

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

F I N A L M I N U T E S

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

May 27, 2026

State Board of Crane Operators
May 27, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

Arion Claggett, Acting Commissioner of Professional
and Occupational Affairs
Steven Kuncelman, Professional Member, Chair
Daniel Mitchell, Professional Member, Vice Chair
Andrew S. Goulet, Professional Member
Elizabeth Bailey, Esquire, Public Member - Absent

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Senior Counsel, in for Dean F.
Picarella, Esquire, Board Counsel
Paul J. Jarabeck, Esquire, Senior Prosecutor in
Charge
Gregory S. Liero, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
Taylor Koch, Bureau of Finance and Procurement,
Department of State
Kristel Hennessy Hemler, Board Administrator
Thomas Leech II, Business Licensing Division Chief,
Department of State

ALSO PRESENT:

Emily Hashagen, Conexpo Con/Agg
Allison Walker, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

State Board of Crane Operators

May 27, 2026

[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at 9:30 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session with Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Senior Counsel, for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters that are currently pending before the Board and to receive the advice of counsel. The Board returned to open session at 10:30 a.m.]

[Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Senior Counsel, noted the meeting was being recorded and continued participation constituted consent to be recorded.

He also noted the Board entered into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters that were currently pending before the Board and to receive advice of counsel.]

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Crane Operators was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Chair Steven Kuncelman called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

Roll Call/Introductions

[A roll call of Board members and introduction of attendees was taken by Board Administrator, Ms. Hennessy-Hemler. A quorum of Board members was present.]

Approval of Minutes

CHAIR KUNCELMAN:

Can I get approval of the meeting minutes of March 27th?

MR. GOULET:

So moved.

MR. MITCHELL:

I'll second.

Acting Commissioner Claggett, aye; Mr. Kuncelman, aye; Mr. Mitchell, aye; Mr. Goulet, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

Report of Prosecutorial Division -

[Gregory Liero, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison, stated Item No. 2, Steven Booth, Case No. 25-71-014900, would be tabled.]

MR. ROUSE:

For Item No. 3 being BPOA vs. Eric Fletcher, Case No. 24-71-008206, after discussion in Executive Session, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to grant the Motion to Deem Facts Admitted and to direct Board Counsel to prepare the Adjudication and Order in accordance with the discussion in Executive Session.

MR. GOULET:

So moved.

MR. MITCHELL:

I'll second.

Acting Commissioner Claggett, aye; Mr. Kuncelman, aye; Mr. Mitchell, aye; Mr. Goulet, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

Report of Board Counsel - No Report

Regulatory Updates

[Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted Item

1 Nos. 4 and 5 were FYI updates for the Board.

2 Item No. 4, HB 2302 of 2026, Well Drillers, was
3 presented to the Board by Andrew LaFratte, Esquire,
4 on March 25, 2026. Mr. Rouse stated the bill passed
5 in the House on May 6, 2026 and has been referred to
6 the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional
7 Licensure Committee for review on May 7, 2026.

8 He stated Item No. 5, SB 1249 of 2026, Well
9 Drillers, was referred to the Senate's Consumer
10 Protection and Professional Licensure Committee on
11 March 20, 2026.

12 Mark Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
13 reported the Board currently had no pending
14 regulations. He acknowledged that this might change
15 depending on the presentation of the Bureau of
16 Finance and Procurement. Acting Commissioner
17 Claggett requested Mr. Farrell, at the Board's next
18 meeting, clarify any legislative or regulatory
19 issues.]

20 ***

21 Report of the BPOA Commissioner - No Report

22 ***

23 Report of the Board Chair - No Report

24 ***

25 Report of Board Administrator

1 [Kristel Hennessy Hemler, Board Administrator,
2 reported on the changes made to the Board's website.
3 She noted information on the website on how to notify
4 the Board of National Recertifications.

5 Ms. Hennessy-Hemler stated the website expanded
6 its information on the process of applying for
7 different licenses and how to add or remove a
8 specialty. She noted the announcements page on the
9 website refer to the recent decisions on citations.

10 Lastly, she discussed reaching out to active and
11 active-on probation licensees regarding the
12 importance of obtaining national recertifications.]

13 ***

14 Applications for Review - None

15 ***

16 Miscellaneous - No Report

17 ***

18 Appointment - Bureau of Finance and Procurement

19 Annual Update

20 [Taylor Koch, Chief, Division of Finance Management,
21 Bureau of Finance and Procurement (BFP) presented the
22 Board's financial report. He noted the Board had
23 only one license class, which was grouped into
24 biennial periods of two years for each period. Mr.
25 Koch stated the last two biennial periods accounted

1 for approximately 3,400 licensees, but the current
2 biennial period had only 2,700 licensees. He did
3 anticipate an increase in licensee counts due to the
4 upcoming renewal date in October.

5 Mr. Koch stated the Board's last renewal fee took
6 place in the year 2014, and there was no current fee
7 package implemented at this time.

8 He discussed the Board's revenue for the prior
9 biennium revenue. He anticipated additional revenue
10 coming through for this fiscal year. He reminded the
11 Board that its revenue was mainly from renewals and
12 applications, making up about 97% of their total
13 revenue.

14 Expenses were based on timesheet based, direct
15 charges and license costs. He noted the costs for
16 the last biennium and the projected current biennium,
17 which would be about the same. The licensing
18 modernization project was the biggest contributor to
19 the expenses. Mr. Koch projected the spending would
20 be a little less than last year. Prosecution costs
21 had decreased.

