



BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS

Open Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 16, 2025 - 10:00 am

Location: Video Conference via Google Meet

Link: meet.google.com/bob-gkey-egc

Phone: (US) +1 413-340-2402

PIN: 565 632 464#

Meeting attendance via videoconference. Access link and phone number available to the public via the Board's webpage.

A. Call To Order and Roll Call

B. Board Members

Doug Abbott	Waterworks Supervision – Board Chair
Bill Shreve	Public At Large: Board Vice-Chair
Ed Hogan	Industrial Superintendents
Bruce Darner	Agriculture: WWOA Liaison
Connie Luffman	Wastewater Supervision
Davinia Yutzy	County Government
Eric Dutrow	Public-At-Large
Joe Wright	Maryland Environmental Service
Sophia Oberton	Municipal Government
Anthony Nwagwe	Maryland Department of the Environment / Water Supply Division
Ben Thompson	Sanitary Commission

Liaisons, Staff, & Guests

Donna Dunlap	MRWA
Alex Rubin	Board Staff
Jenn Bowman	Office of the Attorney General
Nichole Rush	Office of the Attorney General
Pam Franks	Board Staff
Victoria Arbaugh	Board Staff
Martin Fuhr	Secretary of the Board
Dylan Droxler	Reciprocity Applicant
Sue Houghton	MRWA
Patty Shreves	MRWA

C. Board Chair Comments and Guest Introductions

Doug Abbott called a meeting to order at 10AM.

D. Review and Adoption of Proposed Meeting Agenda

Motion made by Ed Hogan to approve the Meeting Agenda, seconded by Anthony. Motion carried.



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E. Review and Adoption of Draft Previous Open Meeting Minutes

Motion made by BT To approve the Open meeting minutes as adjusted. Seconded by JW. Motion carried.

F. Board Initiatives and Inquiries

a. Communication Subcommittee

Joe brought up concerns over applications piling up. 35/60 applications. It was discussed meeting with the committee in order to try to address the applications piling up. Concerns about the regression. Discussion over the PSI Testing sites and fees. There will be further investigation.

Eric Addressed that he is still receiving complaints that operators are not getting their applications on time. Doug Abbott expressed that he experienced the same issues of getting applications in a timely manner. Taj was looped into the concerns. Taj addressed the concerns, he will be continuing to have discussions with staff to figure out the best methods of moving forward.

b. Water Treatment Classification Review Subcommittee

Joe Wright discussed the meeting with Pennsylvania and found it very insightful. Though there needs to be continued conversation to get more insight on the wastewater side.

G. New Business

a. Maryland Rural Water Apprenticeship Program

Patty Shreve and Sue Houghton presented. They feel that every 3 years is too long for the experience requirement. They petition to have a 2 years' experience in a federally registered equivalent be accepted.

The board asked questions and expressed concerns or thoughts on the matter.

The questions were things such as, (1) How are operators able to do 1v1 with those coming in under this program? (2) Why is there a concern of Temporary vs Full operator?

MRWA thinks it would help expedite the process.

The Board also had questions for MRWA including (1) Would the students do extra classes outside of the 40 hour work week?

The Board feels it seems to be along the lines of a regulation change and that would need to be a deeper discussion. They want to bring this up in the February meeting, Jen and Martin are going to bring this up as a referral and discuss with the OAG office.



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H. Board Staff Report

a. Revenue & Expenditure

Martin Presented the Revenue and Expenditure report to the board.

b. Examination Statistics

Martin Presented the exam statistics to the board. Exam scores were low this quarter. The Board discussed getting a study guide together for the exams.

I. Applications

a. Reciprocity - Albert– T1–Motion by BS to approve the reciprocity, seconded by EH, motion carried.

b. Reciprocity - Castrilli– Bill Shreve must abstain from this vote as he is overseeing things for Baltimore city. – Motion to approve the W5 by Ed Hogan, Seconded by Bruce Darner, motion carried with one abstention from Bill Shreve.

c. Reciprocity - Droxler– T1– recommended– Motion to approve by BH, Seconded by BD, motion carried.

d. Reciprocity - Lattimore– Motion by BT , seconded by JW, motion carried to grant the reciprocity.

e. Reciprocity - Orrick– I1– Motion by BS, Seconded by JW, motion carried.

f. Reciprocity – Webb– W5(?) Motion by BT- seconded by BS– Motion carried.

g. Education Substitution – Warner– Motion by BS, seconded BD, Motion carried.

h. Education Substitution – Rosales-Vega– 5– BS Motion, BD seconded- Motion carried

i. Experience Substitution - Lucky– t4– Joe abstained from the vote– BT motion to approve, BS seconded, motion carried.

J. Comments by Board Members

Happy New Year.

Martin and Bill will be connecting post meeting to address the one remaining question on the Wastewater 5A examination to be replaced.

K. Review of Action Items

Anthony presented the action items and the board adjusted as needed.

L. Discussion with Board Liaisons and guests

Discussion with Gregory Howell to have his employer write a letter to MDE.

Ben Thompson gave a brief update on the upcoming conference.



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WWOA– Updated regarding the upcoming March 19th meeting, and upcoming february conference.

M. Adjournment – Vote for closed session

Patty Shreves left at 12:24

Motion made by Ben Thompson to move into closed session, seconded by Bill Shreve, Motion carried.

N. Break before moving into closed session.