

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF WELL DRILLERS
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, @ 9:00 A.M.

Video/Teleconference via Google hangouts Meet Video Link: meet.google.com/cyw-ouic-qmb

Phone: (US) +1 352-720-0291 PIN: 790 066 682#

In Person: 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore MD 21230, Stat Conference Room

Board Members Present

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

MDE Staff Present

Gayatri Mostaghimi - Board Counsel
John Boris - MDE
John Anthony - MDE
Taj Goodlow - MDE
Carmen Carruba - MDE
Matthew Murphy - MDE

Call to Order

Presiding Officer, Hahns Hairston, presided over the meeting.

Roll Call

Hahns Hairston conducted the roll call.

Presiding Officer Comments

Hahns Hairston welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Brad Hartman to approve the agenda. The motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Review and Adoption of June 28, 2023, Open Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Dave Kelly to approve the Board's June 28, 2023, open meeting minutes. The motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Executive Director Comments

• **Introduction**

The new Executive Director for the Board of Well Drillers is Amanda Redmiles who started the position on September 20, 2023. Amanda was unable to participate in today's meeting. Amanda previously worked in MDE's Office of the Secretary administering Public Information Act requests.

- **Revenue & Expenditures**

Fiscal reconciliation was not completed prior to the meeting so the report will need to be updated for the next meeting to cover the period since last reported.

Update on Administrative Tasks since the last meeting

John Anthony gave an overview about administrative tasks completed since July 1, 2023 on behalf of the Well Drillers Board.

- Insurance and Bonding
Matthew Murphy spoke about updating insurance and bonding records.
- Issuing or evaluating license applications
Carmen Carruba talked about issuing and evaluating applications for licensure.
- Response to inquiries
John Anthony spoke about the emails and phone calls received.
- Letter of good standing
John Anthony noted the issuance of two letters of good standing.
- Evaluating exam applicants
John Anthony stated exam applicants’ qualifications were evaluated and will be discussed later on the agenda.
- Website updates needed
Robert Peoples addressed past website updates and the need to continue to add information including an updated roster and closing statement.

Agricultural Cost Share discussion

Robert Peoples discussed cost share rates for a Natural Resources Conservation System (NRCS)/US. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program for the next federal fiscal year for agricultural best management practices as related to well drilling. Concerns were raised about whether the proposed rates would accurately reflect actual costs for different types of well drilling and materials used. Robert Peoples will send a comment to NRCS/USDA for their consideration.

New Business

- Training Courses for Approval

A motion was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Brad Hartman to approve the following training course. The motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Organization	Course Name	Location	Dates	License Category	Hrs.	Cycle
NGWA	Groundwater Week 2023	Las Vegas, NV	12/5/23-12/7/23	All Drillers	1/ course hour based on attendance	2023-2025

Virginia Water Well Association	2023 Fall Field Day	36 Poindexeter Rd, Louisa, VA 23139	10/27/23	All Drillers	8	2023-2025
Virginia Water Well Association	2024 Winter Conference & Exhibition	1021 Kroger Center, Richmond, VA 23139	2/21/24 - 2/22/24	All Drillers	1/course hour based on attendance for Track A & Track B. (Note: Track C not approved for credit.)	2023-2025
NDA	NDA 2023 Convention	1800 Newton Pike, Lexington, KY 40511	9/14/23 - 9/15/23	All Drillers	1/course hour based on attendance	2023-2025
Milby	Water Treatment School	5700 Rowanberry Dr., Elkridge, MD 21075	10/24/23-1025/23	All Drillers	7	2023-2025

- Examination Qualifications

A motion was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Brad Hartman to approve the following applicants to take the examinations indicated below. The motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

#	Name	Exam Type	Qualification	Employer	Exp/Equip	Recommend
1	Mohler, Robert	JWD - General	Meets 3 year experience requirement provided 10 loc installed or assisted wells OUTSTANDING LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION sponsor MWD572 in good standing	Connelly & Associates	Schramm 450WS Dietrich-50 CME-75,55,45 HD120, Sonic 150	approved with letter of recommendation

			current lic AWD063			
2	Lorshbaugh, Robert	AWC	Only qualifies for APPRENTICE WCI not full WCI	S&L Water Solutions	UV light, softener, ozone/greensand	approved with sponsor letter (apprentice)
3	Miller, Travis	AWD	Practicing since 2/22/2022	Negley's Well Drilling	Air Rotary Drill Rig - Lead Driller 9 residential wells 2 PA DEP water wells 1 tw conversion to 10" geotherm, air & mud rot, grout wells, abandon wells, completion report completion	approved
4	Bushman, Coy	AWD	Started 8/3/22 as a tech. Has 10 jobs documented. Wants 12/6/23 Approval	Michael Barlow Well Drilling	Water well, goulds pump replacement, water softener install, T4 helper, skid steer backhoe	approved
5	Berg, Austin	AWD - General	Began work 6/25/2018. Grouter and Drill Rig exp.	Wayne's Water 'n' Wells Inc	8 potable domestic wells in GA county 1 Deepening 1 Geothermal	approved
6	Saldana, Gilton	AWD	Began work 8/2021 (2 years)	Carroll Water Systems	10 domestic wells as helper, versadrill, Schramm	approved with letter of recommendation
7	Briceño, Abdiel J.	AWD	Began work 8/2022 (1 year)	hydro-wells	10 domestic wells as helper, Schramm T660W RotaDrill	approved
8	Castro, Javier J.	AWD	Began work 12/6/2017 (years)	hydro-wells	10 domestic wells as helper, Schramm T660w Rotakill	approved
9	Hernandez, Aldolfo E.	AWD	Began work in 2007	Carroll Water Systems	10 domestic water wells as help, mud rotary versadrill mud	approved with letter of recommendation

					rotary drilling helper	
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- August 2023 Examination Results

PASSED	1
FAILED	1
% PASSED	50%
% FAILED	50%
AVERAGE GRADE	73%

- Applicant who Passed the Examination

A motion was made by Dave Kelly and was seconded by Larry Brenneman to approve the applicant below who passed their examination. The motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Francis Harrington – Master Well Driller- Geotechnical

Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry

Dave Kelly noted Cecil County has online permitting. A discussion ensued regarding the delegation of Approving Authority for the Issuance of Well Construction Permits.

Board Vote to Move into Closed Session

A motion was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Brad Hartman to go into closed session. The motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

The presiding officer read a written closing statement addressing the reason for the closed meeting, including the topics to be discussed and statutory exception(s) (see below).

Adjournment

A motion was made by Larry Brenneman and seconded by Mike Hall to adjourn the open meeting. The motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

Call to Order and Purpose of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to General Provisions Article ("GP"), § 3-305(b), on a motion by Mike Hall that was seconded by Brad Hartman, Board members approved moving into closed session on September 27, 2023, 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:

Hahns Hairston, Larry Brenneman, Dave Kelly, Mike Hall, Brad Hartman, Heather Quinn and Robert Peoples. MDE staff present were John Boris, John Anthony, Taj Goodlow and Gaya Mostaghimi.

Pursuant to legal provisions, Hahns Hairston read the closed meeting disclaimer.

Topics Discussed During the Closed Meeting

Board members reviewed and approved the June 28, 2023, closed meeting minutes; discussed the out of state well driller applicants; discussed the Calvert County government water conditioner equipment installation issue; discussed a driller hearing final decision; discussed potential exam application policy changes; discussed State email address for Board members; discussed the need for a well drillers license if you are not required to obtain a well construction permit; and, the status of regulation updates.