

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

JANUARY 9, 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 (Absent)
Naomi Howell, Dept. of the Environment Member
Ann Rose, At Large Member (Absent)
Bruce Bowman, Consumer Member
Jasen Lau, Consumer Member (Absent)
Erin Kelly, Local Government Member

Staff:

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

Visitor(s):

Kim Lang, MDH

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was held to replace the December 5, 2018 Board meeting that was cancelled due to the closing of State offices for the Funeral of President George H.W. Bush.

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

ITEM 1 Approval of Agenda

1(a). The Agenda was reviewed and adopted with corrections. Motion was made to accept. Motion passed. Vote – 5.

ITEM 2 Approval of Minutes

2(a). Open Session Minutes from the October 3, 2018 meeting were reviewed for approval. Motion was made to adopt the Minutes as submitted. Motion passed. Vote – 5

2(b). Open Session Minutes from the December 14, 2018 Conference Call were reviewed for approval. Motion was made to adopt with revision. Motion passed. Vote - 5

ITEM 3 Board Chair Report

3(a). The Board Chair announced that James Merrow, Acting Executive Director, had retired.

3(b). Tabled from the August 1, 2018 meeting – The Board received a request for a response in writing from Steven Krieg, Regional Consultant. Mr. Krieg inquired if the Baltimore County Plumbing Inspectors required an Environmental Health Specialists license to perform inspection of septic tanks. A draft letter in response to Mr. Krieg's inquiry had been prepared and submitted for review and approval. A motion was made to accept the letter with revisions. Motion passed. Vote - 5

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ITEM 4 Board Staff Report

4(a) At the time of the January Agenda preparation, there were 290 licensees who have completed their continuing education credits for their license renewal. This number is ahead from the prior licensing cycle.

4(b). The October 4, 2017 Minutes reflected that the local jurisdictions may interview applicants prior to the applicant obtaining a Certificate of Eligibility from the Board. There was an oversight in that the Board did not vote at the next scheduled meeting as mentioned in the Minutes. The Board Chair and the Board members acknowledge that the jurisdictions can complete an initial review prior to the candidate being hired. A copy of the Job Specifications for the Environmental Health Specialists and the Sanitarian Series was provided for the Board to review.

4(c). The Board was informed that during a conference call NEHA, NEHA informed Board staff that they will be phasing out paper exams in late 2019. All exam candidates will take the NEHA exam on a computer at one of the centers that NEHA has under contract. The fee is expected to be \$280.00. A breakdown of the costs for a computer-based testing was provided for the Board members. Updates will be provided as information is obtained. Board requested a list of eligible exam candidates through 2019 to be presented at the February meeting.

4(d). The Board's At Large representation will be open June 20, 2019. An e-mail had been sent out on November 16, 2018 to recruit for applicants.

4(e). The December 11, 2018 exam had 14 candidates take the exam. The names are listed below:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mengestayhu Akelat | 8. Meghan Johnson |
| 2. Solomon Balcha | 9. Kyle Kowalczyk |
| 3. Andrea Bean | 10. Kristi Marsh |
| 4. Evan Aston | 11. Terrence Mulvey |
| 5. Robert Freemon | 12. Wanda Ramirez |
| 6. Justin Groff | 13. Kacey Revere |
| 7. Megline Ogbokew | 14. Anthony Robnett |

The exam results had been received 10 of the 14 candidates passed the exam. The names are listed below:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mengestayau Akelat | 6. Justin Groff |
| 2. Evan Aston | 7. Meghan Johnson |
| 3. Solomon Balcha | 8. Kyle Kowalczyk |
| 4. Andrea Bean | 9. Terrence Mulvey |
| 5. Robert Freemon | 10. Wanda Ramirez |

4(f). Stats from the Licensing Database:

1. Active Seasonal Certificates – 26
2. Active Licensed Environmental Health Specialists – 574
3. Active In-Training Certificates – 100
4. Active Certificate of Eligibility Certificates – 150

4(g). Board staff made a request to approve future in-training certificate requests without being a Board Agenda item. The Board Chair addressed the timing issues.

