

WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING

February 10, 2025

Tonny Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. with roll call. The meeting was held at the Crown Plaza, 707 West Talmadge St, Rm Bronze #3, Kearney, 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
Daniel Mackin
Lynn Webster
Laura Johnson
Cody Christensen

Sue Lackey
Mike Thompson
Scott Grosch
Brian Whitesel

ABSENT: Russ Fosler

OTHERS: Dave Miesbach, Jason Orton, Lee Orton, Tim Sizer, Grant Hansen, Dan Egeland, Jeremy Promes, Becky Schuerman, and Pam Miller.

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

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

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – Nov. 6, 2024

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

Item 4. Continuing Education Requests

- 1- Pump & Treat Optimization Training, Webinar, by ITRC will be held March 13, 2025; Nancy Harris

Requests: 2 hrs.

Recommended: 2 hrs.

2- Water Programs Update, Grand Island, NE, by CPNRD will be held February 11, 2025; Marcia Lee

Requests: 4 hrs. Recommended: 3.5 hrs.

3- 2025 Thein Well In-House Training, Spicer, MN, by Thein Well Co was held January 21, 2025; Michael Thein

Requests: 6 hrs. Recommended: 6 hrs.

4- 2023 CPS Distributors Summit, Cheyenne, WY, by Franklin Electric was held December 14, 2023; Derrick Davis

- Residential VFD's Sub drive and Connect

Requests: 2 hrs. Recommended: 2 hrs.

- Submersible Motors and Troubleshooting

Requests: 1 hr. Recommended: 1 hr.

- Submersible Pumps and Pump Sizing

Requests: 1 hr. Recommended: 1

Total hrs. requested for this group: 4 hrs. Recommended: 4 hrs.

5- 2024 Wy Groundwater Ass. Conference/Franklin Electric, Casper, Wy, by Wyoming Groundwater Association was held January 11, 2024; Derrick Davis

- Franklin Electric Hands-on Drives

Requests: 1.5 hrs. Recommended: 1.5 hrs.

- Oils and Lubrications

Requests: 1 hr. Recommended: 1hr.

- Why Motors Fail

Requests: 1 hr. Recommended: 1 hr.

- NGWA Updates and Business Pro

Requests: .5 hr. Recommended: .5 hr.

- VFD's, Did You Know-

Requests: 1 hr. Recommended: 1 hr.

- Alternative Drilling Fluids for Deep, Large Wells

Requests: 1 hr. Recommended: 1

Total hrs. requested: 6 hrs. Recommended: 7 hrs.

6- NRD Legislative Conference, Lincoln, NE, by NARD was held January 28-29, 2025; Jennifer Swanson

Requests: 7 hrs. Recommended: 6 hrs. of content-4 hrs. per person

7- 2024 NGWA Conference, Webinars, by NGWA ongoing 2025; Sue Tenney

Requests: 40 hrs. (1 hr. each) Recommended: 40 hrs. (1 hr. each)

- Advanced VFD Topics - PID, Ramps, EMI, Harmonics
- Alphabet Soup of Geothermal Heat Pumps
- Benefits of Solar Pumping with Variable Frequency Drives
- Boreholes vs. Wells
- Electrical Protection and Safety Disconnect for Your Field Equipment
- Emerging Contaminants
- Geothermal Drilling - Lessons Learned
- Groundwater Occurrence and Aquifer Types
- High Pressure Hydro-Jetting as A Tool in New Well Development
- History of HSLA Steel and Other Corrosion Resistant Steel Options for Water Well Applications
- How are You Selling You? Because With or Without Effort Your Name is Out There
- Hydraulics - The Know-How
- Integrating UV Water Treatment Systems into Your Existing Product Portfolio
- Leveraging Energy Assessments for Pumping Systems
- Managing Fatigue: Strategies for Workplace Safety and Health
- Maximizing Sonic Rig Potential: Infield and Innovative Uses of Sonic Rigs
- Metering, Monitoring and Managing Groundwater and Wells Through Interactive Technology
- One Year Later - Navigating the Build America, Buy America Act
- Optimizing Geothermal Drilling: Operations, Equipment, and Scalability Insights
- Power of Written Procedures
- Preventive Maintenance – Extending the Life of Your Water Well
- Productive Drilling, Solids Control, & Waste Disposal
- Proper Bit Selection
- Remote Monitoring and Control of Water Systems
- Replacements - Replacement of Avondale Replacement Well 25
- Simple Do and Don't All Specific to Well Rehabilitation - Avoiding Serious Pitfalls
- Site & Project Safety
- Sonic Drilling: Pioneers for Progress and Profit
- State of the Art for High-Rate Groundwater Sand Control: Design, Fabrication, Installation, and Field Performance
- Toilet Talk - Lessons from Looking in the Back of the Toilet
- Transforming Perspectives on Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Understanding Aquifer Characteristics and Well Performance Through Aquifer Testing
- Understanding Traditional Controls and Submersible Motors
- VFD Control for Ground Water Application
- Well Rehabilitation and Construction Techniques Using Inflatable Packers

