



MARYLAND BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215

FEBRUARY 6, 2019 BOARD MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Bert Nixon, Board Chair
Linda Rudie, Vice Chair
Veronica Moore, Board Secretary (Absent)
Amy Parrish, Private Industry
Naomi Howell, Dept. of the Environment Member
Ann Rose, At Large Member
Bruce Bowman, Consumer Member (Absent)
Jasen Lau, Consumer Member
Erin Kelly, Local Government Member

Staff:

Katherine Giblin, AAG, Board Counsel
Donna Zickefoose, Administrator I
David Bruce, Board Investigator

Visitor(s):

Temesgen Yimanie, Student/Applicant

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Bert Nixon, Board Chair.

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was reviewed. It was motioned by Jasen Lau and seconded by Ann Rose to approve the agenda with 2 additions to the Agenda to be discussed under Credentialing. Motion Passed unanimously. Vote – 5.

(Board Members Amy Parrish and Naomi Powell arrived.)

ITEM 1 Approval of Minutes

1(a). Open Session Minutes from the January 9, 2019 meeting were reviewed for approval. It was motioned by Ann Rose and seconded by Jasen Lau to adopt the Minutes with revisions. Motion passed unanimously. Vote – 7

1(b). Open Session Conference Call Minutes from the January 24, 2019 Conference Call were reviewed for approval. It was motioned by Jasen Lau and seconded by Ann Rose to approve the Minutes. A suggestion was made to include absent Board member names during conference calls on future conference call minutes. However, further discussion clarified that only a quorum is needed and since its outside the normal meetings, listing absent members was not necessary. Motion passed unanimously. Vote - 7

ITEM 2 Board Chair Report

2(a). James Merrow's retirement – Bert Nixon informed the Environmental Health Directors at the last Director's meeting that James Merrow had retired. They had indicated that they plan to acknowledge Mr. Merrow's years of service as Acting Executive Director to the Board. Following discussion, the Board staff had

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been directed to request for a Certificate of Appreciation for Mr. Merrow. On another note regarding the Board's Vacant Executive Director, a questionnaire had been completed on January 29th by Bert for a PIN request and submitted to Kim Lang. In discussing potential options with HR, a decision was made to ask for a higher 1/2 FTE (50%), rather than the anticipated 25% (1/4 FTE). HR also advised that the Board will determine what percent FTE to be advertised, and ideally, at least three (3) candidates selected for the interview process.

2(b). A telephone conference with NEHA will be scheduled over the next few weeks to discuss NEHA's plan and direction with the phasing out of the paper exams. This will cost the Maryland Board's exam candidates a higher exam fee and they will take the exam on a computer at one of NEHA's Pearson VUE test center locations. A link for the locations of the testing centers had previously been provided. A test search on the link showed at least 5 locations with entering Salisbury and Baltimore, while Washington County populated 4 locations. A list of exam candidates through 2019 was provided to the Board. At the last Environmental Health Director's meeting, the Directors were urged to encourage their eligible exam candidates who meet the 12 month in-training minimum requirement to make a written request to the Board for review and possible shorter in-training period consideration. The Board discussed adding an additional exam (possibly in October) to the 2019 schedule. This decision will be determined at a later date.

2(c). Public Information Act Policy – The Department's (PIA) Public Information Act Policy was provided for the Board's information. It was relayed to the Board how the PIA impacted the Board's licensees. Board Counsel, Katherine Giblin, provided what is required by law when a Roster of Licensees is requested and will prepare information for the licensees to be sent out via a blast e-mail. Donna will discuss with IT how to flag licensees who want to opt out from the release of certain information being included in a requested roster. Naomi Howell will provide what the Department of the Environment's (MDE) AG's Office utilizes regarding the MDE PIA for the Board's consideration when amending the Board's license renewal letter.

ITEM 3 Board Staff Report

3(a) At the time of the February Agenda preparation, there are 306 licensees who have completed their continuing education credits for their license renewal.

3(b). Board members were reminded that the 2018 Financial Disclosures were due by April 30, 2019. If members have questions, they are to contact the State Ethics Commission at 410-260-7770. The link for filing was provided to the members.

3(c). The March 12, 2019 NEHA exam application had been sent out to all eligible candidates.

3(d). Stats from the Licensing Database:

1. Active Seasonal Certificates – 26
2. Active Licensed Environmental Health Specialists – 583
3. Active In-Training Certificates – 95
4. Active Certificate of Eligibility Certificates – 155

ITEM 4 Credentialing:

4(a). Temesgen Yimanie – Mr. Yimanie applied to the Board for a Certificate of

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Eligibility. His initial transcript translated to the US equivalency of a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biology. However, the transcript did not show the required college level math course. Mr. Yimanie was present to give the Board a full background of his studies and degrees in Ethiopia. He also relayed to the Board the time frame to request and receive other transcripts and the costs involved with retrieving these transcripts from Ethiopia and also the further cost to have the transcripts transcribed. The Board reviewed all of Mr. Yimanie's transcripts, to include an additional un-translated transcript from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. The Board members asked Mr. Yimanie to provide any further course syllabus from his foreign transcript, plus any and all information to support his cause. The Board would then schedule a conference by phone to review the requested documents and vote at that time.

