ALABAMA ONSITE WASTEWATER BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 22, 2026

The one hundred forty-first meeting of the ALABAMA ONSITE WASTEWATER BOARD (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") was called to order at 9:07 a.m., January 22, 2026, 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), Preston Hughes, Craig Gall, Dr. Harold Pate, Melanie Boggan, Alan Astin and Dr. Mark Barnett. Board Members absent –Timothy Simpson and Mark Haswell. Other guests: Melissa Hines (Executive Director), Ike Bright (Assistant Executive Director), Tracy Welch (AOWB), Hannah Hollon (AOWB) Joel Barnes (AOWB), Neva Conway (Board Attorney), and Marc Geiger (AOWA President). A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair, Chris Gulley, opened the floor for nominations of Board Chair. Alan Astin nominated Chris Gulley for Board Chair; Melanie Boggan seconded the motion. **Alan Astin made the motion to close the floor for nominations. ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. The nomination carries.

Chair, Chris Gulley, opened the floor for nominations of Vice-Chair. Alan Astin nominated Timothy Simpson for Vice-Chair; Craig Gall seconded the motion. **Melanie Boggan made the motion to close the floor for nominations. ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. The nomination carries.

Chair, Chris Gulley, opened the floor for nominations of Board Treasurer. Craig Gall nominated Melanie Boggan for Treasurer; Alan Astin seconded the motion. **Dr. Harold Pate made the motion to close the floor for nominations. ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. The nomination carries.

MINUTES – Alan Astin made the motion to accept the minutes of October 23, 2025, Quarterly Board meeting as presented; Dr. Harold Pate seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. Motion passes.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Melanie Boggan, Treasurer, presented the 1st Quarter Treasurers report for October 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Alan Astin made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Dr. Mark Barnett seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. Motion passes.

SPECIAL GUEST: Marc Geiger, President of AOWA, addressed the Board to provide an update on the Onsite Wastewater Academy in Auburn. They are looking to possibly start classes in late July. Mr. Geiger also wanted to address the need for more hands-on training with the current licensing classes and extend the class time. DISCUSSION WAS HAD BY THE BOARD. **In reference to the hands-on education training, Chair Chris Gulley wants to appoint a Licensing Committee to discuss and deliberate two (2) solutions to present at the next Board Meeting. Mr. Gulley named Preston Hughes as Chairman of the Licensing Committee. Named to the Committee were: Dr. Mark Barnett; Craig Gall; Ike Bright; UWA Representative, and AOWA Representative.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee: Dr. Mark Barnett advised that the Education Committee had a meeting this morning with Ike Bright before the Board Meeting on test questions. They have new ideas on adding more questions to the exams.

NEW BUSINESS: Executive Director, Melissa Hines, posed a question to the Board regarding individuals who used to be Basic Installers for at least 2 years and at some point, did not renew their license. Could their past time as a Basic Installer be counted toward testing for the Advanced Level I. Preston Hughes made the motion to allow past time to be counted; Craig Gall seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – YES; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. Motion passes.

INTRODUCTION: Ike Bright was introduced to the Board as Assistant Executive Director for AOWB.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND CONSENT AGREEMENTS

<u>EXPIRATION OF TERMS</u>:

Mark Haswell's term expires 9/30/2026; Dr. Mark Barnett's term expires 9/30/2026. They both can be reappointed for 4 more years.

<u>LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</u> – Executive Director, Melissa Hines, provided all Board Members with a copy of the Legislative Update

<u>STATEWIDE VARIANCE FOR DEWATERING</u> – A memo from Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer to Matt Conner, Bureau of Environmental Services, was provided in the Board Member packets.

<u>STATISTICS</u>

Numbers were provided for 2025 Exams, New licenses issued in 2025, Renewal Count to date and CE training reports for training year 2026.

<u>CONTINUING EDUCATION 2027</u> – a list was provided of the approved continuing education for licensing renewal year 2027 was provided.

RULE REVISION – Goes into effect February 14, 2026. There will be no increase to the bonds as previously was mentioned in the rule revision.

CONSENT AGREEMENTS

COMPLAINT #2025-0049 – Hartselle, Alabama: Installing without a license. He was fined and paid a $1,000.00. (Phillip Bell). Alan Astin made the motion to accept the consent agreement. Craig Gall seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – ABSTAIN; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. Motion passes.

COMPLAINT #2025-0047 – Oneonta, AL: An unlicensed individual installed without a license and without a permit and was fined and paid $500.00 for each count for a total of $1000.00. (William Robertson). Alan Astin made the motion to accept the consent agreement; Preston Hughes seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – ABSTAIN; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. Motion passes.

COMPLAINT #2025-0021 – Salem, AL: Did not afford the LHD the opportunity to inspect, and there was no permit; he was fined and paid $1400.00. (Rob Kyle). Preston Hughes made the motion to accept the consent agreement; Craig Gall seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – YES; Melanie Boggan – ABSTAIN; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – YES; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. Motion passes.

Alan Astin made the motion to rescind the request previous motion from the October, 23, 2025 meeting for the Attorney General's clarification regarding the Board's ability of enforcement to be taken against unlicensed individuals. Dr. Harold Pate seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Alan Astin – YES; Dr. Mark Barnett – NO; Melanie Boggan – ABSTAIN; Craig Gall – YES; Mark Haswell – ABSENT; Preston Hughes – ABSTAIN; Dr. Harold Pate – YES; Timothy Simpson - ABSENT. Motion passes.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT FOR THE QUARTER

Complaints pending Probable Cause	11
Complaints received for the Quarter	14
Holding for hearings/working to settle	9
Bond Claims	1
Consent agreements to be approved by the Board	3
Cease and Desist Orders	0

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Melanie Boggan made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Alan Astin seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion carries unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. by Chair, Chris Gulley.

2026 remaining quarterly meetings:

04/23/2026

07/23/2026

10/22/2026

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Welch

Approved by: Chris Gulley ____________________

Recording Secretary Tracy Welch ____________________