



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
February 10th, 2026
FINAL and APPROVED

Board Members

Present: Arnold Lamon, Dennis Robblee, and Paul Forbes

Nevada Division of
Water Resources

Members Present: Manny Fernandez, Chad Walling, James Bolotin, 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 February 10th, 2026. The time is 8:05 AM. Representing the Nevada Well Driller's Board is Dennis Robblee, Arnold Lamon, and Paul Forbes. Representing the Nevada Division of Water Resources is Chad Walling, Gary Blake, James Bolotin, 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 December 18th, 2025, have been distributed for your review. Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes?

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

Paul Forbes: I move to approve the minutes as read.

Arnold Lamon: I'll second it.

Manny Fernandez: Paul 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. First, we will hear from Chad of any new business. Chad?

Action

Board Business and
Discussion:

Chad Walling: Okay, good morning. The first thing really quick is that we do have a board vacancy and I have sent out questionnaires and I am getting responses back to fill our fifth seat. So, I am hoping to do that before the next quarterly meeting and have a little more flexibility for us and you guys.

Dennis Robblee: Who'd you lose?

Chad Walling: Steve Hamrick. He resigned and retired. He was on the board for a long time, so we sent him a certificate for I think sixteen years in total. Two different stints he was on the board, so. Pretty good run. The second item I wanted to address, I sent you all by email a letter that we received from Bruce McKay Pump and Well Services. Expressing concerns regarding the advisory board and the evaluation of applicants for licensure. I sent it to you with an ask to get your reactions and takes and be able to give you the opportunity to respond. Also, for us to formulate a response or discussion. Before I do that, I would like to highlight a couple of things. The purposes of the board, and to emphasize that both for you guys and for the record to say in this meeting. First, in Nevada Revised Statutes 534.150, is the section on the well drillers' advisory board. Part one is for the purpose of examining applicants for well driller's licenses- the State Engineer may appoint an advisory board, referred to in this section as the board. Part five of that chapter says, the purpose of the board is to determine the qualifications of an applicant as a well-driller and submit its findings to the State Engineer. Part six says, the regulations of the board on examining applicants for well drillers licenses must be developed by the State Engineer in cooperation with the board upon its creation. So, then turning to the regulations, Nevada Administrative Code 534.286, is the section about the oral examinations. And paraphrasing a little bit here, the oral examinations section must be conducted to determine sufficiency of the applicant's knowledge of the provisions of this chapter, NAC 534, and chapter 534 of NRS. Including, without limitation, knowledge of the minimum standards established in this chapter for the construction, plugging, development, or testing of wells. Number two is qualifications and experience. Number three, proficiency in the operating procedures and construction methods associated with the various types of rigs and equipment used for drilling. And four, the ability to solve problems that may arise during the construction, plugging, development, or testing of a well. So, following statute and regulation with the board have had this grading criteria that we go through to evaluate applicants to be compliant. But just as a reminder and refresher on the purpose and what we're hoping to gain from you all when you do these oral exams. With that and with some of the concerns that were raised, or questions that were addressed in this letter, I guess first I'd like to hear all of your reactions- if you had any thoughts individually or initial reactions. To some or all of the points raised.

Dennis Robblee: This is Dennis Robblee. So going down it- I apologize I thought we were going to have a little more time to go through it, but there's a couple things here. Specifically, with the three lines he has, "Candidates being denied outright with the explanation

indication they should return only after gaining experience in drilling types they have not yet had the opportunity to perform.” They have to perform some type of drilling, right? To learn the rules. I think that’s important. Down below it says, “These expectations create a contradiction. The board continues to require two years of experience.” A key portion of that, that I don’t know if he forgot to add or intentionally didn’t add is that that’s two years minimum. You can’t gain all the worldly experience; I realize that in two years. But it’s a minimum of two years when they step in here, and hopefully they’ve experienced some things that make them knowledgeable. I have some other opinions, that are probably more opinions than facts, but those two quickly jump out at me.

Manny Fernandez: Thank you, Denny.

Chad Walling: Thank you.

Paul Forbes: This is Paul Forbes. Just to share my opinion on it. I think what Denny said is 100% correct. Those two years are minimum. For somebody to come into the drilling industry fresh and to be able to gain that experience in two years, it’s going to take a special person. But there’s lots of other things that contribute to your knowledge in this industry from outside the industry, so I think that’s why it’s that two years minimum. So, it allows people that can learn quickly to not be held back by the constraints of a regulation that would be say five years. With regards to the pass/fail rate and the difference between years past and now, I think things are ever changing. The applicants are different. The drilling industry is different. We’ve seen a big increase in people coming from sonic that don’t know anything about mud and are looking for restricted licenses. There is a shortage of talent especially in our industry. Like there’s not as many people wanting to get into this industry. So, the push to get people licensed and get people up to speed so they can run a rig and generate revenue for companies is greater. So, we do see a lot more people coming through here without the experience that we have seen in the past. I think that’s a big reason for the increase in denials or requests to retest.

