



MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF WELL DRILLERS

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 @ 9:00 A.M.

Video/ Teleconference via Google Hangouts Meet

Video Link: meet.google.com/wyz-bzqw-vvh

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As of March 5, 2020, the Board of Well Drillers has been operating under a State of emergency and catastrophic health emergency proclaimed by Governor Hogan due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board Members Present

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

Staff Present

Dee Settar - Acting Board Oversight
Gayatri Mostaghimi, Esq. – Board Counsel

Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Hairston called the meeting to order via video and teleconference at 9:08 a.m.

Introduction of Guests

As the meeting was held by video and teleconference, 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 also requested all attendants using teleconference to identify themselves prior to addressing the assembly. Larry Brenneman moved to approve the meeting agenda without correction. Robert Peoples 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 March 25, 2020 open meeting for review and approval. Mike Hall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes without correction. Dave Kelly seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Board Chair Comments

Chairman Hairston welcomed all attendees to the web and teleconference meeting and commented that we were making history with these efforts. He expressed hope that everyone was staying safe due to the pandemic and appreciation for taking time to attend the meeting.



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Report by Water Supply Staff Acting in the Capacity of the Vacant Executive Director

Dee Settar apologized for being unable to update the Board with Revenue and Expenditures due to processing delays caused by MDE teleworking conditions. She relayed the Board's cash receipts are currently being handled by Nancy Reilman of Water Supply Program. March cash receipts are being processed today. Dee also noted that she is aware of three unaccounted cash receipts for exam applications and is working with MDE Fiscal staff to resolve.

Dee updated the Board on actions she had taken since the March 2020 meeting in the absence of an Executive Director:

- Issued six licenses and sent seven exam packages;
- Gained access to the Board's email account that was not monitored since December 31, 2019 and began processing emails;
- Prepared for today's meeting, including review of CEU training requests and review of four applications for exam qualifications; and
- Responded to a variety of calls from the well licensed community.

Dee will begin to process bond and insurance certificates and address the backlog of expired certificates discussed in the March 25, 2020 Board meeting. She will also work with MDE Budget staff to provide the backlog of Expenditures and Revenue reports at the May 2020 Board meeting.

New Business

A. Qualifications of Exam Applicants

Dee Settar read a brief description of the qualifications for each of the four exam applicants and recommended:

- Two individuals to take the appropriate examination without conditions;
- One individual to take the appropriate examination pending proof of OSHA training and meeting the experience requirement as of June 2020; and
- One individual to take the appropriate examination pending receipt of the required Letter of Recommendation and proof of employer's Insurance.

The Board discussed the outstanding requirements for the two individuals. Mike Hall made a motion for all applicants to be qualified to take the examination as discussed. Robert Peoples seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

B. Review of Continuing Education Requests

Larry Brenneman made a motion to approve the courses for the license types and hours indicated on the chart below. Brad Hartman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.



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Continuing Education Requests, continued

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Sponsor Organization</i>	<i>Name of Course</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>License Categories</i>	<i>Approved Credit Hours</i>
2021-107	International School of Well Drilling	Basic Geology	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD, PI0, API (not WCI, AWC)	1.0
2021-108	International School of Well Drilling	Groundwater Basics	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD, PI0, API (not WCI, AWC)	1.0
2021-109	International School of Well Drilling	Well Development	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD, PI0, API (not WCI, AWC)	1.0
2021-110	International School of Well Drilling	Well Rehabilitation I	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD, PI0, API (not WCI, AWC)	1.0
2021-111	International School of Well Drilling	Well Rehabilitation II	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD, PI0, API (not WCI, AWC)	1.0
2021-112	International School of Well Drilling	Well Abandonment	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD, PI0, API (not WCI, AWC)	1.0
2021-113	International School of Well Drilling	Geothermal Heating & Cooling I	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD	1.0
2021-114	International School of Well Drilling	Geothermal Heating & Cooling II	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD	1.0
2021-115	International School of Well Drilling	Aquifer Storage Recovery	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD, PI0, API (not WCI, AWC)	1.0
2021-116	International School of Well Drilling	Drilling Safety	Online	Continuous	MWD, MGD, MSD, JWD, JGD, JSD, WRO, AWD, PI0, API (not WCI, AWC)	1.0

C. Violations and Complaints- General Discussions

Anonymous complaint of work

The Board received a handwritten letter and business card in an envelope with no return address. The letter noted the individual on the business card was “doing jobs on his own with an apprentice plumbing license” and asked if this was legal. The individual on the business card has an active Apprentice Pump Installer license and is sponsored by a licensed Pump Installer. As the mail contained no contact information for Board staff’s response, the Board requested the letter be placed in the apprentice’s file without further action.



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Complaint against well drilling company

The Board received a complaint from a property owner that a well drilling company did not adequately respond to a water outage in April 2020; the outage occurred in a well drilled in April 2018 that experienced pump failure previously in December 2018. The complainant spoke with John Boris, Robert Peoples, and Dee Settar, and provided details by email. The complainant's concerns were:

- (1) the well and pump were incorrectly installed, April 2018;
- (2) pump and control specifications were not received, December 2018;
- (3) the pump installer was not properly licensed, December 2018; and
- (4) the driller did not trouble shoot the failure properly, April 2020.

Dee Settar solicited a response from the well drilling company, who responded:

- (1) April 2018: well drilled before structure completed; complainant instructed to install specified pressure tank correctly sized for well pump;
- (2) December 2018: site visit for pump failure; driller found specified tank was not installed and an incorrectly sized (too small) tank was installed by others, which resulted in pump failure; driller again informed complainant to install specified tank to prevent future pump failure; and
- (3) April 2020: site visit for pump failure; driller found the same (too small) pressure tank still connected, which resulted in pump failure and voided pump warranty.

The well drilling company submitted the well application and permit to the Board, along with names and licenses of drillers and pump installation supervisor.

The Board also discussed details of the complainant's email regarding a valve installed by others which may also have contributed to pump failure. The Board agreed this is a civil/ contractual matter and there is no evidence of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct while practicing well drilling that would constitute a violation of State regulations. The complainant and well drilling company will be notified of the Board's decision in writing.

Old Business

As the Board met remotely through video and teleconference due to the State of Emergency and was not comfortable meeting in closed session, the Board again did not discuss details from the December 2019 closed session. Dee Settar asked for a review of required actions relating to the two violations discussed during the December 2019 closed session and will begin to address as necessary.

Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry

Robert Peoples asked the Board Members how the drilling industry was impacted by the pandemic and State of Emergency. Mike Hall stated that some Eastern Shore County Health Departments were issuing permits only for emergency wells, which in turn delays other components of the building industry. Mike Hall will relay these concerns to John Boris, who has Approving Authority for all County Health Departments' Well and Septic programs in the State. The Board discussed the restrictions could be related to staffing issues or is a direct impact of the Governor's Executive Order that limits the State's field presence. Dave Kelly indicated the County Health Departments in the Western Region are routinely processing drilling permits. Chairman Hairston thanked the Board Members for sharing their experiences and expressed his wish for everyone to stay safe and hopes everyone can continue to work.

Adjournment

Larry Brenneman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brad Hartman seconded the motion. The motion passed at 10:52 a.m. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.