



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Board of Examiners of Environmental Professionals

Board Members:
Elizabeth McAuliffe, Esq., Acting Chair
John Adams, LEP
Russell J. Dirienzo, LEP
David Fiereck, LEP
Michelle Gamache
Robert F. Good, Jr., LEP
Louis H. Muratore, LEP
Carol Violette, PhD, CHMM
Daniel Wolfram, LEP, CHMM

MINUTES

State Board of Examiners of Environmental Professionals

Regular Meeting – June 8, 2023

A. Call to Order and Sign-In

A regular meeting of the State Board of Examiners of Environmental Professionals (“the Board”) was called to order on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 9:35 AM in Conference Room 6A, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut and via a Zoom conference call, by Acting Chair and Board Administrator Liz McAuliffe. Board member L. Muratore and D. Wolfram were present in person and J. Adams, R. Good, D. Fiereck and M. Gamache were present via Zoom. Selena Thornhill-Moody from DEEP, Lori DiBella from the Attorney General’s Office representing the Board and Dan Nelson and Seth Molofsky representing EPOC were present virtually for the meeting.

B. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the Regular Board meeting of May 11, 2023 were read and approved with minor corrections; motion by M. Gamache, seconded by D. Wolfram, passed unanimously.

C. Public Participation

Seth Molofsky reported on issues that were encountered by the applicants taking the exam at the Hartford area facility. The proctor was late arriving to open the door to the facility and no one received a notification indicating there was a problem. There were problems with the computers and the ability to view the RSRs. There was a shortened lunch period of 30 minutes rather than the hour that was planned. This created anxiety among the Hartford applicants. Seth suggested that the Board contact the individuals that took the exam in this location to get information concerning these problems first hand.

D. Unfinished Business and General Orders

1. Nonrenewing LEP #147 Sheri Hardman writes, “I just want to pass along that it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve in this capacity to my company, my clients, and to DEEP. I have always felt I had good relationships and positive experiences with all DEEP staff I have worked with. I am not retiring yet so I hope to continue those relationships in a slightly different role.”

2. Nonrenewing LEP #104 Russell Bartley suggests the LEPs be allowed to go into inactive status for a lower fee, especially those with so many years of experience.
3. Condolences to the family of #536 Steven Fleming on his passing August 14, 2022
4. Nonrenewing LEP #313 Mark Cambra noted the board and DEEP have a great program and great training.
5. Renewal Applications (331 licenses, including new ones, were issued in 2022).
 - a. 258 renewals issued to date. Renewals are sent in batches from the DEEP system at 1:01PM on Fridays.
 - b. The following nonrenewing to date (not mentioned above): #136 Barry Giroux, #157 Russell Johnson, #621 Ray D'Hollander, #195 Ted Stevens, #469 Joe Magdol, #573 Rebecca Balke, #282 Lawrence Butlien, #281 Mark Barmasse.

E. New Business

May LEP Exam

1. May 2023 Exam results – Eight candidates have passed the exam. Seven were unsuccessful and we hope to see them next year.
2. May 11th exam debriefing. The exam was administered by computer for the first time at four locations with 12 applicants taking the exam at the Hartford location, two in New Hampshire at different locations and one in Woodbridge, CT. Three of the candidates who took the exam in Hartford expressed concerns and these have been shared with the vendor. These include the proctor being late and no email notification being sent out to the candidates, candidates being logged in separately, browsers closing requiring proctor to correct, only a 15-minute lunch break was provided, and there was inadequate supervision. There were no allegations of cheating. There was no indication that there was not enough time provided to finish the exam, candidates were given the full eight hours.
3. Decision is needed regarding continuing or ceasing of allowance for 12 additional credits (24 CECs) from distance learning also known as on-demand courses for the upcoming biennial period. Refer to RCSA 22a-133v-2(e)(2)(A) & (B). Covid was determined to be a hardship or other significant circumstance by the board pursuant to (B).

A discussion followed concerning the problems with the exam. The browsers closing and had to be rebooted may have limited the time people had but Acting Chair McAuliffe did not receive complaints regarding sufficient time. There will be more debriefing meetings with the vendor to attempt to fix the problems for future exams. The Board agreed that contacting the applicants that took the exam in Hartford was important. M. Gamache reported on her experience taking a computer administered exam. Although there were real problems, they were given the full time to take the exam. Each Board member expressed empathy with those applicants that were impacted by the testing facility problems.

On a motion by J. Adams, seconded by D. Wolfram, Board members are asked to provide questions to Acting Chair McAuliffe in the next two weeks and she will compile the questions and send an inquiry to the impacted applicants. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Adams requested that the review of non-performing items return to the Board.

The consensus of the Board was that the May 2023 examination is valid and the results should stand as reported.

Acting Chair McAuliffe will provide additional data on the candidates that passed and failed the exam at our next meeting.

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Lori DiBella reported that the Board did not have authority under the current regulations to grant more than 12 CECs for on-demand courses, absent individual showing. A regulatory change would be required to implement this blanket change. The Board agreed to add this issue to a list of items to be considered for future revisions.

J. Adams suggested that the Board have the proposed meeting with EPOC in September to evaluate ways to improve the number of individuals interested in becoming LEPs. The meeting may produce ideas that would require regulatory revisions.

Additional Information

Next meeting is July 13, 2023 at 9:30AM.

F. Adjournment

On a motion by D. Wolfram, seconded by D. Fioreck, Acting Chair McAuliffe declared the meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM.

Minutes were approved on July 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



John E. Adams
Board Secretary