



# BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS

**Open Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 10:00 am**  
**Location: Video Conference via Google Meet**  
**Link: [meet.google.com/rfg-escr-wgi](https://meet.google.com/rfg-escr-wgi)**  
**Phone: (US) +1 707-559-8750**  
**PIN: 945 404 036#**

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

## **Call To Order and Roll Call**

Ben Thompson called the meeting to order at 10AM. Martin Fuhr conducted the roll call.

### **Board Members Present**

Ben Thompson– Chairman  
Joe Wright - Vice Chair  
Bill Shreve– Public at Large  
Eric Dutrow- Public at Large  
Connie Luffman– Wastewater Supervision  
Davina Yutzy– County Government  
Doug Abbott– Waterworks Supervision

### **Guests**

Donna Dunlap– MRWA  
Clark Howells

### **Absent**

Bruce Darner  
Ed Hogan–Industrial Superintendent  
Anthony Nwagwe -MDE

### **MDE Staff Present**

Nicole Rush– OAG  
Alex Rubin– MDE  
Sarah Levy– MDE  
Taj Goodlow, Division Chief – MDE  
Martin Fuhr- MDE

### **Board Chair Comments and Guest Introductions**

Chairman of the board, Ben Thompson, welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Ben Thompson informed the board that he will only be available for an hour. Joe Wright will take over to lead the meeting when Ben Thompson departs.

### **Review and Adoption of Proposed Meeting Agenda**

A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Doug Abbott, and Bill Shreve seconded. Motion carried



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16 unaniously and the meeting Agenda was approved.

### 17 18 Review and Adoption of Draft Previous Open Meeting Minutes

19 There were no meeting minute adjustments. A motion was made by Joe Wright and seconded by Bill Shreve. The  
20 previous meeting minutes were approved.

### 21 22 Board Initiatives and Inquiries

- 23 ● **Exam Review Subcommittee.**

24 The subcommittee will meet next week to discuss the exam and exam review. The 5A still has low pass rates  
25 and they will discuss it in the meeting. More will be reported in the February meeting.

- 26 ● **Board Member Emails**

27 The Board members are still having difficulty accessing their emails. The board members discussed that it  
28 may be because certain facilities may be blocking the emails from being accessed.

- 29 ● **Update guidance documents with cybersecurity training**

30 In July of 2025 the EPA implemented the cybersecurity training requirement. The flowchart and operator  
31 resources pages on the website need to be updated to reflect the cybersecurity requirement. Ben Thompson  
32 also requested that the cybersecurity training be added to the renewal paperwork.

### 33 New Business

- 34 ● **Spray Irrigation for Wastewater 5A**

35 Javier nor Anthony were able to attend, there was no update at this time due to the absences. The Board will  
36 come back to this topic next month.

- 37 ● **Open Board Position**

38 There is an open board position that needs to be filled for Municipal Government. For more information  
39 please contact Martin Fuhr.

### 40 41 Board Staff Report

- 42 ● **2025 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Exam Statistics**

43 Martin Fuhr presented the exam statistics for the fourth quarter of 2025 to the board.

44

Month	Passing Percentages
October	55.38%
November	23.64%
December	27.14%



## **BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS**

### **Applications**

- **Morgan Cather** – Education Credit– Eleven months experience credit recommended by the board. Motion made by Bill Shreve to accept the recommendation, Joe second, motion carried.
- **Courtney Parrott** – Experience Credit– Ten months experience credit recommended by the board.– Bill Shreve motion to accept staff recommendation, Doug Abbott second. Motion carried.
- **Penny Martin** – Experience Credit– recommended 6 months, making her eligible 9/1/2028– Bill Shreve made a motion, Joe Wright seconded, to accept the recommendation. Motion carried.
- **Garrett Ingram** – Experience Credit– board recommended 9.5 months of experience credit to make her eligible for full certification immediately. Bill Shreve made a motion to accept Board Staff Recommendation, seconded by Joe Wright. Connie Luffman abstained per conflict of interest. Motion carried.
- **Stephen Wilber**- Reciprocity- The Board would like to ask the Gentleman to come to the February meeting to be able to ask him questions directly. The Board would like to see if there could be further clarification from Virginia.
- **Nathan Laucks**– Experience and Education Credit– Recommendation to give him 2 years education credit and he'd have to serve the additional year. He would be eligible for the license in September. A motion was made by Bill Shreve to accept staff recommendation, second by Joe Wright. Motion carried unanimously. The board does not recommend him for experience. Bill Shreve recommends to follow the board recommendation in not approving the experience credit, seconded by Doug Abbott. Motion carried.

Ben Thompson left at 10:50AM. Taj Goodlow left at 11:01 AM.

### **Comments by Board Members**

No comments.

### **Review of Action Items**

Martin Fuhr will send the T4 subcommittee materials and will provide certification updates. Victoria will reach out to Virginia for clarification.

### **Discussion with Board Liaisons and guests**

Donna– MRWA– Registration for the conference opened.

WWOA- nothing to report at this time.

CWEA- Clark Howells presented updates– YHGO program launched for 2026 with a new Program Manager. YP Committee looking to host their own summit.

Melissa Coker gave general updates.

### **Adjournment – Vote for closed session**

Joe Wright read the closed meeting statement. Bill Shreve made a motion to lose the meeting, Doug Abbott seconded.



## **BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS**

80 The closed meeting will reconvene at 11:15. The meeting adjourned. Pursuant to legal provisions, Joe Wright read the  
81 closed meeting disclaimer.

82  
83 Pursuant to General Provisions Article (“GP”), § 3-305(b), on a motion by Bill Shreve and seconded by Doug Abbott  
84 Board members approved moving into closed session on January 15, 2026, for the purpose of complying with the  
85 following provisions of the Open Meetings Act: GP § 3-305(b)(1) -To discuss the appointment, employment,  
86 assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of  
87 appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter  
88 that affects one or more specific individuals GP § 3-305(b)(7) - To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

89  
90 The following Board members were present during the closed meeting: Joe Wright, Bill Shreve, Eric Dutrow, Connie  
91 Luffman, Davina Yutzy, and Doug Abbott. The following MDE staff were present: Nicole Rush, Martin Fuhr, Alex  
92 Rubin, Taj Goodlow.

### **Topics Discussed During the Closed Meeting**

94  
95 The Board reviewed and approved the January 15, 2026 meeting agenda, previous closed meeting minutes, updated on  
96 concerns regarding a cheating incident, and discussed license reinstatements.