



**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2023 At 10:00 A.M**  
**Virtual Video Conference Meeting via Google Hangouts**

1 \*\*\*\*\*  
2 MISSION OF THE MARYLAND BOARD OF WATERWORKS & WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS  
3 The Treatment Systems that provide drinking water for our citizens and handle the wastes generated by  
4 our daily activities play an important role in protecting Public Health and the Environment of Maryland.  
5 Through the Certification Program established by State Law, the “Board of Waterworks and Waste  
6 Systems Operators” sets the education, experience and examination standards for Operators and  
7 Superintendents who work in these vital systems.  
8 \*\*\*\*\*

9  
10  
11 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

12  
13 Doug Abbott Water Supervision; Board Vice-Chair  
14 Clark Howells Municipal Government / CWEA Liaison  
15 Ed Hogan Industrial Superintendents  
16 Bruce Darner Agriculture; WWOA Liaison  
17 Eric Dutrow Public-At-Large  
18 Connie Luffman Wastewater Supervision  
19 Joe Wright Maryland Environmental Services

20  
21  
22 **BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

23  
24 Jay Price Sanitary Commission; Board Chair

25  
26  
27 **LIASONS, GUEST & STAFF PRESENT**

28 Martin Fuhr Board Secretary  
29 Jennifer Bowman Board Counsel  
30 Pamela Franks Board Staff  
31 Martin Fuhr Board Staff  
32 Victoria Arbaugh Board Staff  
33 Anthony Nwagwe MDE Engineering Technical Advice Division  
34 Bill Shreve TRE Committee Liaison  
35 Davina Yutzy Washington County Deputy Director of Water Quality  
36 Daniel Campbell Applicant for Reciprocity  
37 George Lattanzia Applicant for Superintendent

38  
39  
40  
41

42 **01. CALL TO ORDER**

43  
44  
45 Board Vice Chair Doug Abbott called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Doug explained that he would  
46 be officiating as Jay Price was not present. Doug explained that because Jay was no longer an employee  
47 at WSSC, he would no longer be serving on the Board in that capacity. Doug also expressed the deep debt  
48 of gratitude owed Mr. Price for his service and contributions to the WWSO Board. Everyone agreed with  
49 many stories about Mr. Price’s exemplary service being told by attendees. The Roll Call was then done  
50 by Victoria Arbaugh, Board staff. The Board meeting was conducted online using Google Meet.  
51

52  
53 **02. BOARD CHAIR’S COMMENT & GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

54  
55 Board Vice Chair Doug opened the meeting by thanking all in attendance. He introduced guest Davina  
56 Yutzy who is currently awaiting appointment to the Board. Davina provided her history in water to the  
57 Board and expressed her enthusiasm to serve on the Board. Doug then asked the remaining guests,  
58 applicants Daniel Campbell and Greg Lattanzia to introduce themselves. Mr. Lattanzia was attending the  
59 Board Meeting to obtain an explanation on why he is not yet eligible to be a Water Treatment 4  
60 Superintendent. Mr. Campbell attended in support of his application for a petition of reciprocity.  
61

62 At this point, the discussion was briefly diverted to the Wastewater 5A Exam. It was decided that the exam  
63 needed to be analyzed and reviewed as soon as possible. Ed Hogan made a motion to appoint Bill Shreve  
64 as Chair of the Exam Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Bruce Darner. The motion passed  
65 unanimously. At this point, Doug asked Board members to remain on agenda and added that it was in the  
66 best interest of the Board and guests to permit the applicants to be heard first and then address all other  
67 Board Business. There were no objections.  
68

69  
70 **03. Review of Applications Received**

71  
72 **a. Special Accommodation Request – Chad Lecates**

73  
74 Martin advised that he was postponing the presentation of this application in order to allow it to be  
75 reviewed by Counsel to ensure that no health or other privacy laws were violated.  
76

77 **b. Application for Reciprocity – Daniel Campbell**

78  
79 Martin presented the reciprocity application and supporting documents to the Board. Mr. Campbell  
80 requested Water Treatment 4 reciprocity based upon his prior experience in Tennessee, Kentucky, Arizona  
81 and California. He will be operating the Water Treatment Plant for the Town of Elkton, Maryland which  
82 draws surface water from Big Elk Creek. Martin closed by stating that based upon the information  
83 provided, Mr. Campbell has the experience required to become certified as a Maryland Water 4 Operator.  
84 He recommended that after interviewing Mr. Campbell, if it finds him qualified, the Board award the  
85 certification. Eric Dutrow agreed that Mr. Campbell certainly has the necessary skill set and experience.  
86

87 Doug Abbott asked the applicant about his employment status since it does require pending employment.  
 88 The applicant responded that his current employer already contracts with Elkton and that he, as an  
 89 employee, will be subject to working at the plant. After a brief discussion, the general consensus of the  
 90 Board was summarized by Bruce Darnier who made a motion to Approve the Board Staff Recommendation  
 91 Pending Documentation of Employment at the Town of Elkton Water WTP. Ed Hogan seconded the  
 92 motion and suggested that Martin simply issue the certificate of reciprocity upon receipt of the  
 93 documentation. The motion with amendment passed unanimously.

