

These minutes were approved by the Board of REHS on 9.20.2022 via mail ballot.

Minutes of the September 7, 2022
Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists Virtual Conference Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Kathy King, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists to order at 1:14 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, in the Sixth Floor Licensure Unit Conference Room F at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on August 18, 2022.

King announced that this is an open meeting and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Kathy King, Chairperson (via Webex)
Sarah Pistillo, Vice-Chairperson (via Webex)
Nathan Hartman, Secretary (via Webex)
Jeremy Collinson, Member (via Webex)
Mike Wentink, Member (via Webex)

Members Absent:

Larry Hardesty, Member

Others Present:

Joanna Uden, DHHS Legal Attorney (via Webex)
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Amy Blinston, Health Licensing Coordinator
T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Staff and Board members introduced themselves.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Hartman moved, seconded by Collinson to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Collinson, Hartman, King, Pistillo, and Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

4. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

Covert-ByBee stated that the minutes from September 8, 2021 were adopted by mail ballot. Collinson, Pistillo, Hardesty, and Wentink voted to approve the minutes as written; no vote by Hartman and King. A quorum was met and the minutes were approved.

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5a. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION / REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

The Board did not move into closed session as there was no confidential information to discuss.

5b. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION

There were no recommendations.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: Hartman moved, seconded by Wentink to keep current officers- Kathy King, Chairperson, Sarah Pistillo as Vice-Chair and Investigative Consultant, and Nathan Hartman as Secretary. Voting aye: Collinson, Hartman, King, Pistillo, and Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

7. REVIEW OF CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS IN REGULATION

The Board discussed continuing education requirements set forth in 172 NAC 168, which states that the Board does not pre-approve continuing education programs in advance. In order for continuing education programs or activities to be accepted for renewal or reinstatement of a certification, the continuing education programs or activities must relate to environmental health and it may focus on research, documentation, management, or education and must be open to all certificate holders. The regulations also indicate what would not be considered non-acceptable continuing education. If the Department of Health and Human Services has questions regarding content of programs submitted for continuing education, the Board is consulted to determine whether the content relates to REHS.

8. UPDATE ON NEW LICENSURE DATABASE (LANCE)

Covert-ByBee advised that the Department is looking at other options for a new database as the LANCE project was discontinued.

9. LICENSURE AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-02

Covert-ByBee advised the Executive Orders to address healthcare workforce shortages are set to expire September 30, 2022. These orders did not impact Registered Environmental Health Specialists however these allowed Boards to meeting virtually. It is not known at this time whether the Governor will extend prior executive orders past September 30th.

10. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION

Covert-ByBee explained that the Department currently makes notice of an upcoming meeting via mass e-mail to interested parties, posting a physical agenda outside of the Licensure Unit offices in Lincoln, NE, and on the DHHS – LU website. The Board also requested that the Department utilize calendar invites for the next meeting.

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MOTION: Pistillo moved, seconded by Wentink, to continue with the same meeting notifications as described. Voting aye: Collinson, Hartman, King, Pistillo, and Wentink. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

11. SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR 2023

The Board will meet on February 2nd and September 6, 2023.

12. APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Blinston presented the licensure application processing report. This was for informational purposes only.

13. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Topics for the next meeting include: Update on Legislation, Executive Orders (if applicable), and the Application Processing Report.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Hartman, Secretary