a second. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion: Gordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Helsel seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, July 8, 2026