

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 8, 2025
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).

Prior to the start of the meeting, General Counsel Amanda Conn informed the Board of her departure from WSSC Water. She shared the details of her new position and thanked the Board for their consistent support of her office. The Board and others in attendance thanked Ms. Conn for her service and wished her well in the new position. She left the room at 11:22 a.m.

Chair Pruden called the meeting to order at 11:23 a.m. with the following members present:

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

Also present:

Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer
Lisa Arnquist, Legal Counsel to the Board (virtual)
Tamika Taylor, Office of Inspector General Associate General Counsel (virtual)
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – December 11, 2024

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the December 11, 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 December Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report / Ethics Spotlight

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on Ethics Office activities for December 2024. She reported that she provided ethics training to 11 new employees. She also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 14 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was General Inquiry / Administration.

Ms. Dorsey White informed the Board that 98.5 percent of employees completed the ethics training by the end of December.

Ms. Dorsey White also discussed the ethics quarterly report she will present at the upcoming Commission meeting. The report is based on data collected in the current fiscal year. It provides a high-level overview of ethics program activity, including case and other office metrics. Additionally, the report contains upcoming ethics program activity related to regulatory deadlines from January 15, 2025 through April 30, 2025. The spotlight topic will be Business Entity Interactions. During this part of the presentation, Ms. Dorsey White will highlight the need to be

circumspect when taking official actions involving subcontractors to WSSC Water prime contractors.

The Board suggested minor edits to the presentation and complimented Ms. Dorsey White on the content and visual presentation of the quarterly report.

Proposed Changes to the Code of Ethics Chapter 1.70.330

Ms. Dorsey White reviewed the proposed changes to Code Chapter 1.70.330 – Who must file financial disclosure statements. In accordance with the process for changing WSSC Water regulations, she will present the revisions to the Commissioners at the January Commission meeting as a briefing. This will allow the Commissioners to vote on the changes at the February Commission meeting, with publication for 30 days in a local newspaper prior to becoming effective on March 31, 2025.

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

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

Closed Session Approval

Chair Pruden stated that he had reviewed and approved the closing statement.

At 11:47 a.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve December 11, 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)(1)(ii) to discuss personnel matters that affect one or more specific individuals; and

General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding two Complaints, Personnel Matters, and Potential Complaints/Legal Investigations.

Attendees: Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman (virtual); 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; Acting Deputy General Counsel Heather Ashbury; and Associate General Counsel Nancy Lineman.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – December 11, 2024

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the December 11, 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 December Closed Session Minutes.

Complaint C-24-06

Acting Deputy General Counsel Heather Ashbury and Associate General Counsel Nancy Lineman joined the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Ms. Lineman provided an update on this investigation.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to dismiss this case pursuant to Code Ch. 1.70.080(e).

Complaint C-24-08

Ms. Lineman provided an update on this investigation.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted, for good cause shown pursuant to WSSC Code Ch. 1.65.070(b)(5)(ii), to extend the time for receiving the preliminary report beyond the 90-day time-period provided in the Code.

Ms. Lineman and Ms. Ashbury left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Personnel Matter


The Board discussed a personnel matter.

Potential Complaints / Legal Investigations

There were no updates on potential complaints or legal investigations.

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 12:18 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer