



MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF WELL DRILLERS

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Open Meeting Minutes

Teleconference via Google Hangouts Meet

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Board Members Present

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

Staff Present

Dee Settar - Acting Executive Director
John Boris - MDE, Wastewater Permits Program
Ellen Cohill, Esq. – Board Counsel
Gayatri Mostaghimi, Esq. – Board Counsel

Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Hairston called the meeting to order via teleconference at 9:15 a.m.

Introduction of Guests

Chairman Hairston introduced Dee Settar, Acting Executive Director, and Ellen Cohill introduced Gaya Mostaghimi, transitioning Board Counsel, to Board Members. As the meeting was held by teleconference only in light of recent developments regarding COVID-19, Chairman Hairston asked if additional guests were participating and received no response.

Review and Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Chairman Hairston presented the agenda for review and approval and requested all participants identify themselves prior to addressing the assembly. Brad Hartman moved to approve the meeting agenda with corrections. Dave Kelly seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Review and Approval of Open Meeting Minutes

Chairman Hairston presented the minutes of the December 18, 2019 open meeting for review and approval. Mike Hall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with one modification to the Industry Correspondence section. Dave Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-1 (Voting yes: Mr. Brenneman, Mr. Hartman, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Hall, Ms. Quinn; Abstaining: Robert Peoples).



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Board Chair Comments

Chairman Hairston welcomed all attendees to the teleconference. He thanked Dee Settar and Gaya Mostaghimi for assisting the Board.

Report by Board Member Acting in the Capacity of the Vacant Executive Director

Robert Peoples updated the Board on actions he had taken since the December 2019 meeting in the absence of an Executive Director. Robert proctored an exam and sent results correspondence; reviewed outstanding liability certifications and addressed issues with well drillers; updated bond and violation information for Board; prepared exam results and qualified applications for today's meeting; and responded to a variety of calls from the well licensed community. Robert stated the number of expired certificates of liability insurance and bonding is a concern and requested the Board to consider follow-up action a priority. The Board then discussed the matter of drillers who request reciprocity when licensed in another State may be qualified to sit for an appropriate license exam, and would be individually evaluated by the Board after submittal of a completed application. Chairman Hairston requested Board Counsel to verify if the approval is addressed in the Regulations. Chairman Hairston then thanked Robert Peoples for duties as a Board Member and for acting in the capacity of the vacant executive director.

New Business

a. Exam Results, February 5, 2020

# pass	7
# fail	1
% pass	88%
% fail	12%
Average Grade	75%

Robert Peoples made a motion to approve all seven individuals who passed their exam with a grade of 70 or greater. Larry Brenneman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

b. Qualifications of Exam Applicants

Robert Peoples read a brief description of the qualifications for each exam applicant and recommended each of the seven individuals to take the appropriate examination. The Board discussed the outstanding requirement for one individual to take OSHA certification. Robert Peoples made a motion for all individuals to be qualified to take the examination as discussed. Brad Hartman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

The Board discussed recommending to individuals who fail the exam twice and are required to take additional training to attend training directly relevant to the failed exam in an attempt to successfully pass that exam.



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Old Business

Due to the confidentiality of the closed minutes from the last December meeting, the Board did not discuss any details of the December 2019 closed session. Robert Peoples stated that Dee Settar will start to take actions relating to the two violations discussed during the December 2019 closed session and offered Board Member support as needed.

Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry

The Board discussed accepting course material presented by a video conference in light of the COVID-19 prohibition on large gatherings and social distancing recommendations. Details of discussion included documentation of attendance and certification of training sponsor. Chairman Hairston asked Dee Settar how the Board of Waterworks and Waste System Operators was addressing renewals and training credits. Board Members agreed that any course material previously approved by the Board of Well Drillers would continue to be approved. No vote was conducted.

Adjournment

Larry Brenneman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robert Peoples seconded the motion. The motion passed at 10:30 a.m. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.