

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021  
Laurel, Maryland

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

Chair Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:13 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  
Russel Beers, Deputy General Counsel and Counsel to the Board  
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

**Open Session**

**Approval of Open Session Minutes – November 10, 2021**

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the November 10, 2021 meeting.

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

**Matters of Discussion**

**Board of Ethics Meeting Dates for 2022**

Ms. Dorsey White provided a list of proposed dates for the 2022 Board meetings. The Board decided to continue holding the meetings on the second Wednesday of each month as reflected in Proposal A. Additionally, she stated that restrictions on in-person meetings at WSSC facilities are still in effect. Mr. Hysen, Dr. Hausman, and Ms. Slaughter stated that they prefer to continue holding meetings virtually. Chair Pruden stated that he would like to attend the meetings in person when feasible, but he would support the preference of the majority. Ms. Dorsey White recommended that the Board revisit this discussion once the restrictions are lifted.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to schedule the 2022 Board meetings for the second Wednesday of each month, subject to future modification by the Chair and Board.

**Ethics Program Monthly Report**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for November 2021. She reported that she provided ethics training to 17 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 15 matters, of which the leading category was Disclosure Statements.

**Annual Ethics Training Update**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the mandatory annual ethics training for employees. She stated that the training was released on November 1, 2021, with a completion due date of December 3, 2021. To date, 95.2 percent of employees have completed the training. Ms. Dorsey White will provide an update on the final results at the January 2022 meeting.

**Outside Employment Regulations Update**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the outside employment regulations. She stated that the regulations were adopted at the November 17, 2021 Commission meeting and will go into effect on December 31, 2021. Ms. Dorsey White also stated that she continues to work with the Information Technology department to develop an electronic submission process for the outside employment pre-approval form. Chair Pruden and Dr. Hausman both explained that the Board had been advocating for this regulation since 2007 and expressed relief that, it has finally been enacted.

**Overview of PG/MC 103-22**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview on proposed legislation from Maryland's General Assembly. The bill would require bicounty commissions to certify compliance of conflicts of interest, lobbyist certification, financial disclosures, and adoption of a code of ethics by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. She stated that WSSC's ethics program is in compliance with all requirements and the

certification can be incorporated into the current approval process for the annual ethics report.

**Informational Items**

**Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)**

Ms. Allen stated that there was one overdue financial disclosure filer to report.

**Closed Session Approval**

At 1:38 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve November 10, 2021 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address three Complaints; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding three Complaints, and Potential Complaints / Confidential Legal Investigations.

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

**Closed Session**

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – November 10, 2021**

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the November 10, 2021 meeting.

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



**Complaint C-20-07**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to hold a two-day hearing on this case beginning on February 9, 2022. A date for Day Two (2) is to be determined based on Respondent and Counsels' availability.

**Complaint C-21-03**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

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

**Complaint C-21-07**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to dismiss the complaint pursuant to Code Chapter 1.70.080(a)(3) for failure to allege facts sufficient to state a violation of the Code of Ethics.

**Potential Complaints / Confidential Legal Investigations**

**Potential Complaint #7**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

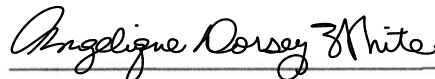
**Potential Complaint #8**

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 decline to file a complaint on this matter.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.



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Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.  
Ethics Officer