

# **WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING**

## **October 29, 2025**

Mike Thompson, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. with roll call. The meeting was held at the NDEE, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, Lincoln, NE, Room 031 LL. Copies of the agenda were emailed to board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The meeting was advertised on the Water Well Standards and Contractor's Licensing Board webpage on the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment website. The Open Meetings Act was posted at the front entrance of the room.

Introduction of new board members: Jim Remmenga and Jeff Ironshell

### **Item 1. Roll Call**

PRESENT:	Jeff Ironshell	Laura Johnson
	Daniel Mackin	Tara Wulfekoetter
	Mike Thompson	Lynn Webster
	Scott Grosch	Jim Remmenga
	Sue Lackey	

ABSENT: Cody Christensen

OTHERS: Lee Orton, Dave Miesbach, Jason Orton, Bill Allen, Dan Egeland, Pam Miller, Brian Whitesel.

### **Item 2. Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Lackey moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Mackin seconded the motion. Voting yes: Tara Wulfekoetter, Scott Grosch, Dan Mackin, Jeff Ironshell, Lynn Webster, Sue Lackey, Laura Johnson, Jim Remmenga. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

### **Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – August 6, 2025**

Mr. Webster moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Remmenga seconded the motion. Voting yes: Scott Grosch, Dan Mackin, Lynn Webster, Sue Lackey, Laura Johnson, Tara Wulfekoetter. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson, Ironshell, Remmenga. Motion carried.

### **Item 4. Election of Officers**

#### **Chairman Nominee:**

The floor was open for nomination of Chairman of the board.

Mr. Mackin nominated Mr. Grosch to be elected as Chairman of the board. Ms. Lackey seconded the nomination. Voting yes: Dan Mackin, Jeff Ironshell, Lynn Webster, Sue

Lackey, Laura Johnson, Jim Remmenga, Tara Wulfekoetter. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson, Grosch. Motion carried.

**Vice Chairman Nominee:**

The floor was open for nomination of Vice Chairman of the board.

Ms. Lackey nominated Mr. Mackin to be elected as Vice Chairman of the board. Ms. Johnson seconded the nomination. Voting yes: Jeff Ironshell, Lynn Webster, Sue Lackey, Laura Johnson, Jim Remmenga, Tara Wulfekoetter, Scott Grosch. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson, Mackin. Motion carried.

**Secretary Nominee:**

The floor was open for nomination of Secretary of the board.

Mr. Mackin nominated Mr. Thompson to remain as Secretary of the board. Ms. Lackey seconded the nomination. Voting yes: Lynn Webster, Sue Lackey, Laura Johnson, Jim Remmenga, Tara Wulfekoetter, Scott Grosch, Dan Mackin, Jeff Ironshell. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

Mr. Thompson turned the meeting over to the new Chairman Mr. Grosch.

**Item 5. Continuing Education Requests**

- 1- 2025 Groundwater Week, New Orleans, LA, by NGWA will be held December 9-11, 2025; Sue Tenney

Requests: 47 hrs. Recommended: 45 hrs. approved, maximum of 14 hrs. per licensee for credit. No Spanish speaking courses approved.

- 2- 2025 GW Week on demand courses, by NGWA will be available February 01, 2026; Sue Tenney

Requests: 32 hrs. Recommended: 31 hrs. approved, Spanish speaking course was not approved

- 3- Applied Groundwater Statistics, online, by Sanitas Technologies was held September 23-24, 2025; Stacey Stricker

Requests: 14.5 hrs. Recommended: 12.5

- 4- Groundwater Forum, virtual, by EPA was held September 10-11, 2025; Sarah Klescewski

Requests: 5.5 hrs. Recommended: 5.5

- 5- Submersible Troubleshooting and Controls, Grand Island, NE, by Preferred Pump was held on March 29, 2025; Victor Silva

Requests: 3 hrs. Recommended: 3

6- NeRWA Fall Conference, Gering, NE, by NeRWA was held on September 30-October 2, 2025; Patrick Petersen

Requests: 11 hrs.

Recommended: 11

7- NRD Annual Conference, Kearney, NE, by NARD was held on September 29-30, 2025; Jennifer Swanson

Requests: 7 hrs.

Recommended: 7

8- 2026 NWDA Annual Convention, Kearney, NE, by NWDA will be held on February 10-12, 2026; Lee Orton

Requests: 26 hrs.

Recommended: 26 available max. of 14 hrs. credit

9- SW/GW Monitoring Council Meeting, Lincoln, NE, by DWEE was held on October 21, 2025; Daniel Ross

Requests: 2 hrs.

Recommended: 2

10-NWRA and NSIA Joint Conference, Kearney, NE, by NWRA will be held on November 24-25, 2025; Andy Licht

Requests: 10.25 hrs.