- Well Rehabilitation from Start to Finish: Logistics, Planning, Data Collection, Execution, Chemistry, Follow Up
- What Warranty?
- Why Did My Last Rehabilitation Not Meet Expectation
- Wire to Water and Smart Installation: Replacement Practices for Improved Efficiency in the 21st Century
- Your Toolkit for Water Systems

8- NRD Water Programs Conference, Kearney, NE, by NARD will be held March 4, 2025; Jennifer Swanson

Requests: 6 hrs. Recommended: 6 hrs. of content-4 hrs. per person

9- Subsurface Geochemical Adventures in Kearney County Kansas, Webinar, by Kansas Geological Survey was held January 22, 2025; Dan Inman

Requests: 1 hr. Recommended: Denied for content

10- Managing the Complexities and Uncertainties of Soil Sequences, Palmyra, NE, by Nebraska Geological Society will be held May 7-9, 2025; Doug Hallum

Requests: 24 hrs. Recommended: Tentative approval- contingent upon receiving updated final schedule

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

Item 5. Exam Proctor Request

Mr. Webster made the motion to approve Bill Allen as an exam proctor. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. Beck, Grosch, Lackey, Mackin, Thompson, Webster, Whitesel, Christensen. Voting no: none. Abstain: Johnson. 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.
- New inspector-Bill Allen was introduced.
- New inspection area map was distributed.
- Questions on setbacks clarified for presentation.
- Monitoring wells at livestock facilities with grout settling and no surface seals.

- Change in inspection process. A letter will be sent to landowners informing them that a registered well inspection may be made on their property.
- Completed regulations were distributed to the board for final review.
- Waiting for sample results on a well that was neon blue. The livestock well may have been intentionally sabotaged.

Item 7. Legislative Report

- Merger with DNR and NDEE, hearing coming up.
- Appropriation of general funds, too soon to tell.

Item 8. Agency Reports

A. UNL – Conservation & Survey – Sue Lackey

- North Platte position-working on approval to get the position filled.
- Drilling: Justin-unsaturated zone coring
- Rotary drilling in March
- NRD work-Lower Loup, Valentine US Parks/USGS, two rural water system test holes, state map.
- National Institute of Health is putting caps on indirect costs on grants. Omaha Med Center will be highly impacted by these changes.

B. Department of Natural Resources – Mike Thompson

- Handouts of registration statistical reports were reviewed by the Board.
- FAQ handout for well registrations
- The Interactive Map will be covered at conference for the well drillers. The program is still running slow. A new server may help with the issue.

C. Dept. of Environment and Energy – Laura Johnson

- NDEE Program Update covering:
 - Drinking Water Lead and Copper Rule
 - Executive Order stopped all federal grants-froze federal funding to the state.
 - State bills LB29 amends Administrative Procedure Act LB472 Regulatory Management Act will require us to look at our rules, if these bills pass, updating of our regulations will take more time to get approved.
 - Public Water Systems PFAS Results
 - Statewide Nitrate Study on the website
 - Surface water sampling
 - UIC/ME Authorizations and Permits

- Subcommittee for WWS construction standards
- One Red
- Staffing Changes
- Water Planning/319 Program
- Private RO Rebate Program

D. HHS – Division of Public Health – Russ Fosler

None

E. Natural Resources Districts – Lynn Webster

- Extreme drought, spring static water levels will be affected.
- Nitrogen Incentive Act-for producers to apply for reimbursement for reducing nitrogen. Current interest in the program is about \$2 million dollars in applications. A bill has been introduced for more funding of the program.

Item 9. Public Comment

A question was asked if the grout study had been shared outside of Nebraska? Yes

Break 2:15-2:27 P.M.

Item 10: Closed Session

At 2:27 p.m. Ms. Johnson made the motion to go into closed session to discuss licensees and prevent unnecessary harm to reputations. Mr. Grosch seconded the motion. Voting yes Beck, Grosch, Johnson, Lackey, Mackin, Thompson, Webster, Whitesel, Christensen. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

At 2:40 p.m. Mr. Mackin made the motion to come out of closed session. Mr. Whitesel seconded the motion. Voting yes: Beck, Grosch, Johnson, Lackey, Mackin, Thompson, Webster, Whitesel, Christensen. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

No actions were taken during the closed session.

Item 11. Adjourn

Ms. Lackey moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Mike Thompson

February 28, 2025

Mike Thompson, Board Secretary

Date