



Nevada Division of
WATER RESOURCES

STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Joe Lombardo, Governor
James A. Settelmeyer, Director
Chris Thorson, P.E., Acting State Engineer

STATE OF NEVADA WELL DRILLERS' ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STATEWIDE WELL DRILLER'S EXAMINATION
December 18th, 2025

DRAFT (subject to revision)

(Final minutes will be available on the Board's website

<http://water.nv.gov/WellDrillersAdvisoryBoard.aspx> after ratification by the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting)

Board Members

Present: Arnold Lamon, and Dennis Robblee

Nevada Division of
Water Resources

Members Present: Manny Fernandez, and Gary Blake

Call to Order:

Manny Fernandez: We shall now call to order the quarterly meeting of the Nevada Well Drillers Advisory Board in Carson City, Nevada. Today's date is December 18th, 2025. The time is 8:16 AM. Representing the Nevada Well Driller's Board is Dennis Robblee, and Arnold Lamon. Representing the Nevada Division of Water Resources is Gary Blake and myself, Manny Fernandez. To comply with Open Meeting Law, notices of this meeting were posted in this building, and at the required locations throughout Nevada. At this time, we would like to open the floor for any public comment. Hearing none, we will proceed with the approval of the Well Driller's Advisory Board minutes.

Approval of Board
Meeting Minutes:

Manny Fernandez: Copies of minutes of the Well Driller's Advisory Board meeting, dated August 5th, 2025, have been distributed for your review. Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes?

Arnold Lamon: I have none.

Manny Fernandez: Hearing none, is there a motion for the board to approve the minutes, to stand approved as read?

Dennis Robblee: I move to approve the minutes as read.

Arnold Lamon: I'll second it.

Manny Fernandez: Denny motioned, and Arnold seconded. All in favor say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: All opposed say nay.

The motion carries. Okay, thank you gentlemen. We will now move on to the business of the board.

Action

Board Business and
Discussion:

Manny Fernandez: Not very much to discuss today. We adopted our temporary regulations, excuse me, they are permanent regulations now. Those only affect the licensure procedure. Kind of the same thing we discussed in the previous meeting. If you want to look at those, they are on our public website already. I don't know if you got those emails from that.

Dennis Robblee: I did.

Manny Fernandez: Okay. The only other business we have is Adam Sullivan, is no longer the State Engineer. It happened early last week so right now we have Chris Thorson who is the acting State Engineer. Unless you gentlemen have anything else to discuss before we get into the interviews. Okay, hearing no further business, we will now proceed with the oral exams. Is there a motion from the Board to close the meeting, pursuant to NRS 241.030, to conduct the oral exam?

Arnold Lamon: I motion to close.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned, and Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries.

Oral Test of applicants for Well Driller's License by Statewide Well Drillers' Advisory Board, NRS 534.140 and 534.150.

8:21 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

***Meeting closed to conduct Winston Steinke's oral examination. ***

Action

Recommendation:

Manny Fernandez: Is there a motion from the Board to open the meeting?

Arnold Lamon: I motion to open the meeting.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned; Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries. The Board will announce their recommendation, Denny?

Dennis Robblee: Winston, I'd like to run through a couple things with you before, okay. You're an awesome guy. I have no doubt every word of your references is true. Not only that, I would take you anywhere to do anything. But what I would recommend is you spend a little bit of time looking into the why's and the what's of things. I bet you're the hardest worker on the rig, and I bet that if someone tells you to go do something then you can go do anything. I have no doubt that's the case. There are a few things that really concern me, is your lack of knowledge of the connections of anything to do with the drill pipe. Or the equipment, other than the names maybe. You're going to find yourself in some situations. I don't personally know Brett, I've met him a couple times. But what I would ask you is, is that you go

back to him and say hey I would like to learn some of this stuff, can you include me? When I figure out these connections or we put it together, or subs, or the casing, or any of that stuff. The collar weights, how much you can run. I try to involve all my guys. Well, I try to involve my guys with potential. Without knowing that stuff you can really get yourself into some big trouble. That concerns me a little bit. I would love nothing more than to give you a license today. If you were in the central valley, nothing but, I would have probably done that. But today I'm going to suggest that you take a little time, and we will retest just this section. And I hate to do that to you, but I think its in both of our best interests. The state and yours as well.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: Couple of things for me to second what Denny's saying here is- the tooling. Very very important. I work for a big company, and we have every thread known to man pretty much. Sonic, we have DI22, we have CSR, we have full flow, smooth flow. Not that I expect you to know all of that. Just know what you are dealing with. With what your company is using. In my situation, I have to know it because I can't send a smooth flow system out there and then a full flow got mixed in. They will screw together but they will come apart. By the time you pull up on it. Like I said, I don't expect you to know what I have to deal with but what you're dealing with I really need you to understand. I can tell you there's no special thread out there. They don't exist. Because if I call okay bitco and want them to cut a 2 and 7/8s thread, they have a dye for that. You can't just set them up on the laith and cut that thread. Or full. You just can't do it. So, there's no special thread. Try to educate yourself a little more on your mud, the parameters of it and the weights. I know California, I drill a lot there. Yeah, they want you to use straight water but that can get you in trouble to a point where you can't get back out of it. So, get yourself involved. You said you haven't done monitoring wells; that's part of the full water well license. I know you said you haven't done them. And that's okay.

Winston Steinke: I do know a little bit about them.

Arnold Lamon: Right. But we need to be able to, with full confidence, to give you a full water well license. That you are aware of everything for the state of Nevada. So, at this point, I want you to come back. Ask your questions. Tell him there's no such thing as a special thread.

Winston Steinke: Oh believe me, I will.