22 Mr. Koch reviewed the Board's revenue and
23 expenses together, integrating them into a final
24 analysis. He stated the Board's expenses were
25 outpacing their revenues, and BFP recommended a fee

1 increase. He reiterated that their renewal fees and
2 their application fees were the biggest income
3 producing products for their revenue.

4 Mr. Koch noted the current revenue based on the
5 Board's current licensee count and their current
6 renewal fee. He suggested a 75% increase for fees,
7 amounting to a total fee of \$228. He reviewed a
8 three-tiered increase with the first beginning in
9 October 2028, again in 2030, and once more in 2032.
10 A 10% increase would also be added to offset any
11 increase in the overall cost of the economy. Though
12 nothing would be financially gained from this coming
13 October's renewal fees, increases in revenue for the
14 Board would begin starting within two to two and one-
15 half years' time. Mr. Koch stated, over the next
16 three fee increases, the Board would note an increase
17 in total revenue.

18 Mr. Farrell stated any fee increase would have to
19 go through the regulatory process. The statute in
20 Section 701(A) of the Crane Operators Licensure Act
21 requires a fee increase for a Board whose expenses
22 are exceeding their revenue over a two-year period.]

23 MR. ROUSE:

24 I believe the Chair would entertain a
25 motion to adopt the fee package as

1 presented by BFP and direct Regulatory
2 Counsel to draft an annex for the
3 Board.

4 CHAIR KUNCELMAN:

5 Can I get a motion for a fee increase?

6 MR. GOULET:

7 So moved.

8 MR. MITCHELL:

9 I'll second.

10

11 Acting Commissioner Claggett, aye; Mr.
12 Kuncelman, aye; Mr. Mitchell, aye; Mr.
13 Goulet, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 ***

16 Appointment - National Commission for Certification
17 of Crane Operators

18 [Emily Hashagan, Director of Marketing with CCO
19 certification, presented the Board with information
20 regarding a new tool for monitoring and verifying CCO
21 certifications called CertConnect. She explained, in
22 1926, OSHA stated that the employer must ensure that
23 the operator working under him was trained, certified
24 and evaluated. This language came up again in a more
25 recent podcast that OSHA contributed to.

1 Ms. Hashagan commented that the employer needs to
2 know the status of the employee certification before
3 they go out on the job. She provided an example of
4 one employee that could not find employment because
5 potential employers discovered that he had been
6 cheating on his CCO certification. Subsequently, his
7 certification was revoked by the CCO. One employer,
8 not verifying his certification, hired the employee
9 anyway. On the third day of his employment, an
10 incident involving the employee occurred in which
11 there was a fatality and a citation as well. At that
12 time, the CCO believed they needed to build something
13 to make the verification process easier.

14 Ms. Hashagan advised the Board that part of the
15 licensure process was verifying the certifications
16 initially, but additionally there was a revocation
17 process as well. After a certification is issued,
18 the process of forensic audit reporting is
19 implemented, typically twice a year. She stated, in
20 the fatality accident she described earlier, they
21 could not report an accident or a revocation of
22 certification to the employer or regulatory body like
23 Pennsylvania. This was how CertConnect was born.

24 She stated anyone with a CCO certification and
25 access to the MYCCO portal could connect with

1 candidates using their CCO ID number. CertConnect
2 also streamlines the credential management for the
3 employers, regulatory agencies, and provides real
4 time updates. She discussed being in the process of
5 implementing automated notifications, such as new
6 certifications, expiring certifications, and
7 certification lapses.

8 Ms. Hashagen discussed with the Board members how
9 to proceed with this process once in the CCO portal.
10 She pointed out the different talents and
11 capabilities of CertConnect.

12 Ms. Hennessy-Hemler noted the ID numbers for
13 certificate holders on CertConnect had been changed
14 and there had been some difficulty obtaining that
15 information. Ms. Hashagen stated the actual ID
16 number had not changed, but it was decided to use the
17 CCO ID number, a three-digit number. She advised the
18 CCO search could still be utilized to verify the
19 certification number. Once that image comes up, it
20 will show the CCO ID number. She acknowledged the
21 process has been slow in its implementation.

22 Ms. Hashagen provided additional details about
23 CertConnect. Mr. Goulet asked if, hypothetically
24 speaking, the Department of State (DOS) were going to
25 utilize this feature that the CCO had, would DOS be

1 able to search by the CCO ID and then the individual
2 certification ID in that search bar or would it be
3 limited to one or the other? Ms. Hashagen replied it
4 would only be the CCO ID number. She did suggest the
5 Board email a list of certification numbers to the
6 CCO and the matching CCO ID numbers would be sent
7 back to the Board. The Board could then upload the
8 bulk into CertConnect. Ms. Hashagen stated any
9 questions arising from her presentation could be sent
10 to Ms. Hennessy-Hemler and passed on to Ms.
11 Hashagen.]

12 ***

13 Public Comments - None

14 Adjournment

15 CHAIR KUNCELMAN:

16 Can I get a motion to adjourn?

17 MR. GOULET:

18 So moved.

19 MR. MITCHELL:

20 I'll second.

21 ***

22 [There being no further business, the State Board of
23 Crane Operators Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.]

24 ***

25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Crane Operators meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Crane Operators meeting.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Allison Walker', is written over a horizontal line.

Allison Walker,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS
REFERENCE INDEX

May 27, 2026

TIME	AGENDA
9:30	Executive Session
10:30	Return to Open Session
10:33	Official Call to Order
10:33	Roll Call/Introductions
10:36	Approval of Minutes
10:37	Report of Prosecutorial Division
10:40	Report of Regulatory Counsel
10:43	Report of Board Administrator
10:47	Appointment - Taylor Koch
11:06	Appointment - Emily Hashagen
11:33	Adjournment