



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

**Maryland State Board of On-Site Wastewater Professionals  
Open Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date:</b> February 19, 2025	<b>Time:</b> 10:00AM	<b>Location:</b> MDE Tera Conference Room & Virtual on Google Meet	<b>Note:</b> R. Mitchell joined virtually at 10:08 am The board took a recess from 11:35-11:48 am	
<b>Attendance</b>			<b>Meeting As Scheduled</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meeting Rescheduled</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Board Members	Present	Absent	MDE Staff	
Robert Kutchman MDE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G.K. Sanchez Board Attorney <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Amber Durand Consumer Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Melody Harvey Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Kimbrough Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Bonnie Browne Industry Professional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seth Eisenstein Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Francis (Eddie) Harrison MOWPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Guests in attendance:</b>	
Julie Mackert Consumer Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Lazur left at 10:52 am, Adam Browning left at 11:35 am, Matt Shipley left at 11:35 am, Tory Pierce arrived at 10:02 am and left at 11:35 am, Steven Nagi joined at 10:30 am	
Kurt Cassell Industry Professional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Langford Johnson Industry Professional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Robert Mitchell MD Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Call to Order**

Board Chair J. Mackert presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

**Roll Call**

A Roll Call was conducted by N. Kimbrough for everyone present at the meeting except for L. Johnson who was absent. In-person guests: Adam Browning, and Tory Pierce. Virtual guests: Andrew Lazur, and Matt Shipley.

**Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

The posted Agenda was reviewed and approved with one edit, correcting a typo in Tory Pierce's name. The motion to approve the Agenda was made by K.Cassell and was seconded by E.Harrison . The motion passed unanimously.

**Review and Adoption of Open Session Meeting Minutes from 01/15/2025**

The minutes from the 1/15/2025 meeting were reviewed and approved without edits. The motion to approve was made by K.Cassell and was seconded by A.Durand. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report**

-S.Eisenstein introduced the guests that were invited by the Board to speak about "Designer" licensing requirements, thanked them for their time, and briefly recapped the topic of discussion.

-The Board invited the following guests to speak:

Andrew Lazure, Ph.D., University of Maryland Extension

Matt Shipley, LEHS, Associate / Project Manager, CLSI

Tory Pierce, PE, President, Fredrick Ward Associates

Adam Browning, President, Penn's Trail Environmental, LLC

**New Business**

**Outside consultation**

Guest speakers Dr. Lazur, A. Browning, M. Shipley, and T. Pierce. Each guest spoke for about 15m in regards to their research and experience with Licensed engineers who design septic systems . Dr. Lazur shared what other states are doing and have done in regards to engineers. M. Shipley shared his personal experience as a designer and suggested there be a 3rd level added, instead of just basic and advance. T.Pierce spoke on his personal experience as an engineer who designs septic systems, stated that he is sure that the Board of Engineers would be willing to work with the board if we wanted engineers to take Continuing Education Credits so they can stay up to date with the changes in the industry. A.Browning discussed his time as a Sewage Enforcement Officer, he explained how Pennsylvania handles their program, and their requirements.

**Old Business**

**a. Licensing Discussion**

**i. Applying on-site licenses to other licensed Professionals**

The distinction between master and journey licenses and their roles in pulling permits.

Concern over whether licensed interns can pull permits without insurance.

Discussion on the implementation of a statewide database for permit management.

The potential for reducing delays in the permitting process through a centralized system.

**ii. Installer Licensing and Verification**

Discussed licensing requirements by county, acknowledged some counties do not require a specific license for installers. Spoke about the need to gather lists of approved installers from various counties, anticipating there being some issues raised about applicants not being on county lists, which would complicate the approval process.

**iii. Grandfathering**

An initial discussion on implementing new licensing regulations to experienced providers took place. Considerations will be made for individuals who hold County Onsite licenses, are business owners. Individuals working in counties that do not issue onsite licenses will need to be evaluated on time in the industry and/or number of jobs completed. The logistics of the evaluation process will need to be explored further.

**Final Remarks**

E. Harrison inquired if there was any update on filling the vacant Board seat; S. Eisenstein had nothing new to report.

**Adjournment**

K.Cassell moved to adjourn the open meeting, which was seconded by E.Harrison. The motion was passed unanimously.  
The meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

**Call to Order and Purpose of Closed Meeting (If necessary)**

The Meeting did not enter a closed session.

**Topics Discussed During the Closed Meeting**

The Meeting did not enter a closed session.