



STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:
Thursday, June 16, 2022 At 10:00 A.M
Virtual Video Conference Meeting via Google Hangouts

MISSION OF THE MARYLAND BOARD OF WATERWORKS & WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS

The Treatment Systems that provide drinking water for our citizens and handle the wastes generated by our daily activities play an important role in protecting Public Health and the Environment of Maryland. Through the Certification Program established by State Law, the “Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators” sets the education, experience and examination standards for Operators and Superintendents who work in these vital systems.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jay Price	Sanitary Commission; Board Chair
Benjamin Thompson	County Government; Board Vice-Chair
Rosann Ndebumado	Municipal Government (arrived @10:28 am)
Doug Abbot	Water Supervision
Ed Hogan	Industrial Superintendents
Bruce Darner	Agriculture; WWOA Liaison
Joseph Wright	Maryland Environmental Service
Hiram Tanner	Public-At-Large
Eric Dutrow	Public-At-Large
Connie Luffman	Wastewater Supervision
Tony Sierra	MDE - ETAD Engineer

LIASONS, GUEST & STAFF PRESENT

Dee Settar	Board Secretary
Jennifer Bowman	Board Counsel
Pamela Franks	Board Staff
Martin Fuhr	Board Staff
Victoria Arbaugh	Board Staff
Tara Jones	Liaison - MCET
Scott Harmon	Liaison- MRWA
Bill Shreve	Liaison- TRE Committee
Bradley Crin	Guest- Reciprocity Applicant, DPW City of Frederick
Susan Springer	Guest-DPW City of Frederick
Tracey Coleman	Guest- DPW City of Frederick

01. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Jay Price called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Roll Call was done by Victoria Arbaugh, Board Staff. The Board meeting was conducted online using Google Meet.

02. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA

Board Members reviewed the June 16, 2022 Draft Agenda. Ben Thompson moved to adopt the proposed meeting agenda with amendments. Bruce Darner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Jay Price abstaining.

03. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT MAY 19, 2022 OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Board members reviewed the draft minutes and made several changes. Bruce Darner made a motion to adopt the minutes with changes. Joe Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Jay Price abstaining.

04. BOARD CHAIR'S COMMENT & GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chair Jay Price opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and contributing to the work of the Board. He asked all guests to introduce themselves. Brad Crin advised that he was attending for his application for the City of Frederick. Tracy Coleman and Susan Springer from the City of Frederick both attended in support of Mr. Crin.

05. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Martin Fuhr presented two applications for Reciprocity.

Brad Crin

Martin presented the reciprocity application for Mr. Brad Crin who attended with coworkers Susan Springer and Tracy Coleman. Mr. Crin sought reciprocity from the State of California for a Maryland Wastewater 5A certification to work at the City of Frederick, Maryland. After presenting Mr. Crin's work history and qualifications, Martin recommended awarding the Wastewater 5 Certificate, but suggested that more information was needed to confidently award the advanced treatment portion of the certification. Ed Hogan agreed and made a motion to accept Martin's recommendation, and award a Wastewater 5 Certification, but wait for a letter from Mr. Crin's prior employer before awarding the Wastewater "A". Doug Abbott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the Board Chair abstaining.

Roger Slora

Martin Fuhr presented the application for Roger Slora. Mr. Slora applied for both Wastewater Treatment 5 and Water Treatment 4 Certificates. After presenting Mr. Slora’s qualifications, Martin recommended that he be awarded the Wastewater 5 Certification, but not the Water Treatment 4 Certificate. Mr. Slora provided no details regarding water treatment experience, but he advised Martin his knowledge was limited in that area. Bruce Darner agreed with Martin and made a motion to accept Martin’s recommendation. Ed Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the Board Chair abstaining.

06. BOARD STAFF’S REPORTS

A. Revenue & Expenditures Update

Martin Fuhr presented the figures for December of 2021 and January, February, March and April of 2022. He explained the Unreconciled Revenue \$20,231.00 and Unreconciled Cumulative Revenue of \$170,783.00 for May 31, 2022. After the presentation, Martin opened the floor to inquiry and comment. The Board had no questions or comments.

FY2022 Appropriations	\$390,093.00
Reconciled Cumulative Revenue as of April 30, 2022	\$150,552.00
Reconciled Cumulative Expenses as of April 30, 2022	\$182,048.12
Encumbrance as of April 30, 2022	\$40,752.23

B. Board Initiatives & Inquiries

i. Emailed Certificate Update

Martin Fuhr briefed the Board on the fact that MDE has started sending certificates via email. Victoria Arbaugh noted that it was very popular and well received. She asked all Board Members to remind staff to check the “email certificate” box on the updated renewal application to receive an emailed copy as opposed to waiting for it to arrive via USPS. Martin agreed that it was very well received in his experience. Ben Thompson inquired why MDE was not requiring all certificates be issued via email. Martin Fuhr responded that it was due to an accessibility issue since internet is not free and not all persons have equal access to the technology. Board counsel also advised that there were legal issues and that accessibility for all must be built into the process. Ben Thompson and Jay Price concurred that the Board should revisit the notion of requiring certifications be sent via email in 2023.

