

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINING WATER WELL DRILLING CONTRACTORS AND WATER WELL PUMP INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS

January 12, 2021

1:00 P.M.

Teleconference Call

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:

John Midkiff, Chairman

Jerry Hunt

Wes Moody

Lisa Lindemann

Michelle Christopher

Lily Barkau

Aaron Wilson

PARTICIPATING PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

Sean Towles, Assistant Attorney General

Cricket Hoskins, Chief Fiscal Officer State Engineer's Office

Jimmy Gordon, Executive Director, WWCB

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Midkiff called the State Board of Examining Water Well Drilling Contractors and Water Well Pump Installation Contractors (WWCB) meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

REVIEW & APPROVE AGENDA

The Board reviewed and approved the meeting agenda as circulated. Michelle Christopher made a motion to approve the agenda. Aaron Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:

The Boards reviewed and approved both the September 2 and October 29, 2021 meeting minutes as circulated. Michelle Christopher made a motion to approve the minutes. Aaron Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Notice on Pump Installer License Letter

Director Gordon provided the Board a draft copy of the new License letter that is sent to all Pump Installer license recipients. In the letter per the Boards September 2 meeting, a notice was added to the letter alerting license recipients that "the state of Wyoming may require other professional licenses or certifications to legally perform work related to pumping equipment, and it was the responsibility of the individual to ensure they meet all state requirements". This is meant to serve as a notice to new license holders of other licenses that other state agencies require to install pumping equipment, one example being the State Fire Marshall's Office Limited Electrical License requirement. Aaron Wilson motioned to approve the letter as

circulated and to have Director Gordon begin to distribute to new Pump Installer License recipients immediately. Michelle Christopher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Groundwater Fee Revenue

Board member Lisa Lindemann of the Groundwater division provided an update to the topic of the State increasing the cost of their fees. She reported that this type of action is required to be done through State Legislation, and she had not heard any news of the process beginning. She expressed to the Board that it was currently a “dead issue”. Discussion was had by members and Director Gordon and Cricket Hoskins reminded the Board that a majority of the Board's revenue comes from a portion of State Groundwater fees. The only other source of revenue for the Board comes from license fees, and it historically does not fluctuate much, nor create enough revenue on its own. The Groundwater fee revenue is a critical revenue source for the Board's budget. Lisa was asked to keep the Board informed of any developments of the fee increase, and the board would discuss their possible endorsement if and when any legislation was created.

Continuing Education Credit hour requirement for renewals

Executive Director Gordon informed the Board that he successfully created, and distributed to all current license holders a letter explaining the reduction in continuing education credits (CE). This comes from the Board's decision at the October 29 meeting to temporarily reduce the credit hour requirement for Continuing education (CE) credits for all license holders due to renew in the next three years. Chairman Midkiff asked Director Gordon if he received any negative feedback from any license holders. Director Gordon informed him that he had not received any negative feedback; in fact the feedback he did receive was positive.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Chairmen Term

Chairmen Midkiff informed the Board that his two year term as Chairmen is up, and following Board Statutes, a new Chairman must be elected. Chairmen Midkiff nominated Board member Jerry Hunt to be the new Chairmen. Mr. Hunt informed the Board that his time is somewhat limited, but he would be honored to become Chairman if no one else was interested in the position. Michelle Christopher seconded the nomination. New Board Chairman Jerry Hunt was successfully elected. He asked for exiting Chairman Midkiff to finish leading the current meeting, and Mr. Midkiff agreed to do so. Current Vice-Chairman Wes Moody informed the Board he would stay on in his current role for a second term, unless someone else was interested in assuming it. John Midkiff motions to accept Wes Moody's second terms as Board Vice-Chairman. Aaron Wilson seconded the nomination. Nomination accepted.

Ratification of New Licenses

Wes Moody moved to ratify the issuance of 11 new licenses. License Numbers: 01WDPI133, 02PI148, UTWD082, NVWD132, 01WD137, 03PI076, 04WD147, 04WD148, MOWD020, 03WDPI075, and 01WDPI134 Jerry Hunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Director Update

Director Gordon provided the Board with an update of his office since the September 2 meeting. He had given 21 new license exams to 11 applicants. 12 of which were given in his office in Powell. 5 exams were given at Water Division Four Headquarters in Cokeville, and 4 exams were given at the State Engineer's Office Groundwater Division in Cheyenne. He had issued 11 new licenses, 2 Pump Installers, 7 Well Drillers, and 2 Well Driller & Pump Installer (dual license). These are made up of 6 WY residents, 2 ID residents, 1 UT resident, 1 MO resident

and 1 NV resident. He informed the Board that in 2019 12 new licenses had been granted compared to 32 new licenses in 2020. Most of the new license holders are coming from the oil and gas industry, given its sharp decline in 2020. Renewal reminders were mailed out to 86 contractors with expiring licenses in 2020. To date, all but 21 licenses had been renewed. 296 letters were mailed out to all current license holders informing them of the temporary reduction in CE credits required to renew a license for the next three renewal cycles. He also updated the Board that there continues to be one open complaint in the investigation phase. An Investigative Board Member has been assigned and has yet to report their findings to the executive director, but he expects the report very soon.

Budget Update

Cricket Hoskins provided an update on the Board's budget. She provided the Board with a budget report and a revenue report. Her overall opinion was that the budget was in good order, and that she was predicting revenue to be up in the coming year over the previous year. She spent time going into more detail on the importance to the Board's budget that Groundwater fees play. The revenue generated from the portion the Board received of the Groundwater fees makes up almost 60% of the total revenue by her estimation. She commented that in her opinion Director Gordon was very fragile with the Board's money, and there were really no areas of the budget that could be trimmed if revenues were to decline. She did inform the Board that her reports did not show encumbered funds for the Inlumon contract for licensing software development and maintenance. She will update her reports to include the encumbered money and will forward it on to Director Gordon to distribute to all Board members. Jerry Hunt motioned to approve the budget report, provided Cricket Hoskins updates and distributes the reports as mentioned. Michelle Christopher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

Sean Towles informed the Board that his intention was to introduce his replacement from the Attorney General's office. However scheduling conflicts lead to this being postponed until the Board's next meeting. Wes Moody thanked John Midkiff of his service to the Board over the last 4 years as Board Chairman, all other Board members joined in thanking Mr. Midkiff.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place April 9, 2021 at 10:00am, location and format TBD.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Midkiff adjourned the meeting at 2:22pm.