



STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:
Thursday, March 16, 2023 At 10:00 A.M
Virtual Video Conference Meeting via Google Hangouts

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3 MISSION OF THE MARYLAND BOARD OF WATERWORKS & WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS
4 The Treatment Systems that provide drinking water for our citizens and handle the waste generated by our
5 daily activities play an important role in protecting Public Health and the Environment of Maryland.
6 Through the Certification Program established by State Law, the “Board of Waterworks and Waste
7 Systems Operators” sets the education, experience and examination standards for Operators and
8 Superintendents who work in these vital systems.
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11 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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14 Jay Price Sanitary Districts; Board Chair; CSAWWA Liaison
15 Doug Abbott Water Supervision; Board Vice-Chair
16 Clark Howells Municipal Governments; CWEA Liaison
17 Ed Hogan Industrial Superintendents
18 Bruce Darner Agriculture; WWOA Liaison
19 Joseph Wright Maryland Environmental Service
20 Connie Luffman Wastewater Supervision
21 Eric Dutrow Public-At-Large
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24 **LIASONS, GUEST & STAFF PRESENT**

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27 Dee Settar Deputy Program Manager Water Supply (arrived @ 10:48 am)
28 Jennifer Bowman Board Counsel
29 Martin Fuhr Board Secretary
30 Pamela Franks Board Staff
31 Victoria Arbaugh Board Staff
32 Bill Shreve TRE Committee Liaison
33 Christopher Lawson Guest Applicant
34 Dana Hill Guest Applicant (arrived @ 10:13 am)
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37 **01. CALL TO ORDER**

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40 Board Chair Jay Price called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Roll Call was done by Victoria Arbaugh,
41 Board Staff. The Board meeting was conducted online using Google Meet.

42 **02. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA**

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45 Board Members reviewed the March 16, 2023 Draft Agenda. Bruce Darner moved to adopt the proposed
46 meeting agenda. Ed Hogan seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously with Board Chair
47 Jay Price abstaining.

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50 **03. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT FEBRUARY 16, 2023 OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

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53 Board members reviewed the draft February 16, 2023 open meeting minutes and made a series of edits
54 and changes. Joe Wright made a motion to adopt the edited minute. Bruce Darner seconded the motion.
55 The motion was carried unanimously with Board Chair Jay Price abstaining.

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58 **04. BOARD CHAIR’S COMMENT & GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

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61 Board Chair Jay Price opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and contributing to the
62 work of the Board. He wished all in attendance a Happy Women’s Month. He moved on to advise the
63 Board and guests of the passing of esteemed Board Member Hiram Tanner. Jay mourned not just a
64 valuable member of the industry but a friend. Board members echoed Jay’s thoughts with Bill Shreve
65 specifically noting his years of service to the Board and Bruce Darner noting his contributions to the water
66 community were valuable and will be missed. At this time, Jay Price asked all to take a moment of silence
67 in Hiram’s honor. The Board Chair then opened the floor to discussion and invited guests to introduce
68 themselves to the Board. Chris Lawson reciprocity applicant for introduced himself. The Board Chair
69 thanked him for attending and noted that it is very helpful when applicants attend so they can explain
70 important details to the Board.

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73 **05. BOARD STAFF’S REPORTS**

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76 **A. Revenue & Expenditure Report**

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78 Board Secretary Martin Fuhr presented the Revenue & Expenditure Report. He specifically provided the
79 Board with the reconciled figures for the past three (3) months and unreconciled figures February 28,
80 2023. The Board had no questions or comments.

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82	FY2023 Appropriations	\$376,189.00
83	FY2022 Appropriations	\$390,093.00
84	FY2021 Appropriations	\$286,702.00

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87	Cumulative Revenue as of December 31, 2022	\$ 84,825.00
88	Cumulative Revenue as of January 31, 2023	\$101,550.00
89	Cumulative Revenue (Unreconciled) as of February 28, 2023	\$116,250.00
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91	Encumbrance as of February 18, 2023	\$ 24,129.72

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94 **B. Board Initiatives & Inquiries**
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97 Martin discussed the Board vacancies and the need for recruitment of applicants. He also advised that he
98 was receiving a large number of applications for experience / education credit and reciprocity and asked
99 the Board if they would like for him to request / require attendance by applicants. The Board concurred
100 that would be helpful. At this time Martin also advised the Board that he had emailed the statistics by
101 exam question to the members of the Board. Jay Price advised that he never received them and asked
102 Martin to resend them at his convenience. Martin asked all the Board and Exam Committee members to
103 focus on those questions where 50% of more of test takers reported an incorrect answer. The Board had
104 no additional questions.
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107 **6. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**
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110 Martin Fuhr presented applications for both Dana Hill and Christopher Lawson.
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- 112 1.) Christopher Lawson is requesting reciprocity from Virginia to be both a water and wastewater
113 treatment operator in Maryland. Mr. Lawson has applied for Wastewater 5A, and Water Treatment
114 3 certification. Based upon Mr. Lawson’s experience the Board Staff recommended awarding the
115 certifications. The Board moved to grant Collections 2 and Distribution 1 certifications. A motion
116 was made by Bruce Darner and seconded by Doug Abbott. The motion passed with the Board
117 Chair abstaining.
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- 120 2.) Dana Hill is requesting reciprocity from the State of North Carolina. He is employed by the Corix
121 Group, where he is president of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Mr. Hill has applied for Wastewater 5A,
122 Collections 2, Water Treatment 3, and Distribution 1. His intention is to serve as operator in
123 responsible charge and fill in for local staff when needed. Based upon Mr. Hill’s experience, Board
124 Staff recommended he be granted Wastewater 5A Certification, Collection 2 and Distribution 1
125 Certification. After speaking with Mr. Hill, he would appreciate being awarded any class and
126 category the Board aligns with his experience and expertise. The Board moved to grant Collections
127 2 and Distribution 1 certifications. A motion was made by Joe Wright and seconded by Doug
128 Abbott. The motion passed with the Board Chair abstaining.
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132 **07. TRE COMMITTEE CURRICULUM REVIEW / APPROVAL**