ii. Online Payment & Applications Update

Martin Fuhr briefed the Board by advising that Board Staff and WSP Accountant Margo Falahee-Cook will continue to work with IT and the Lead Permit Division and IT towards adjusting existing software to contemplate the processes of WWSO Board. They continue to work towards providing a streamlined process and intend to officially start the build of the system by the end of the year.

iii. Pending “Email Blast”

Martin Fuhr confirmed that an email blast was sent advising utilities of the improvements to the web page including six (6) months of renewal applications and lists of active operators and applications received.

iv. Short Course Update

Martin Fuhr advised that the Short Course certification exam was very popular. He noted that approximately forty (40) of the new Wastewater 5, A and 5A Exams were given after the Short Course. He also noted that a few operators also sat for the recently updated Water Treatment 3 Exam and he was looking forward to see how operators performed.

07. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD LIAISONS AND GUESTS

Tara Jones (MCET) – Advised that the EARN Program will expire on September 30, 2022. Program participants self-reported a 64% pass rate for exams. She hopes to run some incarnation of the EARN and the new Apprenticeship Program concurrently. MCET is currently working on curriculum development, and they are excited about how things are evolving. She explained that there will be a gap before the program starts in January of 2023 which gives them time to determine if it is feasible to run both programs.

Bruce Darner (WWOA) – Advised that WWOA had awarded 16 TriCon scholarships to applicants from utilities in several different counties including Charles, Garrett, St. Mary’s, Worcester, Wicomico and many municipalities. He asked Board Members to continue to spread the word as many more scholarships are still available.

Scott Harmon (MRWA) – Advised that he just returned from Anaheim Conference and gained knowledge of interesting training methods for lead and copper. Scott also noted that he will be doing a PFAS Seminar on 6/22/2022 and everyone is invited. He additionally, reminded Board members and attendees to look into attending the National Conference to be held at the National Harbor from September 26 through 29 of this year.

Bill Shreve (TRE Committee) – Advised that Board that he appreciated the efforts of all who participated in a very successful Short Course and that he was soon headed to Florida for vacation. He also encouraged everyone to attend the National Conference Rural Water from September 26 through 29 of this year at the National Harbor.

Jay Price for (CWEA) – Advised that the Short Course was a success but that there were staffing and internet connectivity issues at the facility. He noted that attendees enjoyed the meter madness contest,

water trivia and karaoke. However, he did send a letter to Washington College advising them of the issues and hopes they can be resolved and the Short Course can return sometime in the future. Next year the Short Course will be held at Mt. St. Mary's College. He also reminded everyone that Tri-Con is returning to Ocean City and it will be a great conference.

Dee Settar (MDE) – Advised the Board on MDE's recent PFAS initiatives. The EPA recently issued an advisory memorandum and indicated that it will issue a final advisory by the end of year. Dee noted that the EPA's interim health advisory presented challenges since it is a substantial reduction from previously acceptable limits and there are difficulties in testing for the lower limits. At the present time, MDE is investigating the capacity and limitations in testing for PFAS prior to suggesting acceptable PFAS limits

for the State of Maryland. Dee also emphasized that the advisory levels are merely a suggestion and are not federally enforceable but, at some point, Maryland may wish to codify some acceptable levels within the State. MDE will email utilities regarding any new policies or procedures and also post updated information on PFAS on the webpage.

11. BOARD VOTE TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to General Provisions Article ("GP") § 3-305(b), on a motion made by Ben Thompson and seconded by Ed Hogan, the following Board members voted in favor to move into closed session on June 16, 2022 at 11:28 AM via Google Meet video/ teleconference for the purpose of complying with certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act: Ben Thompson, Doug Abbott, Rosann Ndebumado, Ed Hogan, Bruce Darner, Joseph Wright, Eric Dutrow, Connie Luffman and Tony Sierra. The Board Chair, Jay Price, abstained. The motion carried

12. ADJOURNMENT

Bruce Darner moved to adjourn the open meeting at 11:29 AM. The next meeting will be held on **July 21, 2022 Video Conference Meeting held via Google Meet.**

CALL TO ORDER AND PURPOSE OF CLOSED MEETING

With a quorum present, Chairman Jay Price called the meeting of the closed session to order at 11:35 AM to perform administrative functions, pursuant to the following provisions of GP § 3-305(b):

GP § 3-305(b)(2) - To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business

GP § 3-305(b)(7) - To consult with Board Counsel to obtain legal advice

During the closed meeting, the following Board members were present: Chairman Jay Price, Vice-Chairman Ben Thompson, Doug Abbott, Rosann Ndebumado, Ed Hogan, Bruce Darner, Eric Dutrow,

Connie Luffman and Tony Sierra. The following MDE staff were also present during the closed meeting: Jenn Bowman, Dee Settar, Pam Franks, Martin Fuhr, and Victoria Arbaugh. The following Board Members were not present: Hiram Tanner.

TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED MEETING

Board Members discussed the Wastewater 5, A and 5A Exam, proposed regulations and policy issues regarding Operator in Training supervision.

The June 16, 2022 Open Meeting Minutes were approved by the WWSO Board on July 21, 2022.