



Approved

Water Supply Operators' Advisory Board's 7/15/2026 Meeting Minutes

Water Supply Operator's Advisory Board's special meeting at Illinois EPA's HQ on
7/15/2026

Meeting called to order by Drew Hoelscher, Capacity Development Section Manager with
IEPA at 12:08pm

Roll Call

- Drew Hoelscher – Authorized non-voting member
- David Saladino – Illinois Protection Specialist IV Operator Certification Supervisor
- Corinne Cullina – Illinois Protection Specialist III Operator Certification
- William (Bill) Soucie – appointed voting member
- Felipe Valdez– appointed voting member
- Marty Reynolds– appointed voting member
- Kim Lucas– appointed voting member
- Matt Maas – IEPA Division Manager – Public Water Supplies

Not present: Kelly Saunders – appointed voting member

The Board has 5 voting members. 3 voting members are required for a quorum. 4 voting members are present, quorum is confirmed.

Review of terms of voting members:

- William (Bill) Soucie – 09/26/2025 to 09/01/2029
- Felipe Valdez– 10/3/2025 to 09/01/2030
- Marty Reynolds– 10/31/2025 to 09/1/2030
- Kim Lucas– 7/18/2025 to 8/31/2030
- Kelly Saunders – 8/1/2025 to 9/1/2027



Overview of 415 ILCS 45/11 (Illinois Public Water Supply Operations Act)

- a. 5 appointed members + 1 Agency authorized representative
- b. Serve until expiration of term and until a successor has been appointed
- c. Provide technical advice and assist the Agency as requested
- d. Board shall select one of its members to serve as the chairman at the first meeting
- e. The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all constituted meetings
- f. The Board may be required to review contested certification determinations.

Motion to approve the meeting agenda. Motion by Marty Reynolds. Seconded by Bill Soucie.

Nominations open for office of chair. Marty Reynolds nominated Bill Soucie. Kim Lucas seconded the nomination. Bill Soucie accepted the nomination. No objection. Bill Soucie elected as Chairman of the Advisory Board for 2026.

Motion to approve the Board holding hybrid in-person/virtual meetings. Motion by Marty Reynolds. Seconded by Kim Lucas. None opposed. Pending approval of motion by IEPA Legal department the Board will be permitted to have hybrid meetings.

Motion to hold the next meeting on September 9, 2026, at IPWSOA Conference in Springfield from 1-2pm. Motion to hold meeting by Bill Soucie. Seconded by Marty Reynolds. Kim Lucas noted potential time conflict due to conference presentations. Meeting will be held on September 9th, 2026, at IPWSOA Conference time pending.

Drew Hoelscher gave a general drinking water operator certification update:

Currently the State of Illinois has 3,226 certified drinking water operators in the following categories: Class A – 981, Class B – 420, Class C – 1231, Class D -594. There are also currently 304 operators with drinking water Operator in Training (OIT) status.

The State of Illinois hosted 572 exams to date in 2026. The following exam locations have provided exams:

Champaign – 39 exams
Des Plaines/Elgin – 219 exams
ERTC – 59 exams
Marion – 41 exams
Rockford – 73 exams
Springfield – 85 exams
Effingham – 56 exams

To date the State of Illinois has proctored 88 Class A exams, 55 Class B exams, 262 Class C exams, and 167 Class D.

Other Notes and Comments:

Illinois has ~1700+ drinking water systems. The majority of systems in Illinois are Class C systems.

The pass/fail rates of operators taking the drinking water exam in 2026 is currently tracking similar to previous years.

What is the most asked question or complaint received by the IEPA concerning drinking water operators? Most commonly asked question is how to become a certified operator, specifically what are the requirements and an explanation of hands on training requirements. Most common complaint is not having electronic submission options in our OpCert database for exam requests, applications, renewals, fee payments, etc.

Do more questions come from drinking water operators or wastewater operators? Its about the same.

Can you explain what happens if an operator does not renew their certification and it expires. Operators are notified by mail that their certification is up for renewal. If they do not renew their certification by August 1st of their renewal year their certification status will show expired. Following expiration operators are notified via mail that their certification is expired and that they have 2 years to restore their certification. To restore a certification operators must complete their renewal training and pay a \$20 fee (\$10 renewal fee + \$10 restoration fee) and must submit with 2 years of their expiration date. If restored operators certification resumes with the original renewal period and will expire 3 years from the last expiration date. If operators do not restore within 2 years they need to submit an exam request, retest and reapply for a full certification.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Bill Soucie. Seconded by Marty Reynolds.