

WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING

June 4, 2025

Tonny Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with roll call. The meeting was held at the Upper Elkhorn NRD-301 N Harrison St, O'Neill, 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.

Welcoming of new Board member Tara Wulfekoetter representing DHHS. Introductions of board members.

Item 1. Roll Call

PRESENT:	Tonny Beck	Cody Christensen
	Daniel Mackin	Tara Wulfekoetter
	Mike Thompson	Lynn Webster
	Scott Grosch	Brian Whitesel

ABSENT: Laura Johnson, Sue Lackey
OTHERS: Dave Miesbach, Jason Orton, Tim Sizer, Bill Allen, Dan Egeland, Pam Miller.

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

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

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – April 16, 2025

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

Item 4. Continuing Education Requests

- 1- Annual Shallow Exploration Drillers Clinic, Sioux Falls, SD, by Shallow Exploration Drillers Clinic was held April 8-10, 2025; Mark Lindemann

Requests: 13.75 hrs. Recommended: 12

- 2- Vertical Turbine Pump Design and Application, Hastings, NE, by Mid-America Pump and Supply will be held October 8-9, 2025; Christopher Lula

Requests: 10 hrs. Recommended: 10

- 3- Groundwater Modeling and Complexity of PFAS Modeling, Online, by EPA was held April 30, 2025; Nancy Harris

Requests: 1 hr.

Recommended: 1

- 4- South Atlantic Jubilee, Myrtle Beach, SC, by South Atlantic Well Drillers Jubilee will be held July 26-28, 2025; Debra Kelly

Requests: 23.5 hrs.

Recommended: 33 hrs. for content,
maximum of 10.5 hrs. per person

- 5- Introduction to groundwater Investigations, Lenexa, KS, by EPA was held March 11-13, 2025; Trevor Kjeldgaard

Requests: 12 hrs.

Recommended: 20

Mr. Thompson, CEU Committee Chair, submitted the recommendations for board approval of CEU hours as stated. Voting yes: Mackin, Thompson, Webster, Whitesel, Christensen, Beck, Wulfekoetter, Grosch. 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.
- Final draft of Chapter 1 and 4 of the regulations were reviewed.
- The merger of the Department of Natural Resources and NDEE, the agency will now be named the Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE). The new name will take effect July 1, 2025.
- Funding for the program will continue.
- 2 Board members are still awaiting reappointment from the Governor. The NWDA has met with the Governors office several times but has not heard back on the timeframe the reappoints will be signed.
- 2 other board members will have their terms completed in October 2025. New members will need to be appointed. The Association is accepting recommendations of contractors interested in serving on the board.

Item 6. Legislative Report

- The 2025 budget is good. The 2026 budget is still being discussed.
- The board members reappointments were addressed.

Item 7. Agency Reports

A. UNL – Conservation & Survey – Sue Lackey

None.

B. Department of Natural Resources – Mike Thompson

- Handouts of registration statistical reports were reviewed by the Board.
- Data exports from the well search page now have a few more data fields included.
- Most of the layers the department can control on the interactive map will be moved to ESRI's high-speed servers to help with reliability problems.
- Currently there are two versions of the groundwater/registered well interactive map, the old version support will be going away soon. The newer version of the software will help with use on mobile devices.
- A new tool on the interactive map is being developed, which is like the location tool. It will tell the user to contact the department on potential spacing issues with public water supply wells.
- Accessibility for the contractors to see public water supply locations is still being addressed.
- Upgrading well data and document retrieval logins with the NRDs.
- Webpage redesign will take place with the merger.

C. Dept. of Environment and Energy – Laura Johnson

- Drinking water-pfas-federal guidelines are changing.
- The Managing the Complexities and Uncertainties of Soil Sequences Course by the Nebraska Geological Society received excellent reviews.
- The Elk Creek mineral exploration permit requires the department to witness decommissioning. Several trips have been made by staff in the last month to the site.

D. HHS – Division of Public Health – Tara Wulfekoetter

- Lab fees are being reviewed and may go up within the year.
- Testing for public water supply wells is very expensive and time consuming to complete. 10 new PWS wells in the last month. They would appreciate advance warning when those samples will be forthcoming.
- Public Health Lab may become a part of DWEE, discussions are being held.

E. Natural Resources Districts – Lynn Webster

- With the combining of the 2 agencies, communication with the NRDs is a concern.
- Out west the drought monitor is shrinking a bit but are still in a drought.
- Early season pumping is taking place with winter wheat.

Item 8. Public Comment

- None

Item 9: Closed Session

At 11:35 a.m. Mr. Thompson made the motion to go into closed session to discuss licensees and prevent unnecessary harm to reputations. Mr. Mackin seconded the motion. Voting yes: Thompson, Webster, Whitesel, Christensen, Beck, Wulfekoetter, Grosch, Mackin. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

At 11:43 a.m. Mr. Whitesel made the motion to come out of closed session. Mr. Christensen seconded the motion. Voting yes: Webster, Whitesel, Christensen, Beck, Wulfekoetter, Grosch, Mackin, Thompson. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

No actions were recommended during the closed session.

Item 10. Adjourn

Mr. Grosch moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 a.m.



June 10, 2025

Mike Thompson, Board Secretary

Date