



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

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, May 15 2024	<b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM	<b>Location:</b> MDE Aeris Conference Room & Virtual on Google Meet		
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Attendance				Meeting As Scheduled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meeting Rescheduled <input type="checkbox"/>
Board Members	Present	Absent	MDE Staff	Present	Absent
Adam Corry 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"/>
Barry Beauchamp Industry Professional	<input checked="" 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>List of all guests in attendance:</b> In person: Naomi Howell, John Boris, Kim Harmon. Virtual: Andrew Lazur, Ryan Nagi, Crystal Brown, Nicole Eisenstein, Tory Pierce, Nathaniel Woodrow, Cullision excavating, Hal Beckler		
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 (Bob) Mitchell MD Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Call to Order	Roll Call	Approval of Meeting Agenda	Review and Adoption of (Date), Remote Open Meeting Minutes	Notes
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Executive Director S. Eisenstein presided over the meeting.	A Roll Call was conducted by S. Eisenstein for everyone present at the meeting except for L. Johnson who was absent.		The posted Agenda was reviewed and approved. The motion to approve was made by E. Harrison and was seconded by A. Corry. The motion passed unanimously.	N/A

**Presiding Officer Comments**

An introductory welcome was made by S. Eisenstein to the board members present at the meeting. N. Howell proceeded in the welcoming of Board members by providing a brief vision overview of the Board including key priorities and goals. N. Howell also introduced staff members present in the meeting to the Board, familiarizing them with the On-Site Systems Division, Water and Science Administration program at MDE. Board Attorney, G.K. Sanchez introduced himself to the Board and explained his role and duties.

**Executive Director Comments** **Notes**

**Review of Board Member Requirements:**

S. Eisenstein reviewed the Board's requirements, including financial disclosure, ethics training, and appointment confirmation. All Board Members affirmed taking their oath of office and submitted their financial disclosure statements.

**Familiarize the Board with MDE's Environmental Boards SOPs:**

S. Eisenstein explained the Standard Operating Procedures for MDE Environmental Boards: the Secretary's designee has oversight of board activities to prevent anti-competitive actions.

**Executive Director Comments:**

S. Eisenstein explained the Board staff's administrative functions and presented information on the number of registered, licensed, and certified individuals.

**New Business** **Notes**

**Selection of Officers:**

For Board officers, E. Harrison nominated himself for Chairperson, and A. Durand & B. Brown nominated themselves for Vice Chair. A. Corry made a motion to prevent statutorily mandated Board members from holding officer positions on the Board. K. Cassel seconded the motion. A discussion ensued, and it was clarified that the statutorily appointed members are A. Corry of MDE, E. Harrison of MOWPA, and B. Mitchell of the MD Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors. Board members voted on the motion, which resulted in a tie. K. Cassel, B. Beauchamp, R. Mitchell, and A. Corry were in favor while E. Harrison, A. Durand, B. Browne, and J. Mackert were against it. A. Corry amended his motion, requesting to table the vote until all members were present. E. Harrison seconded the motion to table the vote. Board members came to the consensus that electing a Chairperson should not wait until the next meeting.

**Chairperson:**

After further discussion, A. Corry withdrew his motion to table the Chairperson selection. J. Mackert nominated herself as Chairperson. K. Cassell motioned to elect J. Mackert as Chairperson and B. Beauchamp seconded. It was voted unanimously to select J. Mackert as Chairperson.

**Vice Chair election:**

K. Cassell requested introductions from each of the nominees for Vice Chair. B. Browne and A. Durand spoke about their reasons and qualifications for the position. K. Cassell motioned to vote and was seconded by B. Beauchamp. A. Corry, B. Mitchell, K. Cassell, J. Mackert, B. Beauchamp, and B. Browne voted for B. Browne. A. Durand voted for herself. E. Harrison abstained. B. Browne was appointed Vice Chair.

**Meeting rules:**

S. Eisenstein presented proposed rules for public attendance of Board meetings. A motion to accept the meeting rules as written was made by B. Beauchamp and seconded by A. Corry. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**Point of order:** S. Eisenstein addressed the frequency of the selection of officers. After discussion, K. Cassell motioned to elect officers annually, and B. Beauchamp seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**Meeting Schedule:**

A discussion was had about meeting times, days, and in-person/hybrid options. K. Cassell motioned to make the next meeting on 6/26/2024 at noon. The meeting will be in-person at MDE with the option to be virtual. All other meetings to take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning at 10:00 am. E. Harrison seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**Statutes and Regulations:**

The statute that created the Board, MD Environment Article §9-11a, was presented to the Board and discussed. E. Harrison requested to speak about how the Board came into existence. He expressed concerns about how previous regulations were adopted without input from the wastewater and septic industry. He hopes that the Board will take the appropriate steps to have MDE and the industry work together to give the industry a voice before decisions are made. The Board is here to make sure homeowners are protected, industry interests are voiced and protected, and to ensure accountability for all through licensing. There was no action taken at this time.

**Licensing Discussion:**

The Board reviewed licensing procedures and industry terminology, to study further for homework. A Google doc will be created so everyone can edit/add comments. A. Corry asked if this will be a shared Google doc so everyone can make notes or comments on the document. G.K. Sanchez mentioned going forward to use maryland.gov emails. B. Mitchell asked if MDE would provide information or answers for procedures, complaints, licensing, etc. E. Harrison asked if we could have civilian committees to work through issues, committees would have to have 1 board member. Including non-board members on committees was denied. It was noted that complaints cannot be taken until regulations are in place. It was reiterated that Board business must only be discussed during the open sessions of Board meetings. The importance of regular attendance at Board meetings was discussed. There was no action was taken at this time.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by J. Mackert and seconded by A. Corry to adjourn the open meeting. The motion passed a Unanimous vote.

**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**