Recommended: 8.5

11-Winter Training Class 2025, La Vista, NE, by Hydro Pump will be held on December 4, 2025; Andy Kettelhut

Requests: 6 hrs.

Recommended: 6

Mr. Thompson, CEU Committee Chair, submitted the recommendations for board approval of CEU hours as stated. Voting yes: Sue Lackey, Laura Johnson, Jim Rimmenga, Tara Wulfekoetter, Scott Grosch, Dan Mackin, Jeff Ironshell, Lynn Webster. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

### **Item 6. Proctor Applications**

Mr. Webster moved to approve Mr. Winters and Mr. Taylor as exam proctors. Mr. Mackin seconded the motion. Voting yes: Laura Johnson, Jim Rimmenga, Tara Wulfekoetter, Scott Grosch, Dan Mackin, Jeff Ironshell, Lynn Webster, Sue Lackey. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

### **Item 7. Program Report**

Mr. Miesbach presented the program report that was included in the Board Packet. It outlined the declaratory orders/pre-notifications, violations, licensure information and testing information.

- Review of the program report.
- Changes to the exam process will be presented at conference.
- The two reappointments for board members Christensen and Grosch have been approved.
- Encroachment responsibility was discussed.

- New regulations are out on the DWEE and the Secretary of State's websites for review and comment. A public hearing will take place on December 16, 2025, at the DWEE Fallbrook Building.
- An update on the regulations will be presented to Environmental Quality Council on December 12, 2025.

### **Item 8. Legislative Report**

None

### **Item 9. Agency Reports**

#### **A. UNL – Conservation & Survey – Sue Lackey**

- The service position at North Platte was filled by Valentina Ita. She has a significant amount of field experience.
- Jeremy Steele started on Monday as the new CSD Drillers helper. He previously helped install & maintain the HPCC weather stations.
- Many of the planned test hole drilling projects for the NRDs were not funded. Mainly due to limited resources in the Water Sustainability Fund. Most NRDs have sent proposals into other funding sources, i.e. NET. Katie Cameron has been very busy assisting the ENWRA NRDs with these efforts.
- The recent University proposed budget cuts included the elimination of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in Lincoln. Therefore CSD/SNR are exploring options to at least partially fund some of the people in the geology group. IANR proposed mergers of units & schools.
- The University is in the process of changing "domains". Instead of unl.edu the e-mail extensions will be nebraska.edu.

#### **B. Department of Water, Energy and Environment – Mike Thompson**

- Handouts of statistical registration reports were reviewed by the Board.
- The interactive map will be updated to a centralized server. An email will be sent out to all contractors on the new look and features.
- The Governor is pushing programs to be self-sufficient; well registration has proposed changing fees.

#### **C. DWEE-Drinking Water Program – Laura Johnson**

- The drinking water program is in a holding pattern like most states as we wait for a new final PFAS rule which is expected to be posted in the federal register this December. In addition, the new lead rule, LCRI, is undergoing a series of legal challenges through January related to the cost to implement the rule's requirement to identify and replace all lead service lines in ten years as well as to test all school and daycares.

- The program is preparing to make adjustments due to reduced funding and looking into annual operating permit fees for the 2027 legislative session.
- All water operator licenses expire in December. The program is activity working on renewals now through the end of the year.
- The DWP will be on a DWEE Water Program Panel in the Nebraska State Irrigation Association Conference on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

**D. HHS – Division of Public Health – Tara Wulfekoetter**

- Budget concerns are ongoing.

**E. Natural Resources Districts – Lynn Webster**

- Fall static levels are complete.
- Water levels are getting done.
- Reading meters.

**Item 10. Public Comment**

- Brian Whitesel welcomed and thanked the new board members for their future service to the Water Well Standards.

**Item 11: Closed Session**

At 12:07 p.m. Mr. Webster made the motion to go into closed session to discuss licensees and prevent unnecessary harm to reputations. Mr. Mackin seconded the motion. Voting yes: Laura Johnson, Jim Remmenga, Tara Wulfekoetter, Scott Grosch, Dan Mackin, Jeff Ironshell, Lynn Webster, Sue Lackey. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

At 12:17 p.m. Mr. Webster made the motion to come out of closed session. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Voting yes: Laura Johnson, Jim Remmenga, Tara Wulfekoetter, Scott Grosch, Dan Mackin, Jeff Ironshell, Lynn Webster, Sue Lackey. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

Mr. Webster made a motion to administer the exam orally to an applicant. Mr. Remmenga seconded the motion. Voting yes: Jim Remmenga, Tara Wulfekoetter, Scott Grosch, Dan Mackin, Jeff Ironshell, Lynn Webster, Sue Lackey, Laura Johnson. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

**Item 12. Adjourn**

Ms. Lackey moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

*Mike Thompson*

11/26/2025

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**Mike Thompson, Board Secretary**

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**Date**