

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
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 George Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:00 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, Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant
Tamika Tayler, OIG Associate General Counsel
Jon Rymer, Inspector General

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – March 9, 2022

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the March 9, 2022 meeting.

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

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for March 2022. She reported that she provided ethics training to 14 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 18 matters, of which the leading categories were General Inquiry/Administration and Disclosure Statements. The Board commented that it is good to see that inquiries for guidance go beyond financial disclosures.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Spotlight topic she will present at the April 20, 2022 Commission meeting will be “Keeping the ‘Personal’ Out of WSSC Water’s Business.” Chair Pruden inquired about how the Commissioners received the first two Ethics Spotlight presentations. Ms. Dorsey White indicated that they seemed to be well-received.

2021 Annual Ethics Report - Final

Ms. Dorsey White provided the final version of the Calendar Year 2021 Annual Ethics Report to be presented at the April 20, 2022 Commission meeting. She stated that the report is due to the county leadership by April 30, 2022.

Financial Disclosure Update

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the status of the annual financial disclosure process. She stated that the system was launched on April 1, 2022 with a due date for completion by April 30, 2022. Immediately upon the launch, it was discovered that two financial disclosure sub-forms – real estate and outside employment – were not populating in the system. Ms. Dorsey White has reached out to the vendor and the issue has been escalated for resolution. Currently, this issue does not affect conflict of interest filers. She requested that the Board extend the filing deadline due to the significant delay in resolving this issue by the vendor. The Board granted Ms. Dorsey White’s request.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to extend the financial disclosure deadline by 30 days.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen stated that there were no overdue financial disclosure filers to report.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:25 p.m., on motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve March 9, 2022 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 two Advisory

Opinion requests; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.070 to address one Waiver Request; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding two Complaints, two Advisory Opinions, one Waiver Request 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; Counsel to the Board Russel Beers; and Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – March 9, 2022

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the March 9, 2022 meeting.

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

W-22-01

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 grant the waiver request.

C-22-02

Ms. Dorsey 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 extend the deadline for receiving

the preliminary report for good cause shown. The report will be presented at the June 8, 2022 meeting.

C-22-03

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 dismiss the complaint pursuant to Code Chapter 1.70.080(a)(3).

A-22-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

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

A-22-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

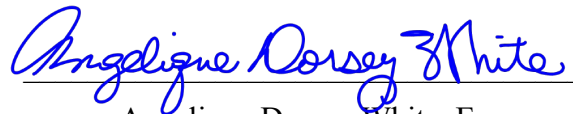
On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the advisory opinion, subject to final review and signature of the Chair.

Potential Complaints / Confidential Legal Investigations

None discussed.

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 3:03 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer