

Minutes of the September 9, 2020 Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Kathy King, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists to order at 1:05 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 in the Third Floor Conference Room C at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was duly publicized by distribution of the Notice of Meeting and Agenda at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and posting the agenda at the entrance of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

King announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Kathy King, Chairperson
Sarah Pistillo, Vice-Chairperson
Nathan Hartman, Secretary
Jeremy Collinson, Member
Dr. Larry Hardesty, Member
Mike Wentink, Member

Others Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Antonio Carranza, Health Licensing Coordinator

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 15, 2019 MINUTES

MOTION: Collinson moved, seconded by Wentink to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2019 meeting. Voting aye: Collinson, Hardesty, Hartman, King, Pistillo and Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

There were no items to discuss in closed session.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS – OPEN SESSION

There were no recommendations.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists by mail ballot on September 19, 2020.

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Covert-ByBee stated that the legislature was temporarily suspended during the pandemic, reconvening on July 20th and the session ran through August 13th. She advised there were no bills that directly affected registered environmental health specialists.

7. REGULATIONS UPDATE

Covert-ByBee updated the Board that the chapter of regulations related to licensure of registered environmental health specialists was promulgated on May 23, 2020. Notification was sent to board members, stakeholders and interested parties at that time and the regulations were highlighted on the licensing webpage.

8. COVID-19 AND LICENSURE

Covert-ByBee advised that Executive Orders 20-10 and 20-27 related to licensure are still in effect. They do not affect registered environmental health specialists much although Executive Order 20-27 does allow for all licenses under the Uniform Credentialing Act to waive their continuing education requirement during renewal or reinstatement if they are unable to complete the requirement due to circumstances beyond their control. Any licensee applying for the waiver would be required to provide supporting documentation.

9. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Carranza provided an application processing report. It was for informational purposes only.

10. PER DIEM DISCUSSION

Carranza advised the department is reviewing per diem procedures for all occupational boards. He stated the Board has the option of receiving a per diem for time spent preparing for a Board meeting, board meeting days, additional days spent traveling for a Board meeting and when representing the Board in an official capacity. Covert-ByBee gave background on the Board advising that since most members typically work for state or local health districts, historically the Board has declined receiving a per diem. She also clarified that a per diem does not affect expense reimbursement, that will continue whether the Board receives a per diem or not.

MOTION: After discussion, Hartman moved, seconded by Collinson to continue without receiving a per diem. Voting aye: Collinson, Hardesty, Hartman, King, Pistillo and Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

11. MAIL BALLOT APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Carranza stated that the Department has adopted mail ballot approval of meeting minutes so that the minutes are published sooner and available to the public. Once the draft minutes are complete, they will be sent by email to the Board members for approval rather than waiting to be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting.

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12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: After discussion, Hartman moved, seconded by Pistillo to keep the existing officers in their roles. Voting aye: Collinson, Hardesty, Hartman, King, Pistillo and Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

13. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION

The Board is required to inform the public each year the method by which it will provide notice of meetings. In the past, the Board has chosen to post meeting agendas at the Nebraska State Office Building, to email agendas to the interested parties list, and to post agendas on the Department's website.

MOTION: Hartman moved, seconded by Collinson to continue these methods of publication. Voting aye: Collinson, Hardesty, Hartman, King, Pistillo and Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

14. SCHEDULE MEETING FOR NEXT YEAR

The Board scheduled the meeting for next year for September 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

16. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Suggested topics for the next meeting included legislative update and regulation update.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Hartman, Secretary