

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF WELL DRILLERS

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## Minutes of Open Meeting April 26, 2017

### Board Members Present

Hahns Hairston – Board Chairman  
Wayne Caswell  
John Shannahan  
Brad Hartman  
Larry Brenneman  
Robert Peoples – MDE  
Heather Quinn – DNR

### Staff Present

Elaine Nolen – Executive Director  
Kristen DeWire, Esq. – Board Counsel  
John Boris - MDE

### Board Members Absent

None

### Guests

David Kelly  
Mike Isom

### Call to Order

Board Chairman Hairston called the meeting to order in the Aeris Conference Room at 9:02 am.

### Review and Adoption of Proposed Meeting Agenda

Chairman Hairston presented the agenda for review and approval and asked for any corrections. Item 2a was added to allow meeting guests to introduce themselves to the Board. A motion to approve the proposed meeting agenda with changes was made by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Ms. Quinn. Motion carried.

### Review of Draft Meeting Minutes

Chairman Hairston presented the draft minutes of the February 22, 2017 meeting for approval and asked for any corrections. A motion to approve the draft meeting minutes was made by Ms. Quinn and seconded by Mr. Shannahan. Motion carried.

### Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry

Meeting guests, Dave Kelly and Mike Isom with the Maryland-Delaware Water Well Association, addressed the Board regarding members' complaints of inconsistent interpretation of Maryland Well Construction regulations, specifically the handling of well permit issuance in various counties. Some counties charge higher fees than others, for example Anne Arundel. Also there are indications that some counties have required licensed electricians to run the electrical line between the well and the house or building.

The Board cannot prevent counties from charging fees and does not advocate licensees not adhering to County policy. However, counties cannot prevent licensees from doing work authorized by their licenses. Ms. Nolen will draft letters to Cecil and Frederick counties asking if they require licensed electricians to run electric from the well to house.

The other issue discussed is the process that requires currently licensed Well Rig Operators to pass the Apprentice exam a second time in order to sit for the Journeyman exam. The Board will discuss this issue in context with the process for out-of-state applicants at a future meeting.

**Director’s Report**

**1. Revenues and Expenditures – As of March 31, 2017**

a. Appropriation FY 2017	\$78,785.00
b. Expenses	\$75,727.21
c. Revenue	\$18,990.00
d. Encumbrance	\$ 398.42

Ms. Nolen presented the costs of translating the Apprentice Well Driller and Journeyman Well Driller-Water Supply Study Guides into Spanish as use of the Encumbrance funds. Mr. Hartman made the motion to approve translation of Apprentice Well Driller and Journeyman Well Driller-Water Supply Study Guides into Spanish. Mr. Shannahan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. Ms. Nolen provided a flow chart of the licensing processes to Board members and asked for comments. Board members will review the chart and provide comments at the next Board meeting.
3. A question was brought up by Mr. Caswell regarding whether 2080 hours is equal to 1 year experience. A sample application will be provided at a future Board meeting and this will be discussed.
4. Ms. Nolen provided an update on the status of the 2017 renewal process, which is in process.

**Ongoing Business**

1. Continuing Education requests –

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name of Course</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Approved Hours</b>
PA Groundwater	PA Groundwater Symposium	State College PA	5/3/17	5.25
Milby/Baroid	Basic Drilling Fluids Workshop	Columbia, MD	4/8/17	7

Mid-Atlantic Chapter, NDA	Spring Training Day	Walkersville, MD	5/12/17	6
WV Water Well Drillers	Conference & Trade Show	Sutton, WV	4/11 - 12/17	5 - technical Up to 6 - non-technical
Ferguson Water Soft	Basic Water Treatment Training Seminar	Annapolis, MD	2/7/17	6.5
National Drilling Association	Driller's Manual - study materials for exam	<a href="http://www.nda4u.com">www.nda4u.com</a>	online	For passing score on exams: Drilling Safety – 3 Groundwater Knowledge – 4 Monitor Well – 6
Delaware Water Licensing Board	Board Meetings - requesting .5 CEU per meeting	DE	18 meetings	20
Drilling & Tapping Pipe	Maryland Rural Water	Myersville Town Hall	5/17/2017	For WCI licensees - 5

The motion to approve the courses above was made by Mr. Hartman and seconded by Mr. Caswell. The motion carried.

2. Status of previously reviewed violations:
  - a. Robert Kiehne and Andrew Lankford – letters have been drafted by Ms. Nolen and are under review.

### **New Business**

1. House Bill 628, which requires supervision of Boards by MDE to avoid antitrust issues was passed by the Maryland Legislature. At this point there is no change in Board operations.

2. Review of the April 5 exam results.

#fail	9
# pass	11
% pass	55%
% fail	45%
average	69%

A motion to approve everyone who passed with a grade of 70 or better was made by Mr. Peoples and seconded by Ms. Quinn. Motion passed.

3. New Violations:
  - a. Travis Sterner, Water Supply, provided information on a well repair not adhering to regulations by Brett Sweeney. Ms. Nolen will draft a letter to the licensee.
4. Review of an anonymous complaint, which was received by the Board via US Mail on April 20, 2017. The complaint was addressed to Calvert County Health Department and copied to the Board regarding “Concern for Ground Water Contamination and Safety”. The writer expressed concerns regarding possible unlicensed practice, length of time onsite, and poor customer service. Because no information on the location of the well and dates of observations was included, the County was unable to follow up. Because no sender contact information was provided, the Board is unable to respond to the writer.
5. Discussion of Disciplinary matter was moved to closed session.
6. Discussion of Disciplinary Guidelines was moved to closed session.

### **Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn the open meeting was made by Ms. Quinn and seconded by Mr. Peoples. The motion passed at 11:28.