Manny Fernandez: Thank you, Paul.

Arnold Lamon: Arnold Lamon. I’m going to add to it. I mean we’re looking for trained professionals and a minimum of two years. We all know- we’ve drilled in this industry for years and years- and you’re not going to learn everything there is to know in two years. We understand that. A knowledge of equipment. A knowledge of your equipment that you are operating. A knowledge of some of the down hole 3D vision that we’re looking for when you do encounter a problem down hole. That you can get yourself out of that situation. I think that’s very important. And just like Paul said, we are looking for new young individuals to carry on this legacy of water well drilling.

Manny Fernandez: Thank you, Arnold.

Chad Walling: Do you guys have any questions for me or for us? Their requests are urging the board to reconsider some alignments between experience and evaluation standards. I think you guys have touched on that on your initial reactions.

Paul Forbes: I don't think the intent is for anybody to be able to start on a drill rig and be able to get a license in two years. I don't think we're trying to lower the bar that far.

Chad Walling: Well, I appreciate you all reading it, responding and reacting to it. Do we have any other thoughts or questions, James?

James Bolotin: James Bolotin for the record. No, I think that really covers it. Just to follow open meeting law we wanted it all to be considered on the record and let all the board members have a chance to respond. I think that's it.

Paul Forbes: For the record, I do appreciate the feedback. I think it's good that people get involved and send these letters to keep things on the table and in consideration.

Chad Walling: Yes I appreciate that too. And I said as much when we received it. If we don't get feedback, we're not usually aware of anything different. If it's a refresher or reminder. Or if these are things that are talked about outside of this building that we're not aware of. We need to know about them, so. Moving on from that, we're still filling some of the positions and vacancies at the head of our agency. We're still without a permanent position as a State Engineer. I think Manny talked about it the last meeting, so. Our administration is rebuilding. But we're chugging along, so. I think that covers the business of the board section.

Manny Fernandez: Okay. Thank you, Chad. Thank you, gentlemen. The next item on the agenda is a request for consideration of the release of the closed session interview of Mr. William Comish. Conducted on December 18th, 2025. Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute chapter 241, section 35, subsection 2, paragraph B—"the board retains discretion to determine whether the record of the closed session shall be made part of the public record or maintained as confidential." This item is listed for possible action. Is there any discussion from the board?

Chad Walling: And if I may, I'll start. This is Chad Walling. I just wanted to revisit the statutes on what our closed session, how we're allowed to do it and what it means. And the minutes. And I'm just going to highlight specifically what it says for our purposes, so. Nevada Revised Statute 241.030 is the portion that authorizes boards to close sessions. And part 1.b says except as otherwise provided in this section and NRS 241.031 and 241.033 "A public body may hold a closed meeting to (part b) prepare, revise, administer, or grade examinations that are conducted by or on behalf of the public body." As Manny mentioned in the opening we record and prepare minutes, as you know, for all of our board meetings. We are required to release and publish the open portions of the meetings. But what it describes here about minutes of a closed meeting pursuant to the section that I just read-paragraph b of subsection 1- becomes public records when the public body determines that the matters discussed no longer require confidentiality. So, looking at those two things, we close the meetings to conduct the examinations for confidentiality for the exam itself. Exam questions and the process has not been released and also for the confidentiality of the applicant and their responses to it. We open the meeting, as you all know, to announce their recommendations and that part is open. But the closed examination portion is to protect the

confidentiality of the exam and the applicant. So, the request is to release that, and it basically comes down to if the public body determines that it does not require that level of confidentiality. I know we invited you all to listen to that recording. So, I wanted to introduce that and for you guys to discuss amongst yourselves, ask questions, before a motion is made.

Paul Forbes: This is Paul Forbes. I can go ahead and start. My concern with releasing the record would be to set a precedent that if an individual comes in here and he struggles through his test, and that the company that he works for pressures him into requesting this release, that they then could be evaluated by their company based on their results in the closed session. Here between us and that individual. So it makes me reluctant to want to release that information to the public.

Arnold Lamon: I totally agree with you.

Dennis Robblee: This is Denny Robblee. I think my hopes would be that anyone that comes in here and tests, that would be their confidential ability to not have to worry about that getting released. Especially to their employer.

Arnold Lamon: Yes. What they come in here with and leave with, that they're totally confident that what they're saying and what they're believing in is the truth and I personally don't think it needs to be let loose at this time.

