



Nevada Division of

## **WATER RESOURCES**

STATE OF NEVADA  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Joe Lombardo, Governor  
James A. Settelmeyer, Director  
Adam Sullivan, P.E., State Engineer

### **STATE OF NEVADA WELL DRILLERS' ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

#### **STATEWIDE WELL DRILLER'S EXAMINATION**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>, 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: Steve Hamrick, and Paul Forbes

Nevada Division of  
Water Resources

Members Present: Manny Fernandez, and Timothy Semays

Call to Order:

**Manny Fernandez:** We shall now call to order the quarterly meeting of the Nevada Well Drillers Advisory Board in Las Vegas, Nevada. Today's date is February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The time is 8:10 AM. Representing the Nevada Well Driller's Board is Steve Hamrick and Paul Forbes. Representing the Nevada Division of Water Resources is Timothy Semays, 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 November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, have been distributed for your review. Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes?

**Steve Hamrick:** None.

**Paul Forbes:** I don't have any.

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

**Steve Hamrick:** I make a motion to approve the minutes as read.

**Paul Forbes:** And I second it.

**Manny Fernandez:** Steve motioned, and Paul seconded. All in favor say aye.

\*Unanimous Aye\*

**Manny Fernandez:** All opposed say nay.

The motion carries. Okay, thank you gentlemen. Hearing no further business at this time, 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 exams?

**Steve Hamrick:** I make a motion to close the meeting.

**Paul Forbes:** And I second it.

**Manny Fernandez:** Steve 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.**

8:22 a.m. – 9:01 a.m.

**\*Meeting closed to conduct Dale Gardner's oral examination.\***

**Action**

Recommendation:

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

**Steve Hamrick:** I make a motion to open the meeting.

**Paul Forbes:** And I second it.

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

\*Unanimous Aye\*

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

**Steve Hamrick:** I recommend approval.

**Manny Fernandez:** Paul?

**Paul Forbes:** I recommend approval.

**Manny Fernandez:** The board recommends to the State Engineer, Dale Gardner, for his Water Well License. The time is 9:01 a.m.

Is there a motion from the Board to close the meeting, pursuant to NRS 241.030, to conduct the next oral exam?

**Steve Hamrick:** I move to close the meeting to conduct oral exams.

**Paul Forbes:** And I second it.

**Manny Fernandez:** All in favor say aye.

\*Unanimous Aye\*

**Manny Fernandez:** All opposed say nay. The motion carries.

9:07 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

**\*Meeting closed to conduct Michael Krooshoop's oral examination.\***

**Action**

Recommendation:

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

**Steve Hamrick:** I move to open the meeting.

**Paul Forbes:** And I second it.

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

\*Unanimous Aye\*

**Manny Fernandez:** All opposed say nay. The motion carries. The Board will announce the recommendation. Steve?

**Steve Hamrick:** I recommend approval.

**Manny Fernandez:** Paul?

**Paul Forbes:** I recommend approval also.

**Manny Fernandez:** The board recommends to the State Engineer, Michael Krooshoop, for his Water Well License. The time is 10:17 a.m.

Is there a motion from the Board to close the meeting, pursuant to NRS 241.030, to conduct the next oral exam?

**Steve Hamrick:** I make a motion to close the meeting.

**Paul Forbes:** And I second it.

**Manny Fernandez:** Steve motioned; Paul seconded. Okay. All in favor say aye.

\*Unanimous Aye\*

**Manny Fernandez:** All opposed say nay. The motion carries.

10:20 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**\*Meeting closed to conduct Michael Adam Vancil's oral examination.\***

### **Action**

Recommendation:

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

**Steve Hamrick:** I move to open the meeting.

**Manny Fernandez:** All in favor, say aye.

\*Unanimous Aye\*

**Manny Fernandez:** All opposed say nay. The motion carries. The Board will announce the recommendation. Steve?

**Steve Hamrick:** I'm going to recommend retest. We think you should freshen up on especially the waivers and the material to use on the plug backs and sealings. You know the materials that Nevada will let you use. We want you to know our rules.

