

1
2
3
ALABAMA ONSITE WASTEWATER BOARD

4
5
6
MINUTES OF MEETING

7
8
9
October 23, 2025

10 The one hundred fortieth meeting of the ALABAMA ONSITE WASTEWATER BOARD (hereinafter
11 referred to as “the Board”) was called to order at 9:00 a.m., October 23, 2025, at the Board’s
12 administrative offices located at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1050 by the Honorable Chris Gulley, Chair.

13
14 **PRESENT** - Board Members present – Chris Gulley (Chair) Timothy Simpson (Vice-Chair), Preston
15 Hughes, Craig Gall, Dr. Harold Pate, Melanie Boggan Mark Haswell and Dr. Mark Barnett. Board
16 Member absent –Alan Astin. Other guests: Melissa Hines (Executive Director), Tracy Welch (AOWB),
17 Hannah Hollon (AOWB) Joel Barnes (AOWB), Neva Conway (Board Attorney), and Cathe Baker
18 (AOWA Director). A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order.

19
20 **INTRODUCTION** – Preston Hughes from Mobile County was introduced as a new Board Member,
21 filling the Installer Seat left vacant by David Mastin, Jr.

22
23 **RECOGNITION** – Chris Gulley, Chair, recognized David Mastin, Jr. for his 8 years of service to the
24 Board. He presented Mr. Mastin with a certificate from Governor Kay Ivey.

25
26 **MINUTES** – Timothy Simpson made the motion to accept the minutes of July 24, 2025, Quarterly
27 Board meeting as presented; Melanie Boggan seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin

22 – ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell –
23 YES; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - YES. Motion passes.
24

25 **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Tracy Welch, Recording Secretary, presented the 4th Quarter Treasurers
26 report for July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025. Dr. Harold Pate made the motion to accept the
27 Treasurer’s Report. Melanie Boggan seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin –
28 ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – YES;
29 Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - YES. Motion passes.
30

31 **GUEST: Mr. Steven McDonald, of Southwest Water Utilities, addressed the Board with**
32 **regarding work/maintenance for onsite septic systems in the Lake Martin area. Mr. McDonald is**
33 **a Wastewater Operator through ADEM and does not hold a license with AOWB. The Board**
34 **heard Mr. McDonald and advised him that the Board must uphold the law that governs onsite**
35 **septic systems.**
36

37 **AOWA/Cathe Baker – Director: AOWA has finalized contracts with Auburn University and a**
38 **training center will be built in Opelika on 6 acres. The building should be completed after the**
39 **first of the year, with hopes of continuing education classes to begin in April of 2026.**
40

41 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

42 **Education Committee:** Dr. Mark Barnett advised that the Education Committee has received the
43 Education Reports from AOWA and UWA from the Executive Director, Melissa Hines. Dr. Barnett
44 made the motion to accept the Education Materials from AOWA and UWA; Craig Gall seconded the

45 motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin – ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan –
46 YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – YES; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES;
47 Timothy Simpson - YES. Motion passes.
48

49 **NEW BUSINESS**

50 **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 9:48 a.m. Chris Gulley, Chair, made the motion to go into Executive
51 Session to discuss the good name and morale character of the Executive Director position, Timothy
52 Simpson, Vice-Chair, Seconded the motion. By a show of hands, motion passed unanimously. At 10:01
53 Timothy Simpson, Vice-Chair made the motion to come out of Executive Session and Craig Gall
54 seconded the motion. By a show of hands, motion passed unanimously.
55

56 **TREASURER** – With the end of term for David Mastin from the Board, Chris Gulley, Chair, appoints
57 Melanie Boggan as Board Treasurer.
58

59 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND CONSENT AGREEMENTS**
60

61 ***UPCOMING EVENTS:**

62 Advanced Level I Test – 11/7/2026 Advanced Level II Test – 11/14/2025

63 **Continuing Education:**

64 AOWA: Jackson Co. Rescue Squad 11/13/2025; HBLB, Montgomery 12/18/2025

65 UWA: UWA – Livingston 12/4/2025
66
67

68 *2026 EXAM DATES/BOARD MEETING DATES

69 Melanie Boggan made the motion to approve the 2026 Exam Dates and Board Meeting Dates as

70 presented by the Executive Director, Melissa Hines. Preston Hughes seconded the motion. **ROLL**

