

**Minutes**  
**Well Contractors Certification Commission Meeting**  
November 30, 2023, 1:00 PM

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Well Contractors Certification Commission was called to order on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 1:32 PM at 230 Government Center Dr., Wilmington, NC, Rm. 136 with Chairman Chris Deal presiding. The following persons were in attendance for the meeting:

Commission Members

G. Thomas Ammons, Jr.  
Christopher Deal  
Chad Julian                   via telephone  
Chauncey Leggett  
Laura Honeycutt           absent  
Heather Ray  
Doug Young

WCC Staff

Andrew Morgan  
L. Bryan Colvard

DHHS Staff

W. Wilson Mize           via computer

Legal Staff

John Barkley  
John Schaffer              via computer  
Hyrum Hemingway       via computer

Guests

Rob Burton  
Dustin Fenske

**I. Preliminary Matters**

- (1) Chairman Chris Deal called the meeting to order and requested cellular telephones be silenced.
- (2) Chairman Deal then read the NC State Government Ethics Act which mandates that the Chairman inquire as to whether any member knows of a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to matters before the Commission. The Chairman asked if any member knows of a conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict. No conflict of interest noted.
- (3) The chairman also read a statement on the purpose of the Well Contractors Certification Commission: (Article 7A-Well Contractors Certification, G.S. 87-98.3). **Purpose:** It is the purpose of this Commission to protect the public health and safety by ensuring the integrity and

competence of well contractors, to protect and beneficially develop the groundwater resources of the State, to require the examination of well contractors and the certification of their competency to supervise or conduct well contractor activity, and to establish procedures for the examination and certification of well contractors.

(4) Notation of Any Revisions or Additions to the Agenda

Chairman Deal added a presentation of service award to the agenda.

DOJ Counsel John Barkley added introduction of new attorneys Hemingway and Schaffer

## **II. Action Items**

(1) Attorney Introductions

DOJ Counsel John Barkley introduced DOJ attorneys Hyrum Hemingway and John Schaeffer who both attended electronically via MS Teams. Both attorneys gave the Commission a brief explanation of their legal background and experience. With Mr. Barkley's impending retirement, Hyrum Hemingway will now be the primary legal counsel for the WCCC with John Schaeffer assisting.

(2) Presentation of Service Award

Chairman Deal presented a service award plaque to John Barkley and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

(3) Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the September 14, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ammons made a motion to approve the September 14, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Leggett seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

(4) Priming of Jet Pumps

After lengthy discussion and consultation with DOJ Counsel John Barkley, the Commission chose not to take any action at this time based on the information given and Statutory definition of well contractor activities.

(5) Applicant preparation for written examination

The result of a thirty (30) plus minute discussion of the written examination, what information should be presented to applicants, how it is presented and responsibilities of applicants, certified well contractors, the Commission and Commission staff was Commissioner Ray requested a short presentation of the new exam preparation course at the February 8, 2024 WCCC meeting. All Commissioners agreed. No motion was made or vote taken based on DOJ Counsel suggestion.

### III. Information Items

#### (1) Staff Report

The staff report was presented by Drew Morgan, for activities that occurred from September through mid-November 2023:

- |                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1) Exam Reviews                | 6  |
| 2) Exams                       | 32 |
| 3) Field Observations          | 9  |
| 4) Compliance visits           | 5  |
| 5) Attempted compliance visits | 21 |
| 6) Complaint investigations    | 5  |

#### (2) Review Committee Report

Commissioner Young presented the Review Committee report for meetings held in September and October 2023. The Review Committee has reviewed 11 applications for certification level A, 1 for level B, 3 for level C and 1 for level D. The Committee also reviewed 3 continuing education courses for pre-approval.

#### (3) Ethics Update

John Barkley reminded the Commissioners to complete their Ethics Training and SEIs when due.

### IV. Upcoming Meetings

- Commission Meeting – Feb. 8, 2024 time and location in Fayetteville, NC TBD  
Review Committee – Jan. 8, 2024 @ 10:00am, at 120 W Washington St., Nashville, NC  
Budget Committee – Jan. or Feb. 2024 date and location TBD

### V. Adjournment

With no further business or comments from Commission or Staff, Commissioner Ammons made a motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Ray. A vote was taken and unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Morgan, REHS  
WCC Staff

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Approved by WCCC:

  
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Christopher E. Deal, NCWC  
Chairman, Well Contractors Certification Commission  
[www.wellcontractors.nc.gov](http://www.wellcontractors.nc.gov)

2/9 /2024  
Date