# WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING June 6, 2023

Tonny Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. with roll call. The meeting was held on June 6, 2023, at the Middle Niobrara NRD-303 US 20-Valentine, 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
Daniel Mackin Russ Fosler
Scott Grosch Laura Johnson

ABSENT: Cody Christensen, Brian Whitesel

OTHERS: Jason Orton, Tim Sizer, Dan Egeland, Mark Graf, Pam Miller, Dave

Miesbach.

# Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

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

#### Item 3. Introduction and Welcome of New/Alternate Board Member

Introduction of new board member Russ Fosler Administrator II with the Department of Health and Human Services. Alternates to represent DHHS in his absence will be Charity Menefee Director of Public Health and Becky Wisell Deputy Director.

#### Item 4. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – April 5, 2023

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

# <u>Item 5. Continuing Education Requests</u>

1-Warehousing Safety/Trench & Excavation Safety, to be held in Lexington, Grand Island and Lincoln, by NWDA, on August 28, August 30, and September 1, 2023; Lee Orton

Requests: 6 hrs. each day Recommended: 6 hrs. each day

2-GW Monitoring Council Meeting, was held in Lincoln, by NDEE, on May 2, 2023; Dan Inman

Requests: 2 hrs. Recommended: 2 hrs.

3-2023 Northeast Nebraska Geology Tour, to be determined, by NWDA, on September 12, 2023; Lee Orton

Requests: 8 hrs. Recommended: 8 hrs.

4-2023 Drilling Project, Grand Island, by NWDA, October 3, 2023; Scott Snell

Requests: 8 hrs. Recommended: 8 hrs.

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

#### Item 6. Policy P-8 review

A discussion was held on the rounding of hours for CE requests made by providers. Several Board members suggested that the rounding needed to be based off individual class/session start and stop times. This contrasts with the draft presented before this meeting that would allow for discretion to add class session time for events with multiple class sessions and round the cumulative total to the nearest 0.5 hours. Today it was recommended that each class session should contain a minimum of 50 minutes of content to be given 1 hour of credit. The session would not allow for any break within that 50-minute timeframe. Any class session with less than 50 minutes of content would be rounded down to the nearest 0.5 hours of credit. P-8 will be resubmitted for approval at the next Board meeting after revisions have been made to the proposed policy changes. A new draft of the proposed policy changes will be circulated to Board members before the next meeting.

#### <u>Item 7. Program Report</u>

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.

- Funding for the Water Well Standards Program was put into the Governor's budget for the next 2 years. Resubmission of the funding bill will be sent to the legislature for the new session.
- NDEE has been working with the NRDs for the NRGWT training program.
   The committee is working on an online tutorial to replace the in-person training. This may change how NRGWT exams take place.
- Inspection staff have been observing the drilling of a UIC Fifth Class I underground injection well. Fall off tests have been completed.
- Dye testing on Salt loops in Lincoln are being conducted.
- No new status on the regulations.
- WWSP will talk with legal about putting the board policies on our webpage.
- Discussion on the relocation of public meeting notices to WWS board webpage.

Ms. Lackey made a motion to approve the relocation of the public meeting notice to be advertised on the WWS board webpage. Mr. Fosler seconded the motion. Voting yes: Beck, Thompson, Mackin, Grosch, Lackey, Johnson, Webster, Fosler. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

# **Item 8. Legislative Report**

The funding bill for the Water Well Standards Program, died.

Money was approved for the next two years from general funds.

#### Item 9. Agency Reports

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

- Matt got a driller helper. Finishing up unsaturated zones for nitrate
- Working with rural water and public water supply systems
- UNL is going through budget cuts, serious cuts will be made.

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

- Review of well registrations-statistical handouts were distributed to the Board.
- DNR is continuing to receive higher domestic well registrations due to the reverse osmosis program with NDEE.
- Perkins County canal is going forward in the design phase and making steady progress.

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

 RO rebate has been extended until the money is depleted Page 4 of 5

- Changes on the national level with proposed regulations for primary drinking water standards and PFAS are being addressed. A comment letter has been submitted to the national register.
- New lead/copper rule is requiring states to complete Lead Service Line Inventories by October of 2024
- EPA Memo is requiring state Drinking Water Programs to evaluate cyber security through their sanitary surveys.
- PFAS sampling requirements are leading states towards building a new state health labs. We are evaluating the workload. The Drinking Water team took a tour of our state health lab and it appears that significant updates or building a new lab is needed.
- Statewide nitrate groundwater study RFP is in development and should go out for bid soon.
- Special study sampling of nitrate impacted wells not near a typical nitrate source has been completed. We are waiting on sampling results from UNL.

#### D. HHS - Division of Public Health - Russ Fosler

 Mr. Fosler shared with the board his background and current role with DHHS. Public Health will do investigations on licensees if needed.

# E. Natural Resources Districts - Lynn Webster

- No concerns or questions have been raised by the NRDs.
- Moisture from the winter have not changed the water levels
- Gearing up for Spring/Summer work

#### Item 10. Public Comment

None

Break: 4:23-4:29

#### **Item 11: Closed Session**

Mr. Mackin made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Mr. Fosler, at 4:29 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of current licensee, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individual. Voting yes: Grosch, Lackey, Webster, Thompson, Beck, Mackin, Fosler, Johnson. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

Ms. Johnson made the motion to come out of closed session at 4:49 pm, seconded by Mr. Webster

A letter of non-compliance will be sent to a licensee who did not follow Title 179 guidelines on work conducted on a public water supply.

# Item 12. Adjourn

Ms. Lackey moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Mike Thompson, Board Secretary	Date
Mike Thompson	July 31, 2023