4(b). 1st Addition to the Agenda. Timothy Burke – Mr. Burke and his supervisor submitted a written request to the Board to have his in-training period changed to 12 months to allow him to take the NEHA exam sooner. The Board reviewed the letters and Mr. Burke's file. It was motioned by Ann Rose and seconded by Amy Parrish to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously. Vote – 7

4(c). 2nd Addition to the Agenda. Natisha Joseph – Ms. Joseph requested the Board to review her transcript(s). She has a Master of Science Degree; her Major is Environmental Science. In light of this Degree, Ms. Joseph requested to have her in-training period changed to the 3-month internship (in-training period). Board members reviewed the transcript and file. It was motioned by Ann Rose and seconded by Jasen Leu to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously. Vote-7

ITEM 5 Legislative/Regulations

Bert informed the Board that Lillian Reese, Legislation Liaison, has been forwarding many Bills for review. So far, with one exception and a separate direct request for information, the Board has taken 'No Position' since what has been received for review has no direct effect on the EHS Board or its licensees.

ITEM 6 Work Force Work Group

Bert Nixon informed the Board that the Health Officers have been updated on the ongoing efforts of the Work Force Work Group. The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) has endorsed by written response, the consideration of a phased in approach and pursuit of the specialty position outlined in the December 2018 presentation.

ITEM 7 Continuing Education Committee

Donna informed the Board that two continuing education requests are waiting approval.

ITEM 8 Status of Work Processed

Initial Licenses Issued (11)

1. Emmanuel Bolajoko (took exam direct with NEHA)
2. Terrence Mulvey (12-11-18 exam)
3. Mengestayhu Akelat (12-11-18 exam)

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4. Meghan Johnson (12-11-18 exam)
5. Evan Aston (12-11-18 exam)
6. Andres Bean (12-11-18 exam)
7. Kyle Kowalczyk (12-11-18 exam)
8. Robert Freemon (12-11-18 exam)
9. Justin Groff (12-11-18 exam)
10. Wanda Ramirez (12-11-18 exam)
11. Joseph Morin (Statute §21-306 Waiver of Examination of persons registered in other states)

License Reactivation (0)

In –Training Certificates Issued (13)

1. Shane Evans
2. Sabrina Figler
3. Zackary Silvast
4. Rena Blakely
5. Beatrice Babalola
6. Alan Post
7. Tanice Bailey
8. Micah Coe
9. Christopher Shingleton
10. Thomas Kotlar
11. Alisha Washington
12. Christopher Smack
13. Brittany Carpenter

Extended In-Training Certificates Issued (0)

Revised In-Training Certificate (1)

1. Samantha Peternal (Board approved a 24 to 12 month in training period)

Certificates of Eligibility Issued (18)

1. Brian Castine
2. Gregory Lowden
3. Katarzyna O'Donnell
4. Dorcas Subuloye
5. Dekarra Johnson
6. Gregory Irwin
7. Alisha Washington
8. Cedric Witherspoon
9. Attilah Edges
10. Hannah Leiberg
11. Pertesia Gadson
12. Codi Trumpower
13. Travis Allen
14. Emma Green
15. Monae Heath
16. Joshua Smith
17. Hercheallee Brown
18. Sara Albrecht

Extended Certificates of Eligibility (2)

1. Adewole Adegborioye
2. Nneka Ijeabunwu

Seasonal/Summer/Youth Camp In-Training Certificates Issued (0)

Letters of Denial Issued for the Certificate of Eligibility (0)

At 12:14 p.m., at the same location as the open meeting, Ann Rose made a motion to close Open Session and enter into Closed Session pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) to review and approve confidential closed session minutes prohibited from public disclosure by State law. The motion was seconded by Jasen Lau. Motion passed unanimously. Vote-7. The same

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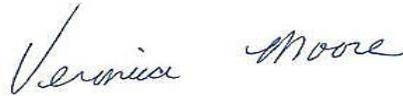
Board members who were present during the Open Session were present during the Closed Session, and the topic actually discussed involved closed session minutes. The Board approved the closed session minutes.

At 12:26 p.m., it was motioned by Ann Rose and seconded by Amy Parrish to re-convene Open Session. At 12:27 p.m., at the same location and with the same members present, it was motioned by Ann Rose and seconded by Jasen Lau to adjourn the Open Session and enter into administrative session to discuss confidential disciplinary matters. The administrative session ended at 12:40 p.m.



Bert Nixon
Board Chair

Date: April 3, 2019



Veronica Moore
Board Secretary/Treasurer

Date: April 3, 2019