

WATER WELL STANDARDS AND CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD

April 11, 2018

Tracy McConnell, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. with roll call. The meeting was held at the Nebraska State Office Building, Room Lower Level B, Lincoln, Nebraska. Copies of the agenda were emailed to board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The meeting was published in the April 2, 2018, edition of the Omaha World Herald and advertised on the Public Meeting Calendar on the Nebraska.gov website and online at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/crlBoardAgendasMinutes.aspx>. The Open Meetings Act was posted at the back of the room.

Item 1. Roll Call

PRESENT:	Tonny Beck	David Miesbach
	Dave Hansen	Mike Salmon
	Mike Thompson	Lynn Webster
	Sue Lackey	Brian Whitesel
	Tracy McConnell	

ABSENT: No members were absent. A replacement for Howard Isaacs who retired from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has not been declared.

OTHERS: Jason Orton, Lee Orton, Kim Howell, Meghan Sittler, Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Judy Martin, Jack Daniel, and Claire Covert-ByBee

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

Mike Salmon moved that the agenda be adopted. Sue Lackey seconded the motion.
Roll call vote: 9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – February 12, 2018

Brian Whitesel moved that the minutes be adopted. Tonny Beck seconded the motion.
Roll call vote: 9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Item 4. Role of the Executive Secretary/Board Member Consultant, Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Attorney, DHHS Legal Services

There was a discussion of the role of the Executive Secretary for the Board. It was related that Tom Christopherson is still the Executive Secretary but he is currently unavailable. Judy Martin is currently the backup for the Executive Secretary. The DHHS Licensure unit may offer an advisor to the WWS&CLB regarding professional standards.

Item 5. Continuing Education Requests

#1 – KGWA Annual Convention & Tradeshow was held January 18-19, 2018; Stephen Seliga Requests: 8 hours/ Recommended: 6 hours

#2 – IWWA 89th Annual Convention was held February 1, 2018; David Tranmer Requests: 6 hours/ Recommended: 6 hours

#3 – Shallow Exploration Drillers Clinic will be held April 17-18, 2018; Ron Prochaska Requests: 12 hours/ Recommended: 12 hours

#4 – GeoCloud/GeoScene3D Workshop will be held August 7-8, 2018; Jesse Korus Requests: 16 hours/ Recommended: 18 hours

#5 – Applied Groundwater Statistics will be held June 12-13, 2018; Megan Seymour Requests: 8 hours/ Recommended: 14 hours

#6 – New insights into Carboniferous Cyclothems will be held October 12-14, 2018; Douglas Hallum Requests: 15 hours/ Recommended: 14 hours

David Miesbach moved that the CEU's be approved. Second to the motion is not required. Roll call vote: 9 Yes 0 No 0_Abstain

Item 6. Balance Sheet

Kim Howell presented the balance sheet, which shows a cash balance of \$1,530,809.87, committed funds of: \$1,177,700.27, and uncommitted funds of: \$353,109.60. Paid fees to credentialing of: \$19,411.56 and received revenue of: \$91,492.72.

Several members of the Board expressed their ongoing concerns regarding expenditures on the Laurel and Wauneta study sites that exceeded the original \$250,000 board recommendation by \$110,000. Chairman McConnell asked Secretary Thompson if he could provide a copy of the more detailed expenditure listing that was distributed at the June 2017 Board meeting in Lexington. It was noted that several members were absent from that meeting. Other Board members concurred that they wanted a copy of that document. Look to item 11 of these minutes for the follow-up to this request.

Item 7. Program Report

Kim Howell presented the program report.

Item 8. Legislative Report

LB299 language on licensing and credentialing boards is generic. The bill is on final reading and likely will be approved. Eventually boards will have to justify their existence.

The budget was approved by the Governor.

Item 9. Agency Reports

A. UNL – Conservation & Survey

Sue Lackey reported that the 2017 water level report is out and on the website.

UNL and 3 natural resources districts have bids submitted for the Dakota drilling project. Drilling project has 6 test holes. Haven't heard of a decision yet.

B. Department of Natural Resources

Mike Thompson handed out 3 reports for registered well program activity. One for the number of registered wells by month and use category. A second one that is similar to the first, but only displays replacement wells. The third handout shows well registered more than sixty days after well completion.

C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Dave Miesbach reported that DEQ is working with communities on Well Head Protection projects. The Well Head Protection modeler position will end after April 30, 2018. The Quality-Assessed Agrichemical Contaminant Database for Nebraska Groundwater is being worked on for user improvements.

D. HHS – Division of Public Health

Judy Martin reported about the 3.7 earthquake in Arnold, Nebraska. No infrastructure damage has been reported as yet. Howard Isaac's replacement is being worked on and should be decided by the next WWS&CLB meeting. Judy acknowledged Kim Howell for all the extra work she has been doing.

E. Natural Resources Districts

Lynn Webster related to NRD managers that issuing well drilling permits needs to be done promptly. He investigated options for NRD funding for tutorial video production. He noted that a DHHS video technician may be able to assist with the project. He is waiting for more details from DHHS on how the NRDs can partner to move forward with the tutorial video project for exam preparation. Kim to provide scope of work document excerpt to Lynn Webster to aid in his discussions with NRD partners. It was noted that an efficient way to capture the final video content would be to have the 5 topic experts in one place. This could dovetail with an exam for all 5 licensure types.

Item 10. Public Comment

No public comments.

Item 11. Other

Meghan Sittler talked about NebGuides updates. Working on resources available for creating a database for contaminant updates for the website. UNL contract with DHHS was being reviewed at UNL but sent back to DHHS for their E1 process. The contract is expected to be completed soon. The cost is \$75,000 over 3 years. Invoices are submitted for payment. UNL has been covering costs thus far, which were described as minimal by Sittler.

Mike Thompson handed out the “Annular Space Research Task Force – costs verses projections” document that was requested earlier in the meeting. It was copied from the materials distributed for the June 2017 Board meeting in Lexington.

Jack Daniel asked about the status of the general nitrate levels in the state. David Miesbach said the overall value was screened to avoid the statistical effect of highly sampled areas. The overall opinion offered by Miesbach is that the nitrate level in Nebraska groundwater is similar to past levels.

Item 12. Personnel Issues - Closed session

Mike Salmon moved that the Board go into closed session. Tonny Beck seconded the motion. Roll call vote: 9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

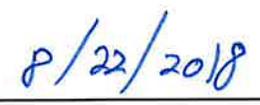
Tonny Beck moved that the Board come out of closed session. Brian Whitesel seconded the motion. Roll call vote: 9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Item 13 Adjourn

Mike Salmon moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m. by consensus.



Mike Thompson, Board Secretary



Date