

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
Virtual via Teams Platform  
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics (“Board”) met 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 1:08 p.m. with the following members present:

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

Also present:

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

**Open Session**

**Approval of Open Session Minutes – January 8, 2025**

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the January 8, 2025 meeting.

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

**Matters of Discussion**

**Ethics Program Monthly Report**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on Ethics Office activities for January 2025. She reported that she provided ethics training to 24 new employees. She also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 12 matters. The categories that received the most inquiries in equal numbers were Lobbying Activity and Soliciting or Acceptance of Gifts. Ms. Dorsey White explained that the increase in lobbying is due to lobbyists reporting their activity for July to December 2024 and registration submissions. She added that the current list of lobbyists is posted to the Board webpage.

**Proposed Changes to the Code of Ethics Chapter 1.70.330**

Ms. Dorsey White reported that she presented a briefing on the proposed changes to the financial disclosure filing requirements to the Commissioners at the January Commission meeting. Commission Vice Chair Mark Smith inquired how employees who are designated to file a financial disclosure based on their job duties would know they are subject to this requirement. Ms. Dorsey White explained that the designation is assigned to the position through Human Resources so it becomes part of their job description. Additionally, Commissioner Regina Speed-Bost asked for confirmation that the revisions will ensure that disclosures are being collected from appropriate employees. Ms. Dorsey White confirmed that every employee

files either a conflict of interest or financial disclosure statement. She explained that the revisions are intended to target decisionmakers for filing the more detailed financial disclosure statement. The Commissioners did not request any changes to the regulations. She will present the final changes at the February 19, 2025 Commission meeting for a vote. It must be published for 30 days in a local newspaper prior to becoming effective on March 31, 2025. This will ensure the regulation is in effect for the launch of the annual disclosure reporting period on April 1, 2025.

Chair Pruden asked if the process for proposing changes to regulations was followed. Ms. Dorsey White responded that she asked General Manager/CEO Kishia Powell for a waiver of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) review requirement because changes to the Code of Ethics are solely the purview of the Board and the Commissioners. Also, due to the compressed timeline from the initial request in December and the short turnaround to brief the Commissioners in January, there was not sufficient time for the 40-day ELT review required by the policy to occur. Chair Pruden asked how many employees would be required to file financial disclosure statements under the revised regulation. Ms. Dorsey White responded she believes it will reduce the number of financial disclosure filers by about 200. She added that currently there are approximately 800 filers. The next step is to collaborate with Human Resources to determine the positions that will qualify under the revised criteria and assign the correct filing category. The Board commended Ms. Dorsey White for her efforts.

**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 1:22 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve January 8, 2025 Closed Session Minutes; 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 Personnel Matters and Potential Complaints/Legal Investigations.

**Attendees:** Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Jeffrey Hysen; and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; Legal Counsel to the Board Lisa Arnquist; and Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen.

**Closed Session**

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – January 8, 2025**

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the January 8, 2025 meeting.

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

**Personnel Matter**

The Board discussed a personnel matter.

**Potential Complaints / Legal Investigations**

**Potential Complaint PC2024-19**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on 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 WSSC Code Ch. 1.70.080(b), for violation of Code of Regulations Ch.1.72.050(a)(1).

**Potential Complaint PC2025-01**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

**Potential Complaint PC2025-02**

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 file complaints, on its own motion pursuant to WSSC Code Ch. 1.70.080(b), for violation of Code Ch.1.70.200(a) and Ch. 1.70.020(a)(b).


**Potential Complaint PC2025-03**

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 WSSC Code Ch. 1.70.080(b), for violation of Code Ch.1.70.200(a) and Ch. 1.70.020(b).

**Adjournment**

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

  
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Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.  
Ethics Officer