94  
 95 **c. Superintendent Application – George Lattanzia**  
 96

97 Mr. Lattanzia appeared before the WWSO Board to ask questions about the Superintendent certification  
 98 requirements. He specifically wanted to ask if he could take continuing education credits in lieu of college  
 99 courses to meet the requirements. He has 4 years of experience. Doug Abbott asked for clarification of his  
 100 concern since the statute indicates the requirement.  
 101

102 At this time Martin Fuhr presented the following statute tables for Water Treatment 4 Superintendent.  
 103

7 Whichever is longer (for applications received by the Board before the effective date of these regulations, see Regulation .06 of this chapter).

**Table 7**

**WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS**

A Class of Plants	B Class of Operators and Superintendents	C Authorized to Operate or Supervise Plants (Class)	D Operators				E Superintendents				
			1 Education Requirements	2 Maximum Education Substitution	3 Experience Requirements	4 Maximum Experience Substitution	1 Education Requirements	2 Maximum Education Substitution	3 Experience Requirements	4 Maximum Experience Substitution	
4	4	D, G, 1, 2, 3, and 4			5400 hours or 3 years <sup>7</sup>	1800 hours or 1 year <sup>3</sup>		2 years college <sup>4</sup>	2 years <sup>5</sup>	3600 hours or 2 years <sup>6</sup>	1800 hours or 1 year <sup>3</sup>

**Notes:**

- 1 Whichever is longer, years of experience is based on 2 hours/day operation.
- 2 Whichever is longer, years of experience is based on a 3.5 hours/day operation.
- 3 One year of college course work in science or engineering leading toward a degree, for 1 year of experience.
- 4 In science, engineering, or management leading toward a degree.
- 5 One year experience for 1 year college.
- 6 Experience obtained as provided in Regulation .06E of this chapter.
- 7 Whichever is longer (for applications received by the Board before the effective date of these regulations, see Regulation .06 of this chapter).

106  
 107  
 108 Martin explained to the Operator how additional credit could be granted based upon experience. Victoria  
 109 Arbaugh recommended the Operator follow up with both MCET and DelTech to see if his continuing  
 110 education courses can convert to college credits.  
 111

112  
 113 **04. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA**  
 114

115 Board Members reviewed the April 20, 2023 Draft Agenda and made amendments, including  
 116 postponement of the closed meeting to review minutes. Ed Hogan moved to adopt the proposed meeting  
 117 agenda with amendments. Joe Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.  
 118  
 119

120 **05. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT MARCH OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

121  
122 Martin Fuhr presented the draft minutes for review and adoption. After several audits, Bruce Darner made  
123 a motion to adopt the amended minutes. The motion was seconded by Joe Wright. The motion passed  
124 unananimously.

125  
126  
127 **06. BOARD STAFF’S REPORTS**

128  
129 **A. Board Appointment Update**

130  
131 Martin Fuhr explained that the seat for WSSC was open after Jay’s departure and that he would accept  
132 recommendations and applications for the position. On a positive note, MDE has nominated Anthony  
133 Nwagwe from ETAD for the open MDE seat. In addition, Bill Shreve is just awaiting confirmation of his  
134 re-appointment to the Board.

135  
136 **B. Revenue & Expenditures Update**

137  
138 The Board Secretary presented the figures for January, February and March of 2023. He highlighted the  
139 January and February Revenue & Expense Report to the Board and explained that the figures for March  
140 had not yet been confirmed by MDE Fiscal. After the presentation, Martin opened the floor to inquiry and  
141 comment. The Board had no questions or comments regarding the information that was reported.

