

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics (“Board”) met in person to conduct an Open Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Open Meetings Act, § 3-305(b)(13).

Chair George Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. with the following members present:

George Pruden II, Chair  
Steven Hausman, Member  
Jeffrey Hysen, Member (Virtual)  
Chandria Slaughter, Alternate Member (Virtual)

Also present:

Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer  
Heather Ashbury, Interim Legal Counsel to the Board  
Tamika Taylor, Associate General Counsel in the Office of Inspector General (Virtual)  
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

**Open Session**

**Approval of Open Session Minutes – February 14, 2024**

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the February 14, 2024 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the February Open Session Minutes.

**Approval of Open Session Minutes – March 13, 2024**

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the March 13, 2024 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the March Open Session Minutes.

**Matters of Discussion**

**Ethics Program Monthly Report**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for March 2024. She reported that she provided ethics training to 24 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 18 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Disclosure Statements.

**Annual Disclosure Launch**

Ms. Dorsey White stated that the annual disclosure for employees launched on April 1, 2024. She provided financial disclosure forms to the Board of Ethics members and stated that forms will also be distributed to the remaining WSSC Boards (Plumbing & Fuel Gas, Dispute Resolving, Retirement, and Audit Committee). The WSSC Board disclosures are due in mid-May.

**CY 2023 Annual Ethics Program Report (Final)**

Ms. Dorsey White presented each member with a copy of the final CY 2023 annual ethics report. She stated that Chair Pruden will present the report at the April 17, 2024 Commission meeting. After the Commissioners approve publication of the report, it will be sent to the Montgomery and Prince George's County Executives and Councils. Additionally, after Ms. Dorsey White signs the required bi-county certification, it will be sent to the State Ethics Commission and posted to the WSSC Board of Ethics webpage.

**Selection of Board Chair**

A vote was taken to nominate the chair of the Board, which will be sent to the Commissioners for approval.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Slaughter) voted to reappoint George E. Pruden, II as the Board of Ethics Chair. Mr. Pruden abstained from the vote.

**Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)**

Ms. Allen reported that there were no delinquent financial disclosure filers.

**Closed Session Approval**

At 1:26 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to conduct a Closed Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Open Meetings Act, § 3-305(b)(13) to approve February 14 and March 13, 2024 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address one Complaint; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of

Ethics Ch. 1.70.070 to address one Waiver Request; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding one Complaint, one Waiver Request, and Potential Complaints/Legal Investigations.

**Attendees:** Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Jeffrey Hysen (Virtual); and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter (Virtual). Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; Interim Legal Counsel to the Board Heather Ashbury; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; and Retained Legal Counsel to the Board Margaret Ann Nolan.

**Closed Session**

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – February 14, 2024**

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the February 14, 2024 meeting.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the February Closed Session Minutes.

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – March 13, 2024**

Due to discussion of Complaint C-23-01 and the recusal of Ms. Dorsey White and Ms. Ashbury, they stepped out of the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the March 13, 2024 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the March Closed Session Minutes as amended.

Ms. Dorsey White and Ms. Ashbury returned to the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

**Waiver Request W-24-02**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to grant in part and deny in part the waiver request.

**Potential Complaints / Legal Investigations**

**PC2024-08**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to file a complaint on its own motion pursuant to Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.080(b) for a violation of Ch. 1.70.420(a)(2).

**PC2024-09**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to file a complaint on its own motion pursuant to Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.080(b) for a violation of Ch. 1.70.420(a)(2).

**PC2024-10**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

**PC2024-11**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to file a complaint on its own motion pursuant to Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.080(b) for a violation of Ch. 1.70.340(c).

**Legal Investigations**

Mr. Ashbury provided updates on current legal investigations.

**Complaint C-23-01**

Due to Ms. Dorsey White and Ms. Ashbury being recused from Complaint C-23-01, they left the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Retained Legal Counsel Margaret Ann Nolan joined the meeting at 2:41 p.m.


The Board discussed this case.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the final decision and order subject to discussed edits and signature of the Chair.

Ms. Nolan left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

  
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Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.  
Ethics Officer