**Adam Vancil:** I understand, can I ask a question?

**Steve Hamrick:** Yeah.

**Adam Vancil:** So I answered the plug back per your rules. It says neat cement is allowed from the bottom to the top.

**Steve Hamrick:** But they will allow other stuff.

**Adam Vancil:** They will and I did mention the other things, but I referred to you guys the way that I would do it. Just because you don't like to use neat cement from one place to another, doesn't mean that another well driller won't. I tried to standardize that in wells I drilled and I know you guys don't care about Utah im just using it as an example because that's where I do most of my well drilling. In Utah you're allowed to use bentonite chips as a surface seal, or neat cement. I prefer neat cement because I believe neat cement gives a better seal than bentonite chips does. I believe it produces a higher quality well. And if your rules allow neat cement in every section, from bottom to top, why should that not be allowed?

**Paul Forbes:** The test is on what the rules allow.

**Adam Vancil:** The rules do allow that though and that's the way I answered it. I answered the additional ones too though. I answered with the concrete grout. I answered with the cement grout, the bentonite chips. I just don't understand if your rules allow something, per your rules written in there, why me answering that the way I would drill it and the way I would complete it could be wrong. If the rules allow that. And im not arguing, I mean if you guys want me to come back again I can read through and refresh all you want. I can come back anytime you want me to. Im just asking why your rules aren't accepted as the correct answer.

**Manny Fernandez:** They are. Your answer was correct. But we also want to know the additional materials that can be used.

**Adam Vancil:** But didn't i-

**Manny Fernandez:** You did, but he had to kind of guide you to get there. And you kind of just-

**Adam Vancil:** He guided me to get there or he asked me additional materials-

**Manny Fernandez:** He asked for additional materials.

**Adam Vancil:** But that wasn't the question. You asked how I would do it. So I answered to you how I would do it and you asked in addition what else could be used. Well there are other items that you could use but I would not use that I would pump it with neat cement top to bottom if I was doing that. That's the way I do it. I have a concrete grout machine that I mix cement with, at the rig that I pump cement with.

**Paul Forbes:** That's acceptable. But that's not what the test is. We're asking you about the regulations and what's acceptable on the regulations.

**Adam Vancil:** Yes and I do understand that but-

**Paul Forbes:** You struggled through a lot of the waivers, you struggled through what we're allowed to use. Like we've walked you through a lot of that stuff. I think you're taking this very personally-

**Adam Vancil:** I am taking it very personally because I try very hard at what I do- and again with the waivers, I don't agree. I mean yes it designates in here that it says that a monitoring waiver is a MO or an oil and gas waiver is an OG, but that to me if I say an oil and gas or a monitoring waiver doesn't mean that I don't understand because you guys call it a P waiver or an R waiver. It says in here that you give it a special designation with that at the beginning with a number but I still know what the waivers are. I mean I still understand that a monitoring well is an MO. I still understand that highway construction is a C and a mineral is an MM and a domestic is a DOM. I mean I understand that but you guys are asking me for a P waiver, but to me it's a plug and abandonment waiver. I mean I don't understand why I have to call it a P waiver or-

**Paul Forbes:** You didn't call it a plugging waiver either. I gave you that answer also.

**Adam Vancil:** Yes you did on that.

**Paul Forbes:** The thing about this is now you know what the test looks like, you know exactly the questions we're going to ask so it should be very easy when you come back to retest. And pass no problem.

**Adam Vancil:** I suppose, if that's the way you feel about it. I really am in a disagreement. Yes I am taking this personally because it's me, it's my business. I feel that I answered the questions legally to your laws. I mean, how many questions did I miss?