Board Counsel advised the requests do need to go before the Board as stated in Statute 21-305 (1) (ii).

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ITEM 5 Credentialing:

5(a). George Dizelos – Mr. Dizelos received a letter of denial from the Board to receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Mr. Dizelos did not meet the lab requirement. Mr. Dizelos made a request to have the full Board review his application and transcript. The Board reviewed the coursework and noted that the statute specifically requires 2 labs. A motion was made to deny Mr. Dizelos’s application because he does not meet minimum qualifications at this time. Motion passed.
Vote - 5

5(b). Samantha Peternel – Ms. Peternel and her supervisor, Mr. Resline, submitted in writing a request that the Board allow her to take the NEHA exam at her completion of 12 months of in-training. Motion was made to allow Ms. Peternel to take the upcoming exam on March 12, 2019. Motion passed. Vote - 5

ITEM 6 Legislative/Regulations
No Report

ITEM 7 Work Force Work Group
In November, Dr. Mitchell gave a presentation to the Health Officers regarding response and customer service. The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO), Bert Nixon, Howard County Health Department, and Sara Trescott, Washington County Health Department, gave a presentation to the Health Officers regarding the complete equation for recruitment and retention of the Environmental Health Specialists. Bert will request to have the presentation sent to Erin Kelly and Bruce Bowman so they can have a better understanding of what the Work Force Group is trying to accomplish.

ITEM 8 Status of Work Processed

Initial License Issued: (2)

1. Danielle Staggers (took exam with NEHA direct)
2. Gregory DeBoe (took the exam with NEHA direct)

License Reactivations (2)

1. Megan Wilhem (Reactivated from Non-Renewed Status)
2. William Deck (Reactivated from Inactive Status)

In-Training Certificates Issued: (13)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Brittany Carpenter | 7. Fonlon Wirba Etienne | 13. Biplob Bhattacharya |
| 2. Johnny Rossy, III | 8. Brian Phipps | |
| 3. Shane Linzey | 9. Philip McIntee | |
| 4. George Fidel | 10. Keith Dolan | |
| 5. Joseph Spangler | 11. Anthony Pennington | |
| 6. Amanda Page | 12. Mailyn Aviles Ramirez | |

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Extended In-Training Certificates Issued: (0)

Certificates of Eligibility Issued: (11)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Amanda Lo | 7. Yolande Essangui |
| 2. William Hopkins | 8. Kyle Shimek |
| 3. Joyce Dinardo | 9. Joshua Denicoff |
| 4. Kristie Payne | 10. Biplob Bhattacharya |
| 5. Adrianna Lucente | 11. Dustin Mathers |
| 6. Haley Golden | |

Extended Certificates of Eligibility Issued: (5)

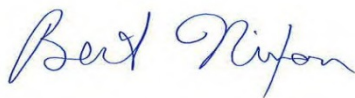
1. Catherine Hefferin
2. Paola Njandja
3. Bakhita Nzeribe
4. Nohsen Fatemi
5. Joseph Goldscher

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

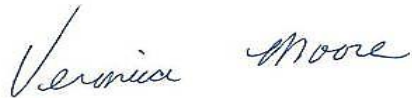
Letters of Denial Issued for the Certificate of Eligibility: (1)

1. George Dizelos – Did not meet lab requirement

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 discuss confidential matters involving an application for licensure prohibited from public disclosure by State law. The motion was seconded by Amy Parrish. Motion passed unanimously. Vote-5. The same Board members who were present during the Open Session were present during the Closed Session, and the topic actually discussed involved an initial applicant for licensure. The Board did not vote to grant licensure.



Bert Nixon
Board Chair



Veronica Moore
Board Secretary/Treasurer

Date: February 6, 2019

Date: February 6, 2019