

Open Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M.
Video/Teleconference via Google Hangouts Meet
Video Link: meet.google.com/vay-kijj-rnh
Phone: + 1-573-525-9270 PIN: 272 802 570 #

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 February 24, 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

Guest

Lisa Blanchet, Mike Isom
Chris Blanchet, Michael Barlow, Steve Jones

Call to Order

With a quorum present Chairman Hahns Hairston called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 Larry Brenneman. The motion was approved with amendments and one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Board Chairman Comments

Chairman Hairston welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Review and Approval of January 27, 2021 meeting minutes

Chairman Hairston presented the minutes of the January 27, 2021 open meeting for review and approval and asked for any modifications. Mike Hall made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Robert Peoples. The motion was approved with amendments and one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Executive Director Comments

Duane Johnson indicated that this report is a draft only. He will have a final report at the March meeting.

a. Revenue & Expenditure

Revenue \$450.00

b. February Exam Results

Pass	5
Failed	3
Pass %	62.5 %
Failed %	37.5 %
Average Grade	71.25

The following applicants passed the examination:

- Michael Ward – AWD
- Landon Montgomery – AWD
- Eric Mirfield – AWD
- Michael Brown – AWD
- Richard Lane - MGD

Robert Peoples made a motion to approve the five applicants who scored 70 or above on the exam. Dave Kelly seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

c. Renewals Update

Duane Johnson said that over five hundred or more renewal applications were mailed. He said he is in the process of processing the applications data was lost and DOIT had to do a back up to recover the lost data. As a result of the data lost and the uncertainty of the CEUs on the renewal applications and what the CEUs the drillers are suggesting they have Duane said they are setting aside a day to verify all CEUs on file.

Dee Settar said that she noticed while doing the renewals that a lot of training from the 2019 cycle was being recorded on the renewal forms. She said she's not sure that the 2021 current cycle CEUs is up to date that's one of the reason for doing the CEU work day initiative when we will be verifying drillers CEUs. Dee said we will provide the Board an update by email. Dee said the Deputy Director Greg Busch is working on having Access database converted into Sequel database expecting to occur within a year or two.

Mike Hall said there seems to be some discrepancy as to what was talked about with Elaine Nolan as it relates to the total amount of CEUs promised if you attended the Maryland Delaware Water Well Association Conference (MDWWA) each day. Mike said it was thought that if you attended each day you would receive five CEUs per day. Dave Kelly said he thought that you would get one CEU per day you attended the conference plus the courses you attended. Robert Peoples agreed with Dave.

Mike Hall made a motion to approve an additional one CEU per day, if a driller attended the MDWWA 2020 convention. Larry Brenneman seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Dee Settar said we will post on MDE's website updated CEU totals every two weeks. The Board agreed this will be helpful.

Chris Blanchet indicated that he's hearing in the field that a WCI and PIO licensees is required to have forty CEUs instead of twenty CEUs and wanted to know was that true. Robert Peoples said that the regulations refute that and that only twenty CEU's are required between both licenses. Dee Settar said when the renewal applications are being sent out it indicates twenty CEUs is required for renewals and that could be where the confusion is occurring.

Dee Settar ask would it be helpful to the Board if we had something on MDE's website that would answer some of the more frequent questions that are asked. The Board members agreed that would be great. Lisa Blanchet shared the concerns the industry is having around trying to get their twenty CEUs in this COVID-19 atmosphere.

Duane Johnson shared that the South Atlantic Jubilee Training will be taking place on July 31 – August 2, 2021. Sessions will beginning on July 31 – August 1, 2021. Dee Settar asked will the jubilee training count towards the 2021 renewal year CEUs although it passed the 6/1/2021 renewal period. The Board decided to revisit this in the future.

Duane Johnson asked the Board if could he share licensee email information or contact information to a third party. Gayatri Mostaghimi said we should not provide that information.

Training for CEU Approval

February 2021 CEU Approved Training Courses

No.	Organization	Name of Course	Location	Dates	License Category	Rec. Hrs
2021-143	Aquaflow Pump Supply	Pump Fundamentals, Sizing and VFD Drives	Prince Frederick, MD	2/16/2021	All Drillers	4
2021-144	MCET	Injury Prevention Awareness for Supervisors	Online	5/21/2020		7
2021-145	MCET	Removing Arsenic from Drinking Water	Online	6/16/2020	WCI	7
2021-146	ISWD	Drilling Methods I	Online	Continuous	All Drillers	1
2021-147	ISWD	Drilling Methods ii	Online	Continuous	All Drillers	3
2021-148	ISWD	Drilling Methods III				3
2021-149	Kruger Training Academy	32 Hr Backflow Prevention Course	Frederick, MD	9-21-9-23-20	All Drillers	27

The Board decided that more information was needed before they could approve the course “Pump Dry-The Global Crisis of Vanishing Groundwater.” It will be discussed at the Board’s March meeting.

A motion was made by Mike Hall to approve the above training courses and seconded by Brad Hartman. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Training Courses Update

Dee Settar shared a list of classes from MCET and Deltech and asked the Board for any feedback concerning them. The Board decided to have MCET and Deltech submit courses for review at the March meeting.

Water Doctor Inquiry

Dee said she had a conversation with Vicky Burtis of Water Doctor and a lot of her employees are licensed as pump installers, but they also install water conditioner treatments and the reason they are not licensed as water treatment installers are because most counties don’t recognize the water conditioners installer license. Dee said this is news to her because she assumed every county recognized water conditioner license licensed by the Board. Dee said it sounds like to her in certain counties they only allow Master Plumbers and Apprentice Plumbers to provide treatment and do not accept the water conditioner license.

The problem is the pump installers wants to renew and they want to take water conditioner licenses that’s applicable to what they do, but it’s not approved for their pump installer license. Dee said to Ms. Burtis the bigger question is the drillers are installing treatment without the appropriate state license. Dee said this issue has several holes in it. She indicated the big picture is to find out if counties are not accepting water conditioners installer licenses which is a big issue for the Board and secondly is the crossover for training between pump installers and water conditioners installers training seems to be approved for one, but not the other.

Hahns said that the Executive Director should send out letters to all county health departments letting them know that all water conditioners installer licenses are allowed to install washing equipment and if they have any questions they can contact the Board. John Boris said he thinks it’s the plumbing department not the health department who is responsible. The consensus was to get a letter out to the plumbing department also.

The Board decided not to change any license category for the Water Quality Association classes. Heather Quinn said yes as long as they don’t apply to pump installers. The Board decided to vote on each training course, as they are presented at Board meetings.

Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry

No Comments

BOARD VOTE TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to General Provisions Article (“GP”), § 3-305(b), on motion by Mike Hall, seconded by Brad Hartman, the Board members voted with one abstention by Hahns Hairston to move into closed session on February 24 at 11:53 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,

Specifically, the Board discussed the status of the Board of Well Drillers Waiver Form and Approval of February 24, 2021 open meeting minutes

Adjournment

A motion was made by Heather Quinn to adjourn the opening meeting and seconded by Brad Hartman. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.