



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

May 6th, 2025

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Board Members

Present:

Daniel Kohlman, Arnold Lamon, and Dennis Robblee

Nevada Division of
Water Resources

Members Present:

Chad Walling, 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 May 6th, 2025. The time is 8:17 AM. Representing the Nevada Well Driller's Board is Dennis Robblee, Arnold Lamon, and Dan Kohlman. Representing the Nevada Division of Water Resources is Chad Walling, 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 February 11th, 2025 and February 12th, 2025, have been distributed for your review. Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes?

Dan Kohlman: I have none.

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

Dan Kohlman: I move to approve the minutes as read.

Manny Fernandez: And then one of you can second the motion. So, you would say "I second that."

Dennis Robblee: I'll second it.

Manny Fernandez: Dan motioned, and Denny 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: First, we will hear from Chad with any new business. Chad?

Chad Walling: Good morning, everyone. I'll do this in kind of two parts, we'll talk about some other stuff later but for this open session I just wanted to welcome the two new board members, Denny and Arnold. Thank you for lending your expertise and then assisting us with this. You're both extremely valuable to us and the division and obviously to the applicants that are coming before us. We take it seriously and we appreciate you guys coming on board. New business—that's what's been going on for months now is working on a temporary regulation revision. I'm not sure if you guys have seen some of the emails that have been sent out on our listservs regarding this. We've had some workshops, hearings and adoptions for temporary regulations. And they're temporary because we're in the middle of a legislative cycle. I have to go through this to make them permanent. This goes back to an executive order issued by Governor Lombardo when he first took office. Reviewing and cleaning up regulations specifically pertaining to occupational licensing. So, we made some adjustments to the licensing and testing regulations recently. Mainly cleaning up some language about experience and when that has to be acquired. We eliminated the second part of the exam, identifying a point on a map by section township and range as a pass/fail requirement. We're working on incorporating that into our standard written exam. So historically, at least modern historically, we've required four professional references all to be submitted before we schedule someone for the oral exam. We've revised that to say we are still going to ask for four references from all of the applicants but we're only going to require three to be returned. Anyone whose sat in this seat will tell you what a nightmare it is to try to get those references in and get everything scheduled for these interviews. So, in addition to that we are also going to make them must be completely in before they sit for the written exam. So that we just know up front who is available for testing and the board meetings. That will give us more time to coordinate with you guys, the board, and have at least a month's notice of who's eligible to test. We also asked with that, "are we getting significantly more information about an applicant from four references that we would otherwise get from three?" And we just felt the answer was no. The biggest new shift is that we have adopted some language for a reciprocity license. It's a few steps in the process for an applicant but it's basically saying that somebody from another state that's licensed in that state, who obtained their license in a substantially similar manner to what our requirements are can apply for reciprocity. The way that we've created the short cut, if you will, or the expedition of testing approaches that if they pass our written exam with an eighty seven percent or greater, then they don't have to sit for the oral exam. So, it's a short cut method. The justification for that was- the eighty seven percent is kind of weird number, but we went through some of our history of testing, and we found that the applicants that have scored an eighty-seven or higher on the written exam have all been

unanimously recommended for licensure by the board on their first appearance here. So ultimately we felt that our administration should have a pretty high level of confidence that if someone has a license from another state that is similar to Nevada's licensure process and they score higher than most on our written exam that there should be enough confidence that they know our regulations and that they're capable and qualified drillers to just not have to appear before the board. That's kind of the newest exciting thing I guess but like I said they're temporary meaning they expire in November so keep an eye out because we will have to start this all again in July. But we're also looking at a couple of other clean up languages in the regs just to make sure we are keeping up with everything and identifying issues as we see them. That's longer than I usually talk at this but that's been the biggest change in a long time for us, so any questions from you guys?

Manny Fernandez: We can send you copies. I know we did like a mass email but I can send you copies of those temp regs if you didn't get a chance to see them. Thank you, Chad. 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?

Daniel Kohlman: I move to close the meeting to conduct the oral exams.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Manny Fernandez: Dan 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.

8:30 a.m. – 10:31 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?

Daniel Kohlman: I move to open the meeting.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

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

Unanimous Aye

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

Dennis Robblee: Brian, im going to recommend that you retest. I think you're extremely knowledgeable, one of the most knowledgeable drillers on the planet probably but as far as Nevada goes I think you need to be a little more versed on how it works here. So at least you know the things before you have to go to the book.

Manny Fernandez: Dan?

Daniel Kohlman: Im going to go with a retest also, but you'll come in and blow it away next time.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I'll recommend a retest. Very knowledgeable on the rig. Sonic is one of my fortes so get the rules down and what we're expecting of the drillers here in Nevada, and you got it.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Brian Owen, for a retest. The time is 10:31 a.m.

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

Daniel Kohlman: I move to close the meeting to conduct the oral exams.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

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

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries.

10:45 a.m. – 11:59 a.m. * Meeting closed to conduct Shane McNulty's oral examination. *

Action

Recommendation:

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

Daniel Kohlman: I move to open the meeting.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

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

Unanimous Aye

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

Dennis Robblee: Shane I would like you to cautiously make sure you know the things you don't know. But I would recommend to give you a monitoring well license.

Manny Fernandez: Can you say how you're limiting it by equipment?

Dennis Robblee: Sonic only, I think. Yeah.

Manny Fernandez: Dan?

Daniel Kohlman: I would agree. Sonic. Auger. Monitor well only.

Manny Fernandez: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: I agree. Sonic. Auger. You obviously know your monitoring wells.

Manny Fernandez: The board recommends to the State Engineer Mr. McNulty, for a limited license. Limited to sonic and auger equipment and monitor wells only. The time is 11:59 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, May 6th, 2025, in Carson City Nevada.

Adjourn:

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

Daniel Kohlman: I move to adjourn the meeting.

Arnold Lamon: And I second it.

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

Unanimous Aye

Manny Fernandez: The motion carries. Meeting adjourned. The time is 12:00 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.