

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF WELL DRILLERS

**Minutes of Open Meeting
MDE Serve Conference Room
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230
December 19, 2018**

Board Members Present

Hahns Hairston – Chairman
Larry Brenneman – Vice-Chairman
Dave Kelly
Mike Hall
Brad Hartman
Heather Quinn – DNR
Robert Peoples – MDE

Staff Present

Elaine Nolen – Executive Director
Neil Winner – MDE, Water Supply Program
Ellen Cohill, Esq. – Board Counsel
Naomi Howell – MDE, Wastewater Permits Program
John Boris – MDE, Wastewater Permits Program

Board Members Absent

None

Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Hahns Hairston called the meeting to order in the MDE Serve Conference Room at 9:18 AM.

Review and Adoption of Proposed Meeting Agenda

Chairman Hairston presented the agenda for review and approval and asked for any modifications. A motion to approve the proposed meeting agenda was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Larry Brenneman. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Hairston presented the minutes of the October 24, 2018 meeting for review and approval and asked for any modifications. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Dave Kelly. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Board Chair Comments

Chairman Hairston had no comments for today's meeting.

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Director's Report

a. Revenues and Expenditures – As of October 31, 2018

Appropriation FY 2018	\$111,179.00
Expenses	\$ 31,861.31
Revenue	\$ 6,550.00

- b. Elaine Nolen provided copies of the 11/7/18 Commission Membership for the Board. She will request a current version because Robert Peoples' position was not correctly identified.
- c. Elaine Nolen thanked Board members for providing comments on the draft Preliminary Evaluation of the State Board of Well Drillers in the short timeframe provided. The Department of Legislative Services accepted all Board comments. The draft Preliminary Evaluation made the following recommendations: to waive the Board from full evaluation; extend the Board termination date by 10 years to July 1, 2031; amend the statute to require that fees be set at a level sufficient to cover expenses; and cap future fee increases at 12.5% of the existing fee in order to equitably distribute costs associated with this Board and the Water and Wastewater Operators Board.
- d. The continuing difficulty of Board members gaining access to the red parking lot in addition to the fact that some exam takers were turned away by Montgomery Park security when MDE was closed on December 5 was discussed. Elaine Nolen has revised the meeting preparation process to add providing a hard copy list of attendees to the security personnel at the front desk the morning of the meeting. As long as exams are held on normal State business days, no change in process is necessary.

Old Business

- a. The Miss Utility training approved at the October 24 meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2019. A minimum of 10 attendees must be guaranteed. The maximum size of the class is 60 attendees.

New Business

- a. December 5, 2018 exam results:

# pass	7
# fail	8
% pass	47%
% fail	53%
Average Grade	68%

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A motion to approve everyone who passed with a grade of 70 and above was made by Brad Hartman and seconded by Heather Quinn. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

b. Review and discussion of Continuing Education requests:

	Organization	Name of Course	Location	Dates	Approved Hours
1	Virginia Water Well Assoc	2018 Fall Field Day -- Muddin' It	Virginia Beach, VA	10/12/18	6.0
2	Virginia Water Well Assoc	2019 Winter Conference	Fredericksburg, VA	2/20-21/19	Credit for sign off, courses marked "1.0", maximum of 12.0
3	Delaware Water Well Licensing Board	Annual Fall Seminar	Dover, DE	12/7/18	6.0

A motion to approve the courses/events for the hours indicated on the chart above was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Brad Hartman. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

A motion to go into Administrative Function for the discussion of violations and complaints. Was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Dave Kelly. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

c. Review and discussion of violations/complaints:

Nine new violations, were reviewed and discussed. Four are resolved. Four are in process. One letter will be written to licensee.

A motion to come out of Administrative Function in order to continue the meeting was made by Mike Hall, seconded by Robert Peoples. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry

Larry Brenneman introduced the topic of the need for online submission of well permit applications and well completion reports. He contacted his senator who sent a letter to Secretary Grumbles. John Boris discussed a middle ground process needed for different

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funding for different counties and varying county fee schedules. Maryland Delaware Water Well Association involvement was suggested.

Mike Hall introduced the topic of the industry-wide shortage of new employees discussed at a recent national conference. There are two issues: First, there is a shortage of new hires. Mike Hall indicated that in his experience, 10 new employees need to be hired to get one employee to stay with the company long enough to take the Apprentice exam. Second, well drilling is not a well-known career option. There is a need to get the word out to young people considering their career options that a career in well drilling is well worth looking into. Naomi Howell indicated that her program is putting together a program to encourage students to consider the environmental scientist career path. Discussion centered on a similar approach for the well driller career path.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Larry Brenneman. The motion passed at 11:30 a.m. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.