

**WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS’ LICENSING BOARD MEETING  
Nov 8, 2023**

Tonny Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:06 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
	Cody Christensen	Daniel Mackin
	Russ Fosler	Mike Thompson
	Scott Grosch	Lynn Webster
	Laura Johnson	Brian Whitesel

ABSENT: Cody Christensen  
OTHERS: Dave Miesbach, Jason Orton, Cyril Martinmaas, Mark Graf, Jim Macy, Pam Miller.

**Item 2. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – Aug 16, 2023**

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

**Item 4. Election of Officers**

**Chairman Nominee:**

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

Mr. Fosler nominated Mr. Beck to remain as Chairman of the board. Mr. Mackin seconded the nomination. Voting yes: Beck, Fosler, Grosch, Johnson, Lackey, Mackin, Thompson, Webster, Whitesel. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

**Vice Chairman Nominee:**

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

Mr. Mackin nominated Mr. Whitesel to remain as Co-Chairman of the board. Ms. Lackey seconded the nomination. Voting yes: Beck, Russ, Fosler, Grosch, Johnson, Lackey, Mackin, Thompson, Webster, Whitesel. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

**Secretary Nominee:**

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

Mr. Whitesel nominated Mr. Thompson to remain as Secretary of the board. Mr. Mackin seconded the nomination. Voting yes: Beck, Fosler, Grosch, Johnson, Lackey, Mackin, Webster, Whitesel. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

**Item 5. Continuing Education Requests**

1-5-Day RCRA Seminar, Lake Tahoe, NV, by McCoy and Associates, was held August 14-18, 2023; Megan Seymour

Requests: 8 hrs.

Recommended: 8 hrs.

2- 2024 NE Water Industries Annual Conference, Kearney, NE, by NWDA will be held February 13-15, 2024; Lee Orton

Requests: 26 hrs.

Recommended: 26 hrs./credit max 14 hrs.

3-2023 Customer Appreciation Show, St Cloud, MN, by Preferred Pump was held March 17, 2023; Steven Johnson

Requests: 6 hr.

Recommended: 6 hrs.

4- General Pump Applications and Solar, Grand Island, NE, by Roberts Pump was held November 11, 2023; Matthew Roberts

Requests: 6 hr.

Recommended: 4 hrs.

5-Utah Groundwater Conference, Provo, UT, by American Ground Water Trust. was held August 15-16, 2023; Casey Curtis

Requests: up to 13.5 hrs.

Recommended: 8 hrs.

6-NeRWA Fall Conference, Gering, NE, by Nebraska Rural Water Association was held September 12-14, 2023; Patrick Petersen

Requests: 9.5 hrs.

Recommended: 10.5 hrs.

7-Water Well Evaluation, Troubleshooting and Rehabilitation, webinar, by National Groundwater Association was held February 28, 2023; Michael Gerdes

Requests: 5.25 hr.

Recommended: 5 hrs.

8- GW/SW Monitoring Council Meeting, webinar, by NDEE was held October 17, 2023; Dan Inman

Requests: 2 hrs.

Recommended: 2 hrs.

9- 2023 Groundwater Week, Las Vegas, NV, by National Groundwater Association will be held December 5-7, 2023; Sue Tenney

Requests: 46 hrs.

Recommended: 46 hrs./credit max 14 hrs.

10- 2023 Open House, Grand Island, NE, by Preferred Pump was held March 25, 2023; Victor Silva

Requests: 3 hrs.

Recommended: 3 hrs.

11- Winter Training Class 2023, La Vista, NE, by Hydro Pump will be held November 30, 2023; Andy Kettelhut

Requests: 5 hrs.

Recommended: 5 hrs.

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

### **Item 6. 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.
- Inspection violations will be reviewed at conference in February.
- Two board members are up for reappointment. Paperwork has been submitted and are awaiting sign-off by the Governor.
- No approval has been made on the new regulations by the Governor. The Department will meet with the Governor's office after the first of the year.
- The WWS program recently ran a camera down a well donated to Conservation and Survey by the city of Lincoln, this video was shown to the board. Conservation and Survey still uses the well for water level testing.
- Tonny shared his concerns on funding for the program. The NWDA hired a lobbying firm to secure permanent funding for the program through the legislature last session, which did not happen. NWDA is looking to retain the services of the lobbying firm to retry again this coming legislative

session for statute funding. If this does happen, these fees will only be available for one more try.

- Mr. Macy shared that the WWSP is part of the core appropriation funding with the department.
- The NWDA asked if any monetary help could come from the WWS program for well drilling training courses.
- A request was made that a Budget report to be presented at future board meetings. Mr. Miesbach will provide this report in the future.

### **Item 7. Legislative Report**

None

### **Item 8. Agency Reports**

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

- Rotary test holes have been completed.
- Coring work for nutrient, pesticide, and herbicide samples are done.
- Katie is in Cedar County helping Mr. Korus with a new piece of geo physical equipment, a walking unit. Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) helped with funding issues for the equipment, also with set up for use by ENWRA NRDs. Mr. Korus is the contact person for the equipment.
- ENWRA is working on the recharge project with USGS. A publication will be coming out shortly. Five focus areas have been selected in eastern Nebraska to study on a smaller scale.
- School of Natural Resources has a new Director-Larkin Powell

#### **B. Department of Natural Resources – Mike Thompson**

- Handouts of registration statistical reports were reviewed by the Board.
- Planning continues with Perkins County Canal. The project is going into the design phase.
- Annual field office meeting is today.
- Drone demo took place yesterday at the Salt Creek wetland.

#### **C. Dept. of Environment and Energy – Laura Johnson**

- Title 118-Groundwater Quality Standards and Use Classification was signed by the Governor and is on the website.
- Looking at proposed changes to Title 179-the Groundwater and Direct Influence of Surface Water. Cyril will be giving testimony at the hearing on how the drinking water engineering section does evaluations for new municipal wells and existing wells.

- PFAS testing has taken place on municipal water wells and will continue this next year, limited PFAS were found in these wells. Samples showed lithium being found almost everywhere through natural occurrence.
- Jeff Gottula, a longtime employee with Groundwater, recently passed away.

**D. HHS – Division of Public Health – Russ Fosler**

- New CEO

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

- Reading flow meters
- Completing fall static levels

**Item 9. Public Comment**

None

**Item 10: Closed Session**

None

**Item 11. Adjourn**

Mr. Fosler moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

*Mike Thompson*

December 14, 2023

---

**Mike Thompson, Board Secretary**

---

**Date**