

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF WELL DRILLERS

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**Minutes of Open Meeting  
MDE Serve Conference Room  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230  
March 27, 2019**

## **Board Members Present**

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

## **Staff Present**

Elaine Nolen – Executive Director  
Neil Winner – MDE, Water Supply Program  
Ellen Cohill, Esq. – Board Counsel  
Naomi Howell – MDE, Wastewater Permits Program  
John Boris – MDE, Wastewater Permits Program

## **Guests**

Chris Blanchet

## **Board Members Absent**

Hahns Hairston – Chairman  
Mike Hall

## **Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Vice-Chairman Larry Brenneman called the meeting to order in the MDE Serve Conference Room at 9:05 AM.

## **Review and Adoption of Proposed Meeting Agenda**

Vice-Chairman Brenneman presented the agenda for review and approval and asked for any modifications. A motion to approve the proposed meeting agenda with modifications was made by Heather Quinn and seconded by Dave Kelly. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

## **Review of Meeting Minutes**

Vice-Chairman Brenneman presented the minutes of the December 19, 2018 meeting for review and approval and asked for any modifications. A motion to approve the meeting minutes with a modification was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Brad Hartman. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

## **Board Chair Comments**

Vice-Chairman Brenneman welcomed attendees to the meeting and asked for introductions.

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## Director's Report

a. Revenues and Expenditures – As of October 31, 2018

Appropriation FY 2018	\$111,179.00
Expenses	\$ 66,986.59
Revenue	\$ 19,400.00

b. Elaine Nolen provided the following update on the current renewal applications received: 91 active status and 9 inactive as of March 26. 54 licenses are ready to print. The format of the new license form was reviewed and discussion centered on the suggestion that a credit card size section would be beneficial as it will fit in licensees' wallets.

c. The current commission membership has been updated and is posted on the Board website.

d. In his January 14, 2019 letter to Senator Edwards, Secretary Grumbles indicates that Maryland Department of the Environment recognizes the benefits of and is in support of online permitting and well completion reports.

e. New bills

a. HB1114, State Board of Well Drillers – Fee Setting, Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation has had its third reading. If this passes, licensing fees will increase beginning in FY2020 in order to cover Board expenditures.

b. HB1134, Getting Trades Back in the Classroom – as this bill is not directly related to drilling or environmental issues, Elaine Nolen will keep an eye on the status of this and provide updates as available.

## New Business

a. February 6, 2019 exam results:

# pass	6
# fail	4
% pass	60%
% fail	40%
Average Grade	78%

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March 6, 2019 exam results:

# pass	11
# fail	2
% pass	85%
% fail	15%
Average Grade	73%

A motion to approve everyone who passed with a grade of 70 and above for test dates February 6 and March 6, 2019 was made by Robert Peoples and seconded by Brad Hartman. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

b. Review and discussion of Continuing Education requests:

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name of Course</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Recommended Hours</b>
<b>1</b>	MCET	ATSSA Flagger certification Training	Hughesville, MD	2/14/2019	4.0
<b>2</b>	MCET	OSHA 10 Hour Construction	Hughesville, MD	3/7-14/19	10.0
<b>3</b>	MCET	Excavation Safety – Trenching and Shoring	Hughesville, MD	3/28/2019	7.0
<b>4</b>	MCET	Apprentice Well Driller Exam Prep	Baltimore, MD	5/8/2019	6.0
<b>5</b>	Maryland Rural Water	Maryland Geology and Well Drilling, Design and Maintenance	Ocean City, MD	3/13/2019	4.0
<b>6</b>	MCET	Chlorination Technology	Cumberland, MD	4/11/2019	7.0
<b>7</b>	MCET	Safe Drinking Water Act – Federal Regulations	Elkton, MD	4/9/2019	7.0
<b>8</b>	MCET	Hypochlorite Disinfection	Frederick, MD	3/13/2019	7.0
<b>9</b>	MCET	Arsenic in Drinking Water	Frederick, MD	5/9/2019	7.0
<b>10</b>	MCET	Water Treatment Chlorine Use and Safety	Salisbury, MD	5/29/2019	7.0
<b>11</b>	NGWA - National Groundwater Association	Groundwater Week	Las Vegas, NV	12/3 - 12/6/2018	Credit given for technical sessions attended, sign-off required
<b>12</b>	EWQA - Eastern Water Quality Association	What is in My Water and Where Did it Come From?	Kalahari Conference Center Pocono Manor, PA	9/20/2018	7.0

