

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS
Board Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2026
Room 105 / Teams Call**

Board Members Present

Mary Roland, Board Chairperson, Certified Water Operator (via Teams)
Mike Kyle, Certified Wastewater Operator (via Teams)
Mark Smith, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., General Public (via Teams)
Jeff Bickel, Aqua PA, Inc., Official of Private System (via Teams)
Heath Edelman, Thaddeus Stevens College, Teaching Staff (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 (via Teams)

Non-Board Members Present

Laura Chambers, Board Secretary
John Cantwell, Legal Counsel to the Board
Jill Anderson, BSDW (via Teams)
Shalini Moola, BSDW
Heather Maurer, BSDW
Bill King, BSDW (via Teams)
Derik Dressler, BSDW (via Teams)
Victor Landis, BCW (via Teams)
Theia Hofstetter, BCW (via Teams)
Avery Bischoff, BSDW (via Teams)
Brian Chalfant, Policy Office (via Teams)
Brad Baker, BSDW (via Teams)

Public Present

Matt Buck, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association

Meeting was called to order at 10:02am.

Approval of February 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve the February 11, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Kyle 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:

- 63 new water licenses
- 25 upgraded water licenses
- 45 new wastewater licenses
- 20 upgraded wastewater licenses
- 5 Operator in Training (OIT) upgrades

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

Reciprocity Requests

Water

Vladyslav Karpayev – Holds a Utah T2 license that was issued on February 28, 2020 and expires on December 31, 2026. The applicant also holds a Utah D2 (distribution) license that was issued on March 5, 2021 and expires on December 31, 2027. The application documents the following part-time experience:

- 8 months total working at Buckboard Crossing (Wyoming), which is a Class D system using subclasses 1,13, and Distribution
- 11 months total working at Red Spring (Utah), which is a Class D system using subclasses 2,7,8,12, and Distribution
- 1 year and 9 months total working at Ross Spring (Utah), which is a Class D system using subclasses 1,12, and Distribution
- 2 years and 11 months total working at Greendale-Bootleg (Utah), which is a Class C system using subclasses 1,12, and Distribution.

An operator is required to have 2 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class C license and a year of experience for each subclass. Mr. Karpayev meets the experience necessary for classes C and E with subclasses 1 and 12 but shows less than a year of experience at subclasses 2,7,8, and 13.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the T2 and D2 exams that are developed and administered by the state of Utah. These exams include questions relative to subclasses 1,2,11,12,13,14, and Distribution.

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

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Karpayev's WC,E-1,12 certification. Mr. Edelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Warren Jensen – Holds New York IB and C water licenses, that were issued on July 25, 2023 and expire on October 31, 2026. The application documents the following:

- 22 years of experience working at Suffolk County Water Authority, which is a Class A system using subclasses 8,9,10,12, and Distribution
- 5 years and 11 months of experience working at Brookhaven National Lab, which is a Class A system using subclasses 7,8,10,12, and Distribution.

An operator is required to have 4 years of experience to obtain a Pennsylvania Class A license and 1 year of experience to obtain a distribution license.

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

The Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Jensen has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WA,E-7,8,9,10,12.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Jensen's WA,E-7,8,9,10,12 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bradley Osborne – Holds an Ohio Class 1 water supply license, that was issued on October 25, 2018 and expires on December 31, 2026. The application documents 9 years and 7 months of experience working at Buckeye Water District, which is a Class B system using subclasses 1,8,11. This is a surface water system requiring an Ohio Class III license. An operator is required to have 3 years of experience in order to obtain a Pennsylvania Class B license.

Regarding the comparison of examination questions, the applicant passed the Water Supply Class 1 exams that are developed by ABC/WPI and administered by the state of Ohio. These exams include questions relative to subclasses 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11, and 12.

Based on the Ohio Class I licensure, the Department's determination for Board consideration is that Mr. Osborne has documented the adequate experience and exams relative to a WB-8,11.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Mr. Osborne's WB-8,11 certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. 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: **5**
- Number of exam **seats offered** thus far in 2026: **217**
- Number of exam **seats filled** thus far in 2026: **197**
- Number of additional exam sessions tentatively scheduled for remainder of 2026: **47**
- Number of additional exam seats tentatively offered for remainder of 2026: **2018**
 - 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. Bickel shared highlights from the recent TAC meeting.

Mr. McNamara shared that we have started using Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI) in the State College area for computer-based operator certification exams. Mrs. Kobe motioned to continue using CPI for the three remaining exams that are scheduled for

this year and the Board will reevaluate at the February 2027 Board meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bickel. Motion passed unanimously.

Water and Wastewater Operator Recruitment – Mr. McNamara provided an update on the overall meetings and subgroup meetings that have been held so far.

Cybersecurity – Mr. McNamara suggested that the Board members could be beta testers for the new cybersecurity training, which would provide continuing education hours towards their operators licenses.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:55am to review 8 criminal history applications, one ADA request and two extension requests.

The Board reconvened for public session at 11:45am.

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 April 14, 2026, Board Meeting:

1. Operator 378353: WWE4 certification
2. Operator 385923: WWE4 certification
3. Operator 372915: WWA–1 certification
4. Operator 373540: WWE4 certification
5. Operator 392068: WE certification
6. Operator 392068: WWE4 certification
7. Operator 345766: WE certification
8. Operator 375702: WA,E–1,7,8,11,12 certification

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 378353 WWE4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 385923 WWE4 certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 372915 WWA–1 certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 373540 WWE4 certification. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 392068 WE certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 392068 WWE4 certification. Mr. Edelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 345766 WE certification. Mrs. Kobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve 375702 WA,E-1,7,8,11,12 certification. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADA Request

Operator 378339 (Sean MacNamara) – Submitted an ADA request on March 10, 2026 requesting to have the Collection System exam read to him due to his medical condition specified within the ADA request form. He had previously submitted ADA requests on January 11, 2024 and June 4, 2025, which the Board voted unanimously to approve at the February 7, 2024 and June 18, 2025, Board meetings, respectively.

Chairperson Roland motioned to approve Client ID 378339 ADA request for a one-time accommodation for one test session lasting up to four hours to read test questions verbatim for exam or exams that are identified in advance for the session via the operator exam registration form. Mr. Kyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Extension Requests

Operator 371703 – Has a WWD2 license that was obtained on February 8, 2023 and expired on December 31, 2025; it was the operator's first cycle. He submitted an extension request on February 17, 2026. The applicant was required to obtain 8 hours of continuing education training for his wastewater certification and completed 6 hours prior to his expiration date. The applicant completed an additional 3.5 hours of training on January 20, 2026, which would bring his total to 9.5 hours. The applicant is requesting an extension through January 20, 2026.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny Operator 371703 extension. Mr. Bickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Operator 331547 – Has a WA,E - 1,2,7,8,11,12 license that was originally obtained on April 12, 2017 and expired on March 31, 2026. He submitted an extension request on March 30, 2026 claiming health-related issues. The applicant was required to obtain 30 hours of continuing education training for his drinking water certification and obtained 6 hours prior to his expiration date. The applicant did not specify the requested amount of time to complete the additional training hours.

Chairperson Roland motioned to deny Operator 331547 extension. Mr. Edelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cantwell updated the Board on a recent petition.

Meeting adjourned at 11:49am.