

Minutes of the January 17, 2024, Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists Virtual Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Sarah Pistillo, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting of the Virtual Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists to order at 1:03 p.m. on January 17, 2024, in the Goldenrod Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on January 4, 2024.

Pistillo announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Sarah Pistillo, Vice-Chairperson (via Webex)
Nathan Hartman, Secretary (via Webex)
Jeremy Collinson, Member (via Webex)
Michael Wentink, Member (via Webex)
Larry Hardesty, Member (via Webex)

Staff Present:

TJ O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General (via Webex)
Danielle Sund, DHHS Legal (via Webex)
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Hartman moved, seconded by Wentink, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye Collinson, Pistillo, Wentink, Hardesty, and Hartman. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

3. Mail Ballot:

Motion: Hartman moved, seconded by Hardesty to approve minutes from the September 6, 2023 minutes. Voting aye: Pistillo, Hartman, Collinson, Hardesty, and Wentink. Minutes were approved September 9, 2024. Motion carried.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists 1.25.2024.

4. CLOSED SESSION

Motion: Hartman moved and Collinson seconded to enter into closed session at 1:10 pm for discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Collinson, Pistillo, Hardesty, Wentink, and Hatman. Voting nay, none. Motion carried.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS

Board returned to open session at 1:53 pm.
The Board did not make any recommendations.

6. Election of Officers:

Motion: Hardesty moved, seconded by Wentink to elect Sara Pistillo as Chairperson and Investigative Consultant, Jeremy Collinson as Vice-Chair, Nathan Hartman as Secretary. Voting aye: Pistillo, Collinson, Hartman, Hardesty, and Wentink. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

7. Per Diem:

Motion: Hartman moved, seconded Collinson to not receive a per diem for Board Activities. Voting to approve: Pistillo, Collinson, Hartman, Hardesty, and Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

8. Notice of Meeting Publication:

Motion: Hartman moved Seconded by Collinson, per the request of the Department and in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, meetings for this Board continue to be posted on the Department of Health and Human Services Licensure Board Meeting Agenda webpage, be physically posted on the Board Meeting Agenda billboard in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building and be disseminated via e-mail to a list of stakeholders and interested parties. Voting aye: Pistillo, Collinson, Hartman, Hardesty, and Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Covert-ByBee reported that LB 262 was carried over into this year's session. It had AM 719 introduced, which stated: *(4) All inspections conducted pursuant to the act shall be performed by persons who (a) meet the requirements of section 8-402.10 of the Food Code and, within thirty-six months after being hired to conduct such inspections, pass a certified professional food safety credential examination approved by the department that meets the requirements of Option 2 of Standard 2, Trained Regulatory Staff, of the 2022 United States Food and Drug Administration's Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards or (b) are provisional environmental health specialists or registered environmental health specialists as defined in section 38-1305 or 38-1306.* There's been another amendment, AM 2020, which was introduced earlier this session and is also pending. AM 2020 appears to clarify technical

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aspects of the bill. Board Members discussed forming and sending another letter to the senators of the Agriculture Committee in opposition of LB 262 and AM 719.

Motion: Hartman moved, seconded by Hardesty, to create a subcommittee consisting of Pistillo and Hartman to draft a letter of opposition to LB 262 and AM 719 to be presented to the members of the Agriculture Committee of the Nebraska Legislature. Voting aye: Pistillo, Collinson, Hartman, Hardesty, Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

10. UPDATE ON LICENSURE DATABASE

Covert-ByBee reported that the Department is continuing to work with the contractor to stabilize the current licensure database with a proposed operational date of January 1, 2025.

11. APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT (APR)

Covert-ByBee reported that the application processing report was provided for informational purposes only.

12. Topics For Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be held Septmeber 17th, 2024 at 1:00 pm instead of September 4, 2024. Topics will include Legislative update, APR, Licensure Database, Stakeholder communicaiton, and Public Comment.

13. Public Comment- none

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Hartman, Secretary