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<b>13</b>	EWQA - Eastern Water Quality Association	The Basics of Ion Exchange	Kalahari Conference Center Pocono Manor, PA	9/20/2018	1.0
<b>14</b>	EWQA - Eastern Water Quality Association	Chlorine chloramines and other Disinfectants	Kalahari Conference Center Pocono Manor, PA	9/20/2018	1.0
<b>15</b>	EWQA - Eastern Water Quality Association	Advanced Ion Exchange – Ion Selective Resin and More Complex Contaminant Reduction	Kalahari Conference Center Pocono Manor, PA	9/21/2018	1.0
<b>16</b>	EWQA - Eastern Water Quality Association	Proper Sample Collecting & Chain of Custody	Kalahari Conference Center Pocono Manor, PA	9/19/2018	1.0
<b>17</b>	PGWA - Pennsylvania Ground Water Association	Pennsylvania Driller Conference	Grantville, PA	1/24 - 25/2019	Up to 9.5
<b>18</b>	NDA - National Drilling Association	Mid-Atlantic Virginia Spring Training Day	Stafford, VA	4/5/2019	5.0
<b>19</b>	Franklin Electric and DAB Water Technology	Water Pressure Seminar	Cockeysville, MD	3/23/2019	5.0
<b>20</b>	Maryland Rural Water	Membrane Filtration	Frederick, MD	3/6/2019	4.0
<b>21</b>	Battelle	International Symposium on Bioremediation and Sustainable Environmental Technologies	Baltimore, MD	4/15-18/2019	Credit given for technical sessions attended, sign-off required
<b>22</b>	Eichelbergers	Excavation and Trenching Awareness	Mechanicsburg, PA	4/1-4/26/2019 7/8-26/2019 10/14-11/1/2019	3.0
<b>23</b>	Eichelbergers	Damage Prevention Awareness	Mechanicsburg, PA	4/1-4/26/2019 10/7-25/2019	4.0
<b>24</b>	Eichelbergers	Drilling Safety Awareness	Mechanicsburg, PA	4/1-4/26/2019 7/8-26/2019 9/16-27/2019	3.0

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				11/4- 15/2019	
<b>25</b>	Eichelbergers	Excavation and Trenching Competent Person	Mechanicsburg, PA	6/17-7/3/19	6.0
<b>26</b>	Milby/Baroid	Drilling Applications for Water Wells and Related Drilling Industry	Elkridge VFD	4/6/2019	6.0
<b>27</b>	MCET	Concepts of Drinking Water Treatment	Baltimore, MD	5/23/2019	7.0
<b>28</b>	MCET	Introduction to Membrane Filtration and Fluoridation Technologies	Hughesville, MD	3/12/2019	7.0

A motion to approve the courses/events for the hours indicated on the chart above was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Robert Peoples. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

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

The first topic of discussion was field examinations. The Board conducted field exams in the past and the applicant's final exam score was the average of the two scores, the field exam and the written exam. The fact that there are persons who are highly skilled in operating drilling equipment but are unable to become licensed because they test poorly on written exams was generally agreed to be a problem. The possibility of having field exams available for applicants who fail the written exam a number of times was discussed. Elaine Nolen will contact the North Carolina state representative who conducts well drilling exams to get information on their process.

The second topic was the suggestion of substantially increasing the initial fee for Master Well Drillers. The meeting guest suggested that this would serve the purpose of protecting the industry by assuring that new licensees take seriously the responsibility of becoming a Master Well Driller.

The last topic of discussion was the currently required testing parameters for real estate transactions. It was generally agreed that the parameters tested to meet the requirements for real estate transactions are not useful in determining the water quality. It was generally agreed that everyone is concerned about water quality but the current testing requirements are not protective.

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## **Violations and Complaints**

A motion to go into Administrative Function for the discussion of violations and complaints was made by Dave Kelly and seconded by Heather Quinn. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Review and discussion of violations/complaints:

Seven new violations were reviewed and discussed. Three of those violations have been resolved and two of those resulted in no Board action. Four violations result in a letter to the licensee and one requires follow up with county health department.

Five new complaints were discussed. Four are contractual matters and have been resolved. Elaine Nolen will follow up with the complainants. The fifth is in process and updates will be provided as they become available.

New information on a previous violation was discussed. The investigation is ongoing.

A motion to come out of Administrative Function in order to continue the meeting was made by Dave Kelly, seconded by Heather Quinn. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Heather Quinn and seconded by Robert Peoples. The motion passed at 12:37 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.