



BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS

Open Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025 – 10:00 am

Location: Video Conference via Google Meet

Link: meet.google.com/uqu-dfyp-gyb

Phone: (US) +1 401-594-2269

PIN: 117 949 082#

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

Board Members Present

Anthony Nwage

Ben Thompson– Chairman

Bill Shreve

Bruce Darner

Connie Luffman

Davina Yutzy

Joe Wright - Vice Chair

Ed Hogan

Doug Abbott

MDE Staff Present

Nicole Rush– OAG

Ron Ward– Project Manager, IT MDE (left at 11)

Zoe Goodson– MDE (Left at 10:50)

Alex Rubin– MDE

Sarah Levy– MDE

Taj Goodlow, Division Chief – MDE– (Left at 10:50)

Dee Setter, Deputy Director– MDE(Left at 10:50)

Keith Rantin– MDE (left at 10:50)

Martin Fuhr – Board Secretary

Guests

Donna Dunlap– MRA

Javier Vandeyar – Division Chief–MDE

William Cole

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Call To Order

Ben Thompson, Chairman of the Board, presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:02AM

Roll Call

Martin conducted roll call.

Donna Dunlap arrived at 10:15

Javier V. Arrived at 10:18AM

Mr. William Cole Joined at 10:33

Board Chair Comments and Guest Introductions

Ben Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended thanks to the Board for making progress with the backlog.



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15 A. Review and Adoption of Proposed Meeting Agenda

16 Motion to approve the meeting agenda by Bill Shreve and seconded by Joe W. to approve the meeting agenda
17 as amended by removing guests who did not show, motion carried with one abstention by Ed Hogan.
18

19 B. Review and Adoption of Draft Previous Open Meeting Minutes

20 Motion made by Bruce Darner And seconded by Joe W. to accept Meeting Minutes with amendments,
21 moving the Narrative under B- Water Treatment. Motion carried unanimously.

22 C. Guest comments:

23 Dee Settar – Deputy Director– MDE, WSA

24 Taj Goodlow – Division Chief– MDE, WSA, Boards and Lab Certifications group.

25 Ron Ward – Project Manager, IT– MDE— Ron Ward was introduced to the Board as the IT manager for the
26 Board Portal. He did inform the board that he is on track to getting the portal running by first quarter of 2026.
27 He did inform the Board that there is a plan to attempt Beta testing with selected companies possibly available
28 in February. Ben wanted to make sure that operators would have resources to be able to have a guide to work
29 through the portal and was reassured by Ron that the Portal is being developed with a very user-friendly
30 focus. The Board was able to address the questions they had with Ron directly.
31

32 Zoe Goodson – Division Chief– Zoe discussed the Class G Training class that they have been developing.
33 They are working on developing training materials (power point and study guide). She would like to provide a
34 class that would cover 7 hours of training that would include a test. The class goal is to be able to replace the
35 operators working under the supervision of a completely certified operator. The Board expressed concern
36 about the regulations aligning with the class focus. Zoe did agree that there may need to be a change in the
37 regulations and conversation with the EPA. Dee confirmed there will need to be conversation with the EPA
38 and an update to the regulations. Dee requested that Martin and Zoe write a referral to Nicole to look further
39 into how this aligns with the COMAR regulations.

40 Dee recommended that this would have to develop a formal process, perhaps requesting a waiver from MDE,
41 for only class G systems with passive or no treatment.
42

43 If MDE can do a waiver, does this require a regulation change? Martin will pose this in a legal referral to
44 Nicole.
45

46 Bruce mentioned that it was their understanding that water treatment reporting will be changing to a system
47 similar to NetDMR for wastewater reporting. e.g. putting in data instead of paper copies. This will not take
48 place until roughly 2027.
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D. Board Initiatives and Inquiries

- Communications Subcommittee

Nothing to announce.

- Water Treatment Classification Review Subcommittee

The board would like to make sure the wastewater side is in agreement with the board's analysis.

Anthony N. Will follow up with Javier to coordinate a meeting about this matter.

- Exam Review Subcommittee – Water Treatment 4

Doug informed the board that he is going to be reaching out to the rest of the subcommittee after the holidays (Eric, Joe, Jay Price.) At this time, there is no other update.

- Board Member Emails

Nicole Rush discussed the current development of getting active emails to the board members.

E. New Business

- Meta Glasses

Bill Shreve wanted to bring attention to the board regarding Meta Glasses, as they've been used for cheating in other agencies. This is something the Board should be aware of during testing. Bill encourages the Board Staff and members to research the matter and stay on top of it.

F. Board Staff Report

- TRE Approval

Motion made by Ed Hogan, seconded by Bruce Darner, to approve the recommended TRE classes.

The Motion passed unanimously.

G. Applications

- Amanda Lo – Education Credit– 12 months of education credit requested.

Motion made by Bill Shreve with a second by Ed Hogan to accept the recommendation by Board Staff. The motion passed unanimously.

- Javier Mercado – Education Credit– Bill made a motion to approve with a second from Anthony N. with one abstention by Davina Yutzky. The motion was carried to award 9 months of credit based on



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the applicant's college transcript.

- Matthew Semanick – Education Credit– 10 months– Motion to approve as recommended by the board by Bruce Darner with a second by Ed. Motion carried unanimously.
- Curtis Smith – Experience Credit– 3 months– Motion by Bill seconded by Ed to accept board recommendation. With one abstention by Davina, motion carried.
- William Cole - Reciprocity– Ed made a motion to accept staff recommendation, seconded by Joe, Motion carried. Mr. Cole will be awarded a Water Treatment 4 and Distribution 1 certification. The board staff will issue the certificate.

H. Comments by Board Members

The board discussed their concerns regarding exams and the backlog. There is a delay with fiscal processing with MDE which is causing a delay roughly 1 month behind. It was confirmed that there is no movement on filling the open board position. Martin will look into this matter and see if there's a way to nudge this forward.

I. Review of Action Items

Anthony presented the action items that are pending and added today.

J. Discussion with Board Liaisons and guests

Chesapeake Section– Utility conference in March, Keynote speaker Dep. Sec. Adam Ortiz.

CWEA– No comments

WWOA- They had a board meeting yesterday and discussed where to purchase apparel. Short Course proctors, DelTech looking for more teachers, and financial review. Bill and Martin will discuss going forward with a similar process to exam testing that Delaware uses.

MRWA– Wastewater apprenticeship program just launched.

MCET– No comments.

K. Adjournment – Vote for closed session

Motion to move to closed session– Bill– Seconded by Ed – Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Vote was unanimous– Meeting ended at 11:11AM



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Call to Order and Purpose of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to General Provisions Article (“GP”) § 3-305(b), on a motion by Bill and seconded by _____, Board Members approved moving into closed session on November 20, 2025, for the purpose of complying with the following provisions of the Open Meeting Act:

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

The following Board Members were present during closed session: Martin Fuhr, Davina Yutzy, Connie Luffman, Nicole Rush, Joseph Wright, Bruce Darner, Alex Rubin, Anthony Nwagwe, Bill Shreve, Doug Abbott, Ben Thompson, Ed Hogan, Javier Vandeyear.

Pursuant to legal provisions, Ben Thompson read the closed statement disclaimer.

The following topics were discussed during the closed session: Board Members reviewed and approved the closed meeting agenda, the October 16, 2025, closed meeting minutes; the legal referral for wastewater class 6 certificates and a new referral received by the Board regarding a regulation interpretation.