

WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING
April 17, 2024

Interim Director Thad Fineran with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy introduced himself to the Board prior to the meeting.

Tonny Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:26 a.m. with roll call. The meeting was held at the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, Rm 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 Water Well Standards and Contractor's Licensing Board webpage on 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
 Brian Whitesel Russ Fosler
 Scott Grosch
 Laura Johnson

ABSENT: Cody Christensen, Daniel Mackin

OTHERS: Thad Fineran, Lee Orton, Dan Egeland, Becky Schuerman, Mark Graf, Jason Orton, Dave Miesbach, and Pam Miller.

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

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

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – February 12, 2024

Ms. Lackey moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Fosler seconded the motion. Voting yes: Beck, Thompson, Johnson, Fosler, Whitesel, Grosch, Lackey, Webster. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

Item 4. Continuing Education Requests

1- NeRWA Annual Conference, Kearney, NE, by NRWD, was held March 11-13, 2024; Patrick Petersen

Requests: 10.5 hrs.

Recommended: 9.5 hrs.

8 to 9 am session denied pending additional information by provider.

2- International Phytotechnology Conference, Lemont, IL, by International Phytotechnology Society was held May 23-26, 2023; Douglas Burge

Requests: 12 hrs. Recommended: 2 hrs.

3-2023 SD/ND Well Drillers Conference, Deadwood, SD, by South Dakota Well Drillers Assoc. was held March 6-7, 2023; Mike Whitesel

Requests: 8 hr. Recommended: 8 hrs.

4- Excavator Safety Meeting, St Louis, MO, by Missouri 811 was held March 21, 2023; Douglas Burge

Requests: 1 hr. Recommended: 1 hr.

5- Iowa Annual Convention, Altoona, IA, by Iowa Water Well Assoc. was held January 25-26, 2024; Bryan Steiner

Requests: 10 hrs. Recommended: 9 hrs.

6- Goulds online courses-Basic Water Systems (1.5 hrs.)/Vertical Turbine Pumps (1 hr.)/VFDs (1.5 hrs.), Online, by Goulds Water Technology was held February 3-4, 2024; Bryan Steiner

Requests: 4 hrs. Recommended: 4 hrs.

7- 2024 Bariod Mud School, Grand Island, NE by NWDA will be held June 11-13, 2024; Lee Orton

Requests: 21 hrs. Recommended: 20 hrs.

8- Hydro Pump Open House 2024, Omaha, NE, by Hydro Pump was held April 4, 2024; Andy Kettelhut

Requests: 5 hrs. Recommended: 5 hrs.

9- NPNRD Ag Symposium, Gering, NE, by NPNRD was held January 22, 2024; Travis Preston

Requests: 3 hrs. Recommended: 3 hrs.

10- Additional online courses for the International School of Well Drilling, Online by ISWD are ongoing; Lorraine Mastropietro

Grouting Part 1	Requests: 1 hr.	Recommended: 1 hr.
Grouting Part 2	Requests: 1 hr.	Recommended: 1 hr.
Directional Drilling Part 1	Requests: 1 hr.	Recommended: 1 hr.
Directional Drilling Part 2	Requests: 1 hr.	Recommended: 1 hr.

11- 2024 Yonts Water Conference, Scottsbluff, NE by Panhandle Research, Extension and Education Center was held April 10, 2024; Kyle Ann Hopkins

Requests: 3 hrs.

Recommended: 1 hr.

12- GW Monitoring Council Meeting, Lincoln, NE by NDEE was held April 16, 2024; Dan Inman

Requests: 2 hrs.

Recommended: 2 hrs.

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

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 the program report.
- Dec Orders with Public Water System (PWS) encroachments, require engineering evaluation before approval. Education of the contractors have helped with potential issues with PWS, which has initiated more Dec Orders for the program.
- Free Nitrate sampling produced 500 samples over the 10ppm. Calls are going out to those with high results.
- The budget report was provided and discussed. Additional information was requested for review at the next board meeting. Mr. Miesbach will work with accounting to provide this information to the board in June.

Item 6. Legislative Report

- Budget was approved.
- LB1317 appropriated one million dollars to NDEE to install real time nitrate sensors in monitoring wells statewide.
- LB937 unfunded real time nitrate management plan that NDEE is to develop jointly with NDNR. This bill passed out of committee but did not pass on the floor.

Item 7. Agency Reports

A. UNL – Conservation & Survey – Sue Lackey

- The info graphic was distributed and discussed.
- The Annual report is online and available for review at <https://snr.unl.edu/csd/download/annualreport/CSD-Annual-Report-2023.pdf>

B. Department of Natural Resources – Mike Thompson

- Handouts of registration statistical reports were reviewed by the Board.
- Staff is spending about 25% of their time with the RO rebate program.
- The Wellhead Protection Area has been added to the interactive map.
- GIS feed to the NRDs is being deployed with PWS wells included.
- DNR would like to have the programmers from NDEE and DNR work together to provide access to NDEEs data base for the most up to date licensing information to DNR and Tyler Technologies simultaneously.

C. Dept. of Environment and Energy – Laura Johnson

- New Interim Director, Thad Fineran started three weeks ago
- New Drinking Water M&C Section Supervisor, Taylor Benzel started two weeks ago
- N Study (to assess the risk and provide solutions for nitrate impacted drinking water supplies)
 - Hoping to release the interim study soon
 - Presented updates at several conferences
 - Finishing up our final report, GIS tool, and outreach plan/tools

D. Natural Resources Districts – Lynn Webster

- NRDs are working on spring static levels, they are fairly flat due to precipitation last year.
- Tree season is keeping staff busy.
- Helping with well registrations for the RO system rebate program.

E. HHS – Division of Public Health – Russ Fosler

- 5000 kits were sent out for nitrate testing, still waiting on 1200 to be returned. The lab has been very busy providing these results.

Item 8. Public Comment

Mr. Graf shared that people are wanting to become well drillers, they are taking the exams for licensing, however, have no experience in the field. Others are drilling their own wells because of the lack of contractors to do the work. He proposed that the state look at possible opportunities to help get more people into the field.

Break 12:42 to 12:55

Item 9: Closed Session

At 12:55 pm Mr. Whitesel made the motion to go into closed session. Ms. Lackey seconded the motion Voting yes: Beck, Thompson, Whitesel, Fosler, Johnson, Grosch, Lackey, Webster. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

At 1:00 pm Mr. Webster made the motion to come out of closed session. Mr. Grosch seconded the motion. Voting yes: Beck, Thompson, Whitesel, Fosler, Johnson, Grosch, Lackey, Webster. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

Mr. Thompson made the motion to approve a hardship license effective April 17, 2024. The temporary license will remain in effect until June 5, 2024, with the stipulation that the applicant will be required to pass the required May 1, 2024 exam in that timeframe. Mr. Fosler seconded the motion. Voting yes: Beck, Thompson, Whitesel, Fosler, Johnson, Grosch, Lackey, Webster. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

Item 10. Adjourn

Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

Mike Thompson

April 24, 2024

Mike Thompson, Board Secretary

Date