MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF WELL DRILLERS

OPEN MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

* Please note, this is a virtual meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend either by accessing the virtual link or calling into the below phone number.

Video/Teleconference via Google hangouts Meet
Video Link: https://meet.google.com/cuu-kvvc-hji
Phone: +1 219-401-0610 PIN: 935 980 007#

Board Members Present
Lisa Blanchet – Chair/Public at Large
Michael Hall – Eastern MD
Dave Kelly – Central MD
Heather Quinn – DNR
Robert Peoples – MDE

MDE Staff Present
Amanda Redmiles – Executive Director
Jennifer Bowman – OAG
Alex Rubin – MDE

Excused Absence
Steven Kwiatkowski – Southern MD

Call to Order
Chair Lisa Blanchet presided over the meeting.

Roll Call
Amanda Redmiles conducted the roll call.

Presiding Officer Comments
Chair Blanchet welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for rearranging their calendar to make this meeting a priority.

Approval of Open Meeting Agenda
A motion was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Robert Peoples to approve the agenda. The motion passed with one abstention by Lisa Blanchet.

Review and Adoption of August 26, 2026, Open Session Meeting Minutes
A motion was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Robert Peoples to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passes with one abstention by Lisa Blanchet.

Executive Director Comments

- FY26 Revenue & Expenditures Update
    - Amanda Redmiles has not yet received the final numbers for FY26.

- FY27 Revenue & Expenditures
    - Nothing to report at this time. Fiscal has not released the figures yet.

- Pending 2027 Exam Schedule
  Friday, February 19, 2027
  Tuesday, April 6, 2027
  Thursday, June 10, 2027
  Tuesday, August 3, 2027
  Tuesday, October 5, 2027
  Thursday, December 9, 2027

- Pending 2027 Meeting Schedule
  Wednesday, January 20, 2027, Stat Conference Room
  Wednesday, February 24, 2027, Aeris Conference Room
  Wednesday, March 24, 2027, Aeris Conference Room
  Wednesday, April 28, 2027, Aeris Conference Room
  Wednesday, May 26, 2027, Aeris Conference Room
  Wednesday, June 23, 2027, Aeris Conference Room
  Wednesday, July 28, 2027, Aeris Conference Room
  Wednesday, August 25, 2027, Aeris Conference Room
  Wednesday, September 22, 2027, Aeris Conference Room
  Wednesday, October 27, 2027, Aeris Conference Room
  Wednesday, November 17, 2027, Stat Conference Room
  Wednesday, December 15, 2027, Stat Conference Room

A motion was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Robert Peoples to approve the 2027 Meeting Schedule and 2027 Exam Schedule. The motion passes with one abstention by Lisa Blanchet.

Old Business

Nothing to discuss at this time.

New Business

- Continuing Education Credits Approval

#	Organization	Course Name	Location	Date(s)	License Category	Rec. Hours	Cycle
1	EWQA	2026 EWQA Fall Conference & Trade Show	Pocono Manor, PA	10/7/2026-10/9/2026	All Licenses	Up to 11	2026-2027
2	Milby Company	2026 Pump & Drive School	Elkridge, MD	11/10/2026	All Licenses	8	2026-2027

3	Milby Company	2026 Pump & Drive School	Lewistown, MD	11/11/2026	All Licenses	8	2026-2027
4	Milby Company	2026 Water Treatment School	Elkridge, MD	10/20/26	All Licenses	7	2026-2027
5	Milby Company	2026 Water Treatment School	Lewistown, MD	10/21/2026	All Licenses	7	2026-2027

A motion was made by Robert Peoples and seconded by Mike Hall to approve above continuing education credits. The motion passed with one abstention by Lisa Blanchet.