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134 **March 8, 2023 Exam Committee Proposals**

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136 Martin Fuhr presented the TRE Committee’s Proposal for Approval / Denial of Course Credits to the
137 Board for review and approval. After a discussion of several courses with changes in credits granted and
138 change of credit from process to non-process, etc., the TRE Committee Proposal was amended. Bruce
139 Darner made a motion to adopt the TRE Committee Proposal with amendments and it was seconded by
140 Joe Wright. The motion passed unanimously with the Board Chair abstaining. Eric Dutrow noted that we
141 need to advise Scott Harmon of all changes to the TRE Proposal.

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143 **ETAD Special Request fir TRE Course Approval**

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145 Martin Fuhr submitted the request for emergency TRE Approval by MDE’s Engineering, Technical
146 Advice Division (ETAD) for a course being presented by the EPA. After review and discussion, it was
147 determined that the course would be approved for 2.75 hours of non-process credits for all Operators and
148 Superintendents. A motion to approve the amended request was made by Doug Abbott. It was seconded
149 by Joe Wright and the motion passed unanimously with the Board Chair abstaining.

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152 **08. OLD BUSINESS**

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154 **WPI / ABC Exam Statistic Reports**

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156 Martin Fuhr advised the Board that he had emailed the statistics by exam question to the members of the
157 Board and the members of the Exam Review Subcommittee. Martin asked all the Board and Exam
158 Committee members to focus on those questions where 50% of more of test takers reported an incorrect
159 answer. He advised the Board that he would follow up via email on a meeting date to discuss those
160 questions. The Board had no additional questions at this time.

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163 **09. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD LIAISONS AND GUESTS**

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165 **Bill Shreve (on behalf of MCET)** – Advised that Tara Jones would be leaving MCET to start work with
166 WSSC. He also advised that there were many complaints about lack of responsiveness and delays in
167 processing by the WWSO Board. Dee Settar advised that was aware of issues and working on managing
168 expectation by operators and updating technology for the Board to resolve such issues.

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170 **Bruce Darner (WWOA)** – Advised that WWOA just held a Main Body Meeting yesterday and held a
171 drawing to award scholarship to applicants from the Central, Eastern, Southern and Westerns Sections.
172 He suggested that MDE consider maintaining an “opt-in” list of licensed operators for employers, which
173 could ideally include a list of locations and capacities in which the operators are willing to work. Bruce
174 forwarded a copy of the form that is currently in use by the State of West Virginia as an example. The
175 Board consensus supports the implementation of a similar list if possible. Bruce will also check to see if
176 WWOA is willing / able to maintain such a list.

177 **Clark Howells (CWEA)** – Advised that the Fall Utility Conference may be postponed, and he will update
178 the Board as more information becomes available. He also advised that there are several webinars in the
179 works and reminded everyone to try to attend the May 4th Spring Meeting & Training where Brighton
180 Dam Tours are being offered. He asked everyone to please spread the news and encourage people to use
181 this great resource.

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183 **Jay Price (CSAWWA)** – Reminded everyone that the 74th Annual Short Course will be held from May
184 the 4th to the 9th of 2023 at Mount St. Mary’s College in Emmitsburg, MD. He advised that the deadline
185 to apply for need based scholarships ends on April 15, 2023 and advised everyone to spread the word to
186 register if interested.

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189 **10. BOARD VOTE TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

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191 Pursuant to General Provisions Article (“GP”) § 3-305(b), on a motion made by Bruce Darner seconded
192 by Ed Hogan, the following Board members voted in favor to move into closed session on February 16,
193 2023 at 11:29 AM via Google Meet video/ teleconference for the purpose of complying with certain
194 provisions of the Open Meetings Act: Doug Abbott, Clark Howells, Ed Hogan, Bruce Darner, Joseph
195 Wright, Eric Dutrow, and Connie Luffman. The Board Chair, Jay Price, abstained. The motion carried.

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198 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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200 Ed Hogan moved to adjourn the open meeting at 11:30 AM. The next meeting will be held on April 20,
201 2023, Video Conference Meeting held via Google Meet.

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204 **CALL TO ORDER AND PURPOSE OF CLOSED MEETING**

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206 With a quorum present, Chairman Jay Price called the meeting of the closed session to order at 11:36 AM
207 to perform administrative functions, pursuant to the following provisions of GP § 3-305(b):

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209 GP § 3-305(b)(2) - To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to
210 public business
211 GP § 3-305(b)(7) - To consult with Board Counsel to obtain legal advice

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213 During the closed meeting, the following Board members were present: Chairman Jay Price, Doug Abbott,
214 Clark Howells, Ed Hogan, Bruce Darner, Eric Dutrow, and Connie Luffman. The following MDE staff
215 were also present during the closed meeting: Jenn Bowman, Dee Settar, Pam Franks, Martin Fuhr, and
216 Victoria Arbaugh.

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218 **TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED MEETING:** Discussion of the Lonaconing Water System,
219 and potential disciplinary action against certified operators.

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