

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, June 14, 2023
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics (“Board”) met in-person 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 1:10 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, Legal Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant
Ritika Vemulapalli, Intern.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – May 10, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the May 10, 2023 meeting.

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

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for May 2023. She reported that she provided ethics training to 21 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 33 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements and Outside Employment/Interests.

Lastly, Ms. Dorsey White stated that, since the launch of the Outside Employment Pre-Approval form in April 2022, 143 applications have been filed. She shared that some employees mistakenly believe that the form is not necessary if their secondary employer is not regulated by WSSC. She added that the filing requirement for all outside employment has been communicated to employees over the past year and in the near future she will inform the Board of non-compliant employees.

Annual Disclosure Update

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the annual disclosure filing process. She stated that 738 financial disclosures and 823 conflict of interest forms have been submitted, for a total of 1,561 submissions. She estimated that there are approximately 100-120 employees who need to submit their forms. Ms. Dorsey shared that she is reporting a range due to there being a discrepancy between the number of disclosures the filing system indicates as remaining and the actual forms that need to be filed. The discrepancy is occurring due to employees leaving WSSC

during the reporting period and some former employees' accounts remaining active because of inconsistencies with the Human Resources data feed. Delinquent filers received automatic reminders through the end of May. Ms. Dorsey is working with managers to request the forms.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen reported that there were two delinquent financial disclosure filers.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:23 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve May 10, 2023 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address one Complaint; and Section 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding one Complaint, 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 Russel Beers; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; and GCO Intern Ritika Vemulapalli.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – May 10, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the May 10, 2023 meeting.

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

Complaint C-23-04

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to dismiss this case pursuant to WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.080(d)(2).

Legal Investigations

Mr. Beers provided updates on current litigation matters.

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 1:36 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Angelique Dorsey White", written over a horizontal line.

Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer