

Open Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M.
Video/Teleconference via Google Hangouts Meet
Video Link: meet.google.com/utg-ejxh-hys
Phone: + 1-314-666-2995 PIN: 996 553 020#

As of March 5, 2020, the Board of Well Drillers has been operating under a State of Emergency and Catastrophic Health Emergency proclaimed by Governor Hogan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the January 27, 2021 Open Meeting was held by videoconference.

Board Members Present

Hahns Hairston – Chairman/Public At Large
Larry Brenneman – Vice Chairman/ Western MD
Brad Hartman- Southern MD
Dave Kelly – Central MD
Mike Hall – Eastern MD
Heather Quinn – DNR
Robert Peoples – MDE

MDE Staff Present

Duane Johnson – Executive Director
Gayatri Mostaghimi – Board Counsel
John Boris – MDE, Wastewater Permits
Dee Settar – WWSO Board, Acting Secretary
Division Chief

Call to Order

With a quorum present Chairman Hahns Hairston called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Review and Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Chairman Hairston presented the agenda for review and approval. A motion to approve the agenda with amendments was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Brad Hartman. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Board Chairman Comments

Chairman Hairston welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Review and Approval of December 16, 2020 meeting minutes

Chairman Hairston presented the minutes of the December 16, 2020 open meeting for review and approval and asked for any modifications. Mike Hall made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Larry Brenneman. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Executive Director Comments

Duane Johnson gave an overview of revenue and expenditures for December 2020:

a. Revenue and Expenditures December 2020

Appropriation FY2021	\$118,670.00
FY2020	\$114,663.00
Revenue	\$150.00
Revenue Cumulative	\$2,850.00
Expenditures	\$14,347.32
Expenditures Cumulative	\$59,670.33

b. Potential New Legislation - Senate Bill (SB) 0072 and House Bill (HB) 344

Duane Johnson shared information pertaining to SB 0072, cross-filed as HB 344, (Open Meetings Act - Requirements for State Agencies and local Boards of Elections). He said if the Maryland General Assembly passes the proposed legislation this session, it will require State agencies to make an agenda and all meeting materials publicly available on their websites at least 48 hours in advance of each open meeting, which must remain posted on the website for at least five years after the date of the meeting; and to make publicly available on their websites video or audio (with transcription) recordings of all open meetings, which must be maintained on the Board’s website for a minimum of one year – effective October 1, 2021.

Dee Settar talked about the impact statement she shared with the Board, saying the biggest impact will be making videos or recordings of open meetings and the Board’s ability to share them with the public. Dee said she or Duane will share the bill notice with the Board.

Gayatri Mostaghimi said there appears to be some discrepancy about when SB0072 starts if it passes. Dee Settar said she would verify the start date and report back to the Board.

Heather Quinn asked if the proposed bill means that all meetings will have to be videotaped or recorded. Dee said yes, but it does not apply to closed meetings.

New Business

a. Exam Qualification

Duane Johnson read the qualifications for the following exam applicants and recommended that they be approved to take the exam indicated on April 6, 2021:

Name	Exam Type	Qualifications	Employer	Exp/Equipment	Recommendation
Joshua Culver	AWD	Met 1 year requirement, provided 10 locations where he assisted in installations, sponsor MWD601, and received letter of recommendation	GEO Technology Association -10/2007 to present	DieDrich D-50	Approve
Ivan Gutierrez	AWD	Met 1 year requirement, provided 10 locations where he assisted in installations, sponsor MWD326, and received letter of recommendation	Allied Well Drilling 06/2018 to present	Rotary	Approve

Brad Hartman made a motion for two other applicants to take the examination without conditions. Mike Hall seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

b. Training for CEU Approval

No.	Organization	Name of Course	Location	Dates	License Category	Rec. Hrs.
	Franklin Electric	Water Systems Seminar	Online	2/6/2021	All Drillers	4.0

No.	Organization	Name of Course	Location	Dates	License Category	Rec. Hrs.
	National Environmental Service Center	Introduction to Water Basics	Online	Continuous	All Drillers	7.0

A motion to approve all courses for the hours and license types indicated on the chart above was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Dave Kelly. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Old Business –MDE Letterhead

Duane Johnson said the Board of Well Drillers were approved by MDE to use MDE letterhead for routinely used correspondences that he submitted.

Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry

Mike Hall announced the passing of a former Board member.

BOARD VOTED TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to General Provisions Article (“GP”), § 3-305(b), on a motion by Larry Brenneman, seconded by Heather Quinn, the Board members voted with one abstention by Hahns Hairston to move into closed session on January 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of complying with certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act:

- GP § 3-305(b) (2) – To protect the privacy and reputation of the applicant,
- GP § 3-305(b) (7) – To obtain legal advice on options in a confidential matter.

Specifically, the Board discussed the status of the Board of Well Drillers Waiver Form, reviewed the December 16, 2020 closed meeting minutes, and discussed Health Department Violations.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry Brenneman and seconded by Heather Quinn. The motion passed at 10:00 a.m. and was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.