

ALABAMA ONSITE WASTEWATER BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 27, 2023

The one hundred thirtieth meeting of the ALABAMA ONSITE WASTEWATER BOARD (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”) was called to order at 9:01 a.m., July 27, 2023, at the Board’s administrative offices located at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1050 by the Honorable Chris Gulley, Chair.

PRESENT

Board Members present – Chris Gulley (Chair), Alan Astin (Vice-Chair), David Mastin (Treasurer), Dr. Mark Barnett, Craig Gall, Mark Haswell, and Dr. Harold Pate. Other guests: Melissa Hines (Executive Director), Neva Conway (AOWB Attorney), Tracy Welch (AOWB), Joel Barnes (AOWB), Melanie Boggan (ADPH), and Allen Tartt (UWA). Board Members not present: Sharon Kimbrough, and Leigh Salter. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order.

MINUTES – David Mastin made the motion to accept the minutes of April 27, 2023, as presented.

Dr. Mark Barnett seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Mark Haswell – YES; David Mastin – YES; Leigh Salter – ABSENT; Alan Astin – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Sharon Kimbrough – ABSENT; Dr. Harold Pate – YES. Motion carries.

TREASURER’S REPORT – David Mastin, Treasurer, presented the 3rd Quarter Treasurers report for April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023. Alan Astin made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented; Dr. Harold Pate seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Mark

Haswell – YES; David Mastin – YES; Leigh Salter – ABSENT; Alan Astin – YES; Craig Gall – YES;
24 Sharon Kimbrough – ABSENT; Dr. Harold Pate – YES. Motion carries.

25

26 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

27 **Education Committee:** Dr. Mark Barnett, the Education Committee Chair, advised there was nothing
28 to report. Melissa Hines, Executive Director, advised that there would be a meeting on August 8, 2023,
29 for a final review of the Advanced Level I exam; David Mastin, Randy Anderson, Matt Connor, Ike
30 Bright, Tim Simpson, Alan Tartt, Jay Spencer and Melanie Boggan will attend the exam review
31 meeting. Director Hines also wanted to bring to the attention of the Board that the Manufacturer license
32 training needs to be updated. Discussion was had; the Education Committee will be working with Craig
33 Gall to review, update, and improve Manufacturer training and testing.

34 **Fast Track Committee:** Craig Gall passed out a proposal outline for Basic Installer Fast Track
35 coursework (160 hours total) to be reviewed to possibly be accepted in lieu of the 12-month work
36 experience currently required on the eligibility application. The outline lists requirements for classroom
37 hours and field work. The Committee also recommends that there be testing requirements for the
38 classroom hours as well as practical testing requirements for the field work. The Committee would like
39 the education providers to come up with coursework and testing based off the proposed outline
40 requirements. Currently, the Fast Track Committee is requesting additional input and comments from
41 the Board. After the recommended curriculum is approved, the Committee would like to have
42 professional, competent people to teach the approved courses. Craig Gall made the motion that the Fast
43 Track proposal is put on hold. This will allow for Board Members as well as any interested training
44 providers to give input to the Committee by September 30th; the Committee would then be able to put a
45 formal proposal together for the next Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mark Barnett.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Mark Haswell – YES; David Mastin – YES; Leigh
47 Salter – ABSENT; Alan Astin – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Sharon Kimbrough – ABSENT; Dr. Harold
48 Pate – YES. Motion carries.

49

50 **NEW BUSINESS**

51 None.

52

53 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

54 Executive Director Melissa Hines reminded the Board that the *Ethics Commission Statements of*
55 *Economic Interest*, were due no later than April 30, 2023. If they have not been submitted, Board
56 Members can be fined.

57 **Board Member Expiration of Terms:**

58 **Leigh Salter – 09/30/2023 – last term (has served 8 years).** It is expected that the Speaker of the
59 House will appoint Melanie Boggan of ADPH to replace her for the Regulators Seat.

60 **Dr. Hal Pate – 09/30/2023** – fulfilling an expired term and can be reappointed by the Speaker of the
61 House.

62 **Alan Astin – 09/30/2023** – can serve 4 more years if reappointed by the Governor.

63 **Chris Gulley – 09/30/2023** – can serve 4 more years if reappointed by the Lt. Governor.

