

Open Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 28, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M.
Video/Teleconference via Google Hangout Meet
Video Link: meet.google.com/xvn-dgct-ifj
Phone +1 419-969-2139 PIN: 384 293 115 #

Board Members Present

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

MDE Staff Present

Duane Johnson – Executive Director
Gayatri Mostaghimi – Board Counsel
Dee Settar – MDE, Water Supply Program
John Boris – MDE, Wastewater Permits

Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Hahns Hairston called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Review and Adoption of Meeting Agenda

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

Board Chairman Comments

Chairman Hahns Hairston welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review and Approval of June 23, 2021 meeting minutes

Chairman Hairston presented the June 23, 2021 open meeting minutes for review and approval and asked for any modifications. Mike Hall made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Dave Kelly. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Executive Director Comments

- 1. Revenue and Expenditures for June 2021**

Appropriation (FY 2021)	\$118,670.00
Revenue	\$80,750.00
Expenditures	\$129,160.24

2. Expenses 2017-2021

Dee Settar provided a four year report on revenue and expenditures based on fiscal and end of calendar years. The report reflected end of fiscal year (FY) 2016 to end of FY 2021. Dee said appropriations have increased substantially over the last five years from \$79,000 to \$118, 000.

Revenue at the end of fiscal 2017 was around \$93,000 and was \$96,000 at the end of fiscal 2019. Currently at the end of FY 2021 it is about \$81,000.

Dee said revenue coming in 2021 is substantially less than in previous years and that the decline could be a result of Covid-19, or it could be because people haven't submitted their renewals yet.

At the end of FY 2017, expenditures were \$92,000. They were \$89,000 for FY 2018, and \$63,000 in 2020, which could have been due to not having an Executive Director for about six months. FY 2021 expenditures are \$129,000.

Heather Quinn asked what happens if the Board exceeds their appropriation. Dee said she will check with Debbie Kasraei from the fiscal department and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

FY21 expenses are still being reconciled.

3. License Renewal Updates

Duane Johnson gave a brief update on license renewals indicating that total renewals are around 460. He said so far about 4 late applications have come in and about 10 applications are still waiting for documents to be submitted.

New Business

a. Exam Qualification

JULY EXAM QUALIFICATION APPROVAL

Name	Exam Type	Qualification	Employer	Exp/Equipment	Recommendation
Chandler Baum	WCI	* Meets 2 year requirement	Negley's Well Drilling	Installation of water treatment systems,	Approve

		* Provided 10 locations where he assisted in installations * Sponsor MWD573 * Has an AWC license	2016	pressure tanks, filter and UV light	
MacKenzie Leaper	AWC	* Meets 1 year requirement * Provided 10 locations where he assisted in installations * Sponsor MWD573	Negley's Well Drilling 2013	Installation of water treatment systems, pressure tanks, filter and UV light	Approve
Jacob Troup	WCI	* Meets 2 year requirement * Provided 10 locations where he assisted in installations * Sponsor MWD573 * Has an AWC license	Negley's Well Drilling 2013	Installation of water treatment systems, pressure tanks, filter and UV light	Approve

Dave Kelly made a motion seconded by Heather Quinn to approve the above applicants to take the examination. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

b. Training Approval

July 2021 CEU Training Course Approval

Organization	Course Name	Location	Date	License Category	Rec. Hrs.	Cycle?
National Drilling Association	NDA 2021 Convention	Concord, NC	Sept 29, 2021	All Drillers	Up to 6 CEUs with proof of training	2023

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

c. Potential Changes to Well Drillers Regulations

Duane Johnson presented a chart of regulations and proposed changes the Board is considering. The Board discussed the following regulations: In State vs Out-of-State COMAR 26.05.01.04, Approval of Training COMAR 26.05.03.03 and the Board's ability to access monetary fines COMAR 26.05.04.01. The Board also agreed that under COMAR 26.05.03.03

(Approval of Training) all references to the National Water Well Association should be corrected to reflect the current name of that organization: the National Ground Water Association. In addition, courses conducted by well drilling contractors need to be board-approved to meet the continuing education requirements. These courses should be approved prior to the course; however, approval may also be granted retroactively.

Dee Settar asked the Board if there is a parallel pathway for AWC and API similar to WRO after an apprenticeship expires. Mike Hall asked why there is an expiration for apprenticeships. Heather Quinn asked why someone couldn't stay as an apprentice if they wish. Dee Settar said with the Operator Board a certificate doesn't expire because it can be renewed indefinitely, unlike the Board of Well Drillers.

Gayatri Mostaghimi suggested including the exact language that shows where language is stricken and where language is inserted or replaced. The Board discussed getting rid of automatic apprenticeship expiration.

Gayatri said as the Board considers making regulation changes, when you change language in one section of COMAR, to make sure to think about how it may impact other sections of COMAR. Gayatri said the Board might want to look at the definitions section in the Board's regulation and said it might make sense to have every section in the Board's regulation included in the chart so the Board has the exact language in front of them, and then to put all the changes in red.

For the next Board meeting Heather Quinn suggested that staff provide numbers of how many Well Rig Operators are on file, how many people with WROs will be affected by the change, and how many WROs actually have taken the apprentice test.

The Board asked Board staff to compile a document that listed all the regulations and proposed changes for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Online Permitting Discussion

John Boris said he began converting the permits into PDFs. He said to look forward to more updates in the future.

Dee Settar gave an update on what is done when expenditures exceed appropriations. She said the departments moves appropriations from one department to the one that is short to cover the loss.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Robert Peoples and seconded by Heather Quinn to go into closed session at 10:37 AM. The motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

A motion was made by Robert Peoples and seconded by Dave Kelly to adjourn the open meeting at 10:41 AM. The motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.