Arnold Lamon: It's going to be 6 and 5/8s, or 7 and 5/8s. There is an 8 and 5/8s out there. You might not see them. We don't use a whole bunch of them, but we do have a few. Just keep that in mind. Drill bit sizes. The pins that are coming out of them, very important. So, I'm going to say come back and do it again.

Winston Steinke: Okay.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Winston Steinke, for a retest on part two for his water well license. The time is 9:22 a.m. Is there a motion from the Board to close the meeting, pursuant to NRS 241.030, to conduct the oral exam?

Arnold Lamon: I motion to close.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned, and Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries.

Oral Test of applicants for Well Driller's License by Statewide Well Drillers' Advisory Board, NRS 534.140 and 534.150.

9:37 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

***Meeting closed to conduct Cody Franklin's oral examination. ***

Action

Recommendation:

Manny Fernandez: Is there a motion from the Board to open the meeting?

Arnold Lamon: I motion to open the meeting.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned; Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries. The Board will announce their recommendation, Denny?

Dennis Robblee: I am going to recommend that we approve you for a water well license. Like we've discussed. Just know your limitations. I think you know the rules and you know when you need help.

Manny Fernandez: For the record Denny can you reiterate, is it production wells?

Dennis Robblee: Production wells, no monitor wells. Limited license.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I'm going to recommend you for production wells only, of course your domestics are in there too. Very talented individual. Keep it up. We need younger people in this field.

Cody Franklin: Yes sir, thank you.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer Cody Franklin, for his water well license, limited to production wells only. No monitor wells. The time is 10:54 a.m. Is there a motion from the Board to close the meeting, pursuant to NRS 241.030, to conduct the oral exam?

Arnold Lamon: I motion to close.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned, and Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries.

Oral Test of applicants for Well Driller's License by Statewide Well Drillers' Advisory Board, NRS 534.140 and 534.150.

11:04 a.m. – 11:19 a.m.

***Meeting closed to conduct William Comish's oral examination. ***

Action

Recommendation:

Manny Fernandez: Is there a motion from the Board to open the meeting?

Arnold Lamon: I motion to open the meeting.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned; Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries. The Board will announce their recommendation, Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: William, I don't want to steer you in the wrong direction but what we're looking for is a driller. Water well driller. And I have no doubt that someday you're going to be that. So, I'm going to deny your application.

Manny Fernandez: Denny?

Dennis Robblee: William, this is a very interesting case here. Okay, and as Arnold said, you said something that was very interesting. What you said is "Monty is going to take you under his wing." If you get this license. That's not really how that works. You need a Monty or someone similar to take you under that wing and teach you the things- You've got to have a starting point before you get here. This is not the starting point. This is the point where you come in here, we ask you some questions and dig deep and make sure you know the things you need. And that you're a drilling professional and able to move forward. With a good conscience, we can't turn you loose with this license. Okay? There's so much you need to learn, and if you're not getting that from the guy, you're with maybe you go to the boss and see if you can be put with someone who can get you those things. And some time. You just have to have some time. So, my recommendation is also that we deny your application, okay? I hate to do that to you, but I think somebody led you down the wrong path to get here.

William Comish: Yeah, well I definitely understand.

Manny Fernandez: Do you have any questions right now?

William Comish: No, I think that's pretty cut and dry really.

Dennis Robblee: Well hopefully it wasn't an unpleasant experience for you, and you obviously know some book stuff to get you through to this point but there's a lot to learn.

Arnold Lamon: And we appreciate your honesty.

Dennis Robblee: We really do.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, William Comish, denial of his application at this time. The time is 11:19 a.m. Is there a motion from the Board to close the meeting, pursuant to NRS 241.030, to conduct the oral exam?

Arnold Lamon: I motion to close.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned, and Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries.

Oral Test of applicants for Well Driller's License by Statewide Well Drillers' Advisory Board, NRS 534.140 and 534.150.

11:25 a.m. – 11:51 a.m. ***Meeting closed to conduct Robert Shivner's oral examination.***

Action

Recommendation: **Manny Fernandez:** Is there a motion from the Board to open the meeting?
Arnold Lamon: I motion to open the meeting.
Dennis Robblee: And I second it.
Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned; Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.
Unanimous Aye
Manny Fernandez: The motion carries. The Board will announce their recommendation, Arnold?
Arnold Lamon: I'm going to deny your application at this point.
Manny Fernandez: Denny?
Dennis Robblee: For all the reasons that I've mentioned I am also going to deny your application. I think there's a pass/fail over here and if failing is an option I would fail you also. I suggest you don't get in a hurry to put in your application again, and you learn the rules. And you learn them right.
Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Mr. Shivner, be denied his water well license. The time is 11:51 a.m.
Public Comment: **Manny Fernandez:** At this time, we would like to close with a period for public comment. *Noise break*
Hearing none, we will now conclude this session of the Nevada Well Driller's Advisory Board meeting held on this day, December 18th, 2025, in Carson City Nevada.

Adjourn: **Manny Fernandez:** Is there a motion from the Board to adjourn the meeting?
Arnold Lamon: I move to adjourn the meeting.
Dennis Robblee: And I second it.
Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned; Dennis seconded. All in favor, say aye.
Unanimous Aye
Manny Fernandez: The motion carries. Meeting adjourned. The time is 11:52 am.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify the Nevada Division of Water Resources, 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 2002, Carson City, Nevada 89701 or contact Manny Fernandez at (775) 684-2833 or by email at amfernandez@water.nv.gov.

Recordings of this meeting are part of the Statewide Well Drillers' Advisory Board files in the State Engineer's Office and are available upon written request.