64 **Sharon Kimbrough – 9/30/2023 – last term (has served 8 years).** BELS has submitted a list of
65 Engineers to the Speaker of the House.

66

67 **HB194 AOWB Sunset Bill** (The Sunset Committee had given AOWB a 4-year rotation) Senator

68 Gudger tagged an amendment to drop our sunset down to 1-year. Went to the Senate floor and passed

on 4/18/2023; it went to the House floor and passed on 4/25/2023, and now goes to the Governor to sign
70 as a 1-year extension. *** UPDATE*** – Our audit has been completed. AOWB goes before the
71 Sunset Committee on 9/28/2023 at 1:30 p.m. on the 8th floor of the State House. All Board members are
72 expected to be in attendance.

73

74 **The Governors Study Group on Efficiency in State Government met in June. Notes from meeting:**

75 *Doryan Carlton, State Budget Officer, gave an update on the subcommittee on Consolidation and*
76 *Elimination. She has heard from AARB (Association of Regulatory Board) representatives and talked to*
77 *other states. One thing that has been determined is that each state is different and unique and they*
78 *would be working to find what will work best for our state.*

79 **Rachel Riddle, Chief Examiner, said it was great to see so many members of boards at the meeting**
80 **and they realized how much they needed to hear from boards and encouraged everyone to contact**
81 **members and let them know what YOUR board is doing. It is important that we continue to**
82 **educate members of the committee, especially regarding the consumer services offered, such as**
83 **education and investigations of licensees. Some of the key committee members are: Young**
84 **Boozer, State Treasurer; Senator Linda Coleman-Madison; Representative Chris Pringle.**

85

86 **UPCOMING C.E. CLASSES – EDUCATION INFO**

87 09-07-2023 – Pelham

88 09-14-2023 – HBLB Montgomery

89 10-12-2023 – Joe Wheeler State Park

90 10-24-2023 – Event Center – Huntsville

91 11-09-2023 – Mobile Convention Center

12-07-2023 – UWA

93 12-14-2023 – HBLB Montgomery

- 94 • 2024 exam dates should be set by October AOWB Meeting (10-26-2023)
- 95 • Education is due to the Board for approval at the October AOWB Meeting

96

97 **ENFORCEMENT REPORT FOR THE QUARTER**

98 Complaints pending Probable Cause 3

99 Complaints received for the Quarter 14

100 Holding for Hearings/Settlement Agreements 12

101 Bond Claims 5 (2 have paid out)

102 ****Possible Special Called meeting in September for administration hearings****

103

104 *Onsite Wastewater System Inspection form – has been revised/cleaned up by Tracy.* It was presented to
105 the Board for their input. Alan Astin suggested that the word “inspection” be removed and replaced
106 with the word “report”. David Mastin suggested that even the form number which includes “AOWB”
107 be removed so as not to indicate that AOWB performed any inspection or review of the onsite system.

108

109 **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

110 None.

111

112 **ADJOURNMENT**

113 Dr. Barnett made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Alan Astin seconded the motion. By a show of
114 hands, the motion carries unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m. by Chair, Chris Gulley.

The remaining 2023 quarterly meeting will be held:

116 October 26, 2023

117

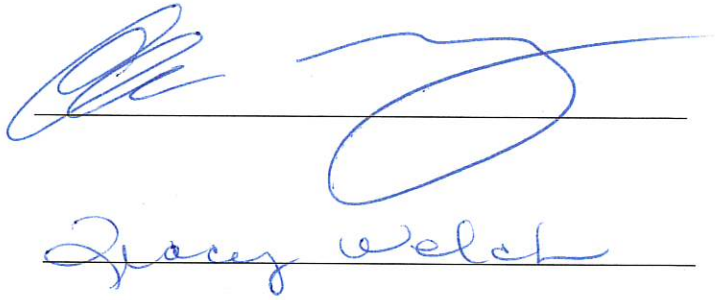
118 Minutes submitted by: Tracy Welch

119

120 Approved by: Chris Gulley

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122 Recording Secretary



Two handwritten signatures in blue ink are positioned above a horizontal line. The signature on the left is a stylized, cursive 'CG' for Chris Gulley. The signature on the right is a large, looped cursive signature for Tracy Welch. Below this line, the name 'Tracy Welch' is written in a clear, cursive blue ink, positioned above another horizontal line.