

# **WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING**

## **Aug 14, 2024**

Brian Whitesel, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. with roll call. The meeting was held at the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, Rm 031, Lincoln, NE. Copies of the agenda were emailed to Board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The meeting was advertised on the Water Well Standards and Contractor's Licensing Board webpage on the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's website. The Open Meetings Act was posted at the front entrance of the room.

### **Item 1. Roll Call**

PRESENT:           Mike Thompson                               Sue Lackey  
                      Laura Johnson                           Lynn Webster  
                      Brian Whitesel                               Dan Mackin  
                      Scott Grosch                                   Russ Fosler

ABSENT:     Tonny Beck, Cody Christensen

OTHERS:     Lee Orton, Mark Graf, Jason Orton, Steve Goans, Dave Miesbach,  
                  and Pam Miller.

### **Item 2. Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Fosler moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Voting yes: Sue Lackey, Laura Johnson, Lynn Webster, Brian Whitesel, Dan Mackin, Scott Grosch, Russ Fosler and Mike Thompson. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

### **Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – June 5, 2024**

Ms. Johnson moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Mackin seconded the motion. Voting yes: Sue Lackey, Laura Johnson, Lynn Webster, Brian Whitesel, Dan Mackin, Scott Grosch. Voting no: none. Abstain: Russ Fosler and Mike Thompson. Motion carried.

### **Item 4. Continuing Education Requests**

1-Geology and Natural Resources Management of South-Central Nebraska in Franklin, Superior, GI area, by Nebraska Geological Society, will be held August 8-9, 2024; Doug Hallum

Requests: 12 hrs.

Recommended: 12 hrs.

2- Groundwater Management Districts Association Summer meeting, Omaha, NE, by Lower Loup NRD, was held July 18-19, 2024; Tylr Naprstek

Requests: 10 hrs.

Recommended: 7 hrs.

A more detailed description of the field trip is needed for additional hrs. to be approved.

3-2024 Water and Natural Resource Tour, Southeast, NE, by UNL Water Center was held June 17-18, 2024; James Brunner

Requests: 7.5 hrs.

Recommended: 4 hrs.

4-NRD Groundwater Tech Training, Valentine, NE, by Middle Niobrara NRD was held June 24, 2024; Kyle Temple

Requests: 3 hrs.

Recommended: 3 hrs.

5-Groundwater Monitoring Demonstration, West Point, NE, by Nutrient Advisors was held May 31, 2024; Allen Kampschnieder

Requests: 4 hrs.

Recommended: 4 hrs.

6-2024 Customer Appreciation Show, Waite Park, MN, by Preferred Pump was held March 15, 2024; Steven Johnson

Requests: 6 hrs.

Recommended: 6 hrs.

7-Solar Water Wells and Systems, York, NE, by Wayne Woldt will be held December 4-5, 2024; Wayne Woldt

Requests: 12 hrs.

Recommended: 12 hrs.

8-2024 Fall Water Conference, Lincoln, NE, by Nebraska Water Center will be held October 9-10, 2024; Ann Briggs

Requests: 19 hrs. Recommended: More detail needed on session content.

Mr. Thompson, CEU Committee Chair, submitted the recommendations for Board approval of CEU hours as stated. Voting yes: Sue Lackey, Laura Johnson, Lynn Webster, Brian Whitesel, Dan Mackin, Scott Grosch, Russ Fosler and Mike Thompson. Voting no: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

### **Item 5. Program Report**

Mr. Miesbach presented the program report that was included in the Board Packet. It outlined the declaratory orders/pre-notifications, violations, licensure information and testing information.

- Review of the program report.
- Review of proposed fees and fee discussion.
- Mr. Goans discussed the budget, fees, and deadlines for the programs funding.
- Title 134, Chapter 3 Fee Schedule proposal:

FEE SCHEDULE.

