



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

DECEMBER 7, 2022 BOARD MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Meeting Held via Google Meet

Board Members Present:

Linda Rudie, Board Chair, Maryland Department of Health Member
Alan Heck, Vice Chair, At Large Member
Amy Parrish, Private Industry Member
Naomi Howell, Department of the Environment Member (Exited the meeting at 12:08 p.m.)
Bonnie Harbin, At Large Member (Joined at 10:25 a.m.)
Matthew Cumers, Local Health Department Member
Lewis Brown, Consumer Member

Board Members Absent:

Tonisha Melvin, Board Secretary, Consumer Member

Staff and Visitors:

Katherine Cummings, AAG, Board Counsel (exited the meeting at 11:36 a.m. returned at 11:44 a.m.)
Bert Nixon, Executive Director
James Merrow, Board Staff
Donna Zickefoose, Administrator I
Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator
Kimberly Link, MDH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by Linda Rudie, Board Chair.

AGENDA The Agenda was reviewed. Alan made a motion to adopt the agenda with revisions to the numbering and the addition to the Executive Director's Report. Lewis Brown provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

ITEM 1 Review of the October Open Session Meeting Minutes

The October 5, 2022 Open Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Alan Heck made a motion to adopt the Minutes as submitted. Matthew Cumers provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

ITEM 2 Board Chair Report

2(a). Board Chair, Linda Rudie announced that she will be retiring February 1, 2023 and this would be the last Board Meeting she will be attending. Kimberly Link will be working with Dr. Mitchell to find replacement candidates for the Maryland Department of Health Board Member position.

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2(b). Election of Officers (This was moved from the Executive Director’s Report)

Linda announced that the Board will need to nominate members for Board Chair and volunteers to replace her on the Legislative/Regulations Committee and the Work Force Work Group.

Amy Parrish made a motion to nominate Matthew Cumers as Board Chair. Naomi Howell provided a 2nd to the motion for the nomination. Motion passed. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Matthew Cumers).

Bonnie Harbin volunteered to be on the Continuing Education Committee. Matthew Cumers volunteered to be on the Work Force Work Group. Amy Parrish volunteered to be on the Legislative/Regulations Committee.

ITEM 3 Executive Director’s Report

3(a). Update on the status of the Proposed Regulations. The Department pulled the CEU portion from the Board’s proposed regulations. The portion involving splitting the license renewal years and establishing a one year renewal fee was allowed to move forward but is waiting for MDH final action and approval. December 12, 2022 is the cutoff date for final decisions/approvals for AELR consideration.

3(b). Initial licenses issued after the 2nd half of the licensing cycle. The Board discussed the issue of how many CEUs must be completed for renewal by individuals who are licensed in the middle or toward the end of a renewal cycle. Amy Parrish made a motion for initially licensed individuals in the 2021 – 2023 cycle to be given credit for Board “pre-approved” CEUs taken during that same renewal cycle, which may include training taken before said individual becomes licensed. Those submitting for Board “pre-approved” training during this license renewal may do so at the time they apply for their initial 2023 license renewal. Also, the Board waives the requirement for completed training to be submitted within 90 days for any individuals submitting training taken prior this initial license renewal cycle. Matthew Cumers provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Alan Heck), 0 abstained.

3(c). The Board’s Annual Report has been completed and sent to the MDH Secretary, the Governor, and Lillian Reese.

3(e). Currently there are 129 licensees who have met their required continuing education credits for the 2023 license renewal cycle.

3(f). Statics from the licensing database:

- Active Seasonal Certificates – 33
- Active Licensed Environmental Health Specialists – 527
- Active In-Training Certificates – 130
- Active Certificate of Eligibility Certificates – 183

3(g). Since the October 5, 2022 meeting, there have been 7 candidates who passed the exam for licensure. No notifications received for failing scores.

ITEM 4 Credentialing

4(a). Request to the Board for a reduction of in-training period from 24 months to 12 months. Colin Murphy and his supervisor Heather Moritz submitted written letters to the Board for their review and decision. Matthew Cumers made a motion to reduce the in-training period to the requested 12 month in-training period. Bonnie Harbin provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

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ITEM 5 Work Force Group

5(a). Bert Nixon has been in contact with DBM and Dr. Mitchell regarding retention and recruitment considerations. On a November 14, 2022 conference call, the creation of an apprenticeship program with Morgan State was preliminarily discussed. The intent is to provide a combination of relevant education and on-site work experience such that, at graduation time, these individuals would have already satisfied requirements to sit for the NEHA exam. At this point, a next summer or fall timeline to start this program is being proposed. Bert is waiting for details for the structure to determine if this will require regulatory or even possibly statutory changes. Additional calls and follow-up discussions are anticipated.