**Manny Fernandez:** Look, Mr. Vancil, the purpose of the interview today while the Well Driller's Advisory Board is here they're also supplying a recommendation only to the State Engineer. Okay? So at the end of the day, the Division of Water Resources along with the State Engineer will make that determination.

**Adam Vancil:** I understand.

**Manny Fernandez:** So, most of the time while we're here we go with whatever the Advisory Board but it's not just their input that's going

into here. If you feel that it wasn't conducted justly today or something, I will definitely take it back and get with the chief of the section and the State Engineer and we can review the recording and if there's something that we find that is not being unbiased, we can-

**Adam Vancil:** I don't feel that you guys conducted it unjustly. I just tried to express that I did answer the questions. Yes, the P waiver I didn't know and I understand that. But I did, when it comes to plugging a well and the things that you would like me to do on that, I did answer to the legality of you guys rules. And that to me- really I struggle because you asked me for the way that I would do it. So I told you how I would do it. And you asked for additional things that I could use and I told you. But because you asked me those additional things, you guys feel like I didn't know them or- but that's not the way that I would do it. I don't feel the need to pump a bunch of different materials when neat cement is the best cement seal that there is. I mean, in my opinion that's just the way it is. But I understand, and I appreciate your guys time and-

**Manny Fernandez:** Yeah we're going to continue with the recommendation and adjourn the meeting but I'll definitely go back through the recordings and if there's something else that we can do or if there's other questions that we have for you. But right now we're just going to get the recommendations.

**Adam Vancil:** Do you guys give me a percentage on how I passed here or is it just.

**Steve Hamrick:** No its just a pass fail.

**Adam Vancil:** Its just a pass fail. Because I knew almost everything but because I didn't-

**Steve Hamrick:** We feel like you hadn't read the rules enough, you didn't know the waivers good. As far as being a driller, I'm confident.

**Adam Vancil:** Could you go into depth on what I didn't understand about the waivers? I understand im taking your time.

**Manny Fernandez:** No you're not taking our time. I mean we're here for this but you didn't know the exact waivers, like the plugging waiver. Or the exploratory waiver. There was a lot of guidance given to you on that. Then when we kind of came back to it, you kind of expressed like- it was almost like it wasn't a big deal but it is. We're here for you to get the Nevada license, correct? And all those waivers are in place for a reason. Because these are cases we've dealt with before in the past.

**Adam Vancil:** So on the exploratory waiver can you explain to me what I missed there?

**Paul Forbes:** The biggest thing is you didn't know the R waiver which is the most directed towards the driller right? And then whenever Steve said "hey you're missing an important one." You said "no I named them all. I don't know what else I could have missed." Is what you said, right?

**Adam Vancil:** I'm just trying to learn so that I know where I missed-

**Manny Fernandez:** Actually right now, I kind of want to wrap up the meeting because this is the interview right now. So we're not really here for a discussion. We need to go ahead with their recommendation and I need to adjourn the meeting.

**Adam Vancil:** I'm sorry. That's fine.

**Manny Fernandez:** Steve, are we done with your recommendation?

**Steve Hamrick:** Yeah.

**Manny Fernandez:** Okay.

**Paul Forbes:** I recommend a retest.

**Adam Vancil:** I get you're asking for a letter for the waiver. I even said a waiver for the chapter. As it states right here, on here it says-

**Manny Fernandez:** Okay, Mr. Vancil. We need to conduct this meeting.

**Adam Vancil:** Okay. That's fine. It's a lot of my time too- and I said a waiver for the chapter but because I didn't say R I don't agree with that.

**Manny Fernandez:** The board recommends to the State Engineer, a retest for Adam Vancil, for his Water Well License. The time is 11:30 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, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Las Vegas Nevada.

Adjourn:

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

**Steve Hamrick:** I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Paul Forbes:** And I second it.

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

\*Unanimous Aye\*

**Manny Fernandez:** The motion carries. Meeting adjourned. The time is 11:30 a.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](mailto: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.