

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024
Commissioners' Conference Room
Laurel, Maryland

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

Chair Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:03 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
Lisa Arnquist, Legal Counsel to the Board
Tamika Taylor, Office of Inspector General Associate General Counsel (virtual)
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – August 14, 2024

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the August 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 August Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for August 2024. She reported that she provided ethics training to 9 new employees.

She also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 18 matters. The categories that received the most inquiries in equal amounts were Outside Employment/Interests, Restrictions on Participation, and Soliciting or Acceptance of Gifts. Dr. Hausman noted that the number of inquiries in the top categories reflects positively on how employees view seeking ethics guidance before acting on matters.

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

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

Closed Session Approval

At 1:08 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 August 14, 2024 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address two Complaints; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.060 to address one Advisory Opinion request; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(ii) to discuss a personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding two Complaints, one Advisory Opinion request, a personnel matter, 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; Legal Counsel to the Board Lisa Arnquist; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; Chief Procurement Officer Caprecia Poole-Williams (virtual); Production Director James Langley (virtual); Water Quality Division Manager (Production) Jin Shin (in person); Chief Engineer (Engineering and Construction) Eyad Mizian (virtual); Planning Division Manager (Engineering and Construction) Thomas Hilton (virtual); Planning Division Program Manager Bilal Sarayra (virtual), and Associate General Counsel Kristen Dorsey (in person).

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – August 14, 2024

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the August 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 August Closed Session Minutes as edited for non-substantive typographical issues.

Complaint C-24-04

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to proceed to a hearing on a date

established by the Ethics Officer pursuant to WSSC Code Chapter 1.70.080(g) for violation of Chapter 1.70.340(c).

Complaint C-23-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Advisory Opinion A-24-01

The following staff joined the meeting at 2:18 p.m.: Chief Procurement Officer Caprecia Poole-Williams; Production Director James Langley; Water Quality Division Manager (Production) Jin Shin; Chief Engineer (Engineering and Construction) Eyad Mizian; Planning Division Manager (Engineering and Construction) Thomas Hilton; Planning Division Program Manager Bilal Sarayra; and Associate General Counsel Kristen Dorsey.

The Board discussed this matter.

The following staff left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.: Ms. Poole-Williams; Mr. Langley; Mr. Shin; Mr. Mizian; Mr. Hilton; Mr. Sarayra; and Ms. Dorsey.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to rescind Advisory Opinion A-24-01, and publish a new opinion at a later date.

Potential Complaints

There were no potential complaints.

Legal Investigations

Ms. Arnquist provided updates on legal investigations.

Personnel Matter

The Board discussed this matter.

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 3:18 p.m.


Angelique Dorsey White Esq.
Ethics Officer