



BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS

Open Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026 – 10:00 am

Location: Video Conference via Google Meet

Link: meet.google.com/icv-pbv-wgd

Phone: (US) +1 608-713-1257

PIN: 126 581 113#

*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 10:01AM. Martin Fuhr called roll.

Board Members Present

Ben Thompson- Chairman

Joe Wright- Vice Chair

Bill Shreve- Public at Large

Ed Hogan- Industrial Superintendent

Eric Dutrow- Public at large

Bruce Darner- Agriculture

Connie Luffman- Wastewater Supervision

Davinia Yutzy- County Government

Doug Abbott– Waterworks Supervision

Anthony Nwagwe- MDE

MDE Staff Present

Nicole Rush- OAG

Alex Rubin- MDE

Sarah Levy- MDE

Taj Goodlow- Division Chief- MDE

Martin Fuhr- Board Secretary- MDE

Guests

Donna Dunlap- MRWA

Clark Howells– CWEA

Melissa Coker - MCET

Board Chair Comments and Guest Introductions

Chairman of the Board, Ben Thompson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review and Adoption of Proposed Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the meeting agenda as written was made by Bruce Darner, seconded by Bill Shreve. The motion was carried unanimously.



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Review and Adoption of Draft Previous Open Meeting Minutes

The January 15, 2026 meeting minutes will be reviewed and re-presented in the March board meeting.

Board Initiatives and Inquiries

- Exam Review Subcommittee

The Exam Review subcommittee discussion will be on hold pending a discussion with counsel.

- Board Member Emails

Several Board members are still unable to access or are having problems with accessing their Board emails. Martin Fuhr will connect with them to resolve this issue before the next Board Meeting.

(Ed Hogan left the meeting at 10:09 and rejoined at 10:10 AM).

New Business

- **Board Internet page**

The Board discussed what updates needed to be added to the website and applications. Martin Fuhr and Anthony Nwagwe will meet with other MDE staff to update the website over the next month before the next Board meeting.

- **Open Board Position**

There is an open board member position. There are also several board member positions coming up which include: Connie, Ed, Joe, Davina. Doug is planning to retire from the board. Martin Fuhr reminded all who were up for a new term that they must complete the application on the Governor's website.

- **Web Portal**

DoIT, the Department of Information and Technology, needs to do a security review and audit on the new WWSO portal. It may take 2 months that was not accounted for in the original timeline. They are behind in developing the sections for the exam, trainings, and payment elements. Part of the payment delay was due to the MDE wide drive to focus on accepting electronic payments and the update to how fiscal processes payments.

Board Staff Report

- TRE Report

Martin Fuhr presented to the Board for final approval of the curriculum. A motion to approve the TRE as recommended by committee was made by Ed Hogan and seconded by Joe Wright. The motion was



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carried unanimously.

Applications

- Sibaji Bandyopadhyay – Based on Mr. Bandyopadhyay’s educational background, Martin Fuhr recommended to the Board he be granted one year of education experience toward his Industrial 6 operator certification. A motion was made by Bill Shreve and seconded by Ed Hogan to accept the education experience. The motion was carried with one abstention by Joe Wright.
- Lindsay Kemp – Based on Ms. Kemp’s educational background, Martin Fuhr recommended to the Board she be granted 1 year of education experience. A motion was made by Bill Shreve to accept the education experience and seconded by Joe Wright. The motion was carried unanimously.

Comments by Board Members

There has been a new requirement for water reporting that requires electronic reporting similar to NetDMR on the wastewater side. By April 2026, all water reporting must be submitted electronically. The Board expressed concerns that there was no industry wide announcement regarding this change. The Board would like to be able to speak to the individuals leading the effort behind the use of NetDMR or electronic reporting for water reporting.

Review of Action Items

Anthony Nwagwe reviewed the action items and will distribute the list to the Board members.

Online lab information: Chris Watling is the person in charge of the SWIDS team. Taj will provide the email to the Board. Starting in April there should be online lab reporting. Anyone who is curious about the water online portal will email Ben Thompson who will connect with Martin/Taj/Chris. Please invite Chris to the next Board meeting.

Discussion with Board Liaisons and guests

AWWA– Joint hiring event Feb 27th, 2026. DC Water Headquarters building. Mid Atlantic utility conference March 9-11. Scholarships for high schoolers and college students are available at this time, deadline is March 31st– Check out Chesapeake section website for more information on the application process.

The deadline for Short course is April 13th. AWWA

Fly-in will be April 14-15th.



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CWEA- no longer using CWAAS. Using Chesapeake WEA. Storm Water Summer Seminar– conference May 14th will focus on Stream restoration. PFAS 101 will be addressed, Wednesday Feb 25th at noon. The Fall seminar will be themed for resilience in utilities, the deadline to register is March 31. They're interested in career coaches.

WWOA- Short course committee voting– Bill Shreve Jr, Ivan Swan, Jay price, Lisette San Diego.

MRWA– Conference will be May 4-7 in Ocean city.

MCET- Earn Certification Exam Prep class registration has now opened.

Adjournment – Vote for closed session

A motion was made by Bill Shreve and seconded by Joe Wright to close the open meeting. Ben Thompson read the closed meeting statement.

Pursuant to General Provisions Article (“GP”), § 3-305(b), on a motion by Bill Shreve and seconded by Joe Wright, Board members approved moving into closed session on February 19, 2026, for the purpose of complying with the following provisions of the Open Meetings Act: GP § 3-305(b)(1) -To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals GP § 3-305(b)(7) - To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

The following Board Members were present during the closed meeting: Bruce Darner, Joe Wright, Eric Dutrow, Connie Luffman, Doug Abbott, Ed Hogan, Bill Shreve, Davinya Yutzy, Ben Thompson and Anthony Nwagwe. The Following MDE Staff were Present: Taj Goodlow, Martin Fuhr, Alex Rubin, and Nicole Rush

Topics Discussed During the Closed Meeting

The Board Approved the February 19, 2026 meeting Agenda and previous meeting minutes. A referral will be sent to counsel to get clarification on the possibility of study guides. The Board was also informed of a disciplinary discussion that may be brought to the board.