- Examination Qualifications

#	Name	Exam Type	Employer	Recommend	Outcome
1	Cartengna, Rafael Menjiva	AWD	Allied Well Drilling	Recommend	Approved
2	Gilliam, Arthur H.	API	Well Man Watercheck, LLC	Recommend	Approved
3	Janos, John	AWD	Dandelion Energy	Recommend	Approved
4	Menk, Christian T.	AWC	Well Man Watercheck, LLC	Recommend	Approved
5	Pinacho, Raul	AWD	Allied Well Drilling	Recommend	Approved
6	Saldana, Angel	AWD	Allied Well Drilling	Recommend	Approved
7	Stiers, Garrett	JGD	MB Drilling	Recommend	Approved - Originally submitted for a JWD but was only approved for JGD. Applicant agreed.
8	Wilborne, Andrew	AWC	Well Man Watercheck, LLC	Recommend	Approved

A motion was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Heather Quinn to approve the above application for their respective exam. The motion passed with one abstention by Lisa Blanchet.

Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry

Small Business Procurement Requirements

A future presentation at the Maryland–Delaware conference could help educate attendees on Maryland's small business procurement requirements, including projects that are required to utilize small businesses based on applicable state requirements. The upcoming conference schedule is already full. Heather and Amanda will coordinate to identify the information that

should be addressed. Industry conferences, including the NDA Drilling Expo and other relevant events, would provide an effective opportunity to share this information directly with well drillers and other industry professionals. Amanda will discuss the topic with MDE's Procurement Department.

NDA Drilling Expo – Conference Takeaways
Amanda Redmiles attended the NDA Drilling Expo and found it highly beneficial. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to connect directly with Maryland well drillers and other license holders, exchange information, and strengthen industry relationships. Amanda also established a line of communication with her counterpart in Tennessee, who expressed interest in structuring Tennessee's licensing program similarly to Maryland's. Pennsylvania is also exploring the development of a new state licensing program.

Following a case study presentation at the conference, Amanda plans to share her key takeaways with MDE through an internal presentation.

Apprentice Examination Concerns
Feedback from industry professionals at the conference highlighted concerns regarding the current Apprentice examination, particularly the balance between geotechnical and water supply content. Participants expressed support for separating the examination requirements or developing distinct examination pathways for the two disciplines. The primary concern is that the current examination emphasizes water well knowledge without adequately addressing geotechnical work, placing geotechnical-focused apprentices at a disadvantage. Industry feedback also indicated that employees are struggling with the examination, which appears consistent with the observed pass/fail results.

Robert recommended monitoring the outcome of the current regulatory revisions before pursuing changes to the examination.

Maryland–Delaware Board Input on Regulatory Revisions
The Maryland–Delaware Board asked whether it could review the proposed revisions to Maryland's Board of Well Drillers regulations and provide feedback. Jennifer Bowman confirmed that the proposed regulations will be posted on the state's small business website for public review and comment. She will keep the Board informed as the process moves forward.

Board Vote to Move into Closed Session
A motion was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Heather Quinn to move into closed session. The motion passed with one abstention by Lisa Blanchet. Lisa Blanchet read a written closing statement addressing the reason for the closed meeting, including the topics to be discussed and statutory exceptions(s) (see below).

Adjournment
A motion was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Heather Quinn to adjourn. The motion passed with one abstention by Lisa Blanchet.

Call to Order and Purpose of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to General Provisions Article ("GP"), § 3-305(b), on a motion by Mike Hall and seconded by Heather Quinn Board members approved moving into closed session on October 7, 2026, for the purpose of complying with the following provisions of the Open Meetings Act:

GP § 3-305(b)(2) - To protect the privacy or reputation of license holders,
GP § 3-305(b)(7) - To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice,
GP § 3-305(b)(8) - To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The following Board members were present during the closed meeting: Lisa Blanchet, Heather Quinn, Robert Peoples, Dave Kelly and Mike Hall. MDE staff present were Amanda Redmiles and Alex Rubin. Board counsel Jennifer Bowman was also present.

Pursuant to legal provisions, Lisa Blanchet read the closed meeting disclaimer.

Topics Discussed During the Closed Meeting

Board members reviewed and approved of the October 7, 2026, meeting agenda; reviewed and approved the August 26, 2026, closed meeting minutes; were updated on previous violations, discussed new violations and complaints; and finalized the Pump Installer Operator exam changes.