142  
143

<b>FY22 Appropriations through June 30, 2023</b>	<b>\$376,189.00</b>
<b>Draft Cumulative Revenue as of March 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$130,450.00</b>
<b>Reconciled Cumulative Revenue as of February 28, 2023</b>	<b>\$116,250.00</b>
<b>Reconciled Cumulative Revenue as of January 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$101,550.00</b>
<b>Encumbrance as of March 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$20,883.64</b>

144  
145  
146  
147  
148

149 **C. Quarterly Exam Statistics**

150  
151 Martin Fuhr presented the prior 6 months of examination results statistics. He noted that the average  
152 passage rate continued to hover around 33% with the poorest results continuously being the Wastewater  
153 5A Exam. After the presentation of all examination results figures, Martin presented statistics on the  
154 number of exams given. He then opened the floor to inquiry and comment. The Board expressed concerns  
155 about the 5A and noted they had already voted Bill Shreve to lead the charge on that examination review.  
156 The Board had no other questions or comments regarding the information that was reported.



179 asked Martin to send her a memorandum requesting advice on how to enforce a 90-day, incomplete  
180 application, rejection policy. Joe Wright made a motion to forward a memorandum requesting advice of  
181 counsel on the issue. The motion was second by Ed Hogan and passed unanimously.  
182

183 **iv. Tara Jones Service on TRE Committee**  
184

185 Martin presented the Board with a suggestion that Tara Jones be asked to remain on the TRE  
186 Subcommittee in spite of her employer change from MCET to WSSC. Ed Hogan noted that anyone  
187 approved by the Board can serve on the Subcommittee. Eric agreed that was also his understanding of the  
188 proper policy. Bruce Darner filed a motion to invite Tara to continue serving. The motion was seconded  
189 by Ed Hogan and passed unanimously.  
190

191 **v. Scheduling Concerns: May Meeting at Wye River and the August Meeting**  
192

193 Martin Fuhr advised that there would be no internet connection to allow for remote attendance. As a result,  
194 it was decided that the May Meeting would be held virtually, and the Board would revisit an in-person  
195 meeting on the Eastern Shore at some time in the future. Upon the advice of Board Counsel, it was decided  
196 that the August Meeting would remain on the schedule and could be cancelled if not necessary.  
197

198 **vi. Discontinuance of the combined Wastewater 5A Examination.**  
199

200 Martin Fuhr presented the option of eliminating the combined Wastewater 5A Examination and only  
201 offering the 5 and A Exams individually. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that since many people  
202 do pass the 5A, it is more expensive to sit for both exams, and many operators still had interest in the  
203 combined exam: it should continue to be offered. Ed Hogan asked for a breakdown of the passage rates  
204 for the Wastewater 5A, the 5 and the A. Doug Abbott echoed his concern over the pass / fail rate. Martin  
205 advised that he had emailed that information but will resend.  
206

207  
208  
209 **07. OLD BUSINESS**  
210

211  
212 Martin advised that he had sent the WPI / ABC Exam Statistic Report to all Board Members individually.  
213 Martin advised that the Wastewater 5A Exam is under review. He noted that 1/3 of all questions on the  
214 5A Exam are answered incorrectly by 50% or more of test takers. He will be sending the information  
215 securely to all Board Member a second time for individual review. Ed Hogan asked when the Board would  
216 be voting for a new Chair. Martin responded that it needed to be done soon. Bill Shreve reminded the  
217 Board that general elections are customarily held in July and waiting until that time would allow for  
218 additional Board Members to be appointed.  
219

224 **08. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD LIAISONS AND GUESTS**

225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253

**Bruce Darner (WWOA)** – Advised that WWOA has very successful training but still needs more attendees. Scott gave a well-received class on Sludge and PFAD. He added that WWOA still had scholarships available, and they are trying to attract more applicants from Western Maryland. He advised that an application is available on the WWOA website for those who are interested.

**Clark Howells (CWEA)** – Clark advised that he is retiring from the City of Baltimore on May 1, 2023 and going to work at WSSC. He explained that he can make no current commitments to the Board until he confers with WSSC Management. Everyone thanked Clark for his service to the WWSO Board.

**Eric Dutrow (MRWA)** – MRWA is counting down to the conference from May 8th to the 11<sup>th</sup> this year in Ocean City, Md. They will be offering various training, an exam and a prep course prior to testing. He also advised that work on the Apprenticeship Program is progressing and close to being launched.

**Bill Shreve (TRE Committee / Reporting for MCET)** – Advised that Jane Pierce is still a good contact for Board purposes. He noted that MCET is still recruiting for Tara’s replacement. Bill taught a class at MCET last week and he will convey information to the Board as he receives it.

Martin thanked Doug for doing a great job of running the meeting at the last minute. Everyone agreed and thanked Doug for his efforts.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Bruce Darner moved to adjourn the open meeting at 11:36 PM. The motion was seconded by Ed Hogan. The next meeting will be held on **May 18, 2023 Video Conference Meeting held via Google Meet.**