



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1200, Hartford, CT 06106

MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2025.

Chair of the Board, N. Beth Cook, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

N. Beth Cook, *Chair*
Charles Chiusano, *Vice-chair*
Mary Bigelow
Karess Cannon

Dena Castricone (virtual)
Meaghan Cooper (virtual)
Cheryl Lipson
Laura Schuyler

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, *Executive Director*
Brian O'Dowd, *General Counsel*
Mark Wasielewski, *Ethics Enforcement Officer*
Sarah Clark, *Director of Education & Communications*
Marianne Sadowski, *Deputy General Counsel* (virtual)
Marc Crayton, *Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer*

Jennifer Montgomery, *Associate General Counsel* (virtual)
Diane Buxo, *Assistant General Counsel* (virtual)
Sam Rosengren, *Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer*
Carol Langevin, *Associate Accounts Examiner*
Melissa Hamilton, *Paralegal Specialist* (Legal Division) &
Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the April 17, 2025 regular meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Ms. Bigelow, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2025 regular meeting.

2. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report.

3. Associate Account Examiner Carol Langevin presented **Novamont, NA** client lobbyist audit report to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for Novamont, NA.

4. General Counsel Brian O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report, and recognized Attorneys Sadowski and Montgomery of the Legal Division for their quick, collaborative, and thorough analysis concerning proposed statutory amendments that would impact the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

Chair Cook requested further details about the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) matter featured in this month's Legal Division report, and General Counsel O'Dowd answered that, based on the facts presented, the Legal Division believes it raises use-of-office concerns under General Statutes § 1-84 (c), as well as, potential issues under § 1-84 (i).

5. Ethics Enforcement Officer Mark Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report. He requested a hearing officer to preside over the July 10, 2025 enforcement hearings pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA). Board member Castricone volunteered, and Ms. Schuyler volunteered to serve as an alternate hearing officer.

Mr. Wasielewski further highlighted the following:

- The Enforcement Division completed addressing untimely filings of lobbyist reports that were due by April 10, 2025.
- The Division has begun scheduling hearings for untimely filings of Statements of Financial Interests (SFIs).
- As of today, the Division has scheduled five (5) matters for UAPA hearings on July 10, 2025, with the potential for additional notices of hearings, following the conclusion of addressing untimely filings of SFIs.
- The June 5, 2025 Probable Cause hearing may be postponed as the parties work towards resolving the matter. Further updates will be provided once they are known.

Finally, Mr. Wasielewski provided an overview of enforcement proceedings.

6. Education & Communications Director Sarah Clark expressed gratitude to the designated SFI filing community, OSE colleagues, and ethics liaisons for their commitment, diligence and partnership during the successful SFI season. She also thanked the Legal Division for their quick and thorough review and analysis of the revised OSE's Ethics and Outside Employment policies. She also continues her work on outgoing communications, updating education and training materials, and investigating state-provided tools and resources that can aid the agency's efficiency.
7. Executive Director Lewandowski presented his report addressing the following items:
 - The Remaining Board Vacancy. The Office of the Governor has confirmed that the gubernatorial appointment to the outstanding Board vacancy is imminent. Mr. Lewandowski introduced the member of the public, Mr. Ken Greenberg, soon to be appointed as the ninth member of the Board.
 - 2024 SFI Filing Season. The filing season successfully concluded on May 1, 2025. There were 2,984 designated filers, an increase of over 300 filers from a year ago. On May 2, 2025, there were 52 untimely filers, but as of today, there are approximately 15 untimely filers.

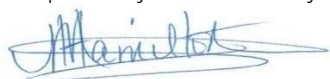
- Budget. The General Assembly's Appropriations Committee has recommended OSE's next two-fiscal year budget, which is the budget that the Governor proposed, and that the OSE requested.
- COGEL. A reminder that COGEL Connect offers panels throughout the year concerning ethics issues.

8. Mr. Lewandowski presented legislative updates, noting that OSE's legislative proposals, **HB 6931** and **SB 1296**, are currently in line for action in their respective chambers, and that the office has been busy defending legislative proposals relative to the Codes of Ethics. Particularly, the office has been weighing in on the statutory proposal involving CAES, as discussed earlier by General Counsel O'Dowd, and the amendment to **SB 1227**.
9. The current and updated OSE's internal ethics policies were presented by Executive Director Lewandowski. The purpose of an internal ethics policy, for OSE and other state and quasi-public agencies, is to address matters specific to that agency, and to impose additional restrictions, if necessary. In the updated policy, any restatements of statutory provisions of the Codes of Ethics were removed, and this version focuses on items of importance to the agency's staff, and its Board. Accordingly, Mr. Lewandowski encouraged the Board to provide feedback and input, which will be incorporated into the final policy. The final policy will be presented to the full Board for approval at its regular June meeting.
10. Chair Cook invited public comments and Mr. Greenberg stated that he looks forward to joining the Board.
11. Chair Cook further noted that no executive or closed sessions were required.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cannon, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Melissa Hamilton
Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
Office of State Ethics

June 12, 2025

Date approved.

(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)