

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF WELL DRILLERS

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**Minutes of Open Meeting**  
**Wednesday October 28, 2020 @ 9:00 A.M.**  
**Video/Teleconference via Google Hangouts Meet**  
**Video Link:[meet.google.com/kyx-jbns-aux](https://meet.google.com/kyx-jbns-aux)**  
**Phone: +1 347-708-3156 PIN 520 978 947#**

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  
Larry Brenneman – Vice Chairman  
Brad Hartman  
Dave Kelly  
Mike Hall  
Heather Quinn – DNR  
Robert People – MDE

## **Staff Present**

Duane Johnson – Executive Director  
Dee Settar – Acting Division Chief  
John Boris – MDE, Wastewater Permits Program  
Gayatri Mostaghimi – Board Counsel

## **Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Chairman Hairston called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

## **Review and Adoption of Proposed**

Chairman Hairston presented the agenda for review and approval. A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Brad Hartman. The motion was approved with Chairman Hairston abstaining.

## **Review and Approval of Open Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Hairston presented the minutes of the August 26, 2020 open meeting for review and approval and asked for any modification. A motion to approve the meeting

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minutes with two modification was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Larry Brenneman.

The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Hairston abstaining.

### **Review of Closed Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Hairston presented the minutes of August 26, 2020 closed meeting for review and approval and asked for any modifications. A motion to approve the meeting minutes with no modifications was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Robert Peoples. The motion was approved with Chairman Hairston abstaining.

### **Board Chair Comments**

Chairman Hairston welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He asked that everyone remain safe and then asked Mr. Adam Santry from Allied Well Drilling Company to introduce himself and to share his presentation with the Board.

Mr. Santry said he was present to respond to a letter he received from Elaine Nolen dated 12/31/2019, and that he disagrees with some of the assertions made in the letter related to violations. He said he wanted shed some light on them and indicated that Calvert County Health Department has rescinded a number of those violations. Two areas of concerns he wanted to talk about were well tags and completion reports. Mr. Santry, said since his master well driller was notified that tags were missing his company put safeguards in place to ensure that these things don't happen again, such as; photo documentation for example.

The other issue Mr. Santry wanted to talk about was completion reports. He did not understand how the Board was presented with the reports since they were not violations. He said for the 26 years they have been in business they always turned in completions reports. The violations were not handed out by sanitarians but by clerical staff, and Allied was not notified until six months after the fact. Mr. Santry said Allied is waiting to hear back from Calvert County about rescinding the seven violations. and Mr. his company is doing everything possible to be in compliance and fix everything that was at fault. Mike Hall said from the Board review point it just seem like the Board was getting a lot of violations from your company, but it looks like your company has put safeguards in place going forward. He said the Board takes violations

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seriously and thanked Mr. Santry for coming in to talk to the Board.

## Report from the Executive Director

Revenue and Expenditures – As of September 30, 2020

a. Appropriation FY 2021	\$118,670.00
Expenses	\$14,545.98
Revenue	\$1,475.00

Revenue and Expenditures – As of August 31, 2020

Appropriation FY 2020	\$114,663.00
Expenses	\$10,091.82
Revenue	\$700.00

b. October 7, 2020 exam results:

# pass	3
# fail	6
% pass	33
% failed	66

### **Passed Exam:**

Kevin Kersh - Master Well Driller-Geotechnical  
Cody Kershner - Water Conditioner Installer  
Shane Taylor - Apprentice Well Driller

A motion to approve everyone who passed the exam with a grade of 70 and above was made by Robert Peoples and seconded by Dave Kelly. The motion was approved with one abstention.

C. DJ Shannahan, President, Sharp Water Culligan gave a presentation on what training options his company could provide to the Board. He said what prompted

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this presentation is that he recently retook the Water Conditioner Installer exam and found:

- No recommendation for study materials; only 1-page listing exams topics
- No questions related to current health-impacting contaminants
- Outdated technology
- No reference to salt/water efficiency innovation that protect the environment

Mr. Shannahan said his company could offer two training module online:

1. An advance module that would focus on advanced treat sizing, water softener efficiency design, designing mixed-bed systems, aeration and reaction kinetics and solubility concepts
2. Service module that would focus on troubleshooting POU & POE systems and Built-in field practice.

Mr. Shannahan said the goal of the training would consist of:

1. Knowledge of drinking water regulations
2. Focus on properly identifying water contaminants
3. Documented practical experience
4. An emphasis on ethical business practices
5. Systems installed to appropriate codes
6. Correctly size equipment

Mr Shannahan said if the Board would consider up-dating their Water Conditioner Installer exam they can offer experience and knowledgeable partners at no cost to the Board. The Board said they would seek guidance from the Board Counsel as to how to move forward on this idea of modifying or updating the exams.

Mike Hall suggested the matter should be looked into. Hahns Hairston suggested adding this topic the November meeting. Dee Settar she thought this presentation was

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necessary for the Board to hear because she felt any training improvement on the drinking water side would be beneficial to the regulated water suppliers that many on the Board works with. Heather Quinn asked if there is a task force that would look at modifying the exam Hahns Hairston said “Yes, it’s the Board”.

