

WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING

April 8, 2020

Tonny Beck, Chairman, called the teleconference meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with roll call. Copies of the agenda were emailed to board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The meeting and the Open Meetings Act was publicized in the Public Meeting Calendar on the Nebraska.gov website.

Item 1. Roll Call

PRESENT:	Tonny Beck	David Miesbach
	Cody Christensen	Mike Thompson
	Sue Dempsey	Lynn Webster
	Dave Hansen	Brian Whitesel
	Sue Lackey	

LATE ARRIVAL: Scott Grosch (joined call at 10:22 a.m.)

OTHERS: Jason Orton, Lee Orton, Dan Egeland, Mark Graf, Marty Link,
Claire Covert-ByBee, Pam Miller

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Dempsey moved that the agenda be adopted. Ms. Lackey seconded the motion.
Voting yes: Christensen, Miesbach, Thompson, Beck, Dempsey, Whitesel, Webster, Hansen and Lackey. Voting no: none. Abstain: None. Absent: Grosch. Motion carried.

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – February 10, 2020

Mr. Miesbach moved that the minutes be adopted. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion.
Voting yes: Christensen, Miesbach, Thompson, Beck, Dempsey, Whitesel, Webster, Hansen.
Voting no: none. Abstain: Lackey. Absent: Grosch. Motion carried.

Item 4. Continuing Education Requests

#1 – NARD Legislative Conference, Lincoln, NE, by NARD was held January 28-29, 2020; Jennifer Swanson

Requests: 5 hrs.

Recommended: 4

#2 – Solar Training, various locations, Roberts Pump and Lorentz was held February 24-27, 2020; Matthew Roberts

Requests: 4 hrs.

Recommended: 4

#3 – NARD Water Programs Conference, Kearney, NE, by NARD was held March 3, 2020; Jennifer Swanson

Requests: 6 hrs.

Recommended: 6

Mr. Miesbach made the motion to approve CEUs as stated. Ms. Lackey seconded the motion. Voting yes: Christensen, Miesbach, Thompson, Beck, Dempsey, Whitesel, Webster, Hansen and Lackey. Voting no: none. Abstain: None. Absent: Grosch. 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.

- Mr. Egeland provided an update on the Capital and Fallbrook Projects.
- Claire Covert-ByBee with Licensure provided an update on licensee numbers and LB 112 year to date totals. Ms. Covert-ByBee also shared the Executive Order from the Governor and guidance documentation for the Order. The Order provides directives for professional licensing waivers put into effect during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- No routine inspections are being conducted at this time. Emergency inspections only.
- Upcoming May testing has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for late June. NRD May 29th testing will also be postponed and a future test date to be determined.
- The vacant inspector position in North Platte has been put on hold until further notice due to COVID-19.
- CEU concerns for licensees for the 2020 renewal year.

During the program report the call was dropped and participants re-connected. All Board members present on call after 3 minutes. Roll call: Christensen, Miesbach, Thompson, Beck, Dempsey, Whitesel, Webster, Hansen, Grosch and Lackey.

Mr. Miesbach made a motion to temporarily rescind Policy 14: CE Webinar/Proctor during the pandemic. This would provide licensees the opportunity to attend online webinars without a proctor and waive the 6 hour limit per renewal period of courses. Licensees would be required to provide a dated certificate of attendance and CE application for credit of all completed courses. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Voting yes: Christensen, Miesbach, Thompson, Beck, Dempsey, Whitesel, Webster, Hansen, Grosch and Lackey. Voting no: none. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Item 6. Legislative Report

Lee Orton provided the Legislative report. The Legislature is not in session due to COVID-19 concerns. No start date to finish this year's session has been determined. The Legislature has 21 days remaining this year.

Item 7. Agency Reports

A. UNL – Conservation & Survey – Sue Lackey

- UNL has closed due to the pandemic.
- Field work is on hold. Geo-probing work is behind.
- Drilling schedule is up in the air at this time.
- All efforts are being made to complete water levels.

B. Department of Natural Resources – Mike Thompson

- Board members received Regional reports prior to the meeting via email.
- Mr. Thompson provided an update on the Nebraska Interactive project which included improvements made to reduce the number of rejections and error tracking. Streamlining of the well registration process for well driller contractors. Ground/gravel page is being updated. Geo log comments section has been expanded and additional colors added. Links to new interactive maps will also be added.
- Correspondence will be mailed to contractors in the near future regarding the new updates. NWDA will also provide the update information on their messaging Board.

C. Department of Environmental Quality – Dave Miesbach

- NDEE office staff is being staggered in groups for in-office rotation.
- The move to Fallbrook is still on track for September 2020
- The water quality clearinghouse should be up and running by the end of the year.
- The groundwater model is being utilized a lot in the field.

D. HHS – Division of Public Health – Sue Dempsey

- Office staff is currently alternating in the office. Support to the public is available.
- Community water systems have been provided staff contact information.
- Course CE's for licensees and new operators has been suspended.
- Sampling for bacteria is ongoing.
- Reciprocity for operators inside and outside of the state has been agreed upon. Allowing systems to help each other.

- Ms. Dempsey shared a letter from EPA for essential critical infrastructure workers. This letter has been posted on the NWDA website for contractors to use.
- MUD is onsite full time.
- The State lab is operating and fully staffed.
- Sanitarians are reaching out to water systems to make sure Emergency Response Plans are up to date.

E. Natural Resources Districts – Lynn Webster

- NRD's have been doing business as normal. NRD offices have made adjustments due to the pandemic.
- The spring study on water wells has been completed.
- This year's tree season may be challenging in providing stock to everyone while maintaining social distancing.
- A request was made for a check list and a past approved CE application example which could provide guidance to the public for future submissions. Ms. Miller will work with Mr. Webster and Mr. Orton to create this example and checklist.

Item 8. Public Comment

Mr. Orton shared that the building in which their office is located has been closed due to the COVID-19 virus. NWDA staff are working from home. The public may see a slower response time on phone calls.

Item 9. Adjourn

Mr. Webster made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. and was seconded by Ms. Lackey.

Mike Thompson

5/4/2020

Mike Thompson, Board Secretary

Date