

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025
Commissioners Conference Room
Microsoft Teams Platform
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 1:09 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 (virtual)
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – April 9, 2025

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the April 9, 2025 meeting.

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

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on Ethics Office activities for April 2025. She reported that she provided ethics training to 19 new employees. She added that ethics training for summer interns is scheduled for June 2, 2025.

Ms. Dorsey White also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 39 matters. The categories that received the most inquiries were Disclosure Statements and Outside Employment / Interests. She explained that the increase is due to the launch of the annual disclosure system for Calendar Year 2024. Also, a new question on the form inquiring whether an employee engaged in outside employment has submitted an Outside Employment Pre-Approval Request has caused employees to seek guidance regarding outside employment.

CY 2024 Ethics Program Annual Report and Certification Wrap-Up

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the presentation of the annual ethics report at the April 16, 2025 Commission Meeting. Dr. Hausman joined Ms. Dorsey White to represent the Board. She stated that the Commissioners had no questions. She added that the annual report and revised Code of Ethics were sent to the County Executives and County Councils of Montgomery County and Prince George's County on April 17, 2025. Also, the Bi-County Certification was sent to

the State Ethics Commission on April 17, 2025. The certification verifies that WSSC Water is compliant with Maryland's Public Ethics Law.

Ms. Dorsey White also provided a brief overview of numerous ethics deadlines and activities that occurred between January to April of this year. Some of these include relocation of the Ethics Office staff while an additional office was being added to the Ethics Office suite, providing Procurement ethics training to departments with the Chief Procurement Officer Caprecia Poole-Williams, writing the Annual Ethics report, and launch of the annual disclosure request process. The Board commended her for the successful completion of all Ethics requirements.

Annual Disclosure Launch – Update

Ms. Dorsey White reported that approximately 85 percent of WSSC's 1,750 employees filed their disclosure by the April 30th deadline. She is actively following up with the delinquent filers. She commended the Information Technology Department for consistently ensuring that the disclosure platform launches on time regardless of any issues that may arise.

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 1:30 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 April 9, 2025 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address seven Complaints; 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 seven Complaints, 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 – April 9, 2025

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the April 9, 2025 meeting.

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

Complaint C-24-08

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Slaughter) voted for George E. Pruden II to serve as the Hearing Officer on this case. Mr. Pruden abstained from the vote due to being the subject of the motion.

Complaint C-25-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Complaint C-25-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Complaint C-25-03

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Complaint C-25-04

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Complaint C-25-05

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Complaint C-25-06

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

PC2025-04

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update of this matter.

Personnel Matter


The Board considered the personnel matter.

Legal Investigations

Ms. Arnquist provided an update on legal investigations.

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 3:50 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer