



Nevada Division of
WATER RESOURCES

STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Joe Lombardo, Governor
Vinson Guthreau, Director
Joe Cacioppo, P.E., State Engineer

STATE OF NEVADA WELL DRILLERS' ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STATEWIDE WELL DRILLER'S EXAMINATION

May 5th, 2026

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, Dennis Robblee, and Paul Forbes

Nevada Division of
Water Resources

Members Present: Manny Fernandez, Melissa Rowland, 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 May 5th, 2026. The time is 8:28 AM. Representing the Nevada Well Driller's Board is Dennis Robblee, Arnold Lamon, and Paul Forbes. Representing the Nevada Division of Water Resources is Gary Blake, Melissa Rowland, and myself, and 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 February 10th, 2026, 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?

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

Paul Forbes: I'll second it.

Manny Fernandez: Denny motioned, and Paul 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: Basically, I just have three topics. The first one is Chad Walling is no longer the section chief for well drilling. Right now, we don't have anyone yet, but we do have a position announcement out. Second topic is our reciprocity program and all of the revisions to our regulations were not approved by the legislative commission. So right now, they're kind of in limbo. We're trying to figure out if we can still proceed because our agency adopted them. So, we're trying to see if we can proceed with the program or what the next steps are. So right now, we're just holding tight on those regulations. Before we do anything, we will have to hold another hearing, and we will get with you gentlemen on that. Do you gentlemen have any questions on that?

Paul Forbes: What all did that include?

Manny Fernandez: I don't know if you remember we did all of the hearings last year for these. Basically, those regulations only included the licensing process. So if you remember we dropped requiring four references to three references only. Then removing the part two which was a pass/fail on the map test. So those items weren't really contested. The big thing was the reciprocity which basically they had to do a reciprocity request if they had been licensed in another state for at least two years. I would write up a letter and send it to the other state agency, and they would give me their feedback, what the status of their license was, if they had any demerits, or anything negative against their license. Then the state engineer would review that and decide whether or not they were qualified. Then the other part would be they would still have to take the written exam, and they would have to score an eighty seven percent. So, if they scored anything lower than an eighty seven percent they would still have to do the oral. To date we had about nine applicants under that. Because they were temporary beginning in April last year, and then they were adopted in November. So, they were in full effect for the purpose of our agency. We had nine applicants and only one had met all the requirements. But we haven't issued him the reciprocity license because this happened last week. So, I am waiting for guidance, but essentially if they say yes, it will still be in effect then he would be the first person. And he scored a ninety percent on the written and he holds eight or nine other licenses in other states. All the letters were positive from all other state agencies. So, he was a good candidate for it. But right now, I'm still waiting to see what they say.

Arnold Lamon: So, the map is still pass or fail?

Manny Fernandez: Not yet, right now it's still too new. So, what I was told is to proceed the way we've been doing it except for the reciprocity portion. Because that's not something we can rescind, if we issue that. Because we still have map questions in the written exam. There's like eight questions. It's just a simpler format. We give them an aerial with a PLS layover. It's pretty easy if you can read a basic map. Before if you guys remember it was a USGS topo map. A little harder. But the way we're testing now it makes sense with GPS and everything. But I'll keep you gentlemen in the loop with what happens moving forward. But I think that's it. Oh, and this is Melissa Rowland.

I think I introduced her last time. But that concludes the business of the board unless you gentlemen have anything else. 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.

8:38 a.m. – 9:34 a.m.

***Meeting closed to conduct Jacob Poynor'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 also approve the full water well license.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Jacob Poynor, for a full water well license. The time is 9:34 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.

9:50 a.m. – 10:53 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.

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 your full license, but I'm going to tell you something. Keep yourself out of trouble. So yeah, full license.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I'm going to recommend you for your full water well license. Since you do mud in a lot of it, get yourself involved with the parameters. Start testing the mud. We all have to start somewhere. So, keep educating yourself to make the best that you can be.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer William Comish, for his full water well license. The time is 10:53 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.

11:08 a.m. – 11:52 a.m.

Meeting closed to conduct David Ballesteros'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 to monitor well license.

Manny Fernandez: Denny?

Dennis Robblee: David I'm going to recommend approval for your license also. But I think we've identified a few things here that you

know you need to look at. Just be cautious, because this is not California. The difference between here and California is we'll be drinking this water fifty years from now. Right?

David Ballesteros: Yes.

Dennis Robblee: So just make sure you know. And looking over your references you can tell you're everybody's go to guy. It's obvious you know. But just make sure you know what you don't know too.

David Ballesteros: Yes, that is important in life. For sure. Thank you.

Manny Fernandez: Is there any limitations on equipment?

Dennis Robblee: No. I think everything he does, he is more than qualified to do.

Manny Fernandez: Okay. Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I'm also going to recommend approval for your monitoring well license. Again, to second what Denny has said, if you don't know find out.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, David Ballesteros, for a limited license. Limited to monitor wells only. The time is 11:52 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.

12:02 p.m. – 1:14 p.m.

Meeting closed to conduct Bradley Stephens'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 Bradley for a retest. I'd like you to go back and study the regulations for the state a little better. You seem more than qualified to be a driller, but our regulations are so much different than Californias.

Bradley Stephens: Yeah, there's some terminology that's different and some other things.

Paul Forbes: Yeah, I think if you hit the book you'll come back and pass no problem.

Manny Fernandez: Denny?

Dennis Robblee: I definitely agree. You are a great driller there's no doubt, but I think your knowledge of how Nevada wants it done is different. Almost none of it pertains to California. Without you even knowing the things you need to look at I recommend you for a retest.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I also recommend you for a retest. Study the book. Study the waivers.

Bradley Stephens: Yeah, so now that I've been rejected can you guys give me what I should read up on.

Denny Robblee: I think it's all in that book of what Nevada's looking for.

Bradley Stephens: Right. I had trouble passing the other ones just because of what I studied. And then I passed it and I paid for a course online. Garbage.

Denny Robblee: Well, the California course is pretty great. I took that. But the rules and regulations of Nevada, there's a book online and hopefully a paper copy one coming soon of the NRS. It's mind numbing but if you went through with a sharpie-

Bradley Stephens: I had trouble with the test so-

Denny Robblee: You didn't have trouble with the test. You know a lot. Unfortunately, as we went along more often than not you reverted to where you're from but when you're down there working, they don't care where we're from.

Arnold Lamon: So as Denny was saying, read through it. Get all your waivers, your water rights, go through it. As far as the drilling part of it you went right through that. Then we started to disassemble a little bit when we started with the additives. You need to know what you can and cannot put in there. You're more than eligible to drill. I mean you could do it; there's no doubt about that. The time is now and you need to let us know that you know the rules and regs of the state of Nevada.

Bradley Stephens: So, on the grouting or some of those things that's what you're saying?

Arnold Lamon: Yeah, there is grouting. Start studying some more on monitoring wells. You had a little stumble there. Abandonments. Plugging. Really concentrate on the regulations. You can get it. But you just need to know what the state of Nevada is requiring of you.

Bradley Stephens: Right. Okay. Appreciate it.

Arnold Lamon: Monitoring wells. Just read through it all again. Like it was said. We're not in California.

Bradley Stephens: Right, I understand. You just are where you learn. Denny, did you have something else for me? Like if you were me where would you concentrate your effort on?

Denny Robblee: I'd print two copies of that book, one so when you fall asleep and slobber on it and the other one to highlight but there's just so many fine details. It's just so different. I hate to do it to you because I know you know what you're doing. But when you're playing in another state's sandbox you got to play by their rules. I have huge amount of respect for you. You're eloquent, well spoken, you know what you're doing. It's just the Nevada rules.

Bradley Stephens: Thank you. Paul, what do you have for me?

Paul Forbes: I would just focus on the processes. You didn't really know what the waiver process was, the permit process-

Bradley Stephens: The waivers are the equivalent of permits, right?

Paul Forbes: A waiver and a permit are two different things. Okay, so study the paperwork process and the abandonment process and I think you'll come back and pass no problem. That's really where I had you struggling. The drilling stuff, you knew all of that. You did pretty good on a lot of it. But you can't even get to the drilling process if you don't know the paperwork.

Bradley Stephens: Manny, did you have comments?

Manny Fernandez: Yeah, it's just the application process. You know, kind of go over the water rights section, the waivers- we don't expect you to know all of them, or everything, but just a basic grasp of what you could file or what you could ask for. That's what I'm looking for is that you have an idea of, okay this is possible. Your answer to refer to the state engineer or our office is a good answer but it's not something we want you to keep saying for the purpose of this test.

Paul Forbes: That's not the answer if the answer is in the book.

Arnold Lamon: And I appreciate you asking the question of us to try to help you succeed at this.

Bradley Stephens: Yeah, absolutely I need help I got to get the classes. I'm not in that big of a hurry, so. Good thing I got a run at it.

Manny Fernandez: The good thing is now you know. The set up and what to look forward to for next time. So let me wrap this up. The board recommends to the State Engineer, Mr. Bradley Stephens, to retest for his water well license. The time is 1:14 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.

1:43 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.

Meeting closed to conduct Jace Darling'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: So Jace I'm going to recommend a little bit different. I have no doubt you know what you're doing. My recommendation would be that you study up a little bit and retest. Just so you know the Nevada regulations and the Nevada stuff. It's a little bit concerning to me. I was close to the edge, but my recommendation would be to retest.

Manny Fernandez: Okay. Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I recommend to give him his drilling license.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, one to retest, and two to approve for his full water well license. The time is 3:10 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.

3:27 p.m. – 4:48 p.m.

Meeting closed to conduct Francisco Romero'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 can't believe I'm saying this, but I recommend approval for your water well license. But know the things you don't know. There's some things in there, you know the words but don't know what they are. Make sure you learn what those are.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I'll be honest Francisco at the beginning I wasn't seeing it. But as it went on you changed my mind. So, I'm approving full water well. Good job.

Francisco Romero: Thank you.

Denny Robblee: You did. Once you settled in you fully seem to know what you're talking about.

Francisco Romero: I'll continue to do my best to learn as much as I can.

Denny Robblee: Well, keep yourself out of trouble that's what you've got to do.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Mr. Francisco Romero, for his water well license. The time is 4:48 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, May 5th, 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 4:48 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.