Chad Walling: I don't want to put you on the spot either, James, but to the question of precedence or anything like that. These would all have been as individual requests. Case by case basis. It wouldn't be a precedential decision. They would all be evaluated case by case. But also, that being said I could see the perception of opening that door. I think is kind of your point.

Paul Forbes: Even without setting precedence, I don't agree with doing that in this specific case.

James Bolotin: James Bolotin for the record. It wouldn't be an official precedent obviously, but I also know it can be used as an informal term and I understand that concern as well.

Dennis Robblee: This is Denny Robblee. I think each applicant, and if I could say so in this case, I think his privacy needs to remain private. So, I would move to maintain confidentiality.

Manny Fernandez: Okay. Is there a motion from the board regarding the release of the closed session interview of Mr. Comish?

Dennis Robblee: This is Denny Robblee, and I move that the board maintain the record of this closed session interview of Mr. William Comish conducted on December 18th, 2025, as confidential, pursuant to NRS 241.035 section 2b.

Arnold Lamon: I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Denny motioned, Arnold seconded. All in favor say aye. *unanimous ayes* All opposed say nay. Okay, the motion carries. 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.

Paul Forbes: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned, and Paul 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.

8:36 a.m. – 10:00 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.

Paul Forbes: And I second it.

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

Unanimous Aye

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

Paul Forbes: I recommend approval for his water well license.

Manny Fernandez: Denny?

Dennis Robblee: I would like to recommend a limited license of water well without the monitor wells. You did a lot of studying. These monitor wells are very technical. I'd be more comfortable if you had a little bit more knowledge in that, but I think everything else you're great for.

Winston Steinke: I will definitely study up on that.

Dennis Robblee: Well, that's just my recommendation.

Manny Fernandez: Just to be clear on that Denny. So you're saying production only?

Dennis Robblee: Production, residential, just no monitor wells.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: Winston, I appreciate you coming back. I know we asked you back to do this again and I am personally impressed with what you came back with. I think monitoring wells will come to you when you have the offer to do them. So, I recommend a full water well.

Winston Steinke: Thank you, sir.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer for a full water well license. The time is 10:00 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.

10:00 a.m. – 11:07 a.m. ***Meeting closed to conduct Dillon Mckinzie’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.
 Paul Forbes: And I second it.
 Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned; Paul seconded. All in favor, say aye.
 Unanimous Aye
 Manny Fernandez: The motion carries. The Board will announce their recommendation, Paul?
 Paul Forbes: I recommend approval for his full water well license.
 Manny Fernandez: Denny?
 Dennis Robblee: I also recommend approval for his full water well license.
 Manny Fernandez: Arnold?
 Arnold Lamon: I like to see young kids in here. Thank you. I approve for the full water well license.
 Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer Dillon Mckinzie, for his full water well license. The time is 11:07 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.
 Paul Forbes: And I second it.
 Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned, and Paul 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.

11:21 a.m. – 11:19 a.m. ***Meeting closed to conduct Brian Owen’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.
 Paul Forbes: And I second it.
 Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned; Paul seconded. All in favor, say aye.
 Unanimous Aye
 Manny Fernandez: The motion carries. The Board will announce their recommendation, Paul?
 Paul Forbes: I recommend approval for a limited license to monitor wells using sonic and auger.
 Manny Fernandez: Denny?
 Dennis Robblee: I recommend giving a monitor well license as requested.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I approve a monitoring well license. Good job.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Brian Owens, for a limited license. Limited by sonic and auger equipment and monitor wells only. The time is 12:05 p.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.

Paul Forbes: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold motioned, and Paul 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.

12:19 p.m. – 1:28 p.m. ***Meeting closed to conduct Todd Enloe'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, Paul?

Paul Forbes: I recommend approval for a full water well license.

Manny Fernandez: Denny?

Dennis Robblee: Todd, mine is a little different. I recommend a limited license for production wells only. No monitor wells. On the water well section there was a few things you got wrong. But you did up the standard as opposed to drop it. In your sand box I think you do a great job. I have no doubt. The rules have changed so much that I'm afraid I wouldn't give you a monitor well license. So limited license for water wells is what I would suggest.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I'm going to say no monitoring wells and approval for water well.

Manny Fernandez: So just to be clear for the record, that's production wells only?

Dennis Robblee: That's my suggestion.

Manny Fernandez: So it looks like you'll be leaving today with a production wells only, so if you wanted to upgrade it to monitor wells you would just come back and do this part, not the written. If you wanted to upgrade.

Todd Enloe: So, I can do households? That's really all I do.

Manny Fernandez: Yeah.

Todd Enloe: Okay. I'm good with that guys.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Mr. Enloe, for a limited water well license. Limited to production wells only. The time is 1:28 p.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, February 10th, 2026, 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.

Paul Forbes: And I second it.

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

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries. Meeting adjourned. The time is 1:28 p.m.

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.