ITEM 6 Continuing Education

6(a). Matthew Cumers reported that the current process is not user friendly and that the process needs to be reformed; he does not want to lose sight of the underlying challenges. Bert Nixon informed the Board that IT has now made it possible for more than one person to enter into the Access continuing education database.

6(b). Below are the courses approved by the Continuing Education Committee since the October 5, 2022 Board Meeting for the full Board to ratify at this meeting.

Program Title	CEU hours
1. Sustainable Water Management Conference –	22
2. Environmental Health and Land Reuse –	10
3. Water Security –	1.5
4. Why Should We Care About Air Pollution Toxicity? Its Role in Regulatory Decisions, Past and Future. –	1
5. Integrated Approaches in Community Nonpoint Source Nutrient Management –	1
6. RCRA Hazardous Waste Management Refresher Online Course –	7
7. Hazmat Ground Shipper Certification (DOT) Online Course –	16
8. RCRA Hazardous Waste Management Online Course –	14
9. Visible Emissions Evaluator – Community College of Baltimore County –	2
10. PA Groundwater Symposium –	7.5
11. Hydrogeology of States Webinar Series: Utah –	1
12. Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientist (VPASS) Annual Conference Field Day -	6
13. 2022 FDA Retail Food Safety Seminar –	20
14. General Environmental Health –	3
15. Water Sampler Certification & Skills Test	
16. Site Evaluation for Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems –	16.5
17. MOWPA 2022 Conference –	6
18. Stormwater Conference Resiliency & Adaptation: A Path to the Future of Stormwater Management –	5.5
19. The History of Public Health Informatics: Where Do We Go from Here? –	2
20. Northeast United States Animal Health 2022 Meeting –	6
21. The Smoke Ready Communities Research Study: A Story of Community Capacity, Collaboration & Reducing the Public Health Burden of Wildfire Smoke –	1
22. MDE Training for 17SI NPDES Permit –	2
23. Radiation Protection – EPHOC –	2
24. Solving the Nitrogen Problem –	1
25. Septic Systems 101 –	2

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26. What Real Estate Professionals Need to Know About Homes with Well Water – 2
27. 2-Hour Asbestos Awareness – 2
28. 2022 VEHA Fall Virtual Conference – 6
29. Understanding the Dangers of and Treatment for PFAS – 3
30. MDE At Grade Installer Certification – Renewal Course – 3.5
31. Excluding Pests From Schools – 1.5
32. Identifying and Managing Toxic Plants – 1.5
33. EHTR – Awareness Level – Responder Safety & Health – 1.25
34. Climate and Sea Level Impacts on Groundwater in the Mid-Atlantic – 1
35. Soil Evaluation for Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems - 16

Alan Heck made a motion to accept all reviewed training. Amy Parrish provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

ITEM 7 Status of Work Processed.

Initial Licenses Issued since the October 5, 2022 Board Meeting (6)

1. Nicole Bowman (8-3-22 exam)
2. Catherine Hefferin (8-3-22 exam)
3. Nneka Ijeabunwu (10-10-22 exam)
4. Jaime Park (10-26-22 exam)
5. Joshua Graham (10-31-22 exam)
6. Marilyn Wise (11/4/22 exam)

Certificate of Eligibility Certificates Issued (7)

1. Katie Outten
2. Maleka Gibson
3. Leah Langford
4. Dereje Asmare
5. Darius White
6. Adam Fetterman
7. Cara Thomas

Extended Certificate of Eligibility (1)

1. Morgan Melvin

In-Training Certificates Issued (7)

1. Cecil Cooper
2. Ashlyn Dishman
3. Amie Hoffman
4. Colin McCoy
5. Francis Coreas
6. Daruis White
7. Rachel Tucker

Vote to move to Closed Session

Linda Rudie, Board Chair, read the script for closing the Open Session and to move to a Closed Session. At 12:25 p.m., Alan Heck made a motion to close the Open Session and move to a Closed Session. Amy Parrish provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

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Closed Session Summary

The Board met in Closed Session from 12:37 p.m. to 12:57 p.m. The same Board members present for the open session were present for the closed session, except for Lewis Brown. The authority for the closed session was Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 3-305(b)(13) in order to review a request to sit for the examination, which required review of information that is prohibited from public disclosure pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 4-333 and Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 1-401 *et seq.* The topic actually discussed was review of application information. The Board voted to deny the request to sit for the examination. At 12:57 p.m., Alan Heck made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and enter into administrative session. Amy Parrish provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 5 in favor, 0 abstained, 0 opposed.



Linda Rudie,
Board Chair



Bert Nixon,
Executive Director

DATE: February 1, 2023

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