

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 12, 2025
RGH 3003 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 1:08 p.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 (virtual)
Lisa Arnquist, Legal Counsel to the Board (virtual)
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – February 12, 2025

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the February 12, 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 February Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on Ethics Office activities for February 2025. She reported that she provided ethics training to 16 new employees. She also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 10 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Soliciting or Acceptance of Gifts.

CY 2024 Ethics Program Annual Report (Draft)

Ms. Dorsey White provided a draft of the annual ethics program report. She shared that the WSSC Water By-laws now state that the Ethics Officer is responsible for preparing, sending, and distributing the annual report. Previously, the Commissioners were responsible for preparing and circulating the report. Ms. Dorsey White would draft the report for submission to the Commissioners by the Board, and the Commissioners would then approve transmission of the report to county and state leadership. The Ethics Office ensured the report was distributed properly. Ms. Dorsey White asked the Board to submit suggested edits, particularly regarding the case information, to her by March 21, 2025. They agreed to do so. The Board commended Ms. Dorsey White for preparing the report and including information about the transition of the ethics office and her new role. It was also noted that the new organization chart was a nice addition.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) approved dissemination of case information in the annual report, subject to editorial changes submitted by the Board.

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 1:18 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 12, 2025 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)(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 (virtual); Member Jeffrey Hysen (virtual); and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter (virtual). Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White (virtual); Legal Counsel to the Board Lisa Arnquist (virtual); Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; Acting Deputy

General Counsel Heather Ashbury (virtual); Associate General Counsel Nancy Lineman (virtual).

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – February 12, 2025

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the February 12, 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 February Closed Session Minutes.

Complaint C-24-08

Acting Deputy General Counsel Heather Ashbury joined the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Associate General Counsel Nancy Lineman joined the meeting at 1:19 p.m.

Ms. Lineman presented an update on this case.

Ms. Lineman and Ms. Ashbury left the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to proceed to a hearing on a date established by the Ethics Officer and Counsel pursuant to WSSC Code Chapter 1.70.080(g) for violation of Ch. 1.70.200(a) and (c) and Ch. 1.70.210.

Personnel Matter

The Board discussed this matter.

Potential Complaints


Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on these matters.

Legal Investigations

There were no updates on 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 2:12 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer