



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 7th, 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: Dennis Robblee, and Arnold Lamon

Nevada Division of
Water Resources

Members' Present: Chad Walling, Timothy Semays, Christi Cooper

Call to Order:

Chad Walling: We shall now call to order the quarterly meeting of the Nevada Well Drillers Advisory Board in Las Vegas, Nevada. Today's date is May 7th, 2025. The time is 8:14 AM. Representing the Nevada Well Driller's Board is Denny Robblee and Arnold Lamon. Representing the Nevada Division of Water Resources is Timothy Semays, Christi Cooper and myself, Chad Walling. 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 head past the approval of the Advisory Board minutes. We did that at yesterday's meeting in Carson City on May 6th. Skipping that, we will move on to the business of the board. I believe any business I had to discuss was brought up at the meeting yesterday. So, I have nothing new to add other than thank you again for being there and participating even with unusual circumstances. Do you guys have any questions or thoughts you want to address?

Dennis Robblee: No sir.

Arnold Lamon: No, I don't.

Chad Walling: Okay. Hearing nothing else. No further business. We will 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?

Arnold Lamon: Motion to close.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Chad Walling: Arnold motioned, and Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Chad Walling: 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. – 10:11 a.m.

***Meeting closed to conduct Mike Leal's oral examination. ***

Action

Recommendation:

Chad Walling: Is there a motion from the Board to open the meeting?

Arnold Lamon: I make a motion to open the meeting.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Chad Walling: Arnold motioned; Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Chad Walling: The motion carries. The Board will announce their recommendation, I guess I'll start with Arnold this time.

Arnold Lamon: We're going to recommend a limited use license on dewatering only. In my opinion you need some more monitoring well experience. More vertical well experience. We know you can drill a horizontal well. You're quite knowledgeable about that. But I think we need to see a little more downhole vertical experience in being able to build a well and abandon it. And that's kind of where I'm at with this. It would be a limited dewatering license.

Chad Walling: And Denny?

Dennis Robblee: Okay so Mike I totally agree with you, there's a lot of variables in monitor wells and you definitely know what you're doing. Some of it you got to learn a little more technique with monitor wells that are so important in technical. So, what we're recommending is dewatering wells only, and I believe if you step out of that and you drill a monitoring well that will be the same as you drilling without a license, okay? That would get you in some trouble. I appreciate it and hopefully it wasn't too much for you.

Mike Leal: So, I have to come back and take this test again to get the full license?

Dennis Robblee: Yeah. And I think this is a recommendation you know, if I'm not mistaken, right? I don't know that you have this license yet. These guys still have to approve it, I think.

Chad Walling: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Mike Leal, for his Water Well License limited to dewatering only. The time is 10:11 a.m. And it's certainly always an option to apply to upgrade the license to a full water well license. And we can walk you through it as needed.

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

Mike Leal: I have a question. So, for a limited, I understand. But the last two tests I've taken, I don't have to do that I just have to come back and take this test to get the full license?

Christi Cooper: Right.

Mike Leal: Right. Okay. Do I have limited time to do that or? No? Okay.

Chad Walling: The way that it works is if you apply for an upgrade you would have to ask basically to waive taking the written exam. That's something that we'll consider at the time so. Do I have a motion from Denny to close the meeting for the next oral exam?

Dennis Robblee: I move to close the meeting to conduct oral exams.

Arnold Lamon: And I second it.

Chad Walling: All in favor say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Chad Walling: All opposed say nay. The motion carries.

10:23 a.m. – 11:57 a.m.

***Meeting closed to conduct Chancey Chamber's oral examination. ***

Action

Recommendation:

Chad Walling: Is there a motion from the Board to open the meeting?

Dennis Robblee: I move to open the meeting.

Arnold Lamon: And I second it.

Chad Walling: Denny motioned; Arnold seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Chad Walling: All opposed say nay. The motion carries. The Board will announce the recommendation. Denny?

Dennis Robblee: I recommend Chancey Chambers get a full water well license.

Chad Walling: Arnold?

Arnold Lamon: Can I add a comment?

Chad Walling: Of course.

Arnold Lamon: Chancey, I would like to see you get yourself more informed with the mud and the air of it. On mud weights and parameters of mud. Very important when you're drilling. With that being said you've got my blessing for a full license.

Chad Walling: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Chancey Chambers, for his Water Well License. The time is 11:41 a.m. Is there a motion from the Board to close the meeting, pursuant to NRS 241.030, to conduct the next oral exam?

Dennis Robblee: I make a motion to close the meeting.

Arnold Lamon: And I second it.

Chad Walling: Denny motioned; Arnold seconded. Okay. All in favor say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Chad Walling: All opposed say nay. The motion carries.

11:57 am – 12:49 p.m.

***Meeting closed to conduct Brandon Pelcher's oral examination. ***

Action

Recommendation:

Chad Walling: Is there a motion from the Board to open the meeting?

Dennis Robblee: I move to open the meeting.

Arnold Lamon: Second.

Chad Walling: All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Chad Walling: All opposed say nay. The motion carries. The Board will announce the recommendation. Arnold, I'll start with you.

Arnold Lamon: I believe Brandon is well capable of a full water well license.

Chad Walling: Denny?

Dennis Robblee: I recommend we give Brandon his water well license.

Chad Walling: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Brandon Pelcher, for his Water Well License. The time is 12:49 p.m. Is there a motion from the Board to close the meeting, pursuant to NRS 241.030, to conduct the next oral exam?

Dennis Robblee: I make a motion to close the meeting.

Arnold Lamon: And I second it.

Chad Walling: Denny motioned; Arnold seconded. Okay. All in favor say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Chad Walling: All opposed say nay. The motion carries.

1:02 pm – 11:30 a.m.

***Meeting closed to conduct Joseph Robinson's oral examination. ***

Action

Recommendation:

Chad Walling: Is there a motion from the Board to open the meeting?

Dennis Robblee: I move to open the meeting.

Arnold Lamon: Second.

Chad Walling: All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Chad Walling: All opposed say nay. The motion carries. The Board will announce the recommendation.

Dennis Robblee: Once again, your knowledge is impeccable. But my recommendation is that you retest. State regs knowledge is the one that caught me.

Arnold Lamon: I can see you're going to find the information. You're going to find out how to do it the right way. I see that in you. I would hire you in a New York second to drill for me. But at this point I'm going to deny the license. Come back and do it again.

Joseph Robinson: Well can I say, in my own defense, obviously I did a poor job today. I know it's because I didn't get enough sleep last night. I'm not clear minded and I know all these answers. I just wasn't in the right mind set. But what I would say is I applaud what this group does because water is an incredibly important resource. Contamination of aquifers is a very big problem. But with that said, getting a quality job done and getting it done right, rather than just memorizing and passing the test, does it really serve the best interest? Because honestly, I won't take this again. I do core drilling, I don't do water well drilling. But I would think that it would be a benefit to have, even though I did a poor job here to have more competent people that bring different points of view from different sides. You guys are obviously struggling. My experience with well drilling in the state of Nevada and the western US, is it's all yahoo. The amount of wells that I see wasn't plugged properly, that weren't installed properly. Friends of mine that had well put in. So, you know everything that we're talking about, and like you say yourself you see that I'm a competent guy, I know what I'm doing. I don't think that anybody should base their decisions off their memory. I think they should look at the book and they should follow through. An example I use is medical staff are probably the most highly trained people in the world. A surgeon takes ten years to become a full-fledged surgeon. But the biggest life saving device in the last twenty years is the

checklist. Because they were leaving so many instruments in people that were getting infections and dying from them. So whenever you have someone who takes great tests and follows through and does really well on that, taking the time to actually double check what you're doing when you read the code, follow the code, I know my international experience and broad experience struggle with that because we work in so many different clients and lots of different places with different rules. And I know if I was more practiced, I would have these things on the top of my head. But if you were to give me a license, I can guarantee that every single hole I do would be followed one hundred percent to the rule. It would be done incredibly well. Not because I remember everything off the top of my head but because when I do something like this, I'm on site. I'm one hundred percent focused. And I always double check and read the book. And I always reach out whenever there's a question. And if you see that I'm a competent person that cares about what I'm doing, doesn't somebody that does that and double checks everything ultimately serve better for the goals of this group? Than not having somebody that cares that much out doing it?

Dennis Robblee: So, Joseph I would agree one hundred percent. I have seen some of those wells myself. Unfortunately, what happens with those licenses when they walk out that door isn't always followed by what is said in this room. We all agree that you're extremely bright, extremely competent. Unfortunately, the task today was this test. And you have to understand that. Your drillers task today is to drill that well and do a nice perfect job, right? If he doesn't do that test, he's got to come back and do it again tomorrow. It's a shame if you don't come retest because I have no doubt you're going to do fabulous at it when you take the time to go through and to look at it. I too would have to go through the book. I don't remember every single thing. I go through that book. But when the task is to take the test that's got to be the task. I do stick with my recommendation, and it is a pleasure meeting you, and I love listening to you talk.

Joseph Robinson: Thank you.

Arnold Lamon: It really has been a pleasure, and I totally agree. I'm not going to remember everything in the book, but again, Denny's right. It is the task of the day and that's what we have got to get through.

Chad Walling: The board recommends to the State Engineer, Joseph Robinson, to retest for his water well license. The time is 2:28 p.m. At this time we would like to close with a period for public comment.

Christi Cooper: Hey Chad, can I ask something on the record for clarification? Is that reinterview or retest the whole thing. I think this is something for everyone to understand.

Chad Walling: If the board is recommending a retest, it's just the interview.

Christi Cooper: I just wanted to clarify it's not the whole thing. It's this part.

Joseph Robinson: And when is the next opportunity to do that?

Chad Walling: The Board meetings quarterly. So, it's three months.

Joseph Robinson: Okay.

Chad Walling: Okay. We will now conclude this session of the Nevada Well Driller's Advisory Board meeting held on this day, May 7th, 2025, in Las Vegas Nevada.

Adjourn:

Chad Walling: Is there a motion from the Board to adjourn the meeting?

Arnold Lamon: Motion to adjourn.

Dennis Robblee: And I second it.

Chad Walling: Arnold motioned; Denny seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Unanimous Aye

Chad Walling: The motion carries. Meeting adjourned. The time is 2:30 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.