

WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING

August 17, 2022

Tonny Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with roll call. The meeting was held at the 245 Fallbrook Blvd, LL Room 031, Lincoln, NE. Copies of the agenda were emailed to board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The meeting was advertised on the Public Notice page of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's website. The Open Meetings Act was posted at the front entrance of the room.

Item 1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Tonny Beck Sue Lackey
 Mike Thompson Lynn Webster
 Daniel Mackin Brian Whitesel
 Scott Grosch
 Greg Brekel

ABSENT: Cody Christensen

OTHERS: Jason Orton, Lee Orton, Dan Egeland, Laura Johnson, Becky Schuerman, Pam Miller, Dave Miesbach.

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Thompson moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Lackey seconded the motion. Voting yes: Thompson, Beck, Mackin, Brekel, Whitesel, Grosch, Lackey, and Webster. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – June 8, 2022

Mr. Thompson moved that the minutes be adopted. Mr. Whitesel seconded the motion. Voting yes: Thompson, Mackin, Whitesel, Grosch, Lackey, and Webster. Beck, Brekel. Voting no: none. Abstain: Motion carried.

Item 4. Continuing Education Requests

Continuing Education Requests

1- South Atlantic JUBILEE, in Myrtle Beach, SC, by South Atlantic Well Drillers JUBILEE, was held July 30 thru Aug 1, 2022; Debra Kelly

Requests: 22 hrs. Recommended: 22 hrs. Maximum of 12 hrs. per individual

2- 2022 Environmental and Water Quality Conference, virtual, by South Dakota Dept. of Ag and Natural Resources, was held March 23-24, 2022; Jerald Zutz

Requests: 6 hrs.

Recommended: 3 hrs.

3- Solar Water Wells & Systems, North Platte-Norfolk, and Mead, by Wayne Woldt, Oct 25 & 26, Nov 2 & 3, and Dec 6 & 7, 2022; Wayne Woldt

Requests: 12 hrs. Recommended: 11 hrs.

4- Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization, webinar, by ITRC, May 5, 2022; Scott Summerside

Requests: 2.25 hrs. Recommended: 2.5 hrs.

5- Geology & Hydrogeology of the Scottsbluff NE area, Scottsbluff, and surrounding area, by NE Geological Society, July 26 & 27, 2022; Douglas Hallum

Requests: 15 hrs. Recommended: 14.5 hrs.

6- Groundwater Contamination, online, by RedVector, ongoing; Chris Furman

Requests: 2 hrs. Recommended: 2 hrs.

7- Groundwater Hydrology, online, by RedVector, ongoing; Chris Furman

Requests: 1 hr. Recommended: 1 hr.

8- Last Chance Workshop, Lincoln, NE, by NWDA, December 15, 2022; Lee Orton

Requests: 6 hrs. Recommended: 6 hrs.

9- NDA 2022 Convention, Canonsburg, PA, by NDA, September 28, 2022; Becky McWilliam

Requests: 6 hrs. Recommended: 5 hrs.

10- Vertical Turbine Pump Design and Application, Hastings, NE, by Mid America Pump & Supply, not set yet, winter '22-23; Christopher Lula

Requests: 5 hr. Recommended: Need more information-agenda

Mr. Thompson, CEU Committee Chair, submitted the recommendations for board approval of CEU hours as stated. Voting yes: Beck, Mackin, Whitesel, Grosch, Lackey, Webster, Brekel, and Thompson. Voting no: none. Abstain: Motion carried.

Policy P-14-webinar and webinar proctor will be reviewed, and revised. Revisions will be presented at the next board meeting for approval.

The new online portal is operational for submission of CE approval applications, the online application does not require a signed affidavit. Only licensed professionals can submit this online application.

Item 5. 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 program report.
- Inspection update.
- Update on licensing program.
- A committee has been formed to review and revise the NRD exam. Current material is outdated.
- Results of a recent hearing for a licensed contractor. License has been suspended for 6 months.
- DHHS board representation was discussed. A statutory change must take place to have representation changed from DHHS to Public Health. Other options are being reviewed, possible State Public Lab individual.
- New regulations are still pending approval.
- Discussion was held on funding sources and sustainability of the WWS program with the move to NDEE. A request was made for Mr. Macy to be a part of the November meeting for further discussion, along with the NWDA representative.
- Update on salt water wells
- Baroid Mud School will be January 23-27, 2023
- Discussion on dewatering of wells.

Item 6. Legislative Report

- Monies allotted for surface water studies

Item 7. Agency Reports

A. UNL – Conservation & Survey – Sue Lackey

- GIS Specialist retired in April. The position will be changed to a Geo Scientist, upgrading the position.
- A new drilling helper is needed. Personnel losses are happening, creating drilling work to be on hold.
- State drilling work still needs completed. This work is also on hold.

B. Department of Natural Resources – Mike Thompson

- Review of well registrations. Registrations are generally slowing down.
- New wells are being drilled-even irrigation wells, this activity is slower in the western part of the state.
- Drought has increased conduct water permit requests.

- Calls from concerned domestic well owners are up due to drought conditions.
- Tom Hayden in the Bridgeport office is retiring after 60 years with the State.

C. Dept. of Environment and Energy – Greg Brekel

- New Administrator, Laura Johnson, has been hired to replace Sue Dempsey’s position.
- Community wells having issues with the drought.

D. HHS – Division of Public Health – Position is pending representation

- DHHS has been notified of the need to fill this position per statute. To date no response has been provided by the Department.

E. Natural Resources Districts – Lynn Webster

- Wrapping up summer sampling.
- Fall meter reading.
- Education site is getting closer to being up and running. Site will provide training opportunities for NRDs and well drillers.

Item 8. Public Comment

A few seats remain for the Omaha geology tour August 31.

Item 9: Closed Session

None

Item 10. Adjourn

Mr. Whitesel moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Mike Thompson

10/4/2022

Mike Thompson, Board Secretary

Date