

**Open Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 26, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M.**  
**Video/Teleconference via Google Hangouts Meet**  
**Video Link: [meet.google.com/mrz-jtzn-pfr](https://meet.google.com/mrz-jtzn-pfr)**  
**Phone: + 1617-675-4444 PIN: 564 092 381 3748 #**

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. Therefore, the May 26, 2021 Open Meeting was held by videoconference.

**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  
Heather Quinn – DNR  
Robert Peoples -MDE

**MDE Staff Present**

Duane Johnson – Executive Director  
Gayatri Mostaghimi – Board Counsel  
Dee Settar – MDE, Water Supply Program  
John Boris – MDE, Wastewater Permits

**Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Chairman Hahns Hairston called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Review and Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

Chairman Hairston presented the agenda for review and approval. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Brad Hartman. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

**Board Chairman Comments**

Chairman Hahns Hairston welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Review and Approval of April 28, 2021 meeting minutes**

Chairman Hairston presented the minutes from the April 28, 2021 open meeting for review and approval and asked for any modifications. Mike Hall made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Larry Brenneman. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

**Executive Director Comments**

**a. Draft Revenue and Expenditures**

Duane Johnson said April revenue is \$21,875.00. He said expenditures are pending fiscal submission and he will present the final report at the June meeting.

**b. 2021 License Renewals Update**

Duane Johnson said he received about 338 renewal applications and that of those about 165 applicants need to provide additional documentation, 138 licenses were mailed, and about 35 renewal applications still needed to be processed.

**New Business**

● **Training Courses for Approval**

**May 2021 CEU Training Courses Approval**

	Organization	Course Name	Location	Dates	License Category	Rec. Hrs.	Cycle?
2021-156	EWQA	2021 Maryland Spring Training	Fredrick, MD	May 20-2021	* All Drillers * All WCI * All PI	Max 6 hrs. + 0.5 hr. for attendance	2021 or 2023 (only one renewal cycle)
2021-157	PGWA	2020 Winter Conference	Virtual	Jan 23-24-2020	* All Drillers * All WCI * All PI	Max 9 hours + 1 hr. per day for attendance	2021
2021-158	West Virginia Water Well Drillers Association	Virtual Conference 2021	Virtual	June 10, 2021	* All Drillers * All WCI * All PI	Up to 5 hrs.	2023

There was some discussion around extra CEU hours for attending regional and state conferences. It was decided to give one extra hour for attending state conferences and a half hour for attending regional conferences. The Board agreed that classes taken in May, one month before the beginning of the renewal cycle would count towards the attendees twenty CEUs. Dave Kelly asked if applicants from other states should be required to prove conference attendance like Maryland applicants do.

Larry Brenneman made a motion to approve the above training courses. Brad Hartman seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.

**Industry Correspondence/State of the Industry**

● **Online Permitting Capabilities**

Larry Brenneman said he sent a letter to Senator Edwards asking for assistance with online permitting. Larry also asked that well abandonment be addressed.

Dee Settar gave an update on her April 29, 2021 meeting with Greg Bush, Deputy Director of Water Supply Administration concerning online permitting. Dee said she had another meeting on May 3, 2021 with Maryland Department of Health which Robert Peoples and Greg Bush attended about who is going to manage the data and how it will be used by twenty-five different agencies, including MDE and Maryland Department of Health. Dee said the conversation ended with evaluating online permitting on a small scale to meet driller requests to submit electronic data, and on a bigger scale for land-use management regarding wells and septic.

John Boris said getting data from the county health departments has been a challenge. He said the next discussion will be with the county health departments who are having a directors meeting soon.

Robert Peoples asked Dee if she received any update from the Maryland Department of Health. Dee Settar said nothing specific to the well permitting discussion of interest to the Board. Heather Quinn asked how data is managed or controlled by each environmental health department. Robert Peoples said it looks like MDH will be leading it. There was some discussion about who will be funding this, the counties or the state.

Dee Settar asked the drillers on the Board what their end goal is, how would online permitting make their job easier and allow them to improve their industry. Larry Brenneman said he would like to see it run like Pennsylvania and West Virginia where everything is done online. Mike Hall said everything in Delaware and Virginia is done online also and that the only thing they get in the mail is the tag number. Dee said out of the region it looks like Maryland is the only state that does not have online permitting. John Boris said West Virginia is probably the closest to Maryland in terms of challenges. He said he would reach out to his contacts to get more information on how they handle permitting.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dave Kelly to go into closed session at 11:01 a.m. Heather Quinn seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston. A motion was made by Dave Kelly to adjourn the open meeting at 11:02 a.m. The motion was seconded by Brad Hartman and approved with one abstention by Hahns Hairston.