

WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING

April 16, 2025

In Mr. Beck's and Mr. Whitesel's absence, Mr. Thompson, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 10:07 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 Environment and Energy's website. The Open Meetings Act was posted at the front entrance of the room.

Item 1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Sue Lackey
Mike Thompson
Scott Grosch

Russ Fosler
Lynn Webster
Laura Johnson

ABSENT: Cody Christensen, Tonny Beck, Daniel Mackin, Brian Whitesel

OTHERS: Dave Miesbach, Jason Orton, Lee Orton, Tim Sizer, Bill Allen, Dan Egeland, Pam Miller.

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

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

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – February 10, 2025

Ms. Lackey requested that the minutes reflect the additional hour given for item number 5 on the CE list, granting 1 hour credit for the tradeshow that was not requested.

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

Item 4. Continuing Education Requests

1- NeRWA Conference, Kearney, NE, by NRWA was held March 10-12, 2025;
Patrick Petersen
Requests: 11 hrs. Recommended: 11.5

2- ITRC PFAS Beyond the Basics, Webinar, by ITRC was held February 25, 2025;
Sarah Klescewski
Requests: 2 hrs. Recommended: 2

- 3- NPNRD Ag Symposium, Gering, NE, by NPNRD was held February 19, 2025; Travis Preston
Requests: 3 hrs. Recommended: 3
- 4- Electrical and Employee Safety during Chemigation Inspections, Lexington, NE by CPNRD was held March 13, 2025; David Carr
Requests: 3 hrs. Recommended: 3
- 5- GW Monitoring Council Meeting, Lincoln, NE by NDEE will be held April 22, 2025; Dan Inman
Requests: 2 hrs. Recommended: 2
- 6- Hydro Pump Open House Training 2025, Omaha, NE by Hydro Pump was held April 3, 2025; Andy Kettelhut
Requests: 5 hrs. Recommended: 5
- 7- Authentic Drilling Boot Camp, Kiowa, CO by Authentic Drilling LLC will be held May 1, 2025; Sherri Meiklejohn
Requests: 8 hrs. Recommended: 8
- 8- Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions, Online webinar by EPA Groundwater Forum was held March 19, 2025; Kris Guthrie
Requests: 2 hrs. Recommended: 2
- 9- 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: 24 (agenda approved)

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

Item 5. Exam Proctor Requests

Mr. Fosler made the motion to approve Kris Guthrie as a CE proctor. Mr. Webster seconded the motion. Voting yes: Lackey, Thompson, Webster, Johnson, Fosler, Grosch. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

Ms. Lackey made the motion to approve Eric Waiss as a CE proctor. Mr. Fosler seconded the motion. Voting Yes: Thompson, Webster, Johnson, Fosler, Grosch, Lackey. 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.
- Regulations have been completed and are being finalized by Legal. No board comments were received.
- The inspection letter to registered well owners, has not gone out yet. Waiting on managements okay.
- Lab results on a “blue well” have not come back, no answer yet on what is in the water.
- The NRGWT online training tutorial went live April 10th, 2025, for the NRDs.

Item 7. Legislative Report

- LB317 NRD/NDEE merger is in the select file stage.
- LB346 Boards/Committees is in the select file stage. Onsite advisory committee to end July 2026
- Appropriations committee, the same level of funding for the program may remain from the general funds.

Item 8. Agency Reports

A. UNL – Conservation & Survey – Sue Lackey

- CSD in the process of finalizing the search to fill the North Platte Position.
- The 2024 Groundwater - Level Report was published last month.
- NRDs that CSD is drilling test holes &/or designing observation wells for this year:
 - Lower Loup, Upper Elkhorn, Nemaha (TH subcontracted), and Papio-Missouri River (includes tTEM ground surveys)
- NRDs that CSD may be drilling test holes & designing observation wells this year:
- LBBNRD and LBNRD put in for AEM WSF grants in March 2025.
 - Lower Platte North, Lower Niobrara, and Lower Platte South
- Niobrara Aquifer Testing with L&C NRD: 3 Niobrara Chalk irrigation wells will be pumped for about 3 days and the water levels in neighboring wells will be monitored.

B. Department of Natural Resources – Mike Thompson

- Handouts of registration statistical reports were reviewed by the Board.

- DEC Orders and PNs: programmers are working on a process to associate documents with a location to save time .
- An automated ownership change program was launched, saving time by about 75%.
- A Public Water Supply (PWS) well proximity tool will be added to the interactive map. NDEE will test before deployment.
- February 1, 2024 DNR began tracking replacement wells where the original well was not modified or decommissioned within the 180-day legal time window.

C. Dept. of Environment and Energy – Laura Johnson

- Region 7 EPA Director will be scheduling a meeting soon.
- Drinking water regulations are on hold. Re-examining PFAS regulations.
- Lead Rule is waiting on federal level.
- Reviewing impacts of new Executive Orders, currently tracking EO14260 and EO14270.
- NICOR-April-May coring 2500 feet.

D. HHS – Division of Public Health – Russ Fosler

- LB317-incorporate public health lab into NDEE
- Mr. Fosler's will be retiring, his last day with the state will be May 23. Interim replacement will be Becky Wisell or her interim appointee.
- Working on laboratory testing fee structure. No fee increases since 2015.
- Transportation issues with Water Well samples related to bacterial counts.

E. Natural Resources Districts – Lynn Webster

- End of March preliminary static water levels are not looking great.
- Wells were running in February for winter wheat.
- Tree season
- Chemigation inspections have already started due to weather conditions.
- Remains very dry.

Item 9. Public Comment

None

Break: 11:35-11:50

Item 10: Closed Session

At 11:51 a.m. Ms. Johnson made the motion to go into closed session to discuss licensees and prevent unnecessary harm to reputations. Mr. Fosler seconded the


motion. Voting yes: Fosler, Grosch, Johnson, Lackey, Thompson, Webster. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

At 12:05 pm Mr. Fosler made the motion to come out of closed session. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Voting yes: Fosler, Grosch, Johnson, Lackey, Thompson, Webster. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

No actions were taken during the closed session.

Item 11. Adjourn

Mr. Fosler moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m.



April 24, 2025

Mike Thompson, Board Secretary

Date