71 **CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin – ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall –

72 YES; Mark Haswell – YES; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - YES.

73 Motion passes.

74
75 ****AOWB Rules out for public comment. Copy of changes attached.***

76 Included in the changes are increase of bond amounts. The bond amount of \$15,000.00 will remain the

77 same for the Pumper, Portable Toilet and Manufacturer; The Basic Installer amount will increase to

78 \$25,000.00; The Advanced Level I and Advanced Level II will increase to \$50,000.00. The increase

79 would be in effect 6 months after the effective date of this rule. Discussion was had. Timothy Stephens

80 made the motion to put proposed bond increase for vote. Craig Gall seconded the motion. **ROLL**

81 **CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin – ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – ABSTAIN; Craig

82 Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – YES; Preston Hughes – ABSTAIN; Dr. Harold Pate – NO; Timothy

83 Simpson - NO. Motion passes with 3 votes YES; 2 votes NO and 2 votes ABSTAIN.

84 Melanie Boggan made the motion to submit the rule change for final approval, assuming there are no

85 negative public comments. Dr. Barnett seconded the Motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin –

86 ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – YES;

87 Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - YES. Motion passes.

88

89

90

01 **CONSENT AGREEMENTS**

92 **COMPLAINT #2025-0018** - New Market, Alabama: Failure to follow the rules and regulations of the
93 ADPH; did not afford the LHD the opportunity to inspect. Paid a \$2500.00 fine. (Roy Wayne Tipton)
94 Craig Gall made the motion to accept the consent agreement. Timothy Simpson seconded the motion.
95 **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin – ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan –
96 ABSTAIN; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – YES; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES;
97 Timothy Simpson - YES. Motion passes.

98
99 **COMPLAINT #2025-0019** - Eufaula, Alabama: An unlicensed individual installed without a license
100 and without a permit and was fined and paid \$500.00 for each count for a total of \$1000.00. (Kelly
101 McQueen) Craig Gall made the motion to accept the consent agreement; Dr. Harold Pate seconded the
102 motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin – ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan –
103 YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – YES; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES;
104 Timothy Simpson - YES. Motion passes.

105
106 **COMPLAINT #2025-0019** - Jimmy Copeland was fined and paid \$2,000.00 and attended first time
107 training. Timothy Simpson made the motion to approve consent agreement. Dr. Harold Pate seconded
108 the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin – ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan
109 – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – YES; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES;
110 Timothy Simpson - YES. Motion passes.

111

112 **COMPLAINT #2025-0021** - Salem, Alabama: and unlicensed individual who made no contact with
113 LHD was fined and paid \$700.00 per count for a total of \$1400.00. (Rob Kyle) Craig Gall made the
114 motion to accept the consent agreement. Preston Hughes seconded the motion.

115 **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Alan Astin – ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES;
116 Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – YES; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy
117 Simpson - YES. Motion passes.

118

119 **ENFORCEMENT REPORT FOR THE QUARTER**

120	Complaints pending Probable Cause	5
121	Complaints received for the Quarter	25
122	Holding for hearings/working to settle	11
123	Bond Claims	0
124	Consent agreements to be approved by the Board	4
125	Cease and Desist Orders	0

126

127 **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

128 Melanie Boggan (Probable Cause Committee) made a motion for Board approval to request Attorney
129 General's interpretation/clarification regarding the Board's ability of enforcement action to be taken
130 against unlicensed individuals. Dr. Mark Barnett seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Alan
131 Astin – ABSENT; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell
132 – YES; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - YES. Motion passes.

133

134 Dr. Mark Barnett (Education Committee) There is a new pool of questions for the Installer exams.
135 There will be a meeting following the Board Meeting and the Education Sponsors will be able to
136 provide opinions/comments on the questions.
137

138 Craig Gall (Manufacturer) Craig has been attending the AOWA Continuing Education and speaking on
139 lid safety.
140

141 **ADJOURNMENT**

142 Melanie Boggan made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Harold Pate seconded the motion. By a
143 show of hands, the motion carries unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m. by Chair, Chris
144 Gulley.
145

146 **2026 quarterly meetings:**

147 01/22/2026

148 04/23/2026

149 07/23/2026

150 10/22/2026
151

152 Minutes submitted by: Tracy Welch

153

154 Approved by: Chris Gulley

155

156 Recording Secretary