John Boris suggested that the Board look at the Water Conditioning Installer exam and determine what needs changing. Gaya Mostaghimi asked if she could get an exam to look a. Robert Peoples said that is not typically what the Board does. Mike Hall suggested getting DJ Shannahan’s exams to use as a template for updating the Board exams. Hahns Hairston asked if the Board should look at exams in addition to the Water Conditioner Installer exam. The Board decided to meet in person in the near future to review all the exams.

### **Meeting & Exam Schedule**

Duane Johnson mentioned that MDE expects to telework until spring 2021 and that he is not sure when the Board will be able to meet in person. He said the Board needs to start working on the CY 2021 Meeting Schedule - as well as the CY2021 Exam Schedule, since it is almost November and both need to be posted on the website. The Board decided to keep the exam schedule every other month and to continue with virtual meetings for the next six months.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Qualification of Exam Applicants**

Duane Johnson read a brief description of the qualifications for each of the eight exam applicants recommended:

- Two applicants will take the appropriate examination and
- Six applicants must provide additional documentation such as; letters of good standing, time requirements and applicable experience to take the requested exam.

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Mike Hall suggested the Board look at what options they have for changing the regulations that pertain to exam qualifications. Duane will send Gaya an email concerning this. Hahns suggested ending application approvals with conditions. Heather Quinn suggested adding extra columns on the spreadsheet for employers and experience.

Robert Peoples made a motion for two applicants to be qualified to take the examination Brad Hartman seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.

Robert Peoples made a motion for two applicants to be qualified to take the examination Brad Hartman seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.

### **B. Review and discussion of Continuing Education requests:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name of Course</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>License Categories</b>	<b>Recommended Hours</b>
Milby	Water Treatment Advanced	Online	10/20/2020	Treatment & drillers	7.5
Milby	Water Treatment Basic	Online	10/21/2020	Treatment & drillers	7.5
MCET	Chemical Treatment	College State Wide/online	Various	Treatment & drillers	7.0
MCET	Hypochlorite Disinfection	College State Wide/ online	Various	Treatment & drillers	7.0
MCET	Water Filtration	College State Wide/ online	Various	Treatment & drillers	7.0
National Ground Water Association	NGWA Groundwater Week	Online	12/8/20-12/11/20	All	Max 19.25
National Drilling Association	Virtual Training Day	Online	11/9/2020	Drillers only	6.0
Baroid Industrial	Drilling for Water Wells and	Salisbury, MD	11/13/20	Drillers only	10.0

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Drilling Products	Related Drilling Industry				
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A motion to approve the courses for the hours and licensees types indicated on the chart above was made by Heather Quinn and seconded by Robert Peoples. The motion passed with one abstention.

## **Old Business**

Duane Johnson mentioned that Delaware Tech is repeating several classes in the fall by way of a remote platform and wanted to know if previously approved classes are from December 2019 courses are still being approved for future dates. The Board agreed that the courses should be approved for the future. Dee Settar asked if we should we ask Del Tec to confirm what courses they are offering so that we can update the website. Heather Quinn said yes and to ask are if they are offering certificates to verify attendance.

## **Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry**

John Boris talked about some recurring construction issues he noticed pertaining to wells. He said he is noticing a large amount of wells collapsing and wanted to get some advice from the Board to pass along. Hahns told John he should get an opinion from the well drillers on the Board and not the Board. Mike Hall offered having an off the record discussion with John about this issue.

## **BOARD VOTE TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

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**CLOSED SESESSION:** Pursuant to General Provisions Article (“GP”), § 3-305(b), on motion by Mike Hall, seconded by Dave Kelly, the Board members approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston to move into a closed session on October 28, 2020 at 1:09 p.m., for the purpose of complying with certain provisions of the Open Meeting Act.

Specifically, for the Board to review and approve August 26, 2020 Closed Meeting Minutes and to discuss Continuing Education Units with Counsel in closed session pursuant to the General Provision Article (“GP”) as stated below:

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GP § 3-305(b) (2) - To protect the privacy and reputation of the applicant;  
GP § 3-305(b) (7) - To obtain legal advice on options in a confidential matter;  
GP§ 3-305(b)(8)-To consult with staff and others about potential litigation in a confidential matter;

During the closed meeting, the following Board members were present: Chairman Hahns Hairston, Vice-Chairman Larry Brenneman, Brad Hartman, Dave Kelly, Mike Hall, Heather Quinn and Robert Peoples. Others present during the closed meeting were: Duane Johnson, Dee Settar and Gayatri Mostaghimi.

Board members moved to approve the August 26, 2020 Closed Meeting Minutes with one abstention by Hahns Hairston

A motion to conclude the closed session was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Brad Hartman. Motion passed with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

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### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brad Hartman and seconded by Robert People. The motion passed at 1:18 p.m. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.