**01-LICENSE FEES.**

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Initial licensing including exams	\$400.00
Temporary Hardship	\$400.00
Renewal	\$ below
Water well contractor	\$300
Pump installation contractor	\$300
Combination water well and pump installation contractor	\$400
Water well supervisor	\$200
Pump installation supervisor	\$300
Combination water well and pump installation supervisor	\$300
Water well monitoring technician	\$200
Water well contractor and Water well monitoring Technician contractor	\$300
Water well contractor and Water well monitoring Technician supervisor	\$250
Natural resources groundwater technician	\$200

**002. PROGRAM FEES.**

<b>Fee Type</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Declaratory Ruling	\$100.00
Variance	\$100.00

**003. ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.**

<b>Fee Type</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Reinstatement fees  After 60 days of renewal expiration-renewal fees and reinstatement fee must be paid and all exam retakes passed before new license will be issued.	\$200 + renewal fee  Renewal license type fee + \$200 reinstatement

**004. WELL REGISTRATION FEES.**

**004.01 GENERAL.**

<b>Fee Type</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Wells designed to pump 50 gallons per minute or less	\$40.00
Monitoring or observation well	\$40.00
Well designed to pump greater than 50 gallons per minute	\$80.00

**004.02 WELLS PERMITTED PURSUANT TO THE INDUSTRIAL GROUND WATER REGULATORY ACT.**

For water wells permitted pursuant to the Industrial Ground Water Regulatory Act, the fee set pursuant to this subsection shall be collected for each of the first ten such water wells registered, and for each group of ten or fewer such water wells registered thereafter, the fee shall be collected as if only one water well was being registered.

Mr. Grosch made a motion to accept the proposed Title 134, Chapter 3-Fee Schedule as presented. Mr. Fosler seconded the motion. Voting yes: Sue Lackey, Lynn Webster, Brian Whitesel, Dan Mackin, Scott Grosch, Russ Fosler and Mike Thompson. Voting no: none. Abstain: Laura Johnson. Motion carried.

Break 11:45 am to 12:10 pm

- Revisions to Title 134, Chapter 2 - Licensure, will be made by the program and shared with the Board for approval.
- Discussion was held to form a subcommittee to review the proposed Title 134, Chapter 4 – Water Well Construction, Pump Installation, and Water Well Decommissioning Standards, and provide suggested modifications and additions. The Board agreed a letter and application will be created and emailed/mailed out to all contractors on August 19, 2024, with a deadline of August 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board will have a special session the first week in September to review the applications and choose the subcommittee.

**Item 6. Legislative Report**

Mr. Orton shared an update on the special session currently taking place with the legislature.

**Item 7. Agency Reports**

**A. UNL – Conservation & Survey – Sue Lackey**

- CSD is losing driller helper-he took position with NDEE.

- NRD rotary drilling projects are at risk with this driller helper leaving.
- Looking for new driller helper.
- UNL has made deep budget cuts, additional cuts are coming.

**B. Department of Natural Resources – Mike Thompson**

- Handouts of registration statistical reports were provided prior to the meeting.
- Improvements are being made to the Well Interactive map. Updates included putting up the NDEE wellhead protection area.

**C. Dept. of Environment and Energy – Laura Johnson**

- Source water protection grants are out and closed. Waiting on new staff.
- Nitrate study is delayed due to special session.
- Climate Pollution Reduction grant-ONE RED. \$307 million was awarded to Nebraska to be spent in 5 years on carbon reduction activities. New staff will be hired for the five-year program.

**D. Natural Resources Districts – Lynn Webster**

- Extremely dry-minimal rain for 6 weeks. Possible impacts to fall static levels and next spring's water levels.
- Special Legislative session may put NRD's under state funding. Waiting to hear the results.
- Managers meeting in the next few weeks, Mr. Webster will provide the new fee schedule at that time.

**E. HHS – Division of Public Health – Russ Fosler**

- Nitrate project has been completed.

**Item 8. Public Comment**

None

**Item 9: Closed Session**

None

**Item 10. Adjourn**

Ms. Lackey moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

*Mike Thompson*

September 24, 2024

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**Mike Thompson, Board Secretary**

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**Date**