

MINUTES

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

April 3, 2026

10:00 A.M.

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:

Michelle Christopher, Chairman, (Public Well Owner)
Aaron Wilson, Vice-Chairman, (Pump Installation Contractor)
Wes Moody, Drilling Contractor (Domestic, Stock)
Nick Jones, Drilling Contractor (At Large)
Ryan Cox (SEO Designee)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Parker Blakely- WGWA Board Member

PARTICIPATING PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

Patrick Kent, Assistant Attorney General
Kristin Baker, State Engineer's Principal Accountant
Jimmy Gordon, Executive Director, WWCB

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Christopher called the State Board of Examining Water Well Drilling Contractors and Water Well Pump Installation Contractors (WWCB) meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Christopher took a roll call and established that a quorum of members was in attendance.

REVIEW & APPROVE AGENDA

Ryan Cox motioned to approve the revised agenda as presented. Nick Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REVIEW & APPROVE MARCH 12 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES & EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

The Board reviewed the special meeting, and executive session minutes. Aaron Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes. Ryan Cox seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board & SEO sponsored Continuing Education Offering-

Director Gordon gave a brief review of the status of the course presentation. He explained that work continues by both his office and the Groundwater staff from the SEO. The intention was to provide a more in-depth presentation at the next Board meeting so members can see slides, and review the course subject material. Ryan Cox also provided an update on the "Drillers Handbook" his agency is creating. He explained they have 4 chapters completed of the planned 8 in total. He thought the handbook would be provided to attendees of the course as an additional resource.

Board & SEO MOU

Director Gordon provided a review of the MOU and the discussion from the previous meeting. The Board requested a legal review be completed by Patrick Kent before any action was taken to adopt the MOU. Mr. Kent provided his review of the document including that it is not a legally binding document, but one that encourages cooperation between the Board and the Engineer's office to address violations of the Minimum Construction Standards. Due to not all members receiving the draft MOU in preparation for the meeting, the Board chose to postpone adopting the MOU until it could be reviewed by all members.

Geothermal Well Contractors License

Director Gordon provided a brief review of the discussion from the previous meeting. The Board elected to have Patrick Kent review statutes to see if the Board had authority to create a new license type to include a geothermal contractors license. Mr. Kent provided his review and findings that the Board did not have authority via statute to create a new license type. The statute establishes two license types, it does not allow for the addition of another. He did explain that the Board could choose to address geothermal contractors with a specific exam created for that type of construction, or to include geothermal specific questions on the existing exams that all contractors would be required to take. Aaron Wilson asked for clarification on if a geothermal well is considered an artificial opening in the ground for the purpose of beneficial water use? Mr. Kent referenced statute and the definition of a well, that included geothermal and heat exchange wells. Further, the definition of underground water in the same statute expressly includes any water including hot water and geothermal steam. Mr. Wilson then asked the State Engineer's Office what type of permit they would issue for a geothermal well project? Ryan Cox answered that it would fall under a miscellaneous use permit. Lastly Mr. Wilson asked if there were any geothermal specific standards in the Minimum Construction Standards? Mr. Cox explained that no, the standards do include multiple well types, but no specific classification for a well constructed to produce geothermal heating or cooling. He did explain that certain aspects of the construction more than likely would be changed from a traditional water well, like the type of grouting used, but would still be expected to meet standards. Mr. Wilson then commented given that, it would be difficult for the board to add geothermal specific questions to the exams, since there is no source material to pull the questions from. Wes Moody asked the Engineer's office if Uranium drilling falls under the definition of a water well? Mr. Cox answered that in situ recovery would fall under a water well. The Board chose to table the discussion until more review and discussion with other state agencies could be had.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Policy Review & Approval

Director Gordon explained that this was the late addition to the meeting agenda, and he was not able to mail out paper copies to members who could not attend the meeting in person. He provided a brief update on the origin of the policy; it came after the Board reviewed an Investigative Board member's finding on an official complaint review. The Board chose to table the review until all members could review the policy draft.

Ratification of New Licenses'

Wes Moody made a motion to ratify all licenses presented by director Gordon. Nick Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fiscal Update-Kristin Baker

Ms. Baker provided her fiscal update to the Board. She explained as seen in the provided reports through March 1st, the Board is currently operating well under budget. She provided an update on the Board approved Executive Director pay adjustment from a previous meeting. The Budget Office and the Governor's office placed a hold on the pay increase due to the recently approved state wide pay increase passed by the legislature. The budget office states the state wide pay increase will actually be higher than the Board approved pay increase. She stood for any questions, there were no questions heard.

Executive Director Update

Director Gordon provided the Board with an update of his office since the January 13th meeting. 26 exams were given to 10 applicants. 10 new licenses had been issued since the last Board meeting. He also shared a breakdown of the current license count of 317 active licenses compared to 313 active license one year ago. There are currently 26 approved applications waiting to take exams. Dockets 25-002 & 25-003 have been investigated by the assigned IBM, and an investigative report has been submitted based on their findings. He reminded all Board members that they will be asked to serve as an investigative board member at some point when official complaints are received. His intent was to rotate the requests to ensure all members have served before a member is asked a second time, however a conflict of interest could prevent that. Docket 26-001 has been received and is in the process of validation. He attended the Wyoming groundwater Association convention in Casper, and presented on behalf of the Board. While there he also gave license exams. Lastly, he explained that h reminded the group at the convention of the agreement with the Board of Control staff in the water division across the state, which is resulting in field staff from the SEO making site visits. The feedback from the convention was positive from those who have been involved in a visit.

Miscellaneous/ Public Comment-

Parker Blakely from the Wyoming Groundwater Association informed the Board that their next scheduled meeting will be held on April 17th, at Oil City Beer in Casper, WY. He invited all Board members to attend in person or virtually. No other public comment was heard.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in Casper WY at the Thyra Thompson State Building on August 24, 2026, time 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Christopher adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.