



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

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

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025	Time: 10:03 am	Location: MDE Aeris Conference Room & Virtual on Google Meet	Note:		
Attendance					Meeting As Scheduled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Rescheduled
Board Members	Present	Absent	MDE Staff	Present	Absent
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melody Harvey Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ray Harrison Industry Professional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	Guests in attendance:		Ryan Nagi (MOWPA), Andy Lazur (UMD)
Julie Mackert Consumer Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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					
M. Harvey conducted a roll call for everyone present at the meeting, except for R. Mitchell, A. Durand, R. Harrison and L. Johnson, who were absent.					
Two guest joined virtually and identified themselves as Ryan Nagi with MOWPA and Andy Lazur with UMD Extension					
Adoption of Meeting Agenda					
The posted Agenda was reviewed and approved. The motion to approve the Agenda was made by R. Kutchman and was seconded by K. Cassell. The motion passed unanimously.					
Review and Adoption of Open Session Meeting Minutes from 10/15/25					
The minutes from the 10/15/2025 meeting open session were reviewed and approved without edits. The motion to approve was made by E. Harrison and was seconded by R. Kutchman. The motion passed unanimously.					
Executive Director's Report					
Board member email accounts					
S. Eisenstein reported on the recent meeting with the MDE Chief of Staff, which emphasized proper use of state-issued email accounts. Members were reminded to avoid adding personal or business information in email signature blocks.					
Emergency regulation update					
A representative from AELR reached out to advise that they were given permission to poll the commissioners to approve the emergency property transfer inspection (PTI) regulations on 11/12. The AELR representative did not expect further delays for the proposed emergency action to go into effect; however, at the time of this meeting, they were still not in effect. A discussion was had regarding 2025's House Bill 747, that if it had passed, would have extended the original statutory authority for MDE to issue PTI licenses. In the 2026 legislative session, it is expected that a bill with the same language as HB747 will be introduced again. If it includes the same extension of the original PTI regulations, MDE will have to address the potential loss of authority over PTI's that the emergency regulations will grant the Board.					

New Business

Licensing and Certification Discussion

E.Harrison started the discussion about creating an additional designer certification. The proposal is to create a "pump to gravity" design certification instead of including this type of design work under the "traditional" designer certification, as previously discussed. A conversation ensued weighing the quality of training that the designers will receive versus the potential burden of an additional certification category. The Board did not come to a consensus on this topic and in order to hear the opinions of absent Board members, E.Harrison made a motion to table the discussion until the next board meeting, R.Kutchman seconded the motion. In favor: E.Harrison, R.Kutchman, K.Cassell, & J.Mackert. opposed: B.Browne. Absent: B.Mitchell, A.Durand, R.Harrison, & L.Johnson. The discussion was tabled until the 12/17/25 meeting, where a vote on the topic is expected.

A discussion regarding grandfathering was had. The Board discussed that anyone currently registered with the Board and who has paid required fees will likely be grandfathered. Excluding any current registered professionals from being grandfathered could potentially leave the Board and MDE vulnerable to litigation.

It was suggested that additional training could be required of professionals if the need arose. The Board was cautioned that the Board may not have the authority to make additional requirements by policy, instead it may have to be addressed by making regulation updates.

Upcoming Board meeting goals were discussed:

Dec: Finalize designer category; vote on adding new designer certification.

Jan: Grandfathering and regulation language updates.

Feb: Continued regulation work.

Mar: Finalize regulation recommendations and submit to MDE

Adjournment

K.Cassell moved to adjourn the open meeting, which was seconded by R. Kutchman . The motion was passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 11:49 am.