

MINUTES

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

January 10, 2023

12:00 P.M.

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:

Jerry Hunt, Chairman
Wes Moody, Vice-Chairman
John Midkiff
Michelle Christopher (online)
Aaron Wilson
Lisa Lindemann (online)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Matt Bebout- President Wyoming Groundwater Association
Tim Millikin- Vice-President Wyoming Groundwater Association
John Zupan- Wyoming Groundwater Association
Cody Smith- Wyoming Groundwater Association
Travis Hueller- Wyoming Groundwater Association
Ray Riehemann- Wyoming Groundwater Association
Parker Blakeley- Wyoming Groundwater Association
Dillon Rowe- Wyoming Groundwater Association

PARTICIPATING PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

Abigail Boudewyns, Assistant Attorney General
Jimmy Gordon, Executive Director, WWCB

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hunt called the State Board of Examining Water Well Drilling Contractors and Water Well Pump Installation Contractors (WWCB) meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

REVIEW & APPROVE AGENDA

The Board reviewed and approved the meeting agenda as circulated. Wes Moody made a motion to approve the agenda. John Midkiff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rule Changes-

Executive Director Gordon updated the Board on the two rules that have completed the State Rulemaking Process. The changes affect Chapter 2, removing the annual Board meeting at a certain place and time. Also, Chapter 5, removing the requirement for licensed contractors to submit a notice of intent at least five days prior to constructing a new water well or installing pumping equipment in a newly constructed water well. Governor Gordon approved both Rule Changes making them complete and active.

Continuing Education Courses-

President Bebout explained the Wyoming Groundwater's concern that the licensing Board might permanently reduce continuing education credit hour requirements. He explained that the Groundwater Association Board would like to keep an open communication on the topic, and continue to work closely together on topics that effect license holders.

Abigale gave some clarification on the legal statutes that pertain to continuing education credits for license holders. In general, the Licensing Board's responsibility is to approve courses or educational opportunities for license holders. It is not required to provide continuing education courses or educational opportunities for license holders. She did explain that the current statutes do not prohibit the Licensing Board from doing so, they just do not require it.

Other discussions were had between the members in attendance from the Wyoming Groundwater Association, and the Licensing Board members from the number of credits required, to the topics that should be required for license holders. It was made clear that there cannot be a different requirement established for resident and non-resident license holders. The temporary reduction for continuing education credit hour requirements has expired as of 12/31/2022. The requirement for renewals has returned to 18 hours. After discussion, the 18 hours was agreed upon as an adequate number for renewal of licenses.

Wyoming Department of Fire Prevention & Electrical Safety Licensing-

Director Gordon reviewed the work between the Licensing Board and the Fire Prevention & Electrical Safety. The goal is to bring all Pump Installers into compliance with both license entities. They will be in attendance at the Wyoming Groundwater Association Convention, giving a course and allowing contractors to take their license exam.

NEW BUSINESS:

Private Well Technical Assistance Program-

Members from the Wyoming Rural Water Association Michelle Christopher and Kathy Weinsaft presented information on a new federally funded program available to private well owners. They outlined the program, and who can benefit from its funds. They distributed contact information and directed all interested parties to the appropriate contacts for further information or to utilize the program.

Ratification of New Licenses-

Director Gordon presented the licenses of the following contractors for ratification; Kyle Fetterly License Number SCWDPI001, Lane Boyce License Number MTWD 085, Eric Wiest License Number NEWDPI137, Benjamin Rogers License Number 02WD 143. Wes Moody made a motion to ratify all licenses. John Midkiff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

State Engineer's Office Fiscal Manager Update

Director Gordon distributed handouts provided by Kristin Baker outlining the Board's current fiscal position as of 12/31/2022. He broke down briefly three reports provided including overall budget, revenue, and expenses for contested cases. Her overall opinion was the Board was in a good overall position, and was on track to stay within its biennium budget. It currently is holding a one-year budget in reserves. She would like to see it build it's reserves to cover a full biennium budget in reserve.

Executive Director Update

Director Gordon provided the Board with an update of his office since the September 7th meeting. 7 exams were given to 4 applicants. 4 new licenses had been issued since the last Board meeting, 1 Wyoming residents and 3 non-residents. He has renewed 94 out of a total of 115 licenses up for renewal as of the meeting date. He also gave a brief outline of Docket 22-001 which involved one contractor and two wells that did not meet minimum construction standards. Working with the well owners, the contractor, and an Investigative Board Member, the wells were brought into compliance and all parties have been satisfied. The docket has been closed.

He also brought to the Board's attention the situation with InLumon, the vendor who was creating an online licensing software for the Board. They have not delivered a fully functioning product, and have once again become unresponsive. They have done the same with the Board of Professional Engineer's and Land Surveyors. His recommendation was to add this topic to the Board's next meeting agenda, all members agreed.

Lastly, he informed the Board that the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman terms expire January 2023. The election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman will take place at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in Casper WY at the Thyra Thompson State Building on April 26, 2023